"YES. YOU MAY DIE HERE.": THE DISCURSIVE CONSTRUCTION OF MARGINALIZATION IN V.V. GANESHANATHAN'S "LOVE MARRIAGE"

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ABSTRACT

Lexicalization is a systematically analyzed form of ideological expression in discourse. This study critically analyses the ideologies of the author and determines how the novel has textually constructed marginalization experienced by the communities during the period of war (1983-2009). This study will provide insights into analyzing literary texts using a linguistic approach to examine the effectiveness of discursive constructions. Selecting the lexicalization aspect under the Text Analysis Dimension, this study collects data from the novel and discourse is analyzed under the first dimension of Norman Fairclough's three-dimensional model for critical discourse analysis (1989). In the process of constructing the world through discourse, the ideological differences are coded in the vocabulary. Marginalization prevents individuals from getting fully involved in social, economic, and political life. "Love Marriage" is a story of a second-generation expatriate and a first-generation American young woman who begins to understand the politics of her parents' homeland, Sri Lanka. The theoretical framework of the study makes use of the findings of the study to shed light on critically analyzing literary texts and shows that vocabulary embodies ideological expressions in the discourse of the novel. This research concludes that the discursive constructions of communities are represented through noun phrases, synonymy and antonymy, overlexicalization, formality, euphemisms, pronouns, and reporting verbs.

Key words: *Lexicalization, Textual Constructions, Marginalization*

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1.   INTRODUCTION

The three-dimensional framework for Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)of Norman Fairclough is a combination of three different dimensions that are interconnected and each requires a different kind of analysis; Text Analysis for Description, Processing Analysis for Interpretation, and Social Analysis for Explanation (Janks, 1997, p. 329). This analytical framework takes into consideration not only the text but also how the discourse is produced and the socio-historical settings that have an impact on this process. This three-dimensional framework, which is a text-oriented form of discourse analysis, merges three traditions: extensive textual analysis within the area of linguistics (M. A. K. Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics), macro-sociological analysis of social practice and the micro-sociological, interpretative tradition in sociology.

Although Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) is not necessarily utilized by every critical discourse analyst in their diverse approaches to CDA, the Faircloughian approach to CDA adopts *SFL* in the text analysis dimension; which is one of the three stages of the framework. Systemic Functional Linguistics is a theory which is established based on 'text' which theoretically examines the 'meaning-making resources of language within specific social and cultural contexts' (Bloor and Bloor, 2018, p. 151).

The underlying principle of Systemic Functional Linguistics is that language simultaneously constructs the 'representations of the world, realizes social interactions, and marshals these representations and interactions into texts and communicative events' (Leeuwen, 2015, p. 1) and this notion of SFL matches well with Critical Discourse Analysis as it studies both the way language is employed to construct ideologically based representations of the world and the way language is exploited to exercise power. Based on Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (1985), Fairclough (1989) developed ten main questions and sub questions which can be asked of a text, while providing analytical concepts or categories under each question. Based on the Faircloughian ten main questions and sub questions for text analysis of the three-dimensional model, Janks (1997, p. 335) has simplified them under nine areas (lexicalization, patterns of transitivity, use of active and passive voice, use of nominalization, choices of mood, choices of modality, thematic structure of the text, information focus, and cohesion devices) and they are employed to carry out the text analysis dimension. Out of these nine (9) areas of Text Analysis level, the very first area is lexicalization, which is the selected analysis tool of this research.

Lexicalization or vocabulary selected by a writer/speaker to express a

certain concept is a comprehensive form of ideological expression in discourse (van Dijk, 1998, p. 270). According to Fairclough (1989, pp.112-113), the 'ideological differences between texts in their representations of the world are coded in their vocabulary' or in other words, the different representations of the world can be identified in the vocabulary selected and used by the writer, which carry her/his ideological standings. This study provides insights into analyzing literary texts using a linguistic approach to examine the effectiveness of discursive constructions.

1.1.   OBJECTIVES

1. To examine how marginalization is textually constructed in the novel

The three-dimensional framework for CDA of Norman Fairclough (1989) brings in interdisciplinary insight to the framework by connecting the textual and social analysis. Blommaert (2005, p. 29) distinguishes the three dimensions of the framework as '*discourse-as-text[2], discourse-as-discursive-practice[3]*, and discourse-as-social-practice[4]'. Based on the Faircloughian framework language is a form of social practice and is described under three implications; language as a part of society, language as a social process, and language as a socially conditioned process (Fairclough, 1989, p. 22). According to the first implication, Faircloughian perspective does not consider language and society as independent entities but as two systems which share an internal and dialectical association. Under the second implication, Fairclough (1989, p. 24) describes text as a product and not as a process and use the term "discourse" 'to refer to the whole process of social interaction of which a text is just a part'. These processes include an interaction between properties of texts and a substantial range of MR[5] . The third implication distinguishes language as a social practice and that language is conditioned by non-linguistic elements of society.

