A Stylo - Pragmatic Analysis of Nadia Hashimi's 'The Pearl That Broke Its Shell'

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Abstract:

This study investigates the linguistic features of literary texts, utterances, and speech situations. This paper presents a stylo-pragmatic investigation of linguistic characteristics in the debut work of Nadia Hashimi, The Pearl that Broke Its Shell. The primary objective of this paper is to focus on the pragmatic analysis of the chosen speech acts in various contexts, in addition to exploring the stylistic techniques utilized in those specific texts. Pragmatics elucidates that the utilization of language in unconventional manners is deemed permissible, on the condition that language users possess an understanding of their actions. Linguistic stylistics delves into the linguistic characteristics of a given text, focusing predominantly on the utilization of language and its impact on said text. Hence this paper examines the selected contexts in the mentioned novel by Hashimi where the texts are analyzed pragmatically besides the stylistics investigation. The article provides an insight into the crucial role of the enriched style of Nadia Hashimi in the novel "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell".

Keywords: Stylistics; Pragmatic; Stylo-Pragmatic; Assertives; Commissives; Investigation.

Introduction:

Linguistics and literature are related in that they both deal with language; they are distinct fields of study with different focuses and objectives. Linguistics seeks to understand the structure and function of language as a system, while literature explores the artistic and expressive dimensions of language as used in various forms of creative writing. Linguistic and stylistic analysis of the authentic literary text implies the analysis of the text from its inner side (Osiyanova & Kuleshova, 2020). By focusing on the formal linguistic properties of literary texts (Ehrlich, 2014).

One of the key aspects of linguistic analysis is the identification and exploration of stylistic devices. These are the tools that writers use to create meaning beyond the literal interpretation of the words on the page. Examples of stylistic devices include simile, metaphor, alliteration, and personification. By analysing the use of these devices in a text, scholars can gain insight into the author's intentions and the emotional impact of the work. In literary forms, authors often use unconventional or experimental syntax to create a unique style or tone. (Niazi & Gautam, 2010) look

at literature from a stylistic and pragmatic perspective. Finally, the linguistic analysis also involves an examination of vocabulary and word choice. Words have a powerful impact on readers, and writers often choose words carefully to create a particular effect. By investigating the use of language in a literary text, analysts can gain insight into the writer's intended meaning and the tone and mood of the work. In pragmatics analysis, the focus will be on the Speech act theory proposed by J. L. Austin (1962) and improved by J. R. Searle (1969) where only five major types of the model will be investigated; assertives, commissives, expressives, directives and declaratives categories that help us to understand the texts in the real context of the conversations. The characters' interactions and social contexts will be analysed with the help of linguistics models of pragmatics and the stylistics investigation.

Need of The Study:

The study is primarily meant to identify and analyse the selected speech acts in the selected utterances from the novel by Nadia Hashimi. It is an attempt to demonstrate how the identified features and style of the author show an abundance of expressions and language empowerment using speech acts theory. Hence, the analysis is meant in general terms to show how the language of the texts is organized in social interactions and situations and real context as well. The study is based on the following research questions: What are the speech act types that exhibit in the selected utterances and texts? What is the most dominant speech act displayed in the texts? Are the identified speech acts significant for meaning in social situations?

3.1 Data and Sources of Data:

The primary sources for the speech act are selected utterances from the novel. Hence, the speech situations of the selected utterances from different contexts in which the addressers present speech acts of many types are discussed in a real social situation and their functions are revealed. A speech act can be performed direct if its intent if the words and structure of the utterance agree with its function(Handayani). The interpersonal relations of the addressers and addressees and the occasion of the utterance are also discussed.

3.2 Theoretical framework:

By investigating the use of language in a literary text, analysts can gain insight into the writer's intended meaning and the tone and mood of the work. That is the method which is used in this study. Overall, linguistic analysis is a powerful tool for understanding and appreciating literary forms. Here the language used by Nadiia Hashimi in the intended novel will be under consideration and her style in writing her novel will be explored. By examining the language used in a text, scholars can gain insight into the writer's intentions and how the language contributes to the overall meaning of the work. Hence, a stylo pragmatic study for her novel "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell" is carried out. It is a combination of stylistics and pragmatic analysis.

Research Methodology:

The study employs descriptive qualitative research to analyse linguistic features in literary texts, specifically focusing on the novel by Nadia Hashimi. It utilizes utterances categorized by the Searle Speech Act theory and extracts ten speech situations from the novel. Through a combination of stylistics and pragmatics, termed "The Stylo-Pragmatics," the study aims to identify the author's distinct stylistic patterns and analyse the creation process. Stylistics examines language features and choices, while pragmatics focuses on language use in communication. Pragmatics tells us that it is acceptable to use a language in various, unconventional ways, as long as we know, as language users, what we are doing (Wicaksono, 2018). Linguistic stylistics explores the linguistic features of a text; it is primarily concerned with the use of language and its effect on a text (Nneoma Udeze, 2017). The study analyses speech acts based on Searle's typology, investigating assertives, commissives, expressives, directives, and declaratives. The selected extracts are analysed to examine content, style, structure, purpose, pattern usage, and underlying meanings. The study seeks to understand how authors employ language and style in their writings and the impact of

language on literary works. Overall, the study emphasizes the importance of linguistic analysis in literature to enhance readers' understanding, as literary works fundamentally consist of language.

