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Circumstantial Analysis of Exit West: Deconstructing Migration

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ABSTRACT

This study explored the ideology of migration issues in Exit West. The ideology was explored by analyzing the linguistic choices. The framework applied in the study was Halliday's model of transitivity (2014). Analysis had been done taking circumstance of Halliday's transitivity as major stance of analysis. UAM corpus tool (3.0) had helped in annotation of text. Mixed method approach had been used for this study. Quantitative results gave the statistical information about the distribution of linguistic choices. Qualitative results explained the validity of quantitative results. The results had depicted that the major form of circumstance used in the text had been the circumstance of location (73%). Circumstance of accompaniment (10%), role (3%), contingency (>1%), matter (1.5%), manner (8%), cause (2%) and extent (>1%) used in the text revealed the issues of migration under various circumstances. The results had also shown that the causes of migration are inhumane human actions that destroy the human existence. It also explored refugee crisis as biasness against migrants. This study will contribute for future studies of literature and its analysis. It would give a deep insight to the subject of migration through linguistic choices of circumstance of location, accompaniment, manner, role, cause, matter and extent.

Introduction

Text represents the societal and world experiences. These world experiences could be verbal and non- verbal. A verbal text is usually an oral text spoken by some speaker. Non- verbal text on the other hand is a written text. Text as a whole whether verbal or non-verbal contains some message. The message in a text is distributed with in clauses. (Wilson, 2012).Clauses contain meaning confined in ideational metafunction. The ideational metafunction represents an idea in its constituent forms of processes, participants and circumstances. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014).

Text is a system from where the ideologies are produced and acquired. (Van Dijk, 2006). Different methodologies have been opted for the analysis of a text. In literature, textual analysis and character analysis has been done stylistically. (Cunanan, 2011). Systemic functional grammar has paved another way for analyzing a text. The structural parameter of the text was coordinated with semantic understanding of the text. (Ning, 2008).

The semantic reality in a text is explored through transitivity in Systemic Functional Grammar. Three functions of a language have been explained in Systemic Functional

grammar by Halliday, 2004. Firstly, ideational/ experiential, interpersonal and textual metafunction. Ideational metafunction sees the meaning in terms of processes, participants and circumstances. Interpersonal metafunction deals with mood and residue. The structural element of mood contains subject, finite verb and modal Adjunct. Textual metafunction contains theme and rheme as the structural elements of the text. (Martin et al., 1997).

Advertisements have been studied utilizing transitivity as a methodological framework. Advertisement as a text have explored the stereotypical roles assigned to the genders. Studies have found out that women in an advertisement promote the sale of a product by stimulating the desire. The linguistic items "I" and "this" represent the senser and identified respectively. Such linguistic items raise the desire of a woman for having a product and influence the audience. (Dai. 2015). Systemic Functional linguistic has been used as a tool for critical discourse analysis. The political address of state of the nation in Ghana has been analyzed using transitivity. The analysis has found out higher occurrence of material process. The higher ratio of material process depicts higher number of concrete projects. It also unveiled the addressers' ideology as a man of action. (Adjei et al., 2015).

The character analysis of Hikoro of Burnt shadow had employed transitivity of Systemic Functional grammar. The results showed that Hikoro is a character endowed with mental process thus ascertaining him a character endorsed in thoughts. Lower percentage of material process again ascertains him a thinker character who just thinks instead of acting upon. (Rashid, 2017). The narration of the author has also been analyzed using transitivity. Edgar Allan Poe's short stories reveal highest occurrence of material process and then mental process. Such results display the occurrence of unreliable narrator in Poe's fiction who acts in a deliberate way but is overpowered by emotional and pitying thoughts. (Landa. 2017).

Transitivity has enabled the understanding of text in form of what and where. The previous work using this model was done primarily for the analysis of characters, themes, narration, and ideological endowed political text. Analysis was done by keeping processes as the main component. This study analyzes the text by taking circumstance into special consideration. It will be a contribution in literature studies using linguistic model. It would provide ideological understanding of the text. Migration issue would be dealt in detail. Sydney's model of transitivity will help in achieving the purpose.

