



RESEARCH PAPER

A Critical Discourse Analysis of Mr. Gohar's Poetry "Metaphors"

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the language used by MR Gohar in his poetry collection "Metaphors," including identifying linguistic features, stylistic devices, and rhetorical techniques. Additionally, the study categorizes the major themes present in the poems, uncovering the underlying messages, ideas, and emotions conveyed by the poet throughout the collection. A systematic sampling method was employed to select five poems from the book "Metaphors," and Fairclough's three-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) was utilized as a framework. The application of CDA using this model reveals intriguing findings in the analyzed poems, encompassing the use of metaphor, sensory language, negativity, appeals, exploration, symbolism, comparison, creativity, and personal expression. The identified major themes include loss, negative influences, escapism through sleep, the symbolism of red representing destiny and vulnerability, the creativity associated with autumn, and the themes of longing and memories. The research provides valuable insights into the poet's contemplation of these themes throughout the analyzed poems, and suggests further exploration of metaphorical expressions to effectively convey complex ideas and emotions.

KEYWORDS Critical Discourse Analysis, Fairclough's Three-Dimensional Model, Metaphorical Expressions, Systematic Sampling Method

Introduction

Discourse analysis encompasses various definitions and interpretations, spanning multiple disciplines such as linguistics, sociology, and philosophy (Titscher et al., 1998). It involves the analysis of both literary and non-literary texts and is often used to indicate a level of theoretical sophistication, although sometimes with vague and unclear connotations. The term "discourse" originated from the Latin word "discursus," meaning "conversation," and has been in use since the 14th century. In its contemporary usage, discourse refers to language and its description in various ways. It can be defined as a serious speech or piece of writing on a specific subject, encompassing both spoken and written modes, and can also refer to a serious conversation between individuals when used as a verb (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2001).

In Stubbs' (1983) perspective, discourse refers to "language that goes beyond individual sentences or clauses" and involves the study of language usage in different contexts (p. 1). Fairclough (1992) argues that discourse encompasses three societal aspects: knowledge, social relationships, and social identity, which correspond to language functions and are affected by power dynamics and ideologies. Schiffrin (2006) combines formal and functional approaches and defines discourse analysis as the

exploration of language use beyond the scope of isolated sentences. The formal approach focuses on larger units of language, while the functional approach emphasizes language use. According to Brown et al., (1983), discourse analysis involves analyzing language in use, considering its purposes and functions in human affairs, rather than solely describing linguistic forms.

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) is an academic field that examines both written and spoken language to expose the origins of power, dominance, inequality, and bias within specific social, political, and historical contexts (Van Dijk, 1998b). The primary goal of CDA is to uncover the often concealed relationships between language usage, societal occurrences, and texts, as well as the broader social and cultural structures, relationships, and processes. CDA investigates how these language practices, events, and texts emerge from and are influenced by power dynamics and conflicts, thereby revealing how the opacity of these connections contributes to the perpetuation of power and hegemony (Fairclough, 1992).

Literature Review

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), an abbreviation for CDA, is not characterized by rigid regulations or principles. Instead, it embodies a shared perspective on the examination of language, signs, and discourse. Its objective is to comprehend language usage as a social activity, acknowledging that language users operate within cultural, social, and psychological frameworks. CDA takes into account this social context and explores the dynamic relationship between textual structures and their significance in societal interactions. Analyzing these connections is complex and multifaceted due to the absence of a direct correspondence between text structures and their social or literary functions. The intricate connection between discursive practices and their literary function is often deliberately kept opaque to create and maintain differences in interpretation. CDA aims to provide a framework for reducing this opacity (van Dijk, 1993).

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), also known as CDA, investigates the utilization of language and discourses to accomplish social objectives and facilitate societal transformation (Gee, 1999; Bloor & Bloor, 2013). It distinguishes itself from discourse analysis and text linguistics by centering on spoken or written texts in the context of social processes and structures (Fowler & Kress, 1993). CDA considers the social structures and purposes that influence meaning creation during interactions with texts. The term "critical" in CDA refers to both positive and negative evaluation, aiming to highlight legitimacy, challenge negativity, and promote change (Bloor and Bloor, 2013). Within the framework of CDA, there is an inherent connection between linguistic-discursive practices and the socio-political structures of power and domination (Bloor and Bloor, 2013; Kress, 1990). Language serves as a medium for influencing minds, promoting ideologies, and maintaining political power (Rogers, 2004). Discourses, as Pennycook (2005) argues, are shaped by ideology and social struggle.

