



Analyzing the Discourse Functions of Abbas Maroufi's *The Year of Turmoil*: A Faircloughian Approach

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1. INTRODUCTION

In novels, fictional life is intertwined with social realities, power dynamics, and ideologies, which authors represent through language. Understanding the intellectual and ideological tendencies of these writers has led to a growing interest among researchers and literary critics, necessitating the use of text analysis methods. Critical discourse analysis, as an efficient method, has addressed this necessity. This study employs Fairclough's approach to examine the discursive functions in Abbas Maroufi's novel "The Year of Turmoil," which explores aspects of Iran's contemporary history.

There is a wealth of literature on critical discourse analysis of novels using Norman Fairclough's approach. For example, Bahrami & Arian (2020) conducted a critical discourse analysis of "The Fish Sleep at Night" by Sudabah Ashrafi, highlighting the novel's critique of patriarchy and the suppression of women. Another study by Zaree et al. (2020) applied Fairclough's theory to analyze the Arabic novel "Al-Harb Fi Barr-I Misr" by Yusuf al-Qaid, emphasizing the author's use of contrasts and oppositions in meaning. These studies demonstrate the widespread recognition of critical discourse analysis as an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing texts from a social and political perspective.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fairclough's discourse analysis method consists of three levels: description, interpretation, and explanation. The description level involves examining the specific linguistic features within the discourse, while the interpretation level focuses on the relationships between discourse processes and their effects. The explanation level aims to understand why certain discourse elements hold significance in social action, considering the cultural background and reasons behind specific word choices in the text (Aghagolzadeh, 2015).

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3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion of the analysis shed light on the intricate dynamics within "The Year of Turmoil." At the lexical selection level, the author's deliberate choice of words and phrases invokes national-religious beliefs and values, challenging the discourse that coerces Iranians to submit to their superiors. By incorporating references to legendary heroes and renowned Iranian mystics, the author establishes dual oppositions, creating a nuanced narrative. The utilization of relational modality within the text dictates and obligates the audience, imposing limitations on women's choices based on assigned roles. Additionally, the presence of taboo words, often associated with those in positions of authority, portrays verbal violence as a means to humiliate others.

The novel also presents a series of binary oppositions, contributing to its thematic richness. The subaltern/superior dichotomy explores power dynamics and the struggle for agency within Iranian society. The contrast between masculinity and femininity delves into gender roles and societal expectations. The theme of colonialism/resistance highlights the tension between external influences and the preservation of national identity. Furthermore, the exploration of tradition/modernity reflects the complexities of cultural evolution and the clash between traditional values and modern aspirations.

Moving to the interpretation level, the novel reflects the situational context of Iran's historical period marked by war. It emphasizes the necessity of internal unity, with Tehran's authority and the rejection of the periphery being prominent themes. The dominance of patriarchal language throughout the narrative reinforces gender inequalities and the subjugation of women. Moreover, the author skillfully employs intertextuality by drawing on religious and ritual traditions, referencing legends, Islamic funeral ceremonies, hadiths, and Quranic verses. These references serve to convey the author's ideology and provide a deeper layer of meaning to the story.

At the explanation level, "The Year of Turmoil" delves into the confrontation of Iranian-non-Iranian discourses and the exploration of power dynamics. It sheds light on the exploitation and subjugation of women, reflecting the influence of colonialism and the complicity of the ruling system. Through its narrative and themes, the novel explores the complexities of Iran's contemporary history, encompassing issues of power, gender, and national identity.

Overall, the analysis of "The Year of Turmoil" at various levels uncovers the intricate layers of its language, themes, and contextual implications. It reveals the author's deliberate choices, the dynamics between different binary oppositions, and the underlying social, historical, and cultural influences that shape the narrative.

4. CONCLUSION

Critical discourse analysis of "The Year of Turmoil" illustrates the author's portrayal of a specific period in Iranian contemporary history within the context of discourses surrounding male authority, non-Iranian influences, and sovereignty. The analysis reveals the ideological value of words, collocations, modality, and semantic connections in depicting these confrontations. The exploitation and subjugation of women are evident throughout the novel, influenced by colonialism and complicity within the ruling system. Overall, the novel constructs a discourse that highlights patriotism, defense of women's rights, populism, and freedom as dominant ideologies.

Keywords: Anti-Colonial Ideology; Critical Discourse Analysis; National Identity; Novel of Year of Turmoil (Novel Sale-E Balva); Women's Rights