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A Pragmatic Study of the Abuse of Language in Orwell's Novel: Nineteen Eighty-Four.

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ABSTRACT

This research is concerned with analysing pragmatically the abuse of language upon people. The analysis focuses on the British novel, "Nineteen Eighty-Four" by George Orwell. This study aims at analysing the language used in the novel and showing how it can be used as an oppressive device that can be abused to lead to a totalitarian state. The model of analysis that is used in the current study is Grice's theory of implicature and the cooperative principles (1975). The researcher employs qualitative method to have deep understanding and examination to the data of the present study. The results of this research reveal that pragmatic analysis shows that language can be used as a tool to spread power and authority. It can lead to a whole totalitarianism when those in power imply their aims and intuitions in the words they use. The implied meaning occurs when the speaker does not use the language directly and violates the relevance, the manner, the quality and the quantity maxims and being uncooperative. The study also shows the role and power that the language has upon the thought and behaviour of people.

دراسة تداولية للإساءة في استخدام اللغة في رواية أوروبيل: ألف وتسعمائة و أربعة وثمانون.

المستخلص

تهتم الدراسة الحالية بتحليل تأثير إساءة استخدام اللغة على الأفراد تحليلاً تداولياً.. انموذج التحليل المستعمل في الرسالة الحالية هو نظرية التلميح والمبادئ التعاونية لكراس (١٩٧٥). وظفت الباحثة النظرية النوعية للحصول على فحص و فهم عميق لبيانات الدراسة. تُكشف نتائج هذه الدراسة إن التحليل التداولي يُظهر إمكانية استعمال اللغة كأداة لنشر القوة والسلطة معاً والتي يمكن أن تقود الى استبداد كامل عندما يضمّن أصحاب السلطة أهدافهم و نواياهم بالكلمات التي يستعملونها. يحدث المعنى الضمني عندما لا يستخد لمتكلم اللغة بصورة مباشرة و ينتهك مبادئ العلاقة و الاسلوب، الجودة أو الكمية و عندما يكون غير مُتعاون. و تُظهر هذه الدراسة أيضاً الدور والقوة التي تمتلكها اللغة على فكر وسلوك الافراد.

Keywords: Power, ideology. pragmatics, Grice's Theory of Implicature and Cooperative Principle.

1. Introduction

Language is the device that reflects the individual characteristics of people, as well as the practices and beliefs of their community. Language is a rule-governed system that is made up of signs, so in order to learn the language of a community, the learner must learn which signs are meaningful and which ones are not. For many of us, speaking is considered as an unconscious action that we rarely notice we're even doing as natural as waking up each day. Naturally, people don't imagine that language might be used to wield power, cause conflict, or even fuel debate. In fact, however, language can function in all of these ways. language affects many aspects of human culture: political, religious, economic, and social. A lot of these situations are described as provocative. Primarily, language is used for communication, and therefore communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context. Therefore, effective communication requires a recognition and understanding of the relations between a language

and the people who use it. These relations are complex: for example, they determine when to use formal language with a boss, a slang with a friend, or how to judge a candidate's campaign speeches. In all these cases, we need knowledge of the language, as well as the social and cultural forces acting on that language. Language is integrally intertwined with our notions of who we are on both the personal and the societal and broader levels. By using language, we communicate our individual thoughts and ideas, as well as the cultural beliefs and practices of our community : social groups, our families, and many other associations (Amberg, Vause, 2009).

Language is defined as the unique human talent that has a great role in molding humans' thoughts and deeds. Language has the exclusive ability to shape the behavior and learning of its users (Hossain, 2017). Lupyan and Bergen (2015) emphasise that there are specific distinguished forms of expression that constitute the basics of the language and it solely programs human minds. They also empirically argue that language major focus is on molding the functions of human mind.

Berkes (2000) argues that language develops to be mind control tool as well as its crucial goal which is the destruction of imagination and will (Hossain, 2017).

One of the major themes presented in Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four is using language to control minds. This novel is considered as one of the most famous dystopian narratives in the twentieth century, in which the language is employed in the context of ideological politics to communicate dominance, power, and control. This paper attempts a pragmatic analysis to explore the extent to which language is used in an abusive way to manipulate rather than to illuminate. According to Orwell viewpoint, language is seen as a tool of shaping attitudes and controlling minds in Nineteen Eighty-Four (Hodge & Fowler, 1979).