Results and Discussion:

Speech Acts Theory:

The Speech Act Theory is a branch of linguistic pragmatics that focuses on analysing how people use language to perform various actions. Developed by philosopher J.L. Austin and later expanded upon by John Searle, this theory explores how utterances can have both a propositional meaning (the literal meaning of the words) and an illocutionary force (the intended action or effect of the utterance). Speech act is a part of pragmatics that studies utterances as actions performed via utterances (Yule,1996).

Searle's Classification of Speech Acts:

Searle's theory categorizes speech acts into five main types.

i) Assertive involves utterances that commit the speaker to the truth of a proposition. These speech acts commit the speaker to the truth of a proposition. Examples include stating, claiming, describing, and asserting.

ii) Commissive involves commitments or promises made by the speaker to undertake future actions. These speech acts commit the speaker to a future course of action. They include making promises, pledges, and vows.

iii) Expressive conveys the speaker's psychological or emotional state. The expressive speech act is subjective as it is concerned with the inner feelings of the speaker(Gulbhile, 2017). They involve expressing thanks, apologizing, congratulating, and welcoming.

iv) Directives are speech acts aimed at influencing the behaviour of the listener Directives. These speech acts are aimed at getting the listener to do something. They involve making requests, giving commands, and offering suggestions.

v) Declarations are speech acts that bring about a new state of affairs through the act of utterance.

Declarative speech acts describe a fact and perform the fact by the utterance. It also mentioned declarative speech acts are performed in declaring, appointing, denouncing, approving, and endorsing (Tri Murtini & Ambalegin, 2022). Declaring is the type of declarative speech acts that voice out an opinion or makes known something. In (1985), as declared by (Searle & Vanderveken, 1985), Declare is derived from the Latin 'clarare' which means to make clear. "You're out!" (Yule, 1996).

Stylistics Devices, Contexts, And Pragmatics:

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on analysing language choices to convey meaning and achieve specific effects, particularly in written literary texts. It examines how language is used in various contexts to understand the contribution of specific linguistic features to a text's style. One aspect of stylistic analysis is the study of stylistic devices, which are techniques used by writers and speakers to enhance language expressiveness and effectiveness. These devices include simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and others, aiming to add emphasis, create vivid imagery, evoke emotions, and engage the audience.

Speech Situation:

In this study, the primary source for the speech act is the selected utterances from the novel. Hence, the speech situation of the selected utterances from different contexts in which the addresses present speech acts of many types is discussed in real social situations, and their functions are revealed. A speech act can be performed directly if the words and structure of the utterance agree with its function (Handayani, 2015). The interpersonal relations of the addresses and addressees and the occasion of the utterance are also discussed.

Data Presentation and Analysis:

Speech Act Analysis of the novel: The Pearl That Broke Its Shell

Summary of the novel:

"The Pearl That Broke Its Shell" by Nadia Hashimi tells the intertwined stories of two Afghan women, Rahima and Shekiba, from different generations.

Rahima, living in contemporary Afghanistan, is forced into the bacha posh tradition, disguising herself as a boy to support her family. Through her story, the novel delves into gender identity issues and the challenges faced by Afghan women, such as child marriage and domestic violence. Meanwhile, Shekiba, Rahima's ancestor from the early 1900s, also faces societal restrictions and adopts the bacha posh identity after a family tragedy. Both women's narratives highlight resilience and the pursuit of identity and dreams amidst oppressive societal norms. Rahima's family, including her father Arif, mother Raisa, and sisters, as well as her husband Abdukhaleq, play significant roles, while Shekiba's story is narrated by Rahima's aunt, Khala Shaima, connecting the past and present.

Analysis of The Selected Speech Act:

1. **Assertive Speech Acts:**

Speech Situation:

"Oh my God," Parwin exclaimed, her voice loud and giddy. "Look at him! Knocked off his feet!" "Do you think he's hurt?" Shahla said. She had her hand over her mouth as if she had never seen a sight so tragic.

Pg. No. 03

All the above utterances are about the assertive speech act. Rahima here describes a situation that happened with boys as they were coming back from school, an accident happened to her sister Parwin. She appears her fear her father that he will prevent them from going to school if he knows; as any other member of that society, about that incident. Her father has inferior thoughts towards women despite their Islamic society that honoured women and raised their status in society as an integral part of it and assured them of their rights and freedoms under Islam.

Methods of Expression and Stylistic Devices:

Some stylistic devices are found in this utterance. Antithesis is found where two opposite ideas are mentioned in the same sentence in keeping and sending. Another device used is kinaesthetic Imagery where the movement and actions of the people in this scene are expressed. It is a device used to give a vivid description of the action. In the utterance "She had her hand over her mouth as if she had never seen a sight so tragic", using synecdoche referring to the speaker's sister's body describing the condition of her sister and describing that terrific scene.

