

A Pragma-Stylistic Analysis of the Blind Man's Garden by Nadeem Aslam

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Abstract

This paper aims at describing Pragma-stylistic Analysis used in the Novel "Blind Man's Garden" published in 2013 by British Pakistani author Nadeem Aslam. The study is intended to investigate the role of speech act theory (SAT) in understanding dramatic texts through using pragma-stylistic approach. It is also an attempt to examine the pragma-stylistic effects of using speech acts (SAs) and their implication in conveying the theme of the play and the intentions of the characters. The researcher explores the application of speech act theory proposed by J.L. Austin and John Searle. This study was conducted using textual analysis and descriptive qualitative method. Based on the data analysis the eight extract are selected from Nadeem's novel and they are Locutionary, Perlocutionary, Illocutionary, Representatives, Declaratives, Commissive, Expressive and Directives. The analysis reveals that the interaction between stylistics and pragmatics is a vital tool for analyzing dramatic texts in terms of (SAT). SAs are grouped into systematic combination depending on the purpose of the speaker or the play wright. By using Pragma-stylistic Analysis the writer able to catch reader's attention to focus on the content of the novel.

Introduction

The study of style in both written and spoken language is known as stylistics. wide range of language uses, including those in literary writings, lectures, valid texts, news reports, announcements, jokes, and many other situations, are examined by stylists. The Latin word "stilus," which is the root of the English word "style," describes the use of language, word choice, sentence construction, and poetic devices used by the writer. (Khan et al., 2014). The Writing style of writers is like a fingerprint of who they are. Stylistics is the study of language usage to convey meaning and achieve specific goals. It focuses on metaphors and modified words to improve clarity, diction, and presence. Stylistics examines various literary texts, examining language, author habits, and writing patterns, focusing on language function and author intent. It helps readers enjoy texts and their utterances. Pragmatics is meaning in context (Alba-Juez, 2021). According to Yule (1996) "Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meanings as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader) (Z. Ibrahim, Arifin, & Setyowati, 2018)." Pragma-stylistics is a method for analysis in narrative texts, utilizing pragmatic theories and concepts to define style. It applies theoretical pragmatics findings to study language style. Corpus studies, incorporating intended meaning and distinctive style, have revolutionized linguistic inquiry. Applying pragmatic theory, specifically speech act theory, to a large body of narrative texts, this study uses a pragmatic-stylistic method to understand the corpus and its style.

Nadeem Aslam, a Pakistan writer, is adept at using a language other than his own. His English novels demonstrate his mastery of the language and his capacity to tackle weighty subjects (Malik & Anwar, 2020). Because of his creative work he has received Betty Trask Award in (1994). His plays contain wealthy data for inquiry that's why the recent study aims to explore the play in a Pragma Stylistic manner. Different speech patterns do the characters in Nadeem's Novel use most frequently to produce certain artistic effects. As a result, the study intends to identify the most prevalent speech act types utilized by each character as well as the stylistic outcomes produced by their use in this play. Pragma-stylistics is stylistics with a pragmatic component (Kizelbach, 2023). Its primary objective is to use pragmatic theories to analyze literary works explain how, successful literary language or enticing structural features are created. To demonstrate how (literary) language is employed in context, including how it could help characterize a work of literature's characters or clarify how power relations are established, its methods combine pragmatic and stylistic approaches (Al-Hindawi & D Saffah, 2019). As said by Lee (2018), it is a method that seeks to apply pragmatics' findings and methods to the concept of language style, the distinctions between spoken and written usage, such as through examining the language used in literary texts by different authors (Lee & Mouritsen, 2018).