Language has different uses rather than communication. It has a function of manipulation. Manipulation is a linguistic term that has a great creative potential which is first and chief topical in the framework of the linguistic manipulation theory. Manipulative functions of language create

covert, masked layer of linguistic data that is not simply separated from informational content. Manipulative language takes its position between two extreme points – a lie and the legitimate (true, full) information. A lie and manipulation are opposed to different types of truth: a lie stands up against “semantic truth” and manipulation opposes “pragmatic truth”. Manipulation is a pragmatic aspect that is realised when the listener cannot see the speaker’s implied intentions behind what is actually being said. In manipulation, the speaker intentionally chooses such form of utterance that lacks direct signals of his intentional condition. In this way manipulation achieves its goals without evident recognition of communicative intention. Manipulation is considered as a negative social psychological phenomenon that exercises destructive effect upon the individuals and the society as a whole. A language becomes manipulative primarily through different aspects like association with the speaker’s intentions, unclear influential character of the utterance and conditions of communication (social context), and not due to the use of specific lexical or grammatical units (Asya, 2013).

‘Nineteen Eighty-Four demonstrates that manipulation of thought and language can be a plot against human consciousness which is just as powerful and disturbing as physical methods of control’ (Rahv 1963: 182).

Language is considered as one of the most ancient persuasion devices. By an indirect manipulation of language, skillful speakers have usually been able to influence the preconceptions, ambitions, views, and fears of the public, to the extent they make people accept false statements as true postulates, or even to support policies conflicting with their interests (David, 2017).

Language is a tool, one of many human tools. But language is perhaps our most important tool. with language, we can develop society and built civilization. It also can be abused, used not to communicate but to confuse, not to build but to destroy, not to lead but mislead, not to clarify but to obscure. Moreover, language is a unique tool that is not used simply to communicate but also to apprehend and even to give shape to reality (Lutz, 1989).

Whorf adds: *"Language is not merely a reproducing instrument for voicing ideas but rather is itself the shaper of ideas, the program and guide for the individual's mental activity, for his analysis of impressions, for his synthesis of his mental stock in trade.... the world is presented in a kaleidoscope flux of impressions which has to be organised by our minds-and this means largely by the linguistic systems in our minds."* (Lutz, 1989)

Language influences and shapes our reactions to people, ideas, and events, so it reflects our perception of reality. Language is a type of conceptual scheme used to organise our thoughts. In this way, language becomes the means by which we communicate our perceptions of reality to others, and the means by which we shape reality and the means. Language can easily influence behavior and distort perception and thus it can be a weapon, or tool for achieving the greatest good or the greatest evil (Lutz, 1989).

2. Literature Review

Pragmatics is firstly emerged and studied by the American philosophical doctrine of pragmatism. There are some philosophers who have a very important role in the study and development of pragmatics. Some of them are Morris, Wittgenstein, Austin, Levinson, Searle, Carnap, Pierce, Leach and Grice. Wittgenstein and Austin have studied the origin of pragmatics in France, England and Germany in 1930s. Morris

plays a great role in the development of pragmatics. He has the opinion that pragmatics should involve some other aspects of society, of nerve, of psychology, and of culture that affect the meanings of the symbols (Abraham, 2016).

The scope of pragmatics includes the areas to which pragmatics has been extended to. The term 'pragmatics' is far more restricted when it is firstly used by Charles Morris (1938). Morris's great interest has been in semiotics which studies signs and symbols. He defines pragmatics as the study of the relationship between signs and interpreters. Then, Morris elaborates the scope of pragmatics to include biological, sociological and

psychological (Levinson, 1983). Currently, pragmatics will include other fields of study such as Sociolinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Psycholinguistics, etc. (Crystal, 1987).

Levinson (1997) defines pragmatics as a new branch of linguistics that deals with aspects of meaning that cannot be studied and understood by the semantic theory only. Pragmatics deals with language in relation to the context or the situation of the utterance.

Pragmatics is defined as the study of 'invisible' meaning or how the hearer recognises the speaker's meaning even if it is not actually said (or written). More closely, pragmatics studies language according to the contexts (Yule, 1996). Crystal (1985) focuses on the role of the speaker in studying pragmatics. He states that pragmatics is the study of language according to its users, specifically their choices, the constraints and difficulties they face when they use language in social interaction and the effects that the use of language has on the other participants who are involved in communication. Pragmatics is not an old studied branch of linguistics.

Pragmatics is the branch that can study the effect of language upon humans because language reflects the way people see the world and how they use it in daily communication and pragmatics studies language in context. Language choice and language use affect people in a varying degree. The right use of language varies from user to user. Language use has an effect on the power status of people. Actually, language is not just a tool to express users' point of view, it is also used to assert dominance and power in different situations (Finsen, 2016).

