

Linguistic Analysis of Emotions in Tess of the D'Urbervilles

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Abstract

This study attempts to do a linguistic analysis of emotion words from Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy. Since Linguistics is scientific or, so to say, systematic study of language, it becomes necessary that this study must scientifically analyse the emotions words used in the text, the consideration and motive of their usage by the writer and significance of their context. There are many dimensions of this study e.g. finding characters' psychology behind their verbal expressions, interface of feelings and context in a piece of literature and usage of linguistic tools effectively to present human emotions. The study has been divided into 5 chapters. The first chapter provides an introduction to the study and its various aspects. The second chapter covers the review of related literature on emotions, their psychology, linguistic tools and correlation of language and human feelings. Third chapter deals with research methodology which is qualitative as this is the most suitable for linguistic analysis of a literary piece. Chapter four covers textual evidence of emotion words uttered by male and female characters. Chapter five discusses this textual evidence and analyses the data. The chapter concludes the study with recommendations. This study concludes that emotions are well represented through different linguistics tools. Emotions play vital role in determining the course of action for characters in further advancement of action and events.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Literature is the representation of human life and embodies its various dimensions. In the recent times, linguistic approaches are being used to study various forms of literature. It is believed now that better understanding of the various linguistic phenomena leads to better understanding of a literary work. Focusing on the linguistic phenomena, many of the literary works pertaining to various genres like novels, poetry, drama and short stories undertook more 'traditional' stylistic analyses such as speech/thought representation by Leech and Short 1981, Semino and Short 2004. In the same way, linguistic phenomenon of literary device metaphor is extensively discussed by Lakoff and Turner 1989. Not only this, characterisation which is a core literary characteristic of a literary genre can be better understood with linguistic interpretation as stated by Culpeper 2001. Linguistic phenomena can also be demonstrated and carried out by stylistic characteristics of a literary work and this has been emphasized by Thornborrow and Wareing 1998, Toolan 1998, 2001, Simpson 2004.

Much stylistic research deals with such analyses of literary works. More interesting and more rarely discussed in research are stylistic studies (Stubbs 2005), in particular keyword analyses and studies of collocation. Such methods have one clear advantage over traditional methods, namely that they are based on qualitative data. This is important because, as Stubbs has pointed out, 'stylistics has long led an uneasy

half-life, never fully accepted, for many related reasons, by either linguists or literary critics' (Stubbs 2005).

Literature is one of the fine arts, like music, dance, painting etc as it is meant to give aesthetic pleasure. There are different genres of literature like poetry, novel, drama, epic etc. In the realm of these genres; the greatest works are selected on the basis of aesthetic excellence or the beauty of expression. Expression, thus, enjoys a fundamental place in literature.

In order to appreciate properly various phases of literature, knowledge of its history is essential. In order to understand a writer's piece of writing, the characteristics of the age are essential to be known. The same was the case with Thomas Hardy who belonged to Victorian age. In Victorian age, the novel made a rapid progress. The word "novel" is an English transliteration of the Italian word "novella"--used to describe a short, compact, broadly realistic tale popular during the medieval period.

The story of *Tess of D'Urbervilles* took place in Victorian England when sexual and social hypocrisy was a hallmark of that society. The book was very controversial at that time because of the critiques towards the strict Victorian moral code. The Victorian era, the tone in which that novel was composed, was a period in which industrialization began to shape the face of England; a time of conflicting beliefs. Hardy wrote this novel in Victorian style. These paradigms are critically reflected in Hardy's work, in which he explores the elements of hypocrisy within the patriarchal society, its values and attitudes towards religion, gender roles and class structure. Hardy also observed the shallowness of religious applications during the Victorian era.

Since literature reflects its contemporary society with all its manifestations whether these were strong or weak, same was the case with Hardy's Tess. A casual study of Tess' text transpires the abundance of vocabulary representing emotional state of its characters. This study is going to evaluate and analyse how emotions are skilfully demonstrated by Hardy in Tess of D'Urbervilles.

The traditional study of literature has dealt with many important aspects such as ideological, historic, folkloric, biographic, social, religious etc. Linguistic approaches are being used to study various forms of literature. Stylistics is the study and interpretation of texts from a linguistic perspective. The preferred object of study in stylistics is literature. Stylistics also attempts to establish principles capable of explaining the particular choices made by individuals and social groups in their use of language. The goal of the present research is a detailed analysis of different kinds of emotions that are present in Thomas Hardy's novel Tess of D'Urbervilles and to explore such type of vocabulary that shows the feelings of characters and linguistics techniques used by the writer to present these emotions.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Emotions play a pivotal role in human life. Writers present the emotions of characters through linguistic expressions. Every writer has his own choice of linguistic expressions. In order to understand the writers' approach and perception, it is necessary to evaluate and analyse the choice and setting of words in a specific order.

Great work has been done on the theories of emotions, different kinds of emotions, difference between feeling and emotions etc. Bearing in mind the background information, the researcher wants to explore the representation of different words that

are showing emotions in the novel of Thomas Hardy and then stylistics analysis of these words.

1.3. Objective of the Study

To evaluate and analyse various stylistic techniques used by the writer representing different emotion words through linguistics devices i.e. intensifiers, adjectives, nouns, adverbs, verbs and verb phrases etc.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are different techniques used by Thomas Hardy to represent different kinds of emotions?

2. How does representation of emotions differ with reference to gender?

3. How does representation of positive emotions differ from representation of negative emotions?

1.5 Research Methodology

Since the data is based on text, qualitative method will be used. Text will be used as primary data and articles on the relevant topic from internet and library will be utilized as secondary data.

1.6 Significance of the Study

It is the first research of its nature that will linguistically analyse the words that are depicting emotions. This study will also discuss the process of emergence of emotions in male and female characters. The study is significant as it explores how these emotion words are put into the text by the writer.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

The present study is a stylistics analysis of emotions in Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of D'Urbervilles*. The researcher has, though, limited the study to one novel but in-depth investigation is undertaken as to analyse the writer's techniques used in the novel for the presentation of emotion words. The study is limited to the text and explains the stylistics analysis of the emotion words. It also explains the representation of human emotions with reference to gender as well as their positivity and negativity.