

Research Article

The Concept of Self-Alienation in Adnan Adel's *Ajre'ṣa Fe-Ara'a s Wa Donqolu Manfa*: A Critical Discourse Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The researcher aims at analyzing the linguistic and syntactic features of the poem titled *Ajre'ṣa Fe-Ara'a s Wa Donqolu Manfa* " written by the Iraqi poet Adnan Adel. By applying a critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach to the Arabic discourse of Adel's poem, the researcher intends to highlight how the poet employs his language in his discourse to represent the concept of self-alienation. To achieve the aim of this study, the researcher relies on the theory of Norman Fairclough (1995) to analyze the poem syntactically, lexically, and stylistically and identify the discursive strategies by focusing on the concept of the alienation that is represented by both lexical and syntactic choice of this discourse. The novelty of this study is due to being a pioneer in focusing on analyzing Adel in the light of the CDA techniques such as Agency, figurative speech, ideology, negation, and exclamation. The result demonstrates that Adel's linguistic creativity succeeded in introducing the problems the old women and men have been living in the hospital and how they are inspiring to get a better life.

1. Introduction

Adnan Adel, an Iraqi poet, who was born in Iraq. "Karkook" city in 1971, lives in exile. He studied philosophy at Baghdad University in 2002, but he did not continue because he was forced to leave his country at the end of 2002. He got his Master's degree in philosophy and literature in 2016. While writing several novels and poems, Adel composes several wonderful collections with the issue of living in the exile and the concept of self-alienation such works as "Jasad Musamad Be-Taraqub" (2009), *khaleq Al-Foqṣa:t Asabonia'a* (2019), and "Amarki Fe-Mawsim Qetaf Almatar" (2020). Some of his poems are translated in French and Dutch and published in some Belgian and Dutch magazines. According to Fairclough (1995), critical discourse analysis (CDA) is an analytical framework focusing on studying the connection between power and connections" (page no?). In this light, he argues that the critical discourse analysis aims to explore the correlation between the different uses of language within social and political contexts in which CDA participates to examine various issues of ethnicity, cultural differences, ideology, gender, and identity.

2.1 Limitation of the study

The study focuses on linguistic analysis of each line of the poem "*Ajre'ṣa Fe-Ara'a s Wa Donqol Manfa*" to examine how the poet succeeded in describing the feeling of Self-alienation.

2.2 Research questions

To prove his argument, this research aims to answer the following questions:

1-What are the linguistic features used in the target poem?

2- What are the ideological implications in the poem?

3. Literature Review

3.1 Self-alienation

It aims to reflect the degree of social interaction or integration with the others and the reasons that cause ones' social isolation from the surroundings. According to the APA dictionary of psychology, alienation is an estrangement from others resulting in the absence of close or friendly relationships with people in one's social group (e.g., family, workplace, community). According to Merriam Webster, alienation is the act or process of causing oneself to become alienated from others. Consequently, the concept of alienation identifies as a distinguished type of psychological problem that involves the process of separation of a self from the others.

3.2 Critical discourse analysis

In the late 1980s, critical discourse analysis (CDA) was one of the most influential branches of linguistics that emerged in European discourse studies by Norman Fairclough, Teun van Dijk, and others. The importance of this new branch comes from its focus on different aspects of modernity from social and cultural perspectives (Fairclough, 1992). Fairclough believes that the analysis of the text should go through a three-dimensional framework: discourse-as-text (i.e. the linguistic features), discourse-as-discursive-practice, social-practice. The focus of this study is on the first dimension.

4-Methodology

4.1 Instrument

The researcher draws on the critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach proposed by Norman Fairclough (1992) to analyze the language used in the target poem. This study seeks to investigate how the poet utilized his language to introduce the pivotal issue concerning the old soldiers who are abusively put in the hospital. Therefore, the researcher will focus on figurative speech, agency, negation, and exclamation. It is noteworthy to mention that the major focus will be on the Arabic text, but the researcher has also translated the lines.

5. Results

5.1 Agency

The poet Adnan Adel employs a significant style in his narrative discourse focusing on the first-person pronoun, second and third absent pronouns. The reader ought to realize the suffering of old women who are living in the hospital. In linguistics, the agency is used for analyzing the character to determine the relation of the main character with others in literary works. Therefore, the poet relies on the first person pronoun "أنا= I'm" with its form of latent, attached, and detached pronoun to reflect how he has been affected by the story of the old woman. The combination of the first and third-person pronouns denotes his complete interaction with the old woman. (I emptied it = *afraḡtuha* = أفرغتها / I saw = *ra'aytuha* = رأيتها) . The reliance on the (Ta=Im=أنا) for a speaker indicates that the action happened in the past, but her impressive story has still affected him deeply: (I repaired = *aslahtu*=أصلحت/ clung=*tashabtata*=تشببت)

أصلحتُ ثلاثتها و أفرغتها من النبيذ الأبيض

I repaired its fridge and emptied it from white wine.

