

THE INFLUENCE OF CULTURE ON LANGUAGE USE IN LITERATURE

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Annotation:Language and culture are two sides of the same coin, interrelated and influencing each other in many ways. Literature is a bridge that captures the essence of cultural contexts through the medium of language. This article explores the multifaceted relationship between culture and language in literature, examining how cultural frameworks shape linguistic expression. By using examples from the global literary tradition, the discussion shows how different authors use language as a tool of culture in reflecting, critiquing, and preserving identities and values of the communities to which they adhere.

Keywords: culture, language, idioms and metaphors, postcolonial literature, globalization

Language is man-made, built by cultures to connect their values, histories, and ways of existing. In literature, language does more than simply communicate; it speaks to the functions of storytelling, cultural transmission, and emotive resonance. Undoubtedly, perhaps now more than ever, the particular relationship between culture and language would appear to be realized most resolutely in literature: "the choice of words, the idioms and narrative styles selected are strongly coloured by the ambience of its creator".

Culture in the use of language in literature spans from using local idioms to symbolic imagery of a deep root in tradition. This study helps a reader better understand how the people of various cultures live their lives, experience different historical times, and develop worldviews through the literature.

Culture as Framework for Language in Literature

Cultural Semantics and Idioms. Semantics and idiomatic expressions within literatures provide unique lenses through which to review a society's values and norms. Example: Proverbs and parables hold the central point in storytelling by Chinua Achebe in his novel Things Fall Apart. These hold within them the wisdom and codes of morality leading people in the Igbo society. He used English with Igbo idioms, which bridged African oral traditions to the Western literary forms.

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Similarly, in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel García Márquez uses magical realism as a linguistic and narrative device, steeped within Latin American cultural narratives, where the mystical lives side by side with the mundane.

Language Variants and Dialects. Regional dialects and vernacular are used as cultural identifiers that place narratives in certain locales. Through dialects, authors add realism to their characters and settings. Example:

Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* utilizes Southern American dialects to express the social and cultural intricacies of the antebellum South.

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* uses AAVE to authentically capture the lives and voices of early 20th-century African Americans.

Cultural Symbols and Connotations

Much of the meaning of cultural symbols and their connotations are encoded in language, adding further layers of meaning to literature. These symbols often have their roots in a community's traditions, religious beliefs, or natural environment:

The cherry blossom is, of course a recurring motif in Japanese literature symbolizing the fragile nature of life-the message deeply congenial to Buddhist teachings. For Arabic poetry, the desert represents both desolation and beauty, showing that the natural environment is at the core of developing cultural identity. **Thematic Influence of Culture upon Literary Language Cultural Identity and Storytelling**

It can thus be maintained that language functions as a force in literature by which many writers confirm or investigate their own cultural identity, usually through a mother tongue or a hybrid form, carrying the complex features of a certain cultural inheritance.

For instance:

In postcolonial literatures, language becomes a site of resistance and reclamation. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's decision to write in Kikuyu instead of English was a deliberation of the importance of preserving culture in resistance to colonial linguistic dominance.

Salman Rushdie, in works such as *Midnight's Children*, uses a hybridized form of English replete with Indian vernacular to create a linguistic tapestry that reflects the cultural hybridity of postcolonial India.

Preservation and Transformation of Cultural Narratives

Literature often acts as a repository for cultural memory, preserving traditions, stories, and values for future generations. For example, indigenous authors use literature to maintain their cultural heritage:

Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* interweaves Native American storytelling with modern forms of literature, continuing the oral history and spiritual beliefs of the Laguna Pueblo.

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N. Scott Momaday's *House Made of Dawn* embodies Kiowa oral traditions and myths, emphasizing the role of language in asserting cultural continuity.

Globalization and Its Representation in Relation to Language in Literature

Globalization has brought about significant linguistics and cultural exchanges, profoundly influencing contemporary literature. Many modern authors reflect the mingling of cultures in their works, showcasing themes of migration, displacement, and identity. Examples include:

Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*, which explores the immigrant experience, using English interspersed with Bengali terms to reflect the cultural duality of its characters. Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* epitomizes the increasing intertwining of British cultural values with a world-wide literary perspective-Ishiguro's own Japanese heritage subtly informs his narrator's style.

Globalization has further given rise to "world Englishes," where different regional varieties of English are creatively used to reflect various cultures. It is, in fact, very rightly deemed an international language, the borders of which having been globalized by writers from countries as varied as India, Nigeria, and Singapore.

Conclusion

The interrelationship between culture and language is at once dynamic and profound. Not only does literature reflect cultural realities, but it also shapes them, framing a point of reference through which to understand the diversities of human experience. The impact of culture on language in literature makes the need to preserve linguistic diversity all the more important, as every language carries with it the unique signature of the culture it represents. By appreciating the cultural nuances embedded in literary language, readers can cultivate empathy and a deeper understanding of the world's myriad traditions.

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