Fairclough's framework emphasizes the integral role of language in social life (Fairclough, 2003). Fairclough, a distinguished scholar in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), investigates the interplay between language and social reality by analyzing social events (texts), social practices (orders of discourse), and social structures. In his research approach, Fairclough focuses on detecting ideological and power dynamics present in texts, highlighting the significant correlation between power and language as outlined in his work (Fairclough, 1989).

For over a decade, Fairclough's approach has occupied a central position within Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Fairclough, 1989). Initially termed Critical Language Study, Fairclough aimed to raise awareness of exploitative social relations through language analysis (Fairclough, 1989). His subsequent works have continued to uphold this objective, further developing and honing his approach, resulting in one of the most all-encompassing frameworks within CDA (Chouliaraki & Fairclough, 2021; Fairclough, 1992, 1993, 1995).

According to Fairclough (1993), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) adopts a systematic method to examine the hidden links between language use, written materials, events, and broader social and cultural frameworks. It highlights the importance of these veiled connections in maintaining power dynamics and hegemony. Additionally, CDA brings attention to power imbalances, social injustices, undemocratic behaviors, and societal inequalities, aiming to motivate actions for rectification (Fairclough, 1993).

The relationship between language usage and social context operates bidirectionally, as language is both influenced by and influences the cultural and social practices in which it is embedded (Fairclough, 1993). People's use of language is influenced by their discursive practices, just as the structures of literature shape how discursive practices unfold. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) acknowledges and examines the tension between these two aspects of language use: the impact of literary influences and the constructive nature of texts. Language is a crucial component of society on multiple levels, including social identity, social relationships, and systems of knowledge and belief, each with varying degrees of impact (Fairclough, 1993).

Fairclough (1989) coined the term "critical language study" to describe his approach to language and discourse, which sought to bring attention to how language contributes to the subjugation of certain individuals by others. He emphasizes the interconnectedness of language and society, with each influencing the other (Fairclough, 2000). Fairclough identifies three primary functions of discourse: identity, relational, and ideational functions.

Fairclough (1989) presents a three-dimensional framework for text and discourse analysis based on Halliday's (1978) functional approach to language. This framework consists of three fundamental components: (1) analyzing the formal characteristics of a text through linguistic analysis, (2) interpreting how discursive processes and interactions influence the text as both a product and a valuable asset, and (3) examining the connection between discourse and social/cultural contexts. Through the analysis of language forms, Fairclough reveals social processes and embedded ideologies, uncovering power relations and hidden agendas within society or communities.

Material and Methods

The aim of this qualitative research is to explore the linguistic expressions and themes within the collection of poetry titled "Metaphors" by MR Gohar. The researcher employed a systematic sampling method by selecting every 10th poem from the book "Metaphors" to create a representative sample. This sampling approach ensures that a diverse range of poems is included in the analysis. In examining the chosen set of five poems, the researcher employed Fairclough's three-dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis. This model offers a structure for analyzing the linguistic characteristics of the poems, understanding the interplay between discursive processes and the text, and investigating the correlation between discourse and social/cultural context. By applying this analytical approach, the researcher aims to uncover underlying

meanings, power dynamics, and ideological implications embedded within the poetry collection.

Results and Discussion

Analysis of 1st Poem

To apply the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to the given poem, "The Cruel Books," we can examine the language used, the underlying power relations, and the potential social implications embedded in the text. Let's analyze the poem through the lens of CDA and provide examples to support the analysis.

The poem "The Cruel Books" reflects a critical perspective on the impact of books on the author's mind and senses. It portrays books as carriers of cruelty, an infection that impairs the author's ability to experience the world fully. Here's a breakdown of the CDA analysis:

Power Relations: The poem suggests a power imbalance between the books and the author, with the books exerting control over the author's mind and senses. The books are depicted as the dominant force, while the author is presented as the victim of their influence.

Example: "The cruelest ones / The fatal ones / To my mind and thought." The use of superlatives like "cruelest" and "fatal" portrays the books as powerful and destructive, exerting authority over the author's mental and cognitive faculties.

Social Implications: The poem implies that certain books have negative consequences on the author's perception and engagement with the world. It suggests that the content within these books perpetuates a sense of loss and decay, affecting the author's ability to connect with others and experience life fully.

Example: "The allusion of loss / The allusion of moss." The reference to loss and moss creates an imagery of decay and suggests that the books contribute to a sense of deterioration or disconnection from reality.

Language Use: The poem employs metaphors and vivid imagery to emphasize the debilitating impact of the books on the author's senses. It portrays the books as an infectious agent, likening them to viral or fungal elements that corrupt and damage the senses.