In the following example, Adel innovatively portrays the image of an estranged woman who clung to her last hope to live an honorable life.

رأيتها كيف تشببت بشراع حياتها المفرد

I saw her how she clung with the square sail of her life

The first and the third person pronouns are deployed thoughtfully to indicate the extent of his sympathy with the old women who have sacrificed a lot and have been put in a hospital. In the poem, Adel implicitly clarifies his attitude toward them and how they are clinging to the hope of life. The combination of the first and the third pronouns adds a wonderful image of the interaction among people.

5.2 Figurative Speech

It is a rhetorical device that aims to achieve a special effect by using distinctive words.

5.3 Simile

Leech (2013) defined simile as an explicit figurative comparison which is a statement of resembling one thing with another. It contains comparative words such as like, as, similar, or some similar words.

Therefore, it is a type of figurative speech comparing two persons or two things with each other depending on two comparative words of as and like. In the selected poem, Adel stunningly deploys simile to draw attention to those women who fought and helped warriors in World War II and the result was to be put in the nursing home He shows women's self-alienation through their desire to live a decent life. (as her eyes = اڠنيها)

ثقبه بنقوب كعينيها

He pierced it with holes like her eyes, (Adel, 2019)

As it is well known, the crows represent the doom and gloom which Adel uses significantly to express the sad feeling resulting from observing the Nazai's rockets throwing on the people like (crow= kalghrba:n.=كالغربان). Here, the poet describes the influence of wars on people who have only been paying the prices of conflicts.

كانت صواريخ النازية تسقط علي حقولنا كالغربان

Nazi missiles were falling on our fields, such as crows, (Adel, 2019)

A simile is utilized by the poet to describe the catastrophic situation people have in war, who are the victims of territorial conflicts in that time and also to show how those old soldiers are rewarded with neglect and ignorance.

5.4 Metaphor

Leech (2013) argued that metaphor is central to the notion of poetic creation that is often treated as a phenomenon in its own right, without reference to other kinds of transferred meaning but as a way of representing something in terms of something else. In the light of CDA, the identification and analysis of metaphor rely on revealing ideologies or discourses surrounding a subject that is often used in the described stage (Baker & Ellece, 2011). Metaphor as a literary device is used technically by Adel to express a woman's hope in life and the extent of her wish to live a respectful life. In each line of his poem, he describes different aspects of clinging to life :

قبضتها المتخشبة تأسر حياً بمنديل مطرز بالأغصان وبالأمنيات المورقة

(strong fist =qabd'ateha almutakha jbeh = قبضة متخشبة) / (lush wishes =umneya:t moureqa= أمنيات مورقة)

Her strong fist captures the love of a handkerchief embroidered with twigs and lush wishes,

(Adel, 2019)

It is the resemblance of her wedding ring as something with what is wandering in our mind as stories of the happiest event in the past that are hidden in the heart.:(a wedding ring hiding stories =khatem yahmel qesasan)

أصبعها المضموم على خاتم يحمل قصصاً

Her clamped figure on a wedding ring hiding stories, (Adel, 2019)

Adel continuously describes her as disappointed by the surrounding that made her give a mocking smile which refers to her despair: (A miserable smile =ibtesama ya'aesa)

إبتسامه يائسة

A miserable smile. (Adel, 2019)

5.5 Metonymy

It is the more renowned term for describing a relationship between words based on a close and frequent connection between them, especially a contiguous connection such as a whole-part or container -contents. According to Yule (2014, p. 47) , metonymy consists of using the name of one thing for that of something else with which it is associated. In literary works, metonymy is often overlooked because of the powerful effect of metaphor. In other words, metonymy as a figure of speech is used as a concept related to the intentional meaning of things.

In his poem, Adel relies on the usage of metonym to reveal the woman's social alienation as in the following lines. In the first line, Adel expresses her isolation and how she has been left alone: (teeth had been left in the cup=almatru:ka felka'as)

إصطكاك أسنانها المتروكة بالكأس

The stalking of her teeth that had been left in the cup. (Adel, 2019)

In the second line, a one-kilogram of farewell refers to the fact that how leaving and departure are so simple and how social connection and sacrifice are worthless and valueless. Moreover, it denotes how leaving each other has turned into a common neutral action devoid of expressing any emotion and feeling: (Akilo of farewell becomes with one cent =kilo wada:ṣ asbah besent)

كيلو غراماً من الوداع أصبح بسنت

One kilogram of farewell becomes with one a cent, (Adel, 2019)

In the following line, the woman resembles a forgotten pearl as an indication of abandonment and forgetfulness:(forgotten pearl =lualua: mansyia).

أنت الباحثة عن لؤلؤة منسية

You are looking for a forgotten pearl, (Adel, 2019)

The utilization of the figurative speech 'metonym' contribute in introducing the image of the woman who eagerly seeks a better life after the others left her aside.

