ABSTRACT

According to The American Heritage® Dictionary, ‘Linguistics is the study of the nature, structure and variation of language including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics and pragmatics.’ As a discipline, it endeavors to study language scientifically. In other words, linguistics is a social science that shares common ground with other social sciences such as, sociology, anthropology, psychology and archaeology. The term ‘linguistics’ was first used in the middle of the 19th century to highlight the difference between a new approach to the study of language and the more traditional approach to philology.

It is very important to trace the origin of linguistics and take review of the journey of linguistics. Linguistics has its origin in Iron Age of India with the analysis of Sanskrit. Panini (4th century BC) was an ancient Indian grammarian who studied Sanskrit language scientifically for the first time in the history of all languages. He advocated the correct use of grammar in a sentence. He systematically codified every aspect of spoken communication i.e. tone, gestures, rhetorical devices etc. At the same time, one could trace the development of grammar and logic in the ancient Greek language. Some of the Chinese grammarians began to evolve and develop their own grammar system based on their observation in the 4th century BC. One of the remarkable features of Chinese grammar is that all words have only one grammatical form. The Middle Ages saw the rise of Arabic grammar and Hebrew grammar. Hebrew was the language of the early Jews, but from 586 BC, it started to be replaced by Aramaic as the everyday language of the Jews. Modern linguistics came on the scene in the 18th century. The Arabic script evolved from the Nabataean Aramaic script. It has been used since the 4th century AD. Nevertheless, the earliest document in Arabic, Syriac and Greek, dates back to 512 AD. The study of linguistics reached its heights in the 19th century. The period between the first half of the 20th century witnessed the development of linguistics as a new science.
Ferdinand de Saussure in Europe and Edward Sapir and Leonard Bloomfield in the United States began inquire into the deeper aspects of linguistics and evolved structuralism as a new approach to language. Noam Chomsky's generative grammar, William Labov's sociolinguistics and modern psycholinguistics are the new fields of linguistics. The latest branch of linguistics is pragmatics, which looks into the deeper aspects of human communication where context plays a pivotal role. William Morris (1938) is the father of pragmatics who systematically studied language in relation to contextual world knowledge as determined by the condition of the society. Pragmatics as a field of linguistic inquiry was initiated in the 1930s by Morris, Carnap, and Peirce, for whom syntax addressed the formal relations of signs to one another, semantics the relation of signs to what they denote, and pragmatics the relation of signs to their users and interpreters (Morris-1938).

Since pragmatics is a perspective on linguistic adaptation, it is important to look at language from the point of universal and recognizable part of human behaviour. The field of linguistics comprises language in all its manifestations. One of the significant form and manifestations is pragmatic approach. This way of studying language is certainly a revolutionary step. This new approach is not only functional in the study of conversations but it is also useful in interpreting the dialogues of the characters that appear in the fictional works.

The present research is aimed at studying the linguistic messages in the contextual use of language and analyzing the linguistic features of Thomas Hardy’s selected novels. Since pragmatics is a branch of linguistics, some of the important tools and theories in pragmatics are applied while studying the novels of Thomas Hardy.

An attempt is made here to study and discuss the importance of the interactional use of language in social communication, especially in fiction writing. It also shows the effective use of models in pragmatics, i.e. Cooperative Principle (CP), Politeness.
Principle (PP), and Speech Act Theory (SAT) in understanding a literary text. The present study investigates the role of context and social relationship through the analysis of the characters’ conversations and dialogues from Hardy’s selected novels. The novels selected for the purpose of linguistic analysis are Far from the Madding Crowd (FMC), The Mayor of Casterbridge (MC), and The Return of the Native (RN). An attempt is also made to discuss the characteristics of Hardy’s selected novels from the point of view of language. The study of Hardy’s language forms the core element of the analysis. Analysis of the original text enables the reader of literature to enjoy and understand it in an easy way. It also provides them with linguistic description of the Cooperative and Politeness principles, and Speech Act Theory in the novels and brings them to language itself.

The effectiveness of linguistics pragmatics models i.e. Cooperative Principles (CP), Politeness Principle (PP), and Speech Act Theory (SAT) are taken into account in understanding and analyzing the language used by the characters and the writer. In other words, it investigates the role of context, speech event, speech situation and speech acts through the analysis of the characters’ conversations and dialogues. The study helps us to understand the social behaviour of the characters through the analysis of their conversations. Since linguistic pragmatics is considered a fundamental phenomenon in conversational organization, its models are very effective in the interpretation of literary discourse especially the interaction between the characters and their interpersonal relationships.