Example: "Like some viral infection / Or some fungal blow." The comparison of the books to infectious agents implies that they spread negativity and hinder the author's ability to perceive the world positively.

The poem "The Cruel Books" reflects a critical stance towards the power of literature. It suggests that certain books can have detrimental effects on individuals, impairing their senses and distancing them from the richness of life. Through the CDA analysis, we have highlighted the power relations, social implications, and language use within the poem, showcasing how it critiques the influence of books on the author's perception and experiences.

Analysis of 2nd Poem

CDA, or Critical Discourse Analysis, is a method used to analyze and interpret texts, with a focus on uncovering power relations, social ideologies, and hidden

meanings. Applying a 3D model of CDA to the given poem, "I Implore Sleep," involves examining its linguistic features, identifying themes, and exploring underlying messages. Here's a CDA analysis of the poem, along with examples from the text:

Linguistic Features

- **Imperatives:** The poet uses imperative verbs to directly address sleep, creating a sense of urgency and desperation. Examples include "come to me," "don't let me awake," and "come and lull me deep."
- **Repetition:** The repetition of the phrase "come and lull me deep" emphasizes the speaker's desire for sleep, reinforcing the idea of seeking escape and tranquility.
- **Contrast:** The poem contrasts the state of sleep (pleasure, treasure) with wakefulness (fears, sobs, sighs, tears), highlighting the poet's longing for rest and respite.

Themes and Power Relations:

- **Powerlessness and Vulnerability:** The speaker's implores for sleep indicate a state of powerlessness and vulnerability. Sleep is portrayed as a force that can provide relief from the hardships and emotional turmoil experienced while awake.
- **Escape and Transformation:** Sleep is presented as a transformative state, offering the potential for exploration and discovery. The speaker seeks a new domain, a horizon of painless pleasure, and an endless treasure, suggesting a desire to transcend the difficulties of reality.
- **Yearning for Control:** The repetition of the plea for sleep implies a longing for control over one's emotional state and a yearning to escape the burdens of life.

Examples from the Poem: "Don't let me awake with fears, sobs and sighs, eyes with tears": This line highlights the poet's desire to avoid waking up to negative emotions and distress, underscoring the yearning for relief and emotional calmness. "Make me explore new domain, a new horizon of painless pleasure, a region of endless treasure": These phrases express the speaker's longing for a different reality, one that offers joy and limitless rewards, indicating a dissatisfaction with their current circumstances.

The poem "I Implore Sleep" reflects a longing for escape, transformation, and control over one's emotional state. The poet appeals to sleep as a powerful entity that can provide respite from fears and sorrows, allowing for the exploration of a new realm of pleasure and treasure. The analysis reveals the underlying power relations and themes present within the poem, shedding light on the poet's emotional and psychological landscape.

Analysis of 3rd Poem

The poem "SHE IS RED" explores the theme of redness and its symbolic significance in the life of the central female character. Through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), we can analyze the use of red as a powerful metaphor throughout the poem, representing various aspects of the woman's identity, emotions, and experiences.

Red as a Symbol of Passion and Power: In the poem, the color red is associated with the woman's destiny, fate, hand, heart, and apron. These references suggest that red symbolizes her passion, vitality, and strength. The repetition of the word "red" emphasizes its significance, highlighting the intensity of her emotions and the assertiveness of her character.

Example: "Red is her heart"

Red as a Symbol of Sensuality and Femininity: The red bracelet of roses and red petals showered in the poem evoke images of sensuality and femininity. The use of red in these descriptions signifies desire, beauty, and allure. It suggests that the woman embraces her own sexuality and finds empowerment through her feminine attributes.

Example: "Red bracelet of roses" and "Red petals showered"

Red as a Symbol of Pain and Vulnerability: The line "She bleeds in red" implies that the woman has experienced pain or suffering. The color red, associated with blood, signifies vulnerability and the wounds she has endured. It suggests that her strength and power come at a cost, and she carries her scars with resilience.

Example: "She bleeds in red"

Red as a Symbol of Endurance and Permanence: The phrase "Redness parts never" indicates that the impact of red in her life is enduring and permanent. It suggests that red represents a constant presence, an integral part of her identity that cannot be separated or forgotten.

Example: "Redness parts never"

Red Bull as a Symbol of Energy and Vitality: The mention of "Red Bull" in the last line introduces a new element to the poem. Red Bull is a well-known energy drink, often associated with increased vigor and vitality. By juxtaposing this image with the woman, it implies that she is accompanied by an energetic and lively presence, further emphasizing her strength and power.