2. **Commissive Speech Acts:**

Speech Situation:

Badriya, are we going to see the president?" I whispered. It was hard to believe I might come face-to-face with our nation's most powerful man.

"No, you fool! This is the parliament. He does his work and we do ours! Why should he come here?" Pg. No 295

The commissive speech act here expresses future commitment and speakers' intentions. It begins with a question: "Badriya, are we going to see the president?" This statement represents a question, seeking clarification about whether they will have an opportunity to meet the president because it seems to be impossible to have such an opportunity. "No, you ours! Why should he come here?" this utterance expresses the speaker's intention as it is a function of the commissive speech act.

Methods of Expression and Stylistic Devices:

In the given text, there are some stylistic devices present. The most dominant is repetition and a rhetorical question. The phrase "we do" in "He does his work and we do ours!" emphasizes the distinction between the roles and responsibilities of the parliament and the president. Furthermore, the question "Why should he come here?" is a rhetorical question, as it does not require a direct answer but serves to emphasize a point or challenge the idea of the president's presence.

3. **Expressive Speech Acts:**

Speech Situation:

The borders between Afghanistan and India were drawn and redrawn from time to time as if only penciled in. People belonged to one country and then the other, nationalities changing as often as the

direction of the wind. For Great Britain and the Soviet Union, Afghanistan was the playing field for their "Great Game," the power struggle to control Central Asia.

Pg. No. 13

In the text provided, the model of expressive speech acts by John Searle can be identified. The expressive speech act is subjective as it is concerned with the inner feelings of the speaker. The statements here express facts and the speaker's evaluations and emotions about Afghanistan's history, geopolitical situation, and changes. The descriptions of Afghanistan being the playing field for the "Great Game" between Great Britain and the Soviet Union

Methods of Expression and Stylistic Devices:

The utterances above contain many powerful devices that convey the writer's enriched style and strong employment of language. There are similes and metaphors. A simile in the phrase "borders shrank in like a wool sweater left in the rain" compares the shrinking of Afghanistan's borders to the process of a wet wool sweater becoming smaller. It is used to create an image for the readers and make it easier for them to understand the texts. Another device is the Metaphor. The expression "the playing field for their 'Great Game'" uses a metaphor to describe Afghanistan as a metaphorical playing field where Great Britain and the Soviet Union engaged in a power struggle.

4. **Directives Speech Acts:**

Speech Situation:

"Now, my girls, there's one more thing. There will be other wives to deal with. Treat them well and I pray they will show kindness to you. Older women are spiteful toward younger girls, so be careful how much you trust them. Make sure you take care of yourselves. Eat, bathe, say your prayers, and cooperate with your husbands. And your mother-in-law. These are the people whom you will need to keep satisfied.

Pg. No. 149
The Directive commands and instructions and advice given to the girls, such as "Treat them well,"

"Be careful how much you trust them," "Take care of yourselves," "Say your prayers," "Cooperate with your husbands," and "Keep satisfied," are all examples of directive speech acts. They provide guidance and instructions for the girls' behaviour and actions

Methods of Expression and Stylistic Devices:

The text above includes some stylistic devices. Repetition: The repetition of the phrase "There will be other wives to deal with" emphasizes the importance of this particular aspect and prepares the girls for future challenges they may face. One more vigorous device is imagery in the phrases "Take care of yourselves," "Eat, bathe, say your prayers," and "cooperate with your husbands" which create vivid mental images, emphasizing the importance of self-care, hygiene, spirituality, and cooperation in their new roles.

5. **Declaratives Speech Acts:**

Speech Situation:

"Well, this cripple has an idea that may solve your problem-let you keep your precious pride.

"Raisa, don't you remember the story our grandmother told us? Remember Bibi Shekiba?"

"She became what her family needed. She became what the king needed."

"The girls need a brother."

Pg. No.12

The Speech acts type identified by John Searle in the text above is declarative. It is an attempt of the speaker Shaima to change the situation of her sister's daughters and to keep their rights to live as many others in their society. This action is to have a Bacha Posh in the family. Being disguised as a boy is the simple meaning of bacha Posh. It is a tradition in the Afghan society in the family that has no boys.

Methods of Expression and Stylistic Devices:

Repetition is a stylistic device recorded in the text above. The repetition of the word "girls" emphasizes the focus of the conversation and reinforces the importance of finding a solution for

their situation. These stylistic devices contribute to character development, convey emotions, and create a lively, engaging dialogue that drives the narrative forward.

Conclusion:

Based on the investigation of Nadia Hashimi's novel "The Pearl That Broke Its Shell" using the stylo-pragmatic paradigm, focusing on the speech act theory suggested by Searle and stylistic devices, the study reveals the abundancy of the linguistic features in the novel. Through this approach, the study aims to uncover the author's communicative intentions, textual strategies, and aesthetic elements. By analysing both linguistic and literary contexts, the study provides insights into Hashimi's writing style, which blends vivid descriptions, compelling characters, and skilful storytelling. The study suggests further exploration of the underlying meanings and purposes of the author's words and expressions that reflect her Afghan culture, especially concerning Dari or Afghan expressions.

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