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Kiswahili as a Privileged Mother Tongue in Kenya: The Pros and Cons

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Abstract

In Kenya, Kiswahili is usually regarded either as a subject in schools; a national language, an official language or a lingua franca. One of the most peripheral issues in discussions on Kiswahili is that it is a mother language of a specific community in the country. Kiswahili as a mother language is usually only alluded to when discussing Kiswahili dialectology. Broadly then, Kiswahili is used in education, legislature, judiciary, publishing sector, media and research. It is thus obvious that Kiswahili is a most privileged language in Kenya. It is this privileged status of a Kenyan mother language that this paper seeks to explore. The paper further examines the pros and cons that arise as a result of Kiswahili being in this privileged position.

Keywords

Kiswahili, mother language, Kenya, education, privileged, status.

The Pragmatics of Processing Figurative Language in Kenyan English

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Abstract

In the course of conventional speech, speakers may use figurative speech as testament of their mastery in language whilst intending to communicate messages with an extra layer of meaning beyond that which can be expressed by the same figure of speech. This extra layer of meaning has the possibility of variant interpretation. For instance, in English, if someone said, “Professors are egg heads,” the immediate interpretive presumption would be to imagine a studious even fastidious intellectual. However, the same figure of speech in certain situations may be interpreted differently as that of a persnickety and pedantic individual. This latter interpretation can be used to strengthen a negative belief about Professors, to add new information regarding them in particular contexts or in fact contradict a speaker’s positive assertions about Professors. In each case, the use of figurative speech would have communicated any one of the aforementioned three social messages relevant to an ongoing discourse. Further, using figurative speech may also express other social and affective information that is far more complex than non-figurative language like saying “Professors are great thinkers.” This paper identifies three variables that impact on the sway of meaning in figurative language i.e. relationship dialectics of the participants, the occasion and lastly the subject of the discourse. From these three variables, illustrations from varying and disparate social situations will be used to show how different pragmatic messages are inferred from figurative language. It is these inferences that will demonstrate how figurative language can express additional pragmatic and rhetorical meanings beyond language that is non-figurative. Such a demonstration will show the importance of trade-offs between cognitive effort and cognitive effects in pragmatic theory of figurative language use and understanding. The chosen illustrative examples of figurative language are direct transliterations from various vernacular languages in Kenya to the English language. The paper argues that such transliteration is part of an assimilation and integration process of the English language by Kenyan English speakers which creates a distinct English dialect that is unique, bearing vernacular influence and manifestly different from the Anglo-Saxon tradition.

Keywords

Figurative language, relational dialectics, deixis, Kenyan English, face, cognitive effort/effects.

Natural Disasters as Creators of Deviants: The Question of Authority in *Mother India*

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Abstract

A geographical area transforms into a place when human beings start residing here and toil to bring about developments for their existence. Along with developments arise the various disciplining institutions for guiding and policing the people. Due to the concentration of power in the hands of a minority section residing there, conflicts constantly take place between the authority and the deviant. In certain circumstances, there arise events destroying both the authority and the deviants, thus bringing little or no distinction between the two. Mehaboob Khan's 1957 movie *Mother India* presents such an event when a deluge converts the already existing place back into a space, destroying any kind of distinction between the powerful and the powerless. The movie presents before its audience the female protagonist Radha, whose effort again transforms the destroyed land into a place. In the process of transformation, there is the revival of both the authority and the other, the latter attempting at completely uprooting the system. The film portrays the male protagonist Birju as the deviant other who kills the feudal lord in his attempt at bringing about a revolutionary change in the village. But contrary to his expectations, the internalized subordination of the villagers kills him as they do not consider the authority's power as destructive. .

Keywords

Alien, authority, deviant, labelling, primary and secondary deviance, place, revolutionary and reformist changes, space.

Endosulfan Tragedy as an Instance of Slow Violence: An Ecocritical Reading of Ambikasuthan Mangad's *Enmakaje*