Language manipulation is under the control of a writer. The linguistic choices in a language verify the ideology of that language. Mohsin Hamid has used certain linguistic choices that reflect the ideological framework of the text as a major issue of migration. The relationship of linguistic items as social ideological meaning will be the main objective of this work.

Literature Review

Ideational metafunction comprises of three components i.e. participants, process and circumstance. (Ezzina, 2015). Circumstance is realized by adverbial groups, nominal groups or prepositional groups. (Ning, 2008) Transitivity comprises the ideational meta-function of language. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Language is an act of conveying meaning. (Gwilliams & Fontaine, 2015). The ideologies associated with the meanings are studied through CDA approach. CDA has attracted attention of scholars since its beginning. The initial phase of CDA was introduced by Norman Fairclough where his three-dimensional model explained the textual, discursive and social practices. The stages involved within the model included description, interaction and explanation. These

correspond to the categories of textual, discursive and social practices respectively. (Tian, 2018).

CDA is an instrument for analyzing an ideology. According to CDA, language is a multi-functional entity. Halliday's systemic functional grammar also takes language as functional in nature. The functions of language taken under the strand of systemic functional linguistics comprise of ideational, interpersonal and textual function. Ideational function expresses the experiences of real world. (Tian, 2018). The transitivity system makes the ideational metafunction understandable for ideology, meanings, and experiences through linguistic choices or text.

The meaning of our inner and outer experience of the world is analyzed through a framework called transitivity. (Bartley, 2018). Participant is the thingness or concept about whom we talk about. Process is the major component as it forms the basics of a clause and is analyzed by a verbal group. It corresponds to the happening, being, doing, saying, thinking and relating depending upon the sematic system.

Theoretical framework

Material processes belong to the category of doing. The participant roles allocated in material process are actor, goal, recipient, client, scope and initiator. Mental processes are called so because these are the processes of perception, cognition, affection and desideration. Relational process as the name indicates are the processes of being. (Martin et al., 1997).

These are either attributive or either are identifying. In case of attributive the participant roles are carrier and attribute. In case of identifying the participants are value and token. Relational processes are also divided based on intensiveness, possessiveness and circumstance in three categories. So, overall relational processes form five categories. Verbal clauses include the acts of saying, addressing and reporting. The participants in this case are sayer, verbiage, receiver, and target. (Martin et al., 1997).

Circumstances in transitivity are of various types depending upon their manner, cause, location, role, matter, angle, accompaniment, contingency and extent. (Martin, et al., 1997). Manner describes the way or how the work has been done? Quality, comparison and means form the three domains of circumstance of manner. Circumstance of cause describes the reason behind certain action. Behalf, purpose and reason form the semantic domain of circumstance of cause. Locational circumstance correspond to the place of action. Its semantic categories include time and place. Circumstance of role denotes for the guise and product of an action. Matter and angle circumstance describes reference of an action. Circumstance of accompaniment denotes with whom the action has taken place. In short it explains the togetherness of an action. Contingency describes the condition of happening. Extent describes the extent of time and place of an action. (Martin, et al., 1997).

Previous Studies

Number of literary studies have been done utilizing transitivity tool. Numerous verbal and mental processes in stylistical analysis of Virginia Woolf's Old Mrs. Grey also utilized transitivity. (Cunanan, 2011). Emily's character in *A Rose for Family* emerge out as a hope to all. Mental and verbal processes in abundance proved Emily as a lightening candle of hope to people. (Song, 2013). Character analysis has become easy by transitivity. The analysis of character in *Heroic mother* by Hoa Pham, revealed that mother as a heroic figure comes out as sufferer, lonely and inconsiderate being from the family. (Nguyen,

2012). *The crying lot of 49* when analyzed through transitivity was found to be a text revealing power and hegemony. The powers were attributed to each participants through their process functioning. (Ezzina, 2015). *The faults in our starts* written by John green showed that the negativity of characters was the result of mental act associated with material and verbal act. (Elizabeth A., n.d.). Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *Moth Smoke* represented the stereotypes associated with both genders. Material processes were found to be associated with male gender and mental processes with female. Such association depicted man to be drawn towards action and woman to be drawn towards non- realistic and thought regulating acts. (Qasim et al, 2018). The personality of Okolo from Gabriel Okara's *The voice* showed him to be abnormal. The clauses that assured presence of such characteristic were of relational and mental. (Boukari & Koussouhon, 2018).