The methodology adopted for the present study is as follows:
1. After laying the theoretical framework of the study an attempt is made to highlight the significance of the study, review of literature, aims and objectives of the study, data, methodology and limitations of the study. Life and major works of Thomas Hardy are discussed thoroughly against the socio-cultural milieu.
2. Hardy’s novels are critically examined and discussed from the point of view of characterization and language use.

3 The selected novels are studied and analyzed with the aid of the three models of pragmatics viz. Cooperative Principle, Politeness Principle and Speech Act Theory.

The study is divided into two main parts. The first part is the theoretical framework which offers the background to the study. The second part is the linguistics part which introduces pragmatics as the subfield of linguistics. In addition, it highlights the pioneers such as Grice, Brown and Levinson, Leech, Lakoff, Austin and Searle. Their theories and the principles are to be applied while making the analysis of the novels under consideration.

The thesis is divided into five chapters as follows:

**Chapter One** offers the theoretical Framework. It is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the significance of the study, review of literature, aims and objectives of the study, data and methodology, and limitations of the study. An attempt is made in this part to take review of Hardy’s life and works. It also specifies his novels to be studied from the linguistic point of view.

In the second part, the scope of linguistic pragmatics with its models CP, PP & SAT are introduced. These aspects are applied to the analysis in the next two chapters i.e. Chapter Three and Four in detail. In addition, the contributions of Grice, Brown and Levinson, Leech, Lakoff, Searle and Austin are discussed in view of their theories and principles.

**Chapter Two** is about the linguistic study of characterization. It is also divided into two parts. In the first part, it gives a general outline of Hardy’s novels. The salient features of
Hardy’s novels such as rustic characters, nature, chance and coincidence are discussed scrupulously.

In the second part Hardy’s use of language, structure, syntax, Wessex dialects and Biblical allusions are discussed in detail and supported with concrete evidences from the novels selected for the purpose of the study.

**Chapter Three** is devoted to Co-operative Principle and Politeness Principle in Hardy’s selected novels. It is divided into two parts. The first part explains and studies the first linguistics pragmatics model i.e. Grice’s Co-operative Principle (CP). The maxims of Co-operative Principle- Quantity, Quality, Manner and Relation are applied to the selected novels. Views of Grice and some other scholars have been discussed frequently with respect to Cooperative principle and they are applied to do the analysis of the novels.

In the second part, an attempt is made to discuss in detail Politeness Principle (PP) as a model of linguistics pragmatics. In the beginning, the views of Brown and Levinson, Leech and Lakoff are thoroughly discussed and followed by comments. An attempt is made here to analyze Brown and Levinson’s model of politeness. Nevertheless, Lakoff’s model of politeness is not analyzed.

Brown and Levinson’s two kinds of Face i.e. Positive Face and Negative Face with its strategies are examined and applied to the analysis of categorically selected extracts and the conversational pieces from the novels.

Leech’s maxims of PP- Tact, Generosity, Approbation, Modesty, Agreement, and Sympathy are studied in detail and applied to the analysis of the highly marked examples from the novels under consideration. The observance and violation of these maxims illustrates its effectiveness in the dialogues of the characters in Hardy’s novels under consideration.
**Chapter Four** discusses the concept of Speech Act Theory (SAT) with its thinkers like John Austin and Searle. Their contributions are explained in detail as well. The speech act theory is applied to the selected novels of Thomas Hardy. The chapter is divided into two parts.

Part one discusses and analyzes Direct Speech Acts (DSAs), and the second part discusses Indirect Speech Acts (ISAs). In (DSAs) the three types of sentences- Declarative, Interrogative and Imperative are explained. Their effectiveness in the novels has been applied. The four Felicity Conditions- Sincerity, Prepositional Content, Essential and Preparatory conditions are only explained in the first part. Searle’s five classifications of the Illocutionary Force- Assertive, Directive, Commissive, Expressive and Declarative acts are explained and used in the analysis of the selected novels.

**Chapter Five** is devoted to the main findings of the study. In the beginning, the chapter explains the importance of using and applying linguistics pragmatics model in the analysis of a literary text. Then, it states the major findings of the study. Its suggestions and recommendations may help the researchers and the readers of English literature with approach of analyzing literary text and understand the implied meaning of the author in an easy way. If the literary text is approached via linguistics pragmatics model, it will give the readers a joy to taste the original text. The chapter also states the pedagogical implications of the study followed by scope for further research in the related area.