Example: "And he is with Red Bull"

The CDA analysis of "SHE IS RED" reveals the multifaceted symbolism of red within the poem. Red represents passion, power, sensuality, pain, vulnerability, endurance, and vitality. Through these symbolic references, the poem highlights the woman's complex and empowering identity.

Analysis of 4th Poem

CDA (Cognitive Discourse Analysis) is a framework used to analyze the cognitive processes and social structures underlying language use. Applying a 3D model of CDA to the given poem, "Autumn is Lovelier," involves examining the cognitive, discursive, and social dimensions of the text. Here's an analysis of the poem with examples from the text:

Cognitive Dimension: In this dimension, we explore the individual's cognitive processes and the way they shape the meaning of the poem. Here are some examples from the poem:

- **“Autumn seems lovelier than spring”**: This line reflects the poet’s subjective perception of autumn, indicating a cognitive preference for autumn over spring. It highlights how personal experiences and biases influence one’s interpretation of seasons.
- **“The dread mounds give relief”**: Here, the juxtaposition of “dread” and “relief” suggests a cognitive transformation. The perception of something initially considered dreadful is reevaluated, leading to a sense of relief. It showcases a cognitive shift in how the poet perceives certain elements.
- **“The dry leaves smell musk”**: This line evokes a sensory perception, where the cognitive experience of smelling musk is associated with the dry leaves of autumn. It illustrates how cognition interacts with sensory experiences to construct meaning.

Discursive Dimension: In this dimension, we examine the discursive strategies employed in the poem. These strategies shape the way meaning is constructed and conveyed. Here are some examples:

- **“The dry rocks outpour cataracts”**: This metaphorical expression utilizes vivid imagery and exaggeration to convey the discursive idea of abundant flow. It transforms the perception of dry rocks into a powerful visual representation.
- **“Books and books can be written / Symphonies are invented / verses outburst from lips”**: These lines employ repetition and parallelism to emphasize the discursive abundance and creativity associated with autumn. The repetition of “books” and the use of verbs like “invented” and “outburst” convey the idea of an overflow of artistic inspiration.
- **“The pen stops never / and colors are spread / on the white canvas”**: These lines portray the discursive act of continuous creation and expression. The persistence of the pen and the act of spreading colors on a blank canvas highlight the idea of endless artistic production.

Social Dimension: This dimension explores the social context and power relations embedded in the poem. Here are some examples:

- **“The desert filled with roses”**: This phrase challenges the conventional association of roses with lush gardens and implies a transformation of the environment. It can be interpreted as a metaphor for hope and resilience in the face of adversity, reflecting the poet’s social commentary.
- **“Words seem flying in sight”**: This line suggests a social dimension where language and communication are depicted as dynamic and transformative. The notion of words “flying” implies their potential to impact social interactions and change perspectives.
- **“and colors are spread / on the white canvas”**: The act of spreading colors on a blank canvas implies the exercise of artistic freedom and expression. It reflects the social dimension of creativity and the power to create and shape the world through art.

By applying the 3D model of CDA to the poem “Autumn is Lovelier,” we can uncover various cognitive, discursive, and social aspects embedded within the text. This

analysis provides insights into the poet's perception, the rhetorical strategies employed, and the broader societal implications of the poem's themes.

Analysis of 5th Poem:

To apply a 3D model of CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) to the given poem "MY VIGILS," we'll analyze the text by examining its linguistic and discursive features, as well as the underlying power dynamics and ideologies that may be present. Here's a CDA analysis of the poem, providing examples and explanations:

Linguistic and Stylistic Features

Metaphorical language: The poem employs metaphors to describe the impact of memories and the speaker's feelings. For example, "Your presence prevails" suggests that the memories have a dominating effect.

Alliteration: The use of repeated consonant sounds in "mumbling soft clamour" creates a soothing and comforting tone.

Enjambment: The enjambment in "with sweet memories / Of special days" creates a flowing rhythm, enhancing the nostalgic tone.

Power Dynamics:

- **Imbalance of power:** The speaker's experiences are shaped by the actions and words of another person, referred to as "you." This suggests an imbalance of power where the presence of the other person dominates the speaker's thoughts and emotions.
- **Hypnotizing effect:** The line "It hypnotizes me" implies that the "you" holds a certain power over the speaker, exerting influence and control.

Ideologies and Subjectivity:

- **Idealization and desire:** The speaker expresses a desire for the "you" and sees their presence as something special and desirable. This idealization may reflect a subjective perspective and emotional attachment.
- **Escapism and unawareness:** The shift to a "strange land" and the description of the "world of absolute comfort" suggest a desire to escape from the realities of pain and suffering. The speaker becomes temporarily unaware of the pain that may follow.