Research on *Exit West*

Exit West stands out in literature due to crisis of refugees reported in the text. It stands as a journey of escapism. The magical doors set up the criteria for running up or escaping from the troubled world. The entrance of people into other world make people realized to be refugees of the other world. (Mir, 2018). Magical doors at the same time make the individuals aware of solutions to their problems. Their acceptability factor increases as they enter the new world. (Surendran & PA, 2018). Nadia and Saeed two important characters have been taken as a sample for observing the lives of migrants. These two characters show that how the human life passes through time in a specific area and soon he realizes that he is mere a traveler and migrant. (Hamilton, 2017).

The studies conducted on *Exit West* show the position of female in post structural feminine world. The character of Nadia has been explored by the researchers as an embodiment of independent female in post-modern world. Gender biasness as ambiguity of power in girls and women has led to the new feminine waves where women are considered as strong beings leading a controlling and empowering life. Nadia living as independent and alone yet amiable, modern and responsible outlives all the characters as mouth piece of modern and independent girl (Umer, et al., 2021).

The genealogy of power in *Exit West* has been propounded through Foucauldian analysis. The destruction caused by 9/11 changed the world view. The changing world expelled Saeed and Nadia for migration under power policies. The study highlighted the Muslim image created after 9/11 through the linguistic corpse of *Exit West* (Sadiq, Saleem & Javaid, 2020).

Saeed's and Nadia's migration has been explored as a dystopian future of faster social pack. Such migration has led to the failure in imagining a future. The study suggested an imaginative strategy to change the future from post-colonial impact of 9/11 (Sadaf, 2020). The post traumatic effects of migration has led the global world in state of mental strain. Migrant people have always faced hostility which has produced a traumatic effect on their psychology and personality. Integration, acculturation, marginalization and separation have been seen as the result of migration (Hussain, Ahsan, & Akram, 2020).

Majority of the migration has been possible owing to the war. *Exit West* has been explored in post- colonial War setting. Saeed and Nadia although act as a migratory individuals that try to fit into the new place. The characters have been found out as the entities of life who undergo a constant change and struggle (Singh, 2019). A magical realism in the form of doors has predicted the whole globe a refugee in the next years (Mir, 2018).

The migration and its effect has been studied in discrete form. Psychological studies have also been conducted to confirm the tragic flaw of human being as traumatic effect of migration. This study envisages the linguistic core of text as multitude of migration ideology. Circumstance of location envisions the text as linguistic choice responsible for unstable acculturation.

Material and Methods

The data sample for this study has been taken from Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*. The systematic investigation utilizes mix methodology of research. The purposed study allows qualitative and quantitative both methodologies for research. The data has been collected from Hamid's novel *Exit West.* The analysis of text has been done through UAM corpus tool. UAM corpus tool is an annotating software that grammatically annotates the text. It allows automatic and manual annotations both. (Hu & Tan, 2017). The annotation of the text has been done according to SFG. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The transitivity pattern of the text has shown the ideological patterns of the writer and text.

Model for Analysis

The circumstances in transitivity model corresponds to the categories of extent, location, manner, cause, role and matter. The participant's role corresponds to each process typology. Accordingly, the participants for material process are actor, goal and beneficiary. Sensor and phenomenon correspond to mental process. Carrier, attribute, identifier and identified form a list of participants for relational process. Sayer, receiver and verbiage are the participants for verbal process. Behaver and existent form the two participant types for existential and behavioral process respectively. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). Circumstance and its type has been described through Sydney's model as following:

Table 1
Types of Circumstances **(Source: Martin et al., 1997: 104).**

Circumstance typology	Typical Probe	Example Realization	Circumstance subcategory	Subcategory Probe
Extent	How? At what intervals?	For three hours Every second step or six mile	Temporal, spatial	For how long? How far?
Location	At what point?	In Paris, Before tea, in the yard	Temporal, spatial	When? Where?
Manner	How?	With hammer, like a top, quickly	Means, quality, comparison	By what means? How what like?
Cause	Why?	Because of you For better results	Reason, purpose, behalf	Why? For what? On whose behalf?
Contingency	In what circumstances?	In the event of rain. Without more help.	Condition, concession, default	Under what conditions? Despite what?
Accompaniment	Together with?	Without his friends, as well as them	Comitative, additive	What with? What else?