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[2]Concerned with the linguistic features and real cases of discourse in which the choices and patterns in vocabulary, grammar, cohesion, and text structure are to be analyzed systematically.
[3]This dimension suggests that discourse is something which is produced, circulated, distributed, consumed in society
[4]Includes the ideological effects and hegemonic processes in which discourse is seen to operate
[5]MR is what] people have in their heads and draw upon when they produce or interpret texts – including their knowledge of language, representations of the natural and social worlds they inhabit, values, beliefs, assumptions, and so on. (Fairclough, 1989, p. 24)

In the *description stage*[6] of the Faircloughian framework, attention is paid to the textual-linguistic features of the data. Blommaert (2005, p. 30) describes the *interpretation stage*[7] as the phase which investigates the way in which the 'participants arrive at some kind of understanding of discourse on the basis of their cognitive, social, and ideological resources'. In the explanation stage, the analyst discloses the ideological backdrop of discourse by utilizing social theory and completes the journey of Discourse Analysis by taking it from 'non-critical' to 'critical' (Blommaert, 2005, p. 30).

The SFL identifies any clause in language as carrying ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings, which are called *metafunctions*[8] . Though they are codependent and exercise an impact on each other, they do not wield power on each other. As Bloor and Bloor (2018, p. 151) describe, 'meaning fulfils the three overarching components of the semantic system known as metafunctions: ideational, interpersonal and textual, each of which is reflected in instances of language use'. Fairclough (1989,) came up with ten main questions and sub questions which can be asked of a text, while providing analytical concepts or categories under each question, based on Halliday's Introduction to Functional Grammar (1985) and Janks (1997, p. 335) simplified them under nine areas which are employed to carry out the text analysis dimension of a research:

i.   "The ideological significance exists in the vocabulary items of a text"

ii.   "The ideological significance exists in the way words co-occur or collocate"

iii. "The ideological significance exists in the metaphorical transfer of a word or expression from one domain of use to another"

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[6]In this stage, the analyst creates the interpretative framework by utilizing the participants' categories

[7]In this stage it is required to maintain a considerable distance between the analyst and the participant as the interpretation is carried out based on the categories and criteria produced by participants

[8]systemic clusters or groups of semantic systems

"*Love Marriage*" (Ganeshanathan, 2008) is the story of a second-generation expatriate and a first-generation American young woman "Yalini", the child of a Tamil couple who are settled in America. Ganeshanathan shows how "Yalini" gradually gets to know about her family's past and realizes that Sri Lanka, where she visited only once in her life as a toddler, 'have an impact on the second generation, including herself, and that she is compelled to take a stand regarding the conflict' (Jayasuriya, 2012). In Assif's (2014) study of female narrators in relation to the concepts of memory, trauma, and identity, it is argued that "Yalini's" perception of the world as well as her own identity is changed as a result of experiencing trauma which came to her in the guise of memories of the past of her family and their homeland. Jayasuriya (2012) explores "Love Marriage" as a novel which illustrates the Sri Lankan war observed from a distance and studies the way the war has helped them to form their diasporic identities in the West.

2.1   Research Questions

Accordingly, this study will explore the following research questions

RQ1 -   How is marginalization textually constructed in the novel?

RQ 2 -   What are the reasons for the textual construction of

marginalization in the novel?

3.   METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

3.1.   The theoretical framework

According to Fairclough (1989), from the perspective of discourse analysis, the formal properties of text are 'an important property of productive and interpretative processes [and] they involve an interplay between properties of texts and a considerable range of … members' resources (MR)' (Fairclough, 1989, p. 24) and MR is described by Fairclough (1989, p. 24) as what people 'have in their heads and draw upon when they produce or interpret texts – including their knowledge of language, representations of the natural and social worlds they inhabit, values, beliefs, assumptions, and so on'.

The following concepts identified by Fairclough (1989) under lexicalization for the analysis of discourse are used to analyze data.

3.1.1   Noun Phrases

Vocabulary is indeed a challenging phenomenon in discourse analysis as certain words can be ideologically contested.

3.1.2   Synonymy and Antonymy

Fairclough (1989, pp. 114-115) describes the relations of synonymy

as ideologically determined, and that 'meaning relations like synonymy can often be regarded as relative to particular ideologies; either the ideology embedded in a discourse type, or the ideology being creatively generated in a text'.

