

A CRITICAL STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE POSSIBLE WORLDS AND DEICTIC PROJECTIONS IN RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S WHERE THE MIND IS WITHOUT FEAR

Abstract

Critical Stylistics as the study of language in literature has a potent impact on the content and intent of the human mind. The subtext of the conjugation of the narrative technique with the careful stylistic style enlightens the harmony of language, mind and literature. The focus, theme, prominence of the varying predicates contribute to the concept lexicon of the reader. The varying contexts of language use (regional, social, cultural and ideological) provides insight of the concatenative confluence of language and situation.

The formal structures (interrogative, negative, assertive, imperative etc.) and the levels of language (morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics) evolves stature of the text. The present study is a humble approach to decipher and analyse the amalgamation of the tenets of the abstract and the concrete concepts in the literary framework by Rabindranath Tagore. The selected text would be analyzed for its representation of temporal, spatial and social spaces and deictic centers and alternative possible worlds through the exclusive employment of language forms and functions and their ideological effects on the readers..

Keywords : Critical Stylistics, Representing Time, Space and Society, Alternative Possible Worlds, Deictic Projection, Intradiegetic narration.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Critical stylistics is a sub-discipline of applied linguistics devised by Jeffries.(2010) .It presents a new amalgamation of stylistics, critical discourse analysis and functional approaches to grammar. It provides a link between stylistics with its emphasis on the framework of language and linguistic devices and critical discourse analysis with its focus on the contextual features of the domain of powerfully employed language. Its thrust is on the expression of ideology contained in language meant to influence its readers. The ideologies which are implanted through different linguistic strategies form the crux of the critical stylistic analysis. These linguistic strategies have been devised as analytic tools to investigate the way linguistic choices are used to present ideologies of text producers (Jeff ries 3). These linguistic choices , whether conscious or unconscious in its execution are always ideologically loaded(Jeffries, 3) . The textual and conceptual meanings encompassed in the Critical Stylistics model empowers the language to transmute these meanings through the narrative discourse. In the model, the conceptual realm deals with the way the linguistic tools the way the linguistic tools “try to capture what a text is doing conceptually in presenting the world” (Jeffries 409) while the textual part refers to the way these resources are used to construct the conceptual meaning (409). Therefore, the analysis of textual-conceptual functions shifts the focus from macro level analysis of context used in critical discourse analysis to micro level analysis of texts. It provides a clear framework with text analysis . tools to impart the analysts with milestones to gauge the conceptual meter of the language employed in the text. The tools are very evocative in nature as they incorporate the language forces to register the impact of the text on the readers.

Textual conceptual function	Linguistic realizations
Naming and describing	Choice of nouns , modification of nouns through pre and post modification, Reification etc.
Representing actions/events/ States	Transitivity choices, Verbiage, MAS, MAE etc.
Negating	Clause negation, word negation, negative particle, pronouns and adjectives for negation etc.
Equating and contrasting	Appositional equivalence, parallel structures, Intensive relational equivalence, metaphorical equivalence ,Explicit Opposition, Converse , etc.
Prioritizing	Fronting of clauses, voice, Subordination, ditransitivity etc.
Implying and assuming	Presupposition and implicature, iteration as logical presupposition triggers etc.
Hypothesizing	Choice of modality (epistemic , deontic ,boulomaic) , Narratorial modes etc.
Presenting others' speech and Thought	Features of speech and thought presentation : Free Indirect Speech(FIS), Free Indirect Thought (FIT) etc.
Representing time, space and Society	Deixis , Alternative Possible Worlds

- 1. Representing Time, Space and Society:** A text is ideologically designed to invoke a common ground of shared worlds as proposed in the **text world theory**. (WERTH 1999) and Possible World Theory. This is achieved through the deixis shifts , polyvocalism , panachronism and different narrative points of view . ,Principal of minimal Departure., Hypothesizing to create a textual conceptual world. The mental representation of such a utopian world needs to be substantiated textually with proximal subject references (First and Second Person Pronouns).
- 2. Ideology:** According to Webster's Tenth New Collegiate Dictionary, "Ideology" is "visionary theorizing." Alternatively, it is "a systematic body of concepts especially about human life or culture," or "a manner or the content of thinking characteristic of an individual, group, or culture,

II. THE TEXT

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

III. THE ANALYSIS

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high

The poem is a pre colonial versification of an optative or wish world as envisaged by the visionary poet.

- 1. Linguistic Form:** the use of subordination and embedding makes it an open ended proposition for the reader to walk down theoretically the spiral path created by the poet . The intended alternative textual world is juxtaposed with the factual world through the spatial deictic projection through the narrator's point of view . The convergence of the subjective perspectives into a unified consciousness (mind) is attained textually Through the definite determiner(the) . The dilution of hybrid egoistical radicalities (head) into a singular thread of common achievement. The alliteration used in the first verse is another emphatic device to reflect unanimity.
- 2. Linguistic Function:** The ellipsis of a first ,second or third person pronouns is complemented with an overtone of intradiegetic narration .The principle of minimal departure is realized with a reduced state of affairs as deduced from the consequential turn of events.(British Colonialism). The use of simple present tense creates textually the utopian state in the deictic projection of the text.

3. **Ideological Effects:** The deictic projection of a shared perspective of reality is manifested through the definite determiner and the subjective synecdoche .

