



Semiotic analysis of Badr Shakir al Sayyab's ode "Unshūdat almaṭar" based on Michael Riffaterre's semiotic theory

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Introduction

Riffaterre's theory of semiotics analyzes the text by examining all the structural aspects of the poem, including accumulation, descriptive system, hypogram, and structural network. This theory is based on the structure of the poem, the relationship between the signifiers, and reaching the final meaning of the poem. The poem "The Rain Song" (Unshūdat almaṭar), depicts the suffering soul of the poet in his exile, and the conditions of Iraqi society. The readers can discover new meanings every time they read this poem. Furthermore, this poem is full of implicit meanings, symbols and signs. Based on this, the mentioned ode is a suitable text for semiotic analysis.

Methodology

Using the semiotic theory of Michael Riffaterre, this study has discussed the ode "Unshūdat almaṭar" in an analytical-descriptive way. In other words, this research has analyzed the poetic implications of the "Unshūdat almaṭar" ode by carefully extracting Semes, accumulations, descriptive systems, hypograms, and structural networks. The findings of the study indicate that based on Riffaterre's approach, deeper meanings such as love for the homeland, struggle, hope for change, and progress can be taken from the ode "Anshouda Al Matar". The heuristic reading of this ode shows that the poet is trying to express his longing by describing his lover's eyes with romantic words. Riffaterre believes that the text of the poem is a closed and finite system of signs, the meaning of the poem is discovered implicitly and indirectly, the language of the poem is non-grammatical, the literariness of the poem is the result of the interaction of the reader with the text, the reader discovers the hidden and internal connection of text elements -in the form of accumulations, descriptive systems, and hypograms- by heuristic and retroactive reading, and after receiving lexical and conceptual associations, reaches the structure or matrix of the poem. It aims to answer these questions:

What are the most frequent semiotic aspects of the ode written by Matar? What are the effects of heuristic and retroactive reading of Riffaterre on discovering the deep meanings of the ode written by Al Matar?

Discussion and Results

The imagery in the text of the ode "Anshouda Al Matar", which is based on romanticism and realism, implies that the reader encounters a wide range of romantic words in the field of nature in this poem, in other words, the poet in this poem describes the beloved which is a symbol of the homeland and is related to authenticity, life, and existence and the land of Iraq, revolution, change, birth and new dynamics.

This ode has many aesthetic signs, and the ordinary reader is influenced by the true emotion and beautiful music of the poem, he becomes in tune with the poet to understand the explicit meaning of the poem, which is a mixture of sadness and hope. However, the literary skilled reader tries to identify the non-grammatical elements of the poem, including implicit meanings and symbols, and to explain the internal relationship of the text elements in the form of accumulations and descriptive systems, to reach the secondary meanings of the poem.

This ode has four accumulations including the meanings of beloved, nature, rain, and sea, and three descriptive systems with the central cores of homeland, oppression, and hope for change and transformation. Examining the accumulations and descriptive systems of the poem has highlighted the place of the homeland, struggle, revolution, creating change and hope for the future in the poem, and many indirect linguistic signs in the poem can be discovered by reading it several times. For example, the words "boat and boat" have the implicit meaning of movement, change, and transition from one stage to the next.

Rain is one of the most frequent symbols of this poem, which can carry the concerns of the human soul. This word, as the central word and the origin of the poem, according to other signs of the poem, such as the words of accumulation and the descriptive system, has a meaning- It has deep implications, in other words, rain is life-giving on the one hand and death-causing on the other hand. The ode "Anshudah al-Matar" with definite and possible lexical and semantic hypograms in the textual and intertextual network is influenced by the Holy Quran and the poems of TS Eliot, which emphasizes the matrix and the ultimate meaning of the poem, which is to create motivation and dynamism in the fight against tyranny. In this ode, Siyab has depicted the atmosphere of the political situation, suffocation, death, exile of revolutionaries, and poverty in the style of realism and symbolism, and with his indirect expression, he has depicted many unsaid things in criticizing the situation in Iraq and supporting the revolution.

Conclusion

The heuristic reading of this ode shows that the poet is trying to express his longing by describing his lover's eyes with romantic words. It also shows that the poet is trying to express his longing by describing his lover's eyes with romantic words, But the retroactive reading shows that the poet's beloved is the homeland, and the poet speaks of his love for the homeland in his sojourn and exile and invites his compatriots to fight and stand against tyranny. In this ode, we come across words and combinations that indicate that the purpose of the poet is not only to express explicit meaning or apparent meaning, but each of these words as ungrammatical and permitted elements can lead us to implicit meaning. In this ode, there are four accumulations with four sememes: beloved, nature, rain, and sea, and

three descriptive systems with the cores of homeland, oppression, and hope for change and transformation.

Keywords: Unshūdat almaṭar, semiotics, Riffaterre, heuristic reading, retroactive reading.

References

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