5.6 Personification

It means giving some human characteristics to any object. In other words, it is a process of transferring human characteristics to an object, animal, or even an abstract idea. According to Wales (2011), personification is one of a figure of speech in which an inanimate object, animate nonhuman, or abstract quality is given human attributes as a kind of metaphor (p. 314). Therefore, personification is found in ordinary daily speech such as in idioms, proverbs ...etc. The Iraqi poet successfully uses personification to describe the woman's loneliness as in the following line:

ساق نبتة ممددة على سرير من السراب

The stalk of a plant stretching on a bed of mirage, (Adel, 2019)

In this line, Adel gives the stalk one of the human features that is stretching on the bed. He aims to describe the woman's clinging to the past and dreaming related to her. In other words, the poet intends to describe the elderly woman adhering to life despite of the illusions surrounding her.

5.7 Negation

The negation method in Arabic is a method of denying an idea, an argument, or a subject that intends to negate a sentence or evidence (A-Saraira, 2019). It is divided into two parts: the implicit and explicit negation. In the poem, Adel wants to attack the social system after the cold war since no one appreciates the sacrifices that have been made by the old soldiers. In this sense, he relies on explicit negation when he uses not =lam =لم as in (hasn't been = lam tada'a= لم تطأ and didn't see =lam tara =لم تر .

إلي أرضي ، لم تطأ قدم الحرب منذ الحرب الباردة

A land that the cold war hasn't been set since the cold war, (Adel, 2019)

لم تر من قبل عيناً ميةً بنظرة معقوفة إن لم تراغ حرمة الموتى

You have never seen before a dead eye with a broken look if you do not observe the sanctity of the dead, (Adel, 2019)

In the given lines, Adel relies on the negation style to donate the feelings of disempowerment and abandonment.

5.8 Exclamation

It is a sound or a sentence that is spoken loudly to express our feelings of surprise emphatically and to show our admiration, shock, or anger (Al-Balaki, 1990). According to the dictionary Merriam Webster, the exclamation is a "vehement expression of protest or complaint" as O' my God, how can you accept that ?!. It can be expressed with an exclamation mark "!".

In this light, Adel artistically employs the exclamation style to describe a woman's alienation as in the following lines.

It should be noted that her question is expressing her surprise at a decent man whose politeness shocks her in that she didn't expect that people are still having feeling and emotion for their fellow man.

من أين تعلمت كل هذه الأناقة

Where did you learn all this elegance?, (Adel, 2019)

(men aajna taʕlanta kul haðeh al anaqa ?!)

In other words, as an indication to her surprise, she asks the man about his elegance by which she wonders how a man can be so polite even after being ignored for a long time.

In the second line, Adel gives a wonderful image of a woman who is suffering social isolation when she is enquiring whether the situation is boring for a woman who has the hope to regain her strength again:

ألهذا الحد يضجرك منظر الأشربة المفردة

Is for this, the sight of the square sails boring you ? ! . (Adel, 2019)

Alehaða alhða ydʕjerek manðʕar alashreʕa.

According to the critical discourse analysis approach, we can observe how Adnan Adel ingeniously succeeds in introducing the eagerness of the old soldiers who gave their souls to serve their country while they have been neglected for several years without receiving any special attention and care.

6. Conclusion

After classifying and analyzing the whole of the poem, the researcher concludes that the poem entitled "A *Fre'ʕa Fe-Ara'as Wa Donqol Manfa* by the Iraqi poet Adnan Adel has frequently used figurative language. Thus, the analysis has two objectives; first the identification of the types of figurative speech used in the poem and then explaining their meaning in the context and also the usage of metaphors. Adnan Adel has ingeniously deployed various figurative speech in his poem for depicting one of the distinguished images of the life of the old women who have been neglected for a long time in the hospital. Furthermore, Adel has introduced the woman who suffered self-alienation and isolation and also demonstrated how a silver lining makes her regain her youth.

7. Recommendations

The importance of this study comes from its being the first study focusing on the poems by the Iraqi poet Adnan Adel and also analyzing the Arabic text. owing to the fact that the result of this study reveals that there is a dire need to introduce Arab literature to the western reader, the researcher offers the following recommendations for other researchers in further studies:

1. Varying the techniques used for analysis.
- 3- Focusing on the linguistic analysis of the Arabic text.
- 4- Investigating further studies related to the literary work of the Arab writers who live in exile.

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Appendix (1)

Arabic Script	IPA symbol	Symbols used in IVAr
Consonants		
أ - الهمزة	ʔ	2
ث	θ	th
ج	ʒ	j
خ	x	x
د	d	d
ذ	ð	dh
س	s	s
ش	ʃ	sh
ش	tʃ	ch
ص	s ^ʕ	S
ط	t ^ʕ	T
ض	d ^ʕ	D
ظ	ð ^ʕ , z ^ʕ	DH, Z
ع	ʕ	3
غ	ɣ	gh
ف	f	f
ق	q	q
و	w	w
ي	j	y
v	v	v

Appendix (2)

The link of the published poem

<https://kikahmagazine.com/category/%D8%B4%D8%B9%D8%B1/>