



An Analysis of Talal al-Salti's Poetry Based on Roman Jakobson theory of Linguistic Communication (A Case Study of Two Works of "Lets Rip Your Face Off" and "And I Was Digging in My Chest")

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Goals

This research aims at studying the poems of Talal Al-Salti based on Roman Jakobson's Theory of Communication and dealing with the sextuple functions of language in his poems. Moreover, we seek to assay the quality and exposition of the application of these functions and their influence on the poems of the poet.

Materials and Methods

The present research is based on a descriptive-analytic approach and struggles to reveal the linguistic functions of Talal al-Salti's poetry focusing on two works of the poet, i.e. "Lets Rip Your Face Off" and "And I Was Digging in My Chest". The most important axes to which we will turn in this study are as follows: Emotional, Sympathetic, Exhortative, Referential, Metalinguistic and Literary functions.

Findings

Emotional Function

The emotional function becomes revealed in the depiction of emotions and sensations by the sender (addresser) or the poet:

I am the person who has never belonged to any land/ Apart from her. / I would be drowned in my skin.../ there is no vessel around (Al-Salti, 2020: 11).

The poet has made use of the pronoun "I" at the beginning and resorted to the emotional function which is the same feeling that has led him to write the poem.

Sympathetic Function

In the sympathetic function, the addresser uses different methods in his own message for the attraction of the addressee and being ensured of his attention (Jakobson, 1988: 30, 31). This function is seen in the following elegy:

O'Lord! The sea drowns me/ This will get me drowned/ The wine drowns me/ Will you answer me? (al-Salti, 2020: 120).

The poet uses confession and question for nothing but the supplication to the Lord and asking for help from Him, as if he tells the Divine Essence that "please, pay attention to me, My Lord I am here, don't you see me and hear me?"

Exhortative Function

This function is focused on the addressee and the sender or the addresser in this function relies on the addressee's moods, i.e. jussive and exclamation:

Come on and see/ My eyes are not mine/ Come on.../ You would see a sea and scattered clouds (al-Salti, 2020: 48).

Al-Salti's poems present a method for shifting from the indicative function of the language to the injunctive function that attracts and surprises the reader (Al-Ghazi, 2020: 63).

Referential Function

The addresser in the referential function speaks of a person or thing that is absent in order to send or convey some truths to the addressee:

It is a long time now that he is searching after himself around/ He is searching for a tomorrow that is drowned in yesterday/ he is searching for the songs that are always the fetuses floating through his murmuring (al-Salti, 2020: 139).

Here the poet speaks with the addressee regarding himself in third person mood as if he speaks of some other person. Also we are witness to the literary function in the contradiction of the words used in this text.

Metalinguistic Function

This function explains and defines the words. Therefore, it turns into a linguistic lexicon. The poet explains some of his words as we see below:

Love is like a brook no one is allowed to enter after receiving one (al-Salti, 2020: 4).

Al-Salti in this text has defined the word "love".

Literary Function

This is an aesthetic function that focuses on the message itself:

Your voice is taken and falls into a well/ and your voice comes out of the well wet (al-Salti, 2010: 4).

The poet in the second line makes use of the semantic change as a tool for expression and in this way adds to the technical value and emotional effervescence of his own poetry.

Conclusion

The poet avoids complication in the sympathetic function. Exhortative function has become reflected in those texts the goal of which was laying influence on the Lord and the poet's beloved. The poet has mostly made use of the referential function and absent moods for speaking of oneself.

Key Words

Linguistic Communication Theory, Linguistic Functions, Contemporary Arabic Poetry, Roman Jakobson, Talal al-Salti.

Sources

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