This paper is a pragmatic study of "Nineteen Eighty-Four", a novel by George Orwell. The main goal behind this research is to study how language is used by the dominant authority in the novel to oppress and to exert power over the people in the country. The analysis emphasizes on how the totalitarian system restricts conversations and prevents freedom of speech by forcing people to speak a language which is very limited in terms of vocabulary and strange to them. In order to achieve the main objectives of the analysis, the study will focus on the words, sentences and paragraphs to show how

language is used to oppress and frighten people. The researcher analyse the speeches of the characters to show the role of language in controlling the minds and the actions of the population. Nineteen Eighty-Four is written in a way that explains clearly and accurately the other functions of language in the life of humans. It shows how language is used in an abusive way to serve the interests of particular social groups (Hama, 2015).

Orwell states that if language can be used to control minds, then those who control language can control the minds of people and ultimately control the whole society. Language is power; those who control language control the whole world. Power might come out of the barrel of a gun, but without the control of language there can be no actual control of society. Orwell's belief in the ultimate power of language to maintain and political control is most evidently expressed in his famous novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. In Oceania, the Thought Police terrorises and tortures to preserve order, Newspeak prevents disorder, rebellion, dissent, and even independent thought. The thoughts, ideas, and inspirations, that could lead to disorder are controlled, even eliminated, through the control of language. Orwell expresses his belief that "language as an instrument for expressing and not for concealing or preventing thought". This novel shows how the government rule the society by using the power of language. Political language is the language of power and public policy. The corruption of the language of public policy and power, therefore, can lead to the corruption of the political system and the sense of national purpose. If the leaders do not speak clearly to their audience, then the people, from whom all the ultimate power derives, cannot have the necessary knowledge and understanding upon which to make important decisions (Lutz, 1989).

As Stephen Greenblatt (1974) observes: *If language is abused, if words can have entirely contradictory meanings at the same time, if the language necessary to express political opposition is destroyed, if notions of objective truth and unchanging history are abandoned, then since thought is dependent on language, all unorthodox modes of thought can be made impossible, history can be altered to suit the steeds of the moment, the*

individual can be reduced to an automaton incapable of thought or disloyalty (P.114).

3. Research Methodology

The current study employs the qualitative research method in investigating the selected extracts. Shank (2002) states that a qualitative method is defined as a form of systematic empirical analysis into meaning. By systematic, Shank means 'planned, ordered and public' (P. 5). Denzin and Lincoln (2000) argue that qualitative research includes an interpretive and naturalistic approach: 'This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them' (P. 3).

The qualitative analysis in this study is devoted to analyse the language used in Orwell's novel; Nineteen Eighty- Four pragmatically. The model of analysis used in this study is Grice's theory of implicature and the cooperative principle (1975). This principle is consisted of four maxims that govern the conversation. These maxims are called 'Gricean Maxims' which are: the Quantity maxim, the Quality maxim, the Relation maxim and the maxim of Manner. They go in accordance with the 'Cooperative Principle'. Grice (1989) declares that an implicature arises when there is a violation to any one of the maxims. Speakers' violation to the conversational maxim is only by seeming, not a real violation; the spirit of the maxim, though not the letter, is respected. A speaker may fail to observe the maxims, yet stay within the cooperative principle by the use of implicature (Verschueren & Ostman, 2009). Grundy (2000) argues that in order to infer the implied meaning or (implicature) of an utterance, the hearers and speakers should know the cooperative principle and its conversational maxims. The researcher will analyse two extracts from the novel. There are two stages of the analysis; the contextual analysis and the pragmatic analysis. The pragmatic analysis is divided into Grice's maxims, the cooperative principle and implicature.

Orwell's repeated use of plain and firm language reflects his faith in ordinary truth. This is evident in the language of the Animal Farm, which is categorised by verbal pithiness and syntactic tidiness. This fairy tale takes

the formula of language which becomes a twisty language rather than a clear one. The use of language is the prominent theme in the novel. The rebellion on the farm is a language-focused activity, a product of precisely aggressive linguistic energy, and language, which can efficiently control reality, is at the heart of the tragic experience rather than merely reflecting it. The animals with a para-language (an underdeveloped language) are overcome by the linguistic skill of the pigs. They are unskilled readers of the pigs' deceitful texts (Elbarbary, 1992).