3.1.3 Overlexicalization (Overwording)

In different discourse types, when wording specific characteristics of reality to different degrees, many or less number of words are utilized. Fairclough (1989, p. 115) describes overwording as an extraordinarily high level of wording that includes many words which are near synonyms and that it displays 'preoccupation with some aspect of reality – which may indicate that it is a focus of ideological struggle'.

3.1.4 Formality

Formality of a situation can demand formality of social relations which is also manifested in the vocabulary used in it. Such formal situations choose more formal words against less formal available substitutes. Formality also includes 'expressing politeness, concern from participants for each other's 'face' (wish to be liked, wish not to be imposed upon), respect for status and position' (Fairclough, 1989, pp. 117-118).

3.1.5 Use of pronouns "we" and "you"

Fairclough (1989, pp. 127-128) indicates that 'pronouns in English have relational values of different sorts' and further describes how the pronoun "we" is used in serving 'corporate ideologies which stress the unity of a people at the expense of recognition of divisions of interest' (Fairclough, 1989, p. 128). In the discussion of the pronoun "you", Fairclough (1989, p. 128) indicates how "you" is used in mass communication when the identity of the addressees is not known to the producer.

3.1.6 Use of Euphemism

Euphemism is 'a word which is substituted for a more conventional or familiar one as a way of avoiding negative values' (Fairclough, 1989, p. 117) and as Janks (2005, p. 101) describes, euphemism '[h]ides negative actions or implications'.

3.1.7 Use of reporting verbs

Among the most useful grammatical devices used by writers/speakers, reporting verbs are one such category which plays a significant role that aids writers/speakers in presenting their standpoint. Caldas- Coulthard (1994, p. 295) identifies reporting as a main characteristic of several types of written texts including, 'court proceedings, news in the press, police statements, fictional narratives, etc.' and it is the teller

who is in control of choosing what is to be reported and how it is going to be reported.

3.2. The novel

This study selected "Love Marriage" by V.V. Ganeshanathan, a novel written in English by a Sri Lankan Tamil writer. This paper is based on an on-going PhD study that includes four novels and the selection of "Love Marriage" is random and all four novels had an equal probability of being selected for the study. The novel contains 284 pages and the study focused on the pages where there were the most number of

discursive constructions on marginalization (pp. 3, 19, 20, 21, 28,36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 49)..

4.   DISCUSSION

Findings of the study revealed constructions that indicated political, social, and economic marginalization. The findings are presented under the categories of noun phrases, synonymy and antonymy, overlexicalization, formality, euphemisms, pronouns, and reporting verbs.

4.1   Noun Phrases

Table 1 - Noun phrases revealing Marginalization

No.	Noun Phrase
1.1	[i]n this globe-scattered Sri lankan family (p.3)
1.2	separate nation (p.19)
1.3	our peaceful country (p.21)
1.4	Her bearing too, was slightly military (p.40)
1.5	bullet-pocked walls (p.40)

The discourse of Ganeshanathan's novel portrays the selection of words in textually constructing marginalization in society. The adjectives used in noun phrases play an integral role in carrying the proposition. The choices of words indicate ideological standing and the evaluation of the events, and the actors involved in the situation. The words "globe-scattered", "separate", "peaceful", "military", and "bullet-pocked" are discursive constructions expressing social marginalization..

4.2   Synonymy and Antonymy

Table 5 - Antonymous Phrases

No.	Antonymous Phrase	Juxtaposition
5.1	war-torn house in our peaceful country (p.21)	war-torn house ≠ peaceful country
5.2	how alone he was in this roomful of friends (p. 20)	alone ≠ roomful of friends
5.3	the sleeves too big for her skinny, strongly muscled arms (pp.39-40)	skinny ≠ strongly muscled
5.4	We were just coming to arms, after a long time of trying peaceful methods. (p.49)	coming to arms ≠ trying peaceful methods

According to Fairclough (1989), the relations of synonymy and antonymy is ideologically determined, through which the author constructs the two contrasting opposites; while one is assigned the positive attributes and the other negative attributes.

4.3   Overlexicalization (Overwording)

Table 6 - Overlexicalization Examples

No.	Overlexicalization
6.1	beaten, robbed, killed, seized, ruined
6.2	shelled, starved, tortured

In the process of wording explicit characteristics of reality in different discourse types to different levels, the writer/speaker may use many or a smaller number of words. As described by Fairclough (1989) overwording is to use many words which are near synonyms that indicate an ideological struggle, a struggle to word a reality.