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Abstract

Climate change and other ecological catastrophes that the global world confronts today are mostly the repercussion of the disruption of the close nexus between man and nature. Because of his avarice and callousness, man considers himself superior, and unscrupulously exploit and destroy nature. Ambikasuthan Mangad's famous novel *Enmakaje*, published in Malayalam in 2009, focuses on the real incident of Endosulfan tragedy that occurred in Kasargod district in North Kerala. This novel is also translated into English as *Swarga: A Post Human Tale* by J.Devika in 2017. As the title of the English translation indicates, the novel delineates the gradual transformation of the beautiful, heaven-like village or Swarga into an uninhabitable land or rather a hell. *Enmakaje* is the name of the village where this terrible tragedy occurred. From the perspective of Postcolonial Ecocriticism, the paper analyses the extent of havoc done to the innocent villagers and to the physical environment by the agents of neo-colonialism such as pesticide lobbies and corporate multinational companies with the assistance of the state. The ecocide, which is an instance of slow violence, happened as a result of the unholy tie up between the capitalistic powers and the bureaucratic powers. The novel is thus a powerful outcry against the man-made ecological disasters; it also reminds us of the need to develop a deep ecological awareness.

Keywords

Ecocriticism, postcolonial ecocriticism, slow violence, neo colonialism, ecocide.

Portrayal of Man, Nature and Environment: An Ecocritical Reading of Malayalam Films from 2013 to 2019

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Abstract

This paper attempts to critically analyse, evaluate and interpret a few Malayalam films based on Ecocriticism and how these films influenced Malayali spectators in regaining a sense of belonging with nature and how it inspired them to explore the world around. Ecocriticism, a young arrival in the realm of theory, critically analyses and interpret texts, films and other modes of literature in the backdrop of Ecology. Filmmakers and scriptwriters are keen and ready with their microscopes to delve deep into some issues that matter. The crises of the moment are addressed by them and they do believe in the necessity to spread awareness among the masses. Since films are powerful audio-visual tools that leave deep impressions in the consciousness of the spectators, it can be brilliantly used to bring positive changes in the society. And now, in the dawn of twenty-first century, films address many ecological issues and concerns and they greatly believe in spreading awareness regarding the need to preserve, conserve and protect our environment since it is the need of the hour. And Malayalam film industry, in particular, received critical appreciations for its charisma, enthusiasm, deliberate attempts and tremendous efforts in depicting and portraying films with ecological themes. A number of Malayalam films like *Neelaakaasham Pachakkadal Chuvanna Bhoomi* (2013), *Mosayile Kuthira Meenukal* (2014), *Charlie* (2015), *Aanandam* (2016), *Lakshyam* (2017), *Carbon* (2018), *Ambily* (2019) and many more that came in the second decade of the century helped the audience to connect with nature and surroundings. Though these films were not strictly Eco-films, they helped in spreading message that happiness is the product of the realisation of the place you are in and the environment that we choose to be in. These films were crucial in bringing a sense of realisation and was pivotal in connecting man with nature.

Keywords

Film, ecology, ecocriticism, consciousness, Malayalam film industry, spectators.

Communicating Climate Change: Theory and Language

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Abstract

Since anthropogenic climate change first emerged on the public agenda in the mid-to-late 1980s, public communication of climate change and the question of how to communicate it most effectively have witnessed a steep rise. This paper will synthesise what is known, presumed, and still unknown about how to effectively communicate this problem. The paper will also focus on key aspects of the communication process---purpose and scope of the communication, audience, framing, messages, messengers, modes and channels of communication, and assessing the outcomes and effectiveness of a communication. The elements are placed in relationship to several contextual factors that affect the communication process. It will also discuss the importance and difficulties inherent in talking about climate change to different types of publics using various types of communication tools and strategies. The paper will closely examine the role of language--metaphors, words, strategies, frames, and narratives--in conveying climate change issues to stakeholders.

Keywords

Climate change, communication, narratives, science communication.

Climate Change: Shift from an Environmental to a Political Issue

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Abstract

This paper would be an attempt to reveal how climate change has become more of a political issue now rather than environmental, in the light of recent climate strikes. The previous year had witnessed a striking movement which was marked unusual as well as outstanding in the issue regarding climate change. The school strike “Fridays for Future” led by a 16-year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, was followed by over 1,00,000 students all over the world, raising slogans saying “Climate Justice!” “Declare climate Emergency,” “Save the Planet,” “Every Small Action Matters” and “Science, Not Silence.” The shift of climate change issues from an environmental viewpoint to a political problem was new to us. It was shocking to see the decision-makers themselves criticising climate activists and their strikes with clear political agendas. Students’ walking out from schools to raise awareness to the climate crisis was considered “attention-seeking” by political leaders. At the same time, nations decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol although they were countries with high carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions. We also saw the differences and disagreements of political powers on the topic becoming pure hypocrisy when they misused social media platforms for personal attacks. Any peaceful protest that demands action against the changