



Linguistic Stylistic Analysis of Lexical and Grammatical Categories in Arrow of God

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ABSTRACT

The Study attempts to Shed light on linguistic Stylistics Analysis of lexical and Grammatical Categories of Chinua Achebe's novel (Arrow of God). It aims to highlight the techniques of using lexical and Grammatical Categories in the novel. The researchers have adopted analytical checklist to explore lexical and Grammatical Categories in the functional linguistic field. These lexical and grammatical features have been used as primary tools for data collection. The sample composed of hundred words and two hundred and fifty of different sentences types that have been used in the context so as to analyze Achebe's style. The finding revealed that studying linguistic stylistic alone cannot be satisfied to understand the novel, rather identifies significant linguistic features that mostly contributes in interpreting the novel. The study recommended that researchers should use linguistic features for interpreting and tackling their literary works.

Keywords: *Linguistic features, linguistic stylistic, context, analyze, category.*

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INTRODUCTION

The concept of linguistic stylistics has to do with a stylistic study that rules heavily on the "scientific rules" of language in its analysis. Such rules will embrace the lexical, grammatical, figures of speech, context and cohesion categories. Literary stylistics differs from linguistic stylistics in that, the latter abstract matter whereas the former dwells heavily on external correlates (history, philosophy, source of inspiration, etc.) to explain a text, with occasional leap into the elements of language used. Literary stylistic and linguistic stylistics have different emphases and different methods of operation. The former operates on values and aesthetics, while the latter operates on scientific analysis, working with such tools as grammatical, syntactic and phonological components of the language. With the application of linguistic standards to literary works, the literary critics felt "threatened" and some like Bateson stoutly "fought" to resist the "encroachment".

Halliday[1] suggests that the function of language as:

"Language serves for the expression content. The speaker or writer embodies language, his experience of internal world of his consciousness, cognitions and perception and also his linguistic acts of speaking and understanding".

According to above quotation, the researcher believes in the way that Achebe uses language in his novel (Things Fall Apart). Achebe's good command of the language enables him to translate Igbo lexicon, proverbs and African idiomatic expressions into English and he has been considered as one of the best of peculiar African experiences. Stylistic analysis that the study concentrates on is the end product of the two models ((linguistic stylistic and literary stylistic)) while the role of literary analyst is to bring out style that the literary elements used by the part takes the codes as his domain and the meaning of the work becomes relevant as far it illustrates the use of language.

Practitioners attempt to drive from the study of style and language a refinement of models for the analysis of language and thus to contribute to the development of linguistic theory.

Linguistic analysis does not replace the reader's intuition, what Spitzer [2] calls the "click" in the mind, but it may promote, direct and shape it into an understanding. Leo Spitzer insists that, the smallest dialect of language can unlock the soul of literary work, and by explaining how a particular effect or meaning is achieved, one understand better than not just how it is achieved (which itself is essential to the critical task of explanation), but also gain greater appreciation of the writer has created.

The Concept of Stylistics

Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics concerned with the study of style in a text. It is also the study and interpretation of text with regard to their linguistic and tonal style. Stylistics also involves the description and analysis of the variability of linguistic form in actual language use. Stylistics studies the linguistic style or language usage in

different contexts. In defining stylistics, Leech [3] defines stylistics as a linguistics approach to literature explaining the relation between language and artistic function with motivation question such as why and how more than what. While Crystal [4] defines stylistics as a part of linguistic discipline that studies certain aspects of language variation.

Linguistic Features of Style:

Linguistic features of style are innumerable in language. They are used to achieve different communicative purposes. Katie Wales in *A Dictionary of stylistics* identifies various stylistic feature such as diction, sentence pattern as well as figures of speech.

Diction: this term refers to the way lexis or words are used in a speech, writing or discussion. It is also a lexis or vocabulary that is used in discussion or used by an author in a text.

Sentence structure: this is mainly concerned with the pattern of sentence which includes.

Periodic Sentence: in traditional literary criticism, prevocalic sentence describe a complex sentence in which the main clause is delayed until the end. They are generally characteristic of writing rather than speech. They are prose styles in which other syntactic structures are exploited for rhetorical effort. Examples are:

- A- Since Ali would not come despite the fact that I had warned him, I will have to force him to come.
- B- Although I am tired, I am still stronger than most people.

Loose Sentence: this states the main point at the beginning even when this statement is grammatically complete; it is following by one more explanatory clauses or phrases.

Examples are:

- 1- We have come home because we are seriously feeling hungry.
- 2- I have to work very hard this semester since my dad has advised me.

Simple Sentence: this sentence contains in its simplest form only one subject and one predicate and can be independent assertion examples are:

- 1- Our lecturers are decent and friendly people.
- 2- My neighbor brought a new car yesterday.

This was of entertaining the language of literature is known as individual style. The belief that every writer had a different style led every to begin to search for their own technique – their individual way of expressing ideas. In general, literary style is a contribution or critical theory for understanding how language works. This study in the same track hopes to bring out the style used by Chinua Achebe specifically of codes as well as proverbs in various utterances from the text.

Linguistic Stylistics

This approach is concerned mainly with the linguistic description of stylistic devices. In this sense, it is the pure version of the discipline of stylistics. It aims at employing the investigation of literary language and style to make step forward in the development of linguistic theory. In other words, linguistic stylisticians' models derived from linguistics to put in the service of linguistic again. Therefore, they contribute little to the interpretation of literary texts, as Fowlers [5] declared during his controversy with Bateson: '*A mere description is of no great use except possibly as an exercise to promote awareness of language or of method*'.

The following dimensions or categories are used for Linguistic stylistic analysis of texts: Lexical, grammatical and context.

Lexical Category

According to the level of lexis, attention is given to such feature as the nature of vocabulary, whether simple or complex, formal or colloquial, descriptive or evaluative, general or specific. At this stage of our analysis, particular or occurrence of certain parts of speech will be noted. When nouns occur, their nature should be observed to determine whether they refer to events, participations and process, moral or social qualities. Adjectives, type of adjectives gradable or non-gradable, restrictive or non-restrictive, attributive or predicative is also to put in account. When we have attribute adjectives we should note the kind of attribute they refer to whether it is physical, psychological, visual, color, auditory, referential emotive or evaluative, give us a clue as to what function they perform in text. Verbs are said to be the core of any construction. Therefore, they are worthy of attention. We will try to see if the verbs carry any important part of the meaning. We will find out what kind of verb we are dealing with stative (referring to states) dynamic (referring to events, actions and so forth). Factive and non-factive will also speed up the investigation and discussion of the text to give us a truly empirical result.

Grammatical Category:

The term grammatical category refers to specific properties of a word that can cause that word and or a related word to change in form for grammatical reasons (www.emglishclub.com/13/4/2022).

The Methodology and Tools of the Study

The researchers have adopted functional linguistic approach to conduct this study. The analysis concentrates on lexical categories, grammatical categories and contextual categories. These three linguistic features have been chosen as primary tools for data collection. The sample composed of (250) words and (100) different types of sentences and utterances which have been used in the context so as to analyze the style of Achebe’s novel Arrow of God.

Study Question:

How far does Chinua Achebe use lexical and grammatical categories in his novel (Arrow of God) effectively?

Study Hypothesis:

Chinua Achebe use lexical and grammatical categories in his novel (Arrow of God) effectively.

Objective of the Study:

This study aims to highlight Chinua Achebe’s usage of lexical and grammatical categories in his novel (Arrow of God).

Analysis and Discussion of Lexical Categories:

Table (1) Use of Nouns in Text

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| <p>Concrete nouns: Children (P.102) – palm(P.75,86) wall (P. 7) – hut (P.118) – country (P.20) head (P.184-185) – white chalk (P.10).</p> <p>Abstract nouns: Attention (P.70) – truth (P.33) – patience (P.3) – pride (P.17) – anger (P.2) – defeat (P.42) bravery (P.2) – justice (P.122)</p> <p>Proper nouns: Okonkwo (P.1-10) sister (P.10) Easter (P.56) Nigeria (P.141) – Umuofia (P.77) – Nwoye(P.47) – Matchet (P.180)</p> <p>Common nouns:Man (P.119) – district ((P.178)– cat (P.3) – friend (P.130) hand (P.97) tree (P.59) yam (P.61)</p> |
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It obvious from above table (1) common nouns are more predominant than proper nouns. Whereas, the strategic and repeated use of more proper nouns like; Ezeudu and Obika probably to make the names of the characters stick in the reader’s mind, because they have special role throughout the novel, or to create and immediate or wider context which facilitates our understanding of the text. The use of collective and abstract nouns in both texts is very prominent. There is also more use of abstract nouns which are used vividly describe the dull (somber) picture of the narrative.

Table (2) The Use of Verbs in Text:

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|---|
| <p>Verbs: Bought (P.3) – wore(P.100) – made (P.7) came (P.3) – began (P.4) – gave (P.95) sat(P.119) drank(P.9) – wandered (P.37) placed (P.169) broken (P.184)held (P.33) meet(P.184) think(p.60) – understand(P.185) told(p.55) – returned(P.17) – eat(P.41) sent(P.98) – drew(P.5) – said(P.160)</p> |
|---|

It is clear from above table (2) that the verbs play the most important role for making full meaning. Most, if it is not all of the verbs are dynamic, it cast in Hallidayan model. We could say that most of them are material processes indicating action. The numbers of mental processes are also striking. For example: “think”, “realized”. The frequent occurrence of both material and mental processes emphasizes and strengthens our notion that the physical processes are used on the emotional state and feelings. The verbal processes are used interestingly and amazingly for the expression of feelings. The material processes are prominent. There are also some mental processes. The verbal processes give the impression that the text is predominantly a description of activity with a few words.

Table (3) Use of Adjectives in Text

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| <p>Adjectives: (Seldom-grey- huge)(P.4-17) famous – (slight – new – wooden – small)(P.27-39) – (stammer – lazy person – clean – dry) (P.11-13) – big enough(P.44) – cross shapes(P.51) – dark figure(P.15) – young(P.8) – virgin(P.11) – brave(P.3) – happy(P.20) – powerful(P.10) beauty (P.156)– crowd(P.91) – quite incapable(P.23)</p> |
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The above table (3) shows that Adjectives in the texts are in a large number because they are used to create and reflect visual imagery sensuousness. But mostly are the uses of adjectival phrases such as: ‘ *quite incapable lazy person* ’’ *In his day, he was lazy person and improvident and was quite incapable. “happiest”*. From the sentence: “He was very

good on his flute, and his happiest moments were the two or three moons after harvesting season” “there were five groups, and the smallest group had ten lines” “ Oknokwo’s fear was greater than the fear of evil”

Table (4) Use of adverbs in Texts:

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|---|
| <p>Adverbs: Hardly(P.4) – clearly(P.9) – shortly(P.44) plainly(P.18) – completely(P.22) greatly(P.199) – heavily(P.3) suddenly (P.10)narrowly(P.42) – feverishly(P.50) – badly(P.30) –(peacefully – easily constantly – rarely)(P.57-60) (regularly) – occasionally – normally – accordingly – violently) (P.102-119)</p> |
|---|

From the above table (4) shows adverbs which are used to modify or qualify and adjective, verb or other adverb. Moreover, adverbs expressing a relation of place, time, circumstance, manner, cause, degree and so on. “He had moved quickly away from the fire and now sat with his back against the wall”. “The moon he saw that day was as thin as an orphan fed grudgingly by a cruel foster-mother”. The most notable classes of adverbs in text are these of manner. For example: dangerously – easily – finally – plainly – greatly – badly – narrowly – heavily – feverishly. This can be seen in sentence from text. *Three men beat them with sticks, working feverishly from one drum to another. Okonkwo was greatly shocked and sore to beat Ekwefi is she dared to give the child eggs again.*

There are other types of adverbs the author used in two texts, such as: adverbs of place, sometimes called spatial adverb that will help to explain where an action happens and associated with the action of verb in a sentence, providing context of direction, distance and position. Thus, do not usually end in “ly”. Examples are: everywhere, left, inside, closely, anywhere.

Grammatical Categories:

Table (5) Use of Simple Sentences

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okonkwo was well known (p.3) • The night was very quiet (p.9) • The fire did not burn. (p.15) • The oracle was called Agbala (p. 15) • Ikemefuna was very much afraid (p.25) • It was clear from the way (p.79) • She presented the cock to the musicians (p.107) • We give them a piece of land (p.136) • Nwaye struggle to free himself (p.139) • They all have food (p.152) • He saw things as black and white (p.166) • Smith was greatly distressed (p.166) |
|---|

The above table (5) shows the semantic impact of this type (simple sentence) in the novel is to prepare accounts of occurrences such as a (conscious winter) of historical account would make in such a statement like manner. For the credibility of informed ideas, insights provided to attract and appear factual to the reader. These sentences indicate the simplicity and clarity, as well as logical progression which will be lost if cast on complex sentences. An example of illustration is: “Okonkwo was well known”. (p.1).

Table (6) Use of Compound Sentences

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalinze was a wily craftsman, but Okonkwo was as slippery as a fish in water (p.3) • Everbody thanked Okonkwo, and the neighbors brought out their drinking horns)p.18) • The feast of the New Yam was approaching and Umoufia was in festival mood (p.33). • He took down the pot from the fire and placed it in front of the stood (p.87). • The elders sat in a big circle and singers went round singing (p107). |
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The above table (6) illustrates the stylistic importance of the compound sentence is that; it helps in joining together two or more ideas in just a single utterance. This is possible to take place when independent and related ideas are strung together in a single sentence. He drank palm wine to excess, and he was given to sudden and fiery anger and being as strong. (p.11) He had carried the day and he was one of the three people in all the six villages who had taken the highest title in the land, Eru, which was called after the lord of wealth himself.

“Amalinze was a wily craftsman, but Okonkwo was as slipper as a fish in water. (P.3).” this sentence creates more details by telling us how Amalinze was a wily craftsman and the great differences between him and Okonkwo who has

been resembled to a fish in terms of slippery that has a meaning behind which can be interpreted as bravery, strongly and skillfully, that making the story more interesting and engaging with the presences of linguistic and stylistic features.

Table (7) Use of Complex Sentences

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She was in close communication with the departed fathers of the clan whose bodies had been committed to earth. (p.33) • Ezinma took the dish in one hand and the empty water bowl in the other hand, and went back to her mother’s hut. (p.58) • There were seven men in Obierika’s hut when Okonkwo returned. (p.63) • She wore a coiffure which was done up into a crest in the middle of the head. (p.64) • Ezinma looked at her mother’s whose eyes sad and pleading were fixed on her. (p.72) |
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The above table (7) illustrates that the complex sentences empower the prose’s rhythm and musicality. They make senses in the novel emphatic and not easily forgettable. In the above sentence, the author captures the presence of the prisoners and their chant from an ironic counterpoint to the substance and inflated style of Governor’s memorandum. When I cut grass and you cut, what’s your right to call my names? (p.55). The poetry in the above statement aided by the musical use of verb “cut” immortalizes in the reader’s subconscious the sad memory of man inhumanity to man as revealed by the British Administration’s power to enforce it law and imprison natives. The randomly selected sentence types have achieved their semantic purpose as they have been blended together to achieve communicative purposes. Chinua Achebe’s skill of providing information in crisp, fresh, flavor and unambiguous manner through simple, compound and compound complex sentences given accessibility of meanings in the novel.

Table (8) Use of Compound Complex Sentences

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okonkwo moved behind the hut, and he began vomit painfully as if he became sick, Nwoye’s mother went to him and placed her hand on his chest and back. (p.14) • Nwoye always wandered who Nnadi was, why he should live all by himself, cooking and eating. (p.32) • Okonkwo returned from the bush carrying on his left shoulder a large bundle of grasses and leaves roots and barks of medicinal trees and shrubs, he went into Ekwehie’s hut, put down his load and sat down. (p.77) |
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The above (8) shows that grammatical unit has more than two independent clauses. Okonkwo moved behind the hut, and he began vomiting as if he became sick, Nwoye’s mother went to him and she placed her hand on his back and chest. Okonkwo moved is an independent clause and he began vomiting as if he became sick is a dependent clause. Moreover, in this sentence, we can see the successive use of personal pronouns, such as (him, her, his) that shows the characteristic of possession and belonging. Therefore, all these factors make the sentence usually lengthy and full of details. It is usually used to give details and to make emphasis.

CONCLUSION

The major aim of this study is to show how and why the texts mean what they do especially the meaningful choices from language which informs style. There is a high frequency in the use of material and verbal processes of which are dynamic verbs, the use of adjectives, and simple sentences give clarity and simplicity of message because it contains of verb and subject and the sentence is very short. Compound and complex sentences unlike simple one are used to focus on a particular constituent of sentence and for the purpose of emphasis. The paper concludes with recommendations for further studies which are mainly base on some imitations of an insight drawn from the study. Also the study confirms that the choice of linguistic forms in literary work is motivated by demonstrating how Achebe uses some particular stylistic features to attain thematic concerns.

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