Role	As a concerned parent, into pieces	Guise, product	What as? What into?
Matter	What about?	About this, with reference to that	
Angle	Says who?	According to the Shorter Oxford.	

Results and Discussion

Exit West is a text imprinted with the ideology of migration culture and hegemony of power. Saeed and Nadia are made to move from their locality to an outsider world through instrumental power, i.e. war and weapons. The circumstances unfold the reason behind their migration and where they move to. Circumstance of location, manner, and accompaniment make clear evidences of Nadia and Saeed as refugees throughout the text.

Table 2
Percentage distribution of circumstances in the text Exit West

Circumstance	Location	Accompaniment	Manner	Cause	Role	Extent	Matter	Contingency
Frequency	99	13	11	3	4	2	1	2
Percentage	73%	10%	8%	2%	3%	>1%	<1%	>1%

The results show that circumstance of location has been used abundantly. Circumstance of location depict the land, place or time. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). It also depicts that some matter of place has been discussed in the text. It points to issue of migration, as migration is a term related to land, particularly leaving of a land. Circumstance of accompaniment has been used 10% of the total. Circumstance of accompaniment depicts that with whose accompaniment the action has taken place. It also allocates various factors responsible for migration. (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2014). The related factors such as war have been indicated by the use of circumstance of accompaniment. Circumstance of manner and role show the frequency of 8% and 3% respectively. Both the circumstances depict the manner of Saeed's and Nadia's moving with their respective roles. The cause behind the issue of migration has been depicted through the use of circumstance of cause that has been used by 3%. Circumstance of extent, contingency and matter form the lowest occurring circumstances in the text.

The opening of the novel depicts a circumstance of a location where the issue of migration takes place. Words like *"In a city"*, *"refugees"* and *"war"* in the starting line has created an atmosphere of terror and fright where bloodshed might take place at any time. These words also depict the city in which the characters are already present in already filled space, as efugees. These linguistic choices indicate the future condition of world where every human being would be a migrant (Mir, 2018). It also indicates that every single individual who has migrated away from or towards the city has not been accepted by that community but still is a refugee (Hussain, et al., 2020). The preceding line shows

the circumstance of location where Saeed and Nadia met at first. Circumstance of manner is allocated by the linguistic item of *"by his client"* and circumstance of accompaniment is shown by *"with his parents"*. These linguistic items correlate with the description of Saeed as an individual where he has been working with his client and living with his parents.

Defining Nadia as a strong individual the author denotes her work with circumstance of location, "*at an insurance company*". The post- colonial feminism has ascribed women empowerment to the level of independent being (Umer, et al., 2021). Nadia's character as an independent individual shows her strong, independent feminine voice. Describing her independent living the author utilized circumstance of contingency. Her independent living and closing of her job area, makes it clear that this is the first time Nadia has migrated and has started living alone. Circumstance of accompaniment make it clear that how Nadia dealt with *"aggressive men"*.

World War second has been used by the author as a circumstance of contingency where it indicates slightest possibility of war to occur. The author explains the fact that migrations are a mere results of war. The refugees or migrated individuals have to adapt themselves to sudden homeliness. These individuals never get a chance to grow up as a nation. They become a product of acculturation facing biasness, separation and marginalization (Hussain, et al., 2020). *Canada* has been used as a place of refuges survival at first. *"Abroad"* as a circumstance of location represent the typical behavior of people towards other countries. They think of abroad as a dignity oriented place. They consider it as a place for excavation from burdensome life.

