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INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

Nowadays, many stylisticians have started concentrating on discourse analysis of a literary text and abandoning the traditional trend that a sentence is the basic unit of stylistic analysis. Those stylisticians prefer to deal with stylistics not as an independent discipline concerned merely with the aesthetic dimensions existing in a literary text, rather they deal with it as a discipline that should be integrated with other disciplines. For this reason, they borrow many concepts and theories from other disciplines and use them in their stylistic analysis. Those stylisticians show a special interest in literary dialogues or “character talk”.

Style-shifting and Lexical colouring are two concepts to be explored stylistically in E.M. Forster’s literary dialogues. It mainly concentrates on the purpose of using these two concepts by Forster’s characters in their fictional conversations. Pragmatic theories, namely politeness theory and speech act theory, will be used in the analysis of style-shifting, whereas Scotton’s model of markedness will be used in the analysis of lexical colouring. Because E.M. Forster is extremely concerned with the concept of “Connectedness” in the social relations among his characters, the researcher has found his novels the best and most appropriate for conducting this study. Besides, Forster gives special importance to dialogues and makes them not so different from the naturally occurring ones. These two reasons, I think, justify the selection of E.M. Forster as a suitable writer for conducting this study.
Hypotheses of the Study

1. E.M. Forster's literary text can be stylistically approached, using sociolinguistic and pragmatic concepts.

2. A pragmatic model of meaning helps the reader understand and interpret fictional dialogues, which consequently leads to a better understanding of the literary text as a whole.

3. Because Forster's dialogues appear so natural and spontaneous, a model of makedness (Scotton 1983) can be applied to them.

4. The idea that E.M. Forster is always concerned with the concepts of social relations and connectedness can be explained linguistically through "contextualized stylistics" (Verdonk and Weber, 1995).

5. The claim that Forster's characters always fail in their relationships can also be justified through this model.

6. Style shifting and lexical colouring are very much present in all of E.M. Forster's novels.

7. The two concepts are used both as stylistic devices and communicative strategies in the novels.

8. Through using these two concepts, Forster's characters are able to negotiate their power in conversational exchanges.

9. Through analyzing these two concepts, many aspects of the social relationships among the characters can be revealed.
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10. Part of Forster’s aesthetic aspects lies in his creative and convincing use of these two concepts.
11. The frequent occurrence of these two concepts ranks them among the most important linguistic features exiting in Forster’s novels.

Objectives of the Study

The study attempts to achieve the following objectives.
1. To come out with new ideas and thoughts about stylistics.
2. To convince the reader that it is not only the aesthetic aspects that can be discussed in stylistics, but also social, ideological and even political issues have some place in the discipline.
3. To emphasize the fact that the functional aspects of language are key issues in the analysis of literary texts.
4. To illustrate the role of conversational theories in the analysis of literary dialogues.
5. To explore the role of literary utterances or “Character talk” in the process of constructing the meaning of literary texts.
6. To clarify how the concept of power is demonstrated in Forster’s dialogues.
7. To explain how Forster, through his characters, uses the concepts of style-shifting and lexical colouring both as communicative strategies and stylistic devices.
8. To explain how and why style-shifting and lexical colouring are powerful language features associated with powerful characters.
9. To stress the idea that a linguistic model that can be applied to natural dialogues and utterances can also be applied to literary dialogues.

10. The Study attempts to become a model that can be followed, not only in the analysis of literary texts, but in the analysis of the natural spoken discourse as well.

**Importance of the study**

The importance of this study comes from the fact that it deals with stylistics from a different point of view. It is new in both scope and application. It deals with stylistics not merely as a discipline concerned mainly with aesthetic dimension, but as a discipline whose concern is also to explore the social ideological and political aspects in a given literary text. Thus, it concentrates on the functional aspects of language rather than the structural ones.

The study helps the reader develop and enhance, not only his stylistic background, but also his pragmatic and sociolinguistic knowledge, given the fact that the study is an integration of these three disciplines. The application of pragmatic theories to fictional dialogues, for example, helps the reader grasp and understand them better than reading them as mere theories. It provides the reader with an opportunity to experience literary texts in a new fashion different from the traditional old one. By the end of the study, the researcher hopes that the reader will be able to come up with new ideas and thoughts about stylistics, and realize that the
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discipline, like all other disciplines, welcomes any effort that leads to its enhancement, improvement and renewal.

Methodology

The researcher will follow the following steps in his stylistic analysis.

1. All Forster’s novels will be read intensively.

2. A special reading will be devoted to the dialogues.

3. A special concentration will be put on the dialogues where there is asymmetry in power between the conversational participants.

4. The linguistic behaviour of the participants will be observed precisely.

5. The utterances in which style-shifting and Lexical colouring take place will be cited.

6. The utterances in which style-shifting occurs will be analyzed, using pragmatic theories, namely politeness theory and speech act theory.

7. The concept of face action will be given a special importance in the analysis of style shifting.

8. With respect to lexical colouring, Scotton’s model of markedness will be adopted in the analysis of the concept.
9. The utterances where there are lexical items bearing linguistic and social functions will be cited and then analyzed.

10. The conversational turns that take place after the occurrences of style-shifting and lexical colouring, exhibiting the negative impact left upon the addressees as a result of using these two concepts by the speakers, will be highly observed and analyzed.