2.Literature Review:

The study and analysis of all written and spoken materials in the light of their linguistic and tonal style is known as stylistics, which is a subfield of applied linguistics. The application of linguistic principles to literary works is the subject of stylistics (Lawal, 1997). Verdonk (2002) asserts that stylistics deals with specific linguistic elements in order to clarify their function and impact. Stylistics researches how readers engage with textual language to understand how we interpret language when we read and how it impacts us. According to this point from which it is considered, stylistics may appear to be associated with linguistics and other times to belong to literature, yet they are related topics of study. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that examines the impact of context on meaning, focusing on interactions, communication, and linguistic behavioral interpretation. It investigates the differences between literary and linguistic meanings and the meaning conveyed by utterances. Oxford philosophers J.L. Austin and H.P. Grice introduced signal terminology in the 20th century. Pragmatic analysis is crucial in literature analysis, as it helps clarify historical, cultural, social, and mental states of a play's author. The Pragma-Stylistic approach to meaning is a linguistic approach that examines the intended meaning and distinctive style of a speaker. It believes that individual mode of expression is distinct and features distinguish it from others. Pragmatic analysis of language focuses on the use of utterances and their relation to the context. It is a theory of appropriateness, while stylistics is the study of style. Scholars have conducted studies on

Olusegun Obasanjo's speech, Adetunji's speeches, and Ayodabo's research on hedges in a presidential media chat program.

Speech Act Theory by Searle and Austin.

John Austin's book "How to do Things with Words" developed speech act theory, which was later systematized by John Searle in 1976. This theory refers to the actions a speaker takes when using language in context, which are deduced by listeners. There are five main categories of speech acts: Assertive, Expressive, Declarations, Directives, and Commissive. These sub-acts are separated based on their felicity criteria. The Pragma-stylistic features that we are going to analyze in this study are given below;

1. Directives, also known as estimate, value, or assess, are actions that offer conclusions or judgements.
2. Declarations, a group of verbs that depict the use of authority or influence, such as "order," "dedicate," and "dismiss,"
3. Commissive, also known as commitments, pledges of various types, or the assumption of responsibility or declaration of an intention, including a promise, guarantee, plan, swear, or bet.
4. Expressive. like congratulate and involve convey statements of attitude and Social behavior.
5. Assertives, include verbs like question, presume, concede, and hypothesize that allude to conversation and argument by offering various types of clarification.

1. Locutionary act: Making a meaningful message that the audience can understand is referred to as a locutionary act. The act of speaking only one word in a language is an interpretation of the speaker's words. Examples of locutionary activities include the following sentences: It is cold outside today and Oh, come on! this box is so small

2. Illocutionary Act: The illocutionary act, which is determined by the speaker's intended level of power, considered to be the most significant behavior in a speech act. Illocutionary act is an act of doing anything since it can relate to not only a message but also to another action. Illocutionary acts occur when someone speaks with a particular goal in mind, such as informing someone, making a promise, giving an order, apologizing, or saying "thank you."

3. Perlocutionary Act: The perlocutionary act is the effect of the speaker's words on the listener. Perlocutionary acts refer to statements that cause others to take actions. Persuading, threatening, boring, diverting, or motivating the audience are all examples of perlocutionary acts.

3. Research Methodology

This study will employ the qualitative method. The researcher will use The Speech Act theory for the analysis of the novel The Blinds Man's Garden by Nadeem Aslam. According to Morse (1994), descriptive research is an efficient, realistic and precise description of an event. To find, characterize, or describe logically occurring events without turning to tentative modification is the goal of descriptive research. This implies that the event doesn't happen in a lab but occurs in the real world. The study will present content analysis method that is an instrument for textual analysis (Hsieh and Shannon, 2005). Data will be collected through observation method and interpreted qualitatively. The current study is descriptive and qualitative in nature however it focuses on gathering and showing the phenomenon of language usage patterns that vary according to the context and structure. The research subject communicates the study findings orally or in writing within a qualitative research technique (Bogdan and Biklen, 1982: 39-42).

Data Analysis:

The data analysis chapter of the thesis investigates how the J.L. Austin and John Searle and Nadeem Aslam's book "Blind Man's Garden" relate to speech act theories. The analysis utilizes a combination of content analysis and descriptive qualitative methods. Content analysis involves systematically categorizing and analyzing the textual data from the novel, focusing on the characters' utterances and their illocutionary forces. The descriptive qualitative method provides a framework to interpret and describe the patterns, themes, and nuances in the data. By employing these methods, the chapter aims to uncover how speech acts are employed by the characters, examining their intentions, implied meanings, and the social and contextual factors that influence their communication. The analysis offers insights into the use of language in the novel, enriching our understanding of the characters, their relationships, and the thematic exploration within "Blind Man's Garden." This section includes summary of the novel "Blind

"Blind Man's Garden" followed by a pragmatic analysis of the characters' utterances. The analysis focuses on the illocutionary forces of speech acts and their distribution.

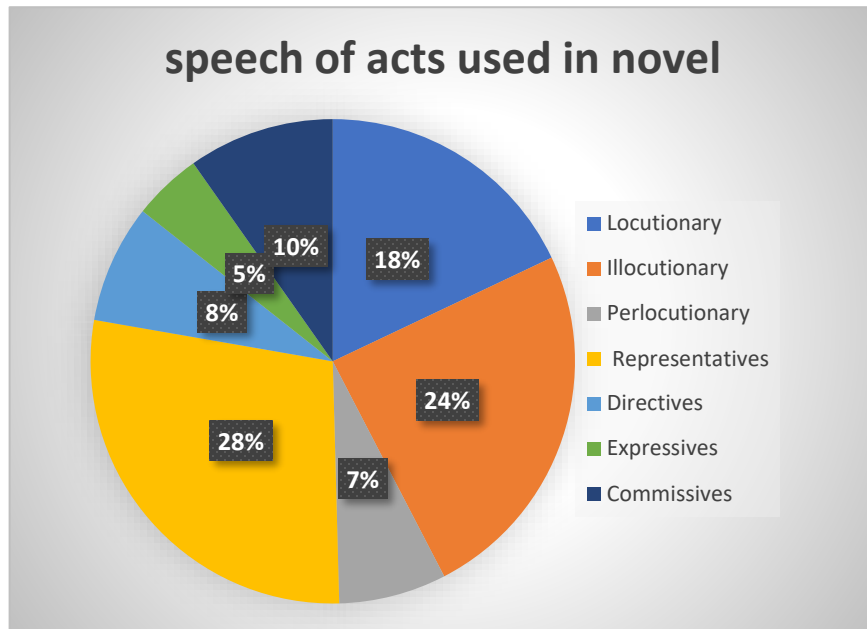
APPLICATION OF PRAGMA-STYLISTICS ANALYSIS TO THE DATA (Blind Man's Garden)

The data analysis in this study followed a cyclical process, incorporating the four components of Qualitative Data Analysis outlined by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014). These components, namely data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing, were carried out simultaneously. This iterative approach allowed the researcher to move back and forth between the components, facilitating a comprehensive analysis and enabling the attainment of a satisfactory conclusion. In this analysis, a sample of 350 utterances was extracted from the text of the novel "Blind Man's Garden" by Nadeem Aslam. Applying the speech act theories of J.L. Austin and John Searle, we will examine the dominant theory by categorizing and analyzing the sampled utterances. Specifically, we will explore the five types of speech acts proposed by Searle and assess their frequency and distribution within the selected sample. This approach allows us to gain insights into the prevalent speech act theory employed by the characters in their communication throughout the novel.