The poem "MY VIGILS" portrays a sense of longing, nostalgia, and emotional dependence on the presence of another person. The linguistic features, power dynamics, and underlying ideologies present in the poem shape the reader's interpretation and understanding of the speaker's emotions and experiences.

Discussion

Analyzing the language used in the poem "Metaphor" through the 3D model of CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis) yields the following results: "The Cruel Books" employs metaphorical language, emphasizing the loss of senses and utilizing negative terminology. "I Implore Sleep" appeals to sleep for relief and expresses a longing for exploration. "She Is Red" uses color symbolism to represent various aspects of the

woman. "Autumn Is Lovelier" employs comparative and creative language to depict the beauty and creative potential of autumn. "My Vigils" employs language related to memories and expresses personal desires. These results offer insights into the poet's use of metaphorical, sense-related, negative, appeal, exploratory, symbolic, comparative, creative, and personal language within the analyzed poems.

Applying the 3D model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to the poems, the study reveals several major themes. "The Cruel Books" examines loss and the damaging impact of negative influences on the senses. "I Implore Sleep" explores sleep as an escape from fears and pain. "She Is Red" associates the color red with destiny, passion, and bleeding. "Autumn Is Lovelier" highlights the creativity inspired by autumn. "My Vigils" delves into longing and memories. These themes shed light on the poet's exploration of loss, escape, symbolism, creativity, and personal experiences within the poems.

Findings

Through the application of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) using a 3D model, the language used in the poem "Metaphor" reveals interesting findings. The poem "The Cruel Books" utilizes metaphorical language that emphasizes the loss of senses and employs negative terminology. In "I Implore Sleep," the poet appeals to sleep as a means of finding relief and expresses a yearning for exploration. "She Is Red" employs color symbolism to represent various aspects of a woman. "Autumn Is Lovelier" creatively uses comparative language to depict the beauty and potential for creativity in autumn. "My Vigils" incorporates language associated with memories and expresses personal desires. These findings provide valuable insights into the poet's use of metaphor, senses, negativity, appeal, exploration, symbolism, comparison, creativity, and personal expression throughout the analyzed poems.

Moreover, the application of the 3D model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) reveals several major themes within the poems. "The Cruel Books" examines the theme of loss and the detrimental effects of negative influences on one's senses. "I Implore Sleep" explores sleep as a means of escaping fears and pain. "She Is Red" associates the color red with destiny, passion, and vulnerability. "Autumn Is Lovelier" highlights the creativity inspired by the season of autumn. "My Vigils" delves into the themes of longing and memories. These thematic explorations shed light on the poet's contemplation of loss, escapism, symbolism, creativity, and personal experiences conveyed throughout the poems.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of the language used in the poems "Metaphor" through the 3D model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) provides valuable insights into the various themes and techniques employed by the poet. By examining the individual poems, we find that "The Cruel Books" utilizes metaphorical language and negative terminology to emphasize the loss of senses. "I Implore Sleep" appeals to sleep as a means of relief and expresses a longing for exploration. "She Is Red" employs color symbolism to represent different aspects of a woman. "Autumn Is Lovelier" uses comparative and creative language to depict the beauty and creative potential of autumn. Finally, "My Vigils" incorporates language related to memories and expresses personal desires. By applying the 3D model of CDA, we uncover major themes such as loss, escape, symbolism, creativity, and personal experiences within the analyzed poems. Overall, this study offers valuable insights into the poet's use of metaphorical,

sense-related, negative, symbolic, comparative, creative, and personal language, shedding light on their exploration of these themes throughout the collection.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions drawn from the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) using a 3D model, several recommendations can be made. The analysis revealed that metaphorical language is prominent in the analyzed poems, suggesting further exploration of metaphorical expressions to convey complex ideas and emotions. Engaging with the senses can enhance the impact of poetry, encouraging the exploration of sensory experiences and their connection to emotions and perceptions. Balancing negativity with positivity can create a nuanced emotional impact, adding contrast and depth to the poems. Exploring the theme of escapism and its implications can provide insight into different forms of relief and coping mechanisms. Symbolism can be harnessed to evoke deeper meanings and emotions, resonating with readers. Embracing the beauty of seasons or other natural elements can offer fresh perspectives and inspire new poetic expressions. Lastly, capturing personal experiences and desires adds authenticity and relatability to the poetry. These recommendations aim to support the poet's growth and development in their poetic endeavors.

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