The text elaborates the situation of refugees where they are bound to live in tents, *"between the roads"*. The homelessness of migrant individuals create despair to the readers when amalgamated with creation of War. Such situation ensures the trauma of individuals as homeless and needy who have to live from hand to mouth for their basic necessities. The author shows repentance of Saeed's father for lack of financial aid where he could have sent Saeed *"abroad"*. Wars have been given special stance through the use of circumstance of location and accompaniment. Mohsin Hamid's novel is also an exception for being an outcome of tragedy of migration. Pity and fear of the audience arise when the author uses circumstance of accompaniment and location describing the action of one of the students of Saeed's mother. He was firing *"with much determination"* which seemed the death of humanity and education. The deserted place due to migration and war has been described through circumstance of accompaniment, *"with no signals of life"*. The author intends to provoke the idea of lifelessness owing to migration and war.

The cause of migration depicted by the author is war. According to him war causes destruction at physical, intellectual and instrumental level. The ideology of war according to him is just a power gaining contruct over the territory at the expense of human life. Circumstance of accompaniment describes the reason of deserted place. *"By a bomb"* the place and the remnants of life disappeared. The activities that carried out life were stopped suddenly at Nadia's office due to war. *"By a blast"* the windows and doors had been smacked down.

Migration started with the opening of magic doors that carried away all the people. Circumstance of manner, "as a release", has been used to describe the special doors. Circumstance of location with circumstance of accompaniment described the escape of people. *"Any of the doors"* opened and appeared at once *"without warning"*. These linguistic choices confirm an escapist tendency to survive for existence. People who were lucky enough to escape, escaped .through the doors. The people who were dead were buried in a "*courtyard*". The survivors of the war found a place through doors where they acted as

"*tourists*". Circumstance of role used by the author explains the condition of people who migrate and are not accepted.

Over crowdedness is one of the issues related to migration. The author describes the migration of people as empty slots were being peopled "*in this way*". Over crowdedness had been affiliated with circumstance of manner. "*By a million migrant*" and "*by twice that*" are the circumstance of manners used by the author to describe this issue. "*London*" has been staged as country where people moved to. Over crowdedness also means lack of place which is depicted by the author as circumstance of cause "*on room disputes*".

Lack of basic facilities is one of the circumstances created due to war and migration. The load shedding of electricity has been shown through circumstance of location, "*dark London*" and "*in darkness*". The Darkness as an effect of migration creates possibilities of murders, rapes and assaults. Author describes these crimes by implanting "*nativist*" as circumstance of cause. The author confirms the advantage of natives over migrants where migrants are never accepted and normally face a marginalizing separatist tendency (Hussain, et al., 2020).

The ideological framework described by the author is of hegemony of power. According to him migration is just a result of war. It is just a non-human act that stakes the lives of individuals. The power utilized by the powerful is just a power of instrument that causes barrenness all around. The author relates the ideology of power with the fact that it is nothing more than the greed of human individual. This greed causes destruction at one end and psychological destruction at another end. Psychological destruction occurs when people are forced to move from their place to others. The moral, cultural and ethical standards of living are put to an end in a second. Such individuals are never welcomed by the other states. The shortage of land and other basic needs is created when these individuals are accepted on the name of humanity. Such nations have to risk their own living parameters. Other nations have to suffer because of one's greed for power. Thus, migration and war being interconnected disturb the ongoing system of any country. Circumstance of location, accompaniment and manner especially describe such ideology fabricated in the text.

Conclusion

Exit West is a novel that depicts the migration issue as a tragic death of human ethics. The author has used linguistic items that depict the ideology of migration and its related issues. The circumstantial elements of the framework show the ideology of power in guise of war and product of migration. The ideologically listed circumstances in the novel include circumstance of location, accompaniment, manner, role, cause, extent, contingency and matter. The use of these circumstances have made the author to depict his ideology. 73% of circumstance of location show highest occurrence of migration and its issues. 10% of circumstance of accompaniment, 8% manner, 3% role, 2% cause and less than 1% extant and matter have been used to reveal the ideology of making the world a global migrant creating chaos and fear.

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