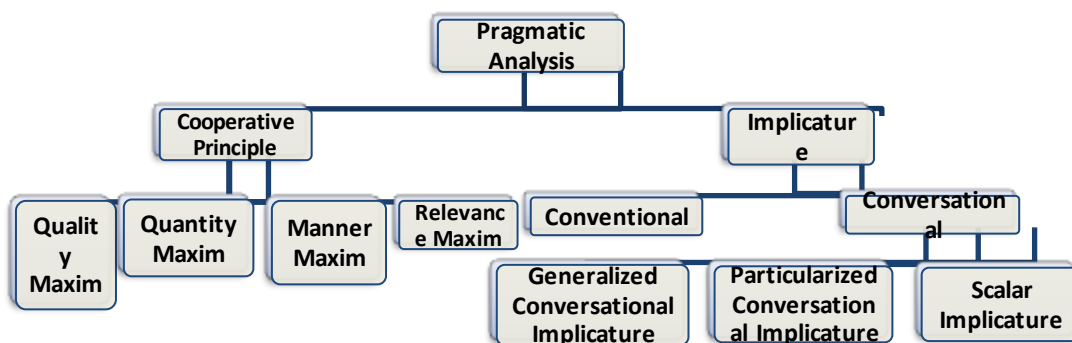


Figure 1 : The proposed theoretical framework for pragmatic analysis[adopted from Grice's Theory of Implicature (1975).

4. Data Analysis

In this section, the data is analysed according to Grice's theory of Implicature and the cooperative principle (1975).

4.1. Analysis of Extract 1

'The Thought Police would get him just the same. He had committed—would still have committed, even if he had never set pen to paper—the essential crime that contained all others in itself. Thoughtcrime, they called it. Thoughtcrime was not a thing that could be concealed forever. You might dodge successfully for a while, even for years, but sooner or later they were bound to get you.'

(N2: P. 24)

4.1.1 Contextual Analysis

This extract is taken from the British novel Nineteen Eighty Four(1949). This extract is narrated by Orwell. Nineteen Eighty-Four is written as a reaction to the rise of the abusive manner of language through the use of Thoughtpolice. Thoughtpolice are group of people who are hired by the government to tell them about everything people do against the system of the party. They watch them everywhere and punish them because of the Thoughtcrime. Thought- crime is the most important concept in the novel. The question is how does the government monitor thoughts? Sometimes people talk while they are sleeping. These words are seen as a reflection to the inner thoughts. Otherwise, any hesitation, any apparent lack of enthusiasm or patriotism is regarded as a thoughtcrime. These things mean that you are not loyal to the party and you may carry rebellious thoughts.

4.1.2 Pragmatic Analysis

The Pragmatic analysis of this text carries a lot of deep and implied meanings. This hidden meanings are only revealed through the use of pragmatic theories and approaches. The chosen pragmatic theory for the analysis of this novel is Grice's CP of maxims and implicature. The pragmatic analysis will show how thought, which is a meta-physical thing, is controlled and watched.

4.1.2.1 Grice's Maxims

1. The Quantity Maxim: Orwell has been informative as it is required.
2. The Quality Maxim: In this extract, Orwell gives true information about what happens in the society.
3. The Relevance Maxim: Orwell's contribution is relevant.
4. The Manner Maxim: Orwell's manner has not been clear and ambiguous.

4.1.2.2 Cooperative Principles

Orwell has been cooperative. He conveys truthful information about the social life of people. Exploitation of language in Nineteen Eighty-Four influences reality in the manner prescribed by the government of the Ingsoc. Orwell follows three of the maxims and violates only one. He gives full and truthful information about the society and the system of law of the party. His contribution has been relevant to the context of situation. Orwell's manner in narrating the story carries a lot of implications. His information is not clear and ambiguous because we do not know whether people are content with what is happening around them or not. In this case, Orwell disobeys the relevant maxim.

4.1.2.3 Implicature

Orwell violates the manner maxim because he has not been clear. He gives ambiguous information. Sometimes the way of thinking is considered as a crime when people practice it against the government. The abusive manner of language is implied in every aspect of life, in the way people think, talk, their beliefs and their religion too and this leads to totalitarianism. This totalitarian regime especially appears in the language that the government uses. The type of implicature used here is conventional implicature since the words thoughtcrime and thought police imply punishment. Implicatures are always indirect. One thing is implied in the meaning of another. The indirectness is almost conventional. The language of this extract is indirect, so it contains of conversational implicature.

4.2 Analysis of Extract 2

'DOUBLETHINK means the power of holding two contradictory beliefs in one's mind simultaneously, and accepting both of them... The process has to be conscious, or it would not be carried out with sufficient precision, but it also has to be unconscious, or it would bring with it a feeling of falsity and hence of guilt. DOUBLETHINK lies at the very heart of Ingsoc, since the essential

act of the Party is to use conscious deception while retaining the firmness of purpose that goes with complete honesty.'

