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THE IDEAS OF SIGN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE JONATHAN CULLER

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ABSTRACT

Structuralism provides innovative grounds for the analysis of prose literature. The role of the fiction reader, story in the service of language, and story no longer for representing the concrete reality but for manufacturing new, relational, and pluralistic realities in language spaces are some of the outcomes of literary structuralism. In addition, the evidence to Culler's formula as to the production of meaning in novels is because reading James structurally is strategic for creating new realities in the space of language. "Structuralism" includes the post-structural studies of fiction also. The modern novel uses the sources of language to create structures where the sign plays freely and the reader finds occasion for practical criticism and interactive interpretation. The roots of structuralism from the classical times to the rise of "New criticism" will be discussed under "early structuralism". A literary work presupposed other works, genres, styles, and structures of meaning which go beyond the work itself. And they regarded literature a kind of langue of which each specific work was an instance of parole.

KEY WORDS:

Interpretation, Langue, Parole, Structure, Language

INTRODUCTION

Structuralism is a way of thinking and activities which is chiefly concerned with the perceptions and descriptions of structures. Structuralism is the methodology of system or structure that which human must be understood the by the way of language structure. It lies in his emphasis on the logical and ethical form of poetry. Ferdinand De Saussure coined the origins of the structuralism on linguistics in his work. Structuralism is the idea of everything could be analyzed in the deep structure from the linguistic method. Structure in a work of prose fiction was considered as the total effect of its setting, action, plot, characterization, etc. This kind of structure was closely connected to the external form of work of verbal art, which would be regarded not as dynamic and innovative but as static and

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mechanical. It is the study of underlying structures of signification meaningful words are framed.

Though structuralism developed in 1950s, it has its origin in the work of Swiss linguist, Ferdinand De Saussure (1857-1913). His book, *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) formed the basis of structuralism. Saussure says, 'language is a system of signs that express ideas'. He suggests that language may be divided into two components: *langue* (structure of language) and *parole* (individual utterance that occurs in speaking). Structure of language is *langue* and individual utterance that occurs in speaking is *parole*. Saussure states that '*langue* is the system or totality of language stored in the collective consciousness'. The *langue* thus refers to a complete directory of the elements of language with the entire systematic rules. *Parole* comprises the individual's use of language or the individual's actual utterance in speech or in writing. In the book, *Course in general Linguistics*, Saussure says:

"I propose to retain the word sign (*Signe*) to designate the whole and to replace *concept* and the *sound-image* respectively by *signified (signifre)* and *signifier (significant)*."

The important point made by Saussure is that the relationship between signifier and signified is arbitrary. That is any sound image can be used to signify a particular concept. There is no reason why a particular sign should mean a particular concept.

Jonathan Culler's works are in the fields of Structuralism, literary theory and criticism. In structuralism, the objects of the study are literary works. It focused on the students how they are supposed to learn about literature and how to read it. According to Culler, Structuralism is a language system and a social system. According to Ferdinand's principle, language has a systematic form as well as a historical form. It is the view of social and institutional relations. In this sense, structuralism is a 'Unified' field theory. Structuralism is not easy to understand because, it has the hidden meaning, and the book contains the deep information. It is directly connected with the study of literature. Jonathan Culler supposed to involve to know the question like, Does the teaching of literature involves the people only for their concern? Literary works are just the inter-personal relations. Inter-personal relations mean the bond between two or more people. Interpersonal relations are formed in the context or social, cultural and other influences.

Ferdinand De Saussure developed a branch of linguistics called "Structural Linguistics". He called the new science of linguistics. It is a linguistic turn. The origin of French structuralism is closely linked to the 'linguistic turn'. Saussure derives speaking as a willful and intellectual, individual act. Speech is a natural phenomenon that human beings have the faculty to construct a language, i.e. it is the system of distinct signs corresponding to the distinct ideas. The distinguish language is "*Langue*" from human speech (language) and speaking as "*Parole*". According to Roland Barthes, structuralism is the study of linguistics and it is most specialized and most relevant method of cultural artifacts.

According to Roman Jakobson, investigating signs on a one-to-one basis system of semiological, approach that "Structuralism is not hermeneutic". It is not a method of producing new and startling interpretations of literary works. The status of literary theory and critical interpretations is the misconception. But the structuralism, it is common to interpret a particular work on a literary theory. Literature is something to reading and tackled questions, which are engaged in a critical interpretation, those implicit answers.

Literature is an art of the broadest sense. It has an artistic value. In literature language, that is

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differing from the ordinary usage. The concept of the meaning has been changed over time. It is a verbal art form. In literature, prose is a form of language that possesses ordinary meaning and nature speech. It differs from poetry. Linguistics is synchronic, a historical. Instead of focusing on etymological, lexical and grammatical developments of certain languages through long time periods, it focuses on "studying a language at one particular time in its evolution and how the language functions". A sign here is like a coin with the two sides of signifier and signified. The utter sound, which the written mark introduces, is the signifier, while its concept is signified. Between the signifier and the signified there is no natural link, but there is a link which is only conventional and arbitrary. In the objective world, a word does not represent a referred but a concept in our mind. Saussure also isolates language from Parole.

Langue is the structure or system of language which is in the mind of people and in which all the members of a language community share. But Parole is the actual speech utterances of an individual language user. The relation between sign and its referent is neither given nor innate, but it is arbitrary, relational and conventional. This by-the-way correspondence between language and reality master structural linguist curious about the source of meaning in language, about the process of signification. Meaning is differential, not the result of a one-to-one correspondence between the word and its referent, but it is the result of sign differences.

New criticism seems divergent from structuralism in some other points. The works are artfully "as 'works, or as artfully constructed icons are as distinct and separate objects". They take a work of fiction as an autonomous object, and the act of reading as ontological, because the reader focuses mainly on the internal elements of the object like its language, diction, paradox, irony, ambiguity, tension and rhyme scheme.

Structuralism, the study of language is not historical but is a historical, for Saussure used to study language not for its developments through time but for its internal structure in a given time. Language is considered as a social system that is coherent and orderly, and they can be understood as a whole. In addition, meaning is no inherent or natural feature of language, and it is not an absolute entity. On contrary, it is, in the never-ending sequence of signifiers the result of juxtaposition of the signifiers. This means the meaning, which is the outcome of sign differences, is structural, relational and subject to change. Structuralism becomes radial and increasingly irreducible, when we applied to the literature literary criticism rejects the review that regards literature as a means of communication between the author and the reader. Structuralist often investigates system whereby individual texts are related to each other, because they believe that they are only expressing agents of superior social and cultural system. From their viewpoint, the primary task of the critic is to study the "grammar" of literature, the system of rules that govern literary interpretations. This indicates the "intertextuality" of meaning in structuralism. The intertextuality can be the creation of the universal text.

Structuralism brings literature together with language. In structuralism the base of interpretation is the common interpretive language of the certain generation that is made of signs and symbols. Structuralism is an intrinsic reading that is free from subjectivity. The structuralist critics search in the text for order and coherence and meaning, while his goal is to provide an objective criticism of the text.

In Saussure's structural linguistics, language is studied not diachronically but synchronically. The word is no longer a symbol with a given and one-to-one connection with its referent but is a two-layer sign of which the signifier is the vocal utterance and the signified is the meaning of it. Language as a

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system of signs is also a social contract where signification is not absolute or pre-given but is arbitrary, conventional, and the result of sign differences.

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