4.4   Formality

Table 7 - Phrases of Formality

No.	Formality Phrase
7.1	They fall into it easily, gracefully, take their mantles of responsibility without protest. (p.21)

Formality of a situation and formality of social relations are manifested in lexicalization or the use of vocabulary. These kinds of formal situations select formal vocabulary rather than less formal available substitutes. According to Fairclough (1989), formality can express politeness, concern to be liked, and expects and maintains respect for status.

4.5   Use of pronouns "we" and "you"

Table 8 - Phrases with pronouns "we", "our", and "us"

No.	Phrase with pronouns "we", "our", and "us"
8.1	… on <u>our</u> peaceful country (p.21)
8.2	... <u>We</u> have heard … The convenience of their belief. (p.42)
8.3	… in the place that he, <u>we</u>, fought for. That <u>we</u> wanted. (p.42)
8.4	That was what happened to a lot of <u>us</u> - <u>we</u> should have been at university … <u>we</u> felt there was nothing else we could do. (p.49)

Pronouns in English have relational values of different kinds and are ideologically charged. van Dijk (1998) identifies pronouns among the other features of syntax as a grammatical category which carries underlying ideologies and selects "us" and "them" as the well-known pronominal pair. The use of pronouns "we", "our", and "us" in the novel expresses that as a result of thinking in terms of "we' and "them", an individual becomes a member of a group and acquires its ideologies, gets involved in its activities, becomes part of its goals as well as inter-group interaction and conflict, and gets 'subjected to its norms, values and rules' (van Dijk, 1998, p. 248).

4.6   Use of Euphemism

Table 9 - Phrases with Euphemism

No.	Phrases with Euphemism
9.1	Later, people would debate <u>emigration, asylum, property damage</u>, and <u>casualty numbers</u>. (p.19)
9.2	… which promised a <u>definite terminus</u> to his stay. This man is dying. Cancer of the brain. (p.38)
9.3	Her father resisted nothing about <u>the sterile implements of sedation</u> around him. (p.39)
9.4	And this man has a son. He is my <u>intended</u>. (p.43)

When a word is substituted for a more conventional or familiar one to avoid negative values, it is euphemism that takes place in the vocabulary level. As in 9.1, euphemism occurs as follows:

emigration - departing, leaving

asylum - refuge, shelter

property damage - harm or destroy one's property

casualty numbers - have been killed, taken prisoner or wounded

Another instance of euphemism can be found in 9.2:

definite terminus - death for sure / certainly death / death is guaranteed

In 9.3, the author uses medical terms to professionally explain that act of putting an individual to a sleep with medication as follows:

the sterile implements of sedation - medication to sleep

As in 9.4, euphemism occurs as follows:

The person who is to be married is not termed in the novel as lover, fiancée or boyfriend but more formally as intended as follows; author indicating that this marriage is based on more formal reasons rather than emotions:

intended – fiancée

4.7   Use of reporting verbs

Table 10 - Phrases with reporting verbs

No.	Phrase with reporting verbs
10.1	The news <u>showed</u> … (pg. 18)
10.2	And the news <u>talked</u> about … (p.28)
10.3	[they] had once <u>said</u>: join us … (p.36)
10.4	This Toronto <u>insisted</u> … (p.39)

Reporting verbs are a fundamental category of grammatical devices which supports presenting the standpoint of a speaker/writer. The selection of reporting verbs of a writer/speaker, exposes her/his ideological inclinations. In the phrase of 10.1, the author adopts the reporting verb "show" to report how the "Tamil civilians beaten, robbed, and killed, their property seized and ruined" during July riots and the medium of communication is "news". In 10.2 also, the author utilizes the metaprepositional - assertive speech reporting verb[9] "talk". As in 10.3, author uses "say", the neutral structuring reporting verb[10] . In 10.4, the author adopts the metaprepositional directive reporting verb[11] , "insist" which is similar to the reporting verb "urge".

linguistic approach to examine the effectiveness of discursive constructions. Use of vocabulary in a text/speech conveys a form of ideological expression in discourse. The theoretical framework of the study makes use of the study's findings to shed light on critically analyzing literary texts and show that vocabulary embodies ideological expressions in the discourse of the novel. This research concludes that the discursive constructions of communities are represented through noun phrases, synonymy and antonymy, overlexicalization, formality, euphemisms, pronouns, and reporting verbs.

5.   CONCLUSION

This study provides insights into analyzing literary texts using a

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[9]which is similar to the reporting verb, "explain" (Caldas-Coulthard, 1994, p. 306)
[10]which is usually used for glossing purposes of information (Caldas-Coulthard, 1994, p. 306
[11](Caldas-Coulthard, 1994, p. 306)

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