(N2: P. 270)

4.2.1 Contextual Analysis

This extract is taken from the British novel Nineteen Eighty Four(1949). Winston talks about the state he lives in. Doublethink and Newspeak are the two most significant systems of thought control in the novel. Doublethink stands on the assumption that the right is always with the party, so whatever the party say is true, even if they contradict themselves. Doublethink is based on contradiction. It means that even when the party contradict themselves it is acceptable. If there are two 'truths' one of them must momentarily be forgotten. This simply happens by some tricky words and logical fallacy. In this case, the concept of doublethink entails a neglect of critical thought. Doublethink and Newspeak go together. Therefore, if the role of doublethink is to purge oneself of doubt, the Newspeak tries to take away the words needed to reconstruct any thoughts that might lead to such doubts. This extract shows how the government misuse language and exploit it to achieve their aims and intuitions.

4.2.2 Pragmatic Analysis

One of the universal phenomena is the language of oppression. It is a social aspect and its nature and form are determined by the society itself. So, language plays a vital role in human life. In Nineteen Eighty Four, Orwell shows that the thoughts of characters can affect their language and consequently language affects not only their thoughts but also their actions and behaviours. The pragmatic analysis will analyse the oppressive use of language by applying its theories and approaches on the selected texts. Grice's maxims, the cooperative principles and implicature are the selected theories for the analysis.

4.2.2.1 Grice's Maxims

1. The Quantity Maxim: The narrator has been more informative than is required.
2. The Quality Maxim: The information in this extract is true and justifiable.
3. The Relevance Maxim: Orwell's contribution is relevant.
4. The Manner Maxim: The information is not clear and carry a lot of implications.

4.2.2.2 Cooperative Principles

Orwell violates two of the maxims which are the quantity and manner maxims. The contribution has not been cooperative because it contains a lot of implications. Doublethink is the process that is used to maintain power and manipulate people's minds. There are a lot of implications in this extract. One of these implications is the party's aim to control people in every aspect of life and they start from controlling their minds indirectly. Orwell gives ambiguous information about the concept of doublethink, it is not clear whether people have the right to think or not. He also gives extra information to illustrate this concept and these information makes the idea more vague.

4.2.2.3 Implicature

Implicature occurs when there is violation to any of the four maxims. The implied ideas in this extract go

around the concept of totalitarianism and thoughtcrime. People are not allowed to think and make decisions freely. The abusive manner of language is not used directly so the party uses manipulation to deceive and mislead people. In this extract, Orwell does not explain these implications directly, but he refers to these oppressive uses of language by giving two processes which are 'Doublethink and Newspeak'. Readers of this novel should know about pragmatics and its theories in order to get the implied meaning of this novel. So, readers should make inferences to know that people are restricted in everything even in their thinking. Violating the maxim of quantity and manner makes the language of the novel vague and needs deep analysis to discover the real target behind written it. The type of implicature in this extract is conventional implicature. In this extract, the sentence and specially the word of 'doublethink' implicates the meaning of manipulation which is part of the meaning of the word itself.

5. Conclusions

On the bases of analysis, it is found that language has a great power in shaping humans' thoughts and convictions. It is used as a tool to control and manipulate people's minds. The pragmatic and contextual analysis show that language is the unique talent of human beings that has a great role in decorating their thoughts and deeds. This great role of language is illustrated by Orwell in his two dystopian novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. Orwell explains how the totalitarian regimes use language to oppress people and change their thoughts. Since this study deals with showing the power of language, the researcher attempts to focus on the abusive aspects of language which show its power upon humans' thoughts and behaviour. In order to control people's thoughts and expressions, the government give a threatening image to the language. In Nineteen Eighty-Four, the party achieve all their ambitions and desires through exploiting the poor minds of people. They are always ready to manipulate their speeches and language to justify their bad deeds whenever they feel that their political status in danger.

Orwell focuses on the role of language in his writings. Language has a great role in affecting people's minds, behaviour and even their achievements and decisions. What is found in the pragmatic analysis of the novel is that language does have such influential role in human lives because it is the path to their personality and minds. This research deals with the role of pragmatics in displaying the power that the language has and its implied meanings specifically in the discourse of politicians and how language controls and changes people's mind.

The pragmatic analysis of the first extract shows that language is not used directly, but through implications and hidden meanings. The party success in deceiving people with vain promises through the use of sentences that have external and internal meanings. The implied meaning of these sentences is made clear through pragmatic analysis. Tyranny is spread through words and oppressive language.



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