Where knowledge is free

4. **Linguistic Form:** The subordinated adverb clause is qualified with a predicative adjective indicating an affirmative yet antirealistic world envisaged by the text creator.
5. **Linguistic Function:** The subtle subtextual suggestion of colonial imposition is brought about textually in the use of converse antonym, 'free' as a predicative adjective.
6. **Ideological Effects:** The ambiguation created by the adjective free is an unsteady yet comforting shift in the focus from the factual world to an imagined but possible world .

*Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls*

7. **Linguistic Form:** The use of explicit negation in the subordinate clause with world order being plausibly disintegrated as reflected in the plural noun ,fragments . The personification of the metaphorical domestic walls pitches the pseudo stronger causes against a tall or larger context of a textual world. The use of passive voice emphasizes the predicative priori in the clause.
8. **Linguistic Function:** The idea of diversified unity as distorted in the factual world , but a sharp rejection of the prevalent state through negation is a fervent verbal communication of distaste for non secular tendencies. The antithetical ideas of a common world and different but narrow walls is an abrupt shift in the deictic projection of the readers and the text creator.
9. **Ideological Effects:** The Gestaltian concept of parts of a whole is transmuted in the readers through the textual exploitation of the inclusivity v/s exclusivity through the larger and smaller contexts.(walls , world)

Where words come out from the depth of truth

10. **Linguistic Form:** The subordinate adverb clause of place is post modified with an adverbial phrase (come out) and a prepositional phrase as its complement (from the depth of truth). The use of alliteration in the initial clause reflects the unity of words and the truth conditions.
11. **Linguistic Function:** The ellipsis of the possessive determiner before words presume a common vocalization of multiple perspectives. The employment of depth as a qualitative intensifier of the abstract noun and the subsequent adverbial phrase followed by the prepositional phrase reflects the immediacy of the channels.
12. **Ideological Effects:** The personal responsibility of our words and the constancy of standard truth is elucidated through the ellipsis and the directional movement of the nouns.

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection

- 13. Linguistic Form:** The personification of the a gerund (striving) with its attribution of a suffixed epithet (tireless) with the neuter pronoun encompasses the dynamics of a mass outreach. The iteration of the same directional movement of abstract nouns as in the preceding verse with the prepositional phrase as its complement reflects intertextuality .
- 14. Linguistic Function:** The use of synecdoche (arms) and the subordination of the adverb clause as the nominal subject is an exclusive relational function of the concept of labour.
- 15. Ideological Effects:** The deictic center of the text is a unified plurality of the readers which shifts from the text creator to the text reader through the literary devices of personification , synecdoche and a gerund nominative in the subordinate clause. There is a creation of a textual intentional world shared with the readers.

*Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit*

- 16. Linguistic Form:** The subordinate adverb clause of place is personified with a neuter possessive pronoun (its) with a subsequent prepositional phrase as its complement continues the directional motion of the animate abstract nouns from the preceding verses. The use of alliteration and transferred epithet imparts a surreal texture to the clausal structure.
- 17. Linguistic Function:** The alliteration , attribution and the metaphorical extension of the subordinate adverb clause followed by a prepositional phrase complementation creates an imagery of contradictory sceneries.(stream and desert) .
- 18. Ideological Effects:** The deft use of literary devices and linguistic devices in the subordinate clause imparts a composite juxtaposition of the contradictory ideas of live transparency and termination of growth. An abrupt sense of disjunct ideologies is attempted through the textual exploitation of a string of premodification of abstract and uncountable nouns.

Where the mind is led forward by thee

- 19. Linguistic Form:** The subject of the subordinate adverb clause is determined by a definite article and personified . The use of passive voice focuses on the predicate .The archaic second person pronoun (thee) in the object position preoccupies the follower's role in the nominative case .
- 20. Linguistic Function:** The mentorship of the higher metaphysical authority is sought by the use of the archaic second person pronoun while the abstract noun (mind)
- 21. Ideological effects:** A sentiment of invocation is infused in the readers as there is a unity of reverence and surrender to the omniscient Almighty.

Into ever-widening thought and action

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

- 22. Linguistic Form:** The initial prepositional phrase in the penultimate and ultimate verses is an instance of inversion and iteration of the dynamic movement of growth into newer channels of progress. The apostrophic address to the Almighty of a personified awakening of country determined by a personal possessive pronoun (my). The repetition of the personal possessive pronoun for the country and Father coordinates both the common nouns.
- 23. Linguistic Function:** The use of active imperative and the conjuncted nouns (thought and action) imparts an insistent and invocative mood to the verses. The magnifying sense of gradual movement towards an intentional future is reflected in the compound adjective of an intensifier and a present participle (ever widening). The metaphorical description of freedom with reference of spatial locative (heaven) which is deictically remote (that) is a mental representation of a movement of past, future and present as created in the text.
- 24. Ideological Effects:** The culmination of the embedding of the preceding subordinate adverb clauses with a superordinate imperative is a gradual transition from a series of alternative possible worlds to a certitude of the utopian conditions for the intentional macrocosm. The expansive nature of the clausal embedding with the superordinate clause is reflected in the use of the prepositional phrases .

IV. CONCLUSION

The critical stylistic tool for analyzing the representation of time, space and society is harnessed through the choice of prepositions, imageries, ellipsis of determiners and the choice of common nouns as holograms of unified hybrid voices and opinions.

The selected text ; Where the mind is without fear by Rabindranath Tagore has embedded adverbial clauses which have been ultimately superordinated with an imperative . The use of archaic apostrophic expressions as an invocation and the interplay of active and passive voice with present indefinite for a futuristic world leads to the ideological shifts in common intentions for a better space, time and society.

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