Applying J.L. Austin's Speech Act Theory to "Blind Man's Garden" by Nadeem Aslam: Analyzing Communication Dynamics

J.L. Austin, the eminent philosopher and founder of speech act theory, introduced a framework that classifies utterances into three distinct types: locutionary acts, illocutionary acts, and perlocutionary acts. In the context of "Blind Man's Garden" by Nadeem Aslam, we will delve into the intricate dynamics of communication by examining how these three types of utterances manifest in the novel. Through an analysis of locutionary acts, which focus on the literal meaning and linguistic form of the utterances, we will explore how characters express themselves. Illocutionary acts, on the other hand, center around the intended meaning, the illocutionary force behind the utterances, and the speaker's communicative intentions. Finally, we will examine the perlocutionary acts, which encompass the effects and consequences of the utterances on the listeners and the overall impact they have on the narrative.

| <i>Types of speech Acts</i> | <i>number of speech act</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Locutionary</i> | 125 | 35.71 |
| <i>Illocutionary</i> | 175 | 48.57 |
| <i>Perlocutionary</i> | 50 | 14.29 |
| <i>Total</i> | 350 | 100 |



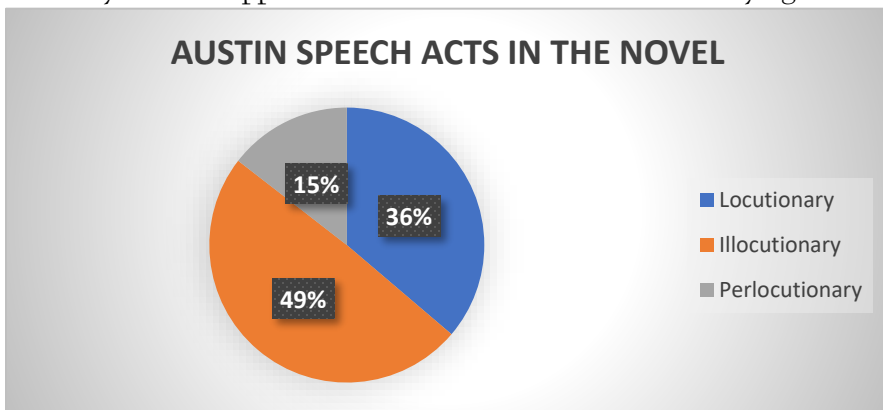
The analysis of Nadeem Aslam’s “Blind Man’s Garden” using J.L. Austin and John Searle’s speech act theories provides insights into the characters’ intentions, desires, and commitments. The study examines 350 utterances and reveals the prevalence and distribution of these speech acts, providing insights into relationships, power structures, motivations, and emotions.

By applying the theories of Austin and Searle to analyze the sampled utterances, we have contributed to the broader understanding of speech act theory in literary analysis. This approach allows us to uncover the underlying intentions and communicative strategies employed by the characters in their interactions.

5 Conclusion:

Our analysis of the speech acts in "Blind Man's Garden" contributes to a better understanding of the novel's narrative and the characters' motivations and relationships. It demonstrates the power of speech act theory as a tool for analyzing and interpreting literary works, and it provides a

foundation for further research in the field of speech act analysis in literature. Austin's theory primarily focuses on the concept of performative utterances, which involve language that not only describes an action but also performs the action itself. The breakdown provided does not include any specific examples of performative utterances. The types of speech acts by Searle and Austin found in the text of "Blind Man's Garden" are as follows:



Illocutionary speech acts: This category constitutes majority of the speech acts found in the text, with a total of 175 instances (48.57% of the sample). Among the speech acts presented by Austin and Searle, the most prominent type used by the characters in the novel is the illocutionary speech act, as identified by Searle. This aligns with the findings from the breakdown, where illocutionary speech acts account for 48.57% of the sampled utterances. It suggests that the characters in the novel frequently engage in acts of asserting, questioning, commanding, advising, and explaining, indicating their intentions, desires, and attempts to convey meaning through their language use. The breakdown of locutionary speech acts in the text of Nadeem Aslam's novel "Blind Man's Garden" provides valuable insights into the types of language functions employed by the characters.

The locutionary speech acts analyzed include statements, questions, commands, advice, and explanations. Among these locutionary speech acts, the most frequently observed type is statements, accounting for 80 instances (40% of the locutionary speech acts). Representatives, orders, commissive, expressive, and declarations are all included in the breakdown. Among these speech acts, the most dominant type is representatives, with 196 instances (56% of the speech acts). Representatives involve the characters making statements about the world, expressing beliefs, describing events, or conveys information. Directives account for 55 instances (15.71% of the speech acts), indicating the characters' use of language to issue commands, requests, or instructions to others. Commissive, totaling 67 instances (19.14% of the speech acts), highlight the characters' expressions of commitments, promises, or vows to undertake future actions. Expressives constitute 32 instances (9.14% of the speech acts) and represent the characters' use of language to express their emotions, feelings, or attitudes. However, no instances of declarations were found in the analyzed sample.

This breakdown provides valuable insights into the characters' speech act preferences and the ways in which they communicate within the novel. The prevalence of representatives indicates a strong focus on conveying information and describing the world, while the presence of directives, commissive, and expressive adds depth to the characters' interpersonal interactions, motivations, and emotional experiences. It is worth noting that the absence of declarations in the analyzed sample suggests a narrative context where explicit acts of speech acts that bring about changes in the external world, such as pronouncing someone guilty or married, may not be as prominent. The analysis of speech acts in "Blind Man's Garden" contributes to our understanding of the characters' communication styles, their intentions, and the broader themes and dynamics within the novel. The breakdown of representative speech acts in the text of Nadeem Aslam's novel "Blind Man's Garden" provides insights into the different ways in which the characters use language to represent the world around them. The representative speech acts analyzed include statements of fact, descriptions, and opinions. Among these representative speech acts, the most common type is statement of fact, with 150 instances (48.39% of the representative speech acts). These statements involve characters asserting objective information or presenting statements that considered to be true within the narrative.

Descriptions account for 33 instances (10.65% of the representative speech acts). Characters employ descriptive language to depict the appearance, characteristics, or qualities of people, places, or things, thereby providing vivid details and enhancing the readers' understanding and visualization of the story's setting. By analyzing the representative speech acts in "Blind Man's Garden," we gain a deeper understanding of the characters' engagement with the world around them and the ways in which they shape the narrative through their language use. Among these directive speech acts, imperatives account for 25 instances (45.45% of the directive speech acts). Imperatives are characterized by the characters giving direct and explicit commands or instructions to others within the narrative. Requests, on the other hand, constitute 30 instances (54.55% of the directive speech acts). Requests reflect the characters' use of language to make polite appeals or ask for assistance or favors from others. These locutionary speech acts contribute to the overall communication dynamics and characterization within the narrative.

Additionally, the analysis of perlocutionary speech acts reveals the characters' efforts to persuade, reassure, encourage, praise, and express gratitude. These acts showcase their attempts to influence the thoughts, emotions, and behaviors of others, highlighting the interpersonal dynamics and emotional journeys depicted in the novel. here characters assert authority or demand action, while requests indicate their efforts to maintain social politeness and engage in reciprocal communication. The analysis of speech acts in Nadeem Aslam's book "Blind Man's Garden" offers insightful information about the common forms of communication used by the characters throughout the story. We have classified and evaluated the sampled utterances using the J.L. Austin and John Searle's speech act theories determine the prevailing theory at work. While J.L. Austin's performative theory utterances is not explicitly represented in the analyzed sample, the dominance of illocutionary speech acts aligns with Searle's framework, highlighting the characters' communicative intentions and the ways in which they influence others through their words.

Furthermore, the breakdown of locutionary speech acts demonstrates the characters' use of statements, questions, commands, advice, and explanations to convey information, seek clarification, assert authority, offer guidance, and provide reasoning within the novel. Overall, the analysis of speech acts in "Blind Man's Garden" enhances our understanding of the characters' communication styles, motivations, and relationships. It provides insights into the ways in which they represent the world, issue directives, and evoke emotional responses. By examining these speech acts, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of human communication and the ways in which language shapes the narrative and the characters' experiences within the novel.

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