



The Cultuling of Insult in the Teenage Novel Based on the Heims' approach (The case study of Abnabat Collection)

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1. Introduction

Language plays various roles, and the significance of these roles varies across different societies. The communicative role, however, can be considered one of the most pivotal functions of language. Through communication, social categories, socio-political ideologies, relationships, individual social networks, and social control can be identified and influenced. According to Troike (2003), language has a clear role in social control because it directly conveys instructions to people. Humorous works serve as a significant source for shaping a society's culture, and an examination of the language used in these works can provide insights into the culture of that society. Profanity is a speech genre within popular culture, and its usage in humorous texts has seen substantial growth in recent decades. This research investigates the use of profanity in Sedgi's "Abnabat" collection using Hymes' model. In addition to classifying the profanities in this collection, we analyze the motivations behind their usage, aiming to answer the following questions: What functions do profanities serve in this novel? Is the use of profanity in this humor collection appropriate for the genre of the work and its intended audience?

2. Materials and methods

This research adopted a descriptive-analytical approach and collected information using a library-style methodology. After a brief review of the subject's history and different perspectives, the necessary data was recorded. Data for this study were gathered by analyzing the text of the "three-volume Abnabat" novel. A total of 250 profanities were extracted from the book and classified based on their themes. The number of profanities related to each theme and the corresponding percentages were calculated to demonstrate where these profanities are most prevalent in the "Abnabat" novel. Additionally, the study employed Hymes' model to evaluate the functions of profanity. In the evaluation stage, two Ph.D. evaluators in Persian and language literature verified the research findings. The inter-rater agreement was assessed using the Kappa coefficient in SPSS software version 26. Hymes' model considers various factors, including setting, participants, end, act sequence, key/tone, tools, rules, and genre of discourse.

3. Results and discussion

The research findings reveal that out of the 250 profanities in the "Abnabat" book,

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the most frequently used profanities belong to the category of animals, accounting for 36% of the total data with a frequency of 90 cases. The second most common profanity category is curses, with 49 cases, making up 16.2% of all profanities. General profanities follow with 37 cases, representing 14.8% of the data. Intellectual disabilities come next with 34 cases, accounting for 13.6% of the data. Other categories, such as unethical features, family-related traits, and physical objections, follow with 13%, 7%, and 5%, respectively. Gender, ritual, and religion, each with a 4% frequency, share the next category. Profanities related to excretion, occupation, honor (each with 2%), and social anomalies (1%) are among the less frequent abusive categories in this book.

Profanities in the "Abnabat" collection are primarily used in informal or private settings among family members and neighbors. This speech often involves humor and serves to reinforce social bonds, rather than being genuinely offensive. It is common among people of different ages, from teenagers to the elderly. While this type of language is known to all language speakers, certain groups within society, including teachers, marketers, parents, and neighbors, actively discourage its use. The author employs profanity in various ways, including humiliation, similes, and irony, as a tool to evoke laughter and humor. However, in some instances, profanity is used to express irritation, protest, description, warning, denial, and even love. As "Abnabat" is written in the humor genre, it predominantly employs a humorous tone, often combined with an informal dialect (Bojnord dialect) that conveys a sincere interaction. However, a serious and informal tone can occasionally be observed in this work. Profanity in this collection is primarily expressed in spoken form, with written profanity being a rare exception. In some cases, discourse norms are not observed.

4. Conclusion

An examination of the story's settings reveals that the story primarily unfolds in a familial and intimate environment, where profanity has become a common and humorous practice. The context in which profanity is used plays a crucial role in determining whether it is offensive. In many instances, profanity lacks a genuinely offensive aspect. The participants in this novel are shown to use profanity predominantly in informal and intimate group settings. Notably, religious figures in this work do not engage in cursing, reflecting the influence of Islamic culture on language use in the society depicted. Despite expressing certain social realities among specific social classes, the use of profanity, especially in the language of adult characters, could have a negative impact on the teenage audience.

The primary purpose of using profanity in this story is humor, and the author effectively uses it for comedic effect. Profanity is employed to create humor through techniques such as likening animals. However, it also serves to express anger, protest, description, warning, denial, and love. An analysis of the act sequence reveals that the content of the profanity shapes the speech acts, reflecting the culture of the society in which it is used. The tone of the story is characterized as humorous and popular, in line with the humor genre, which mitigates the offensiveness of the profanity used. Nevertheless, there are instances where discourse norms are not followed. Insults predominantly fall within specific conceptual domains, including animals, understanding and intelligence, honor, shame and modesty, descent and parental figures, with sexual insults being less common due to considerations like the age of the characters.

Keywords : Abnabat, Hymes, profanity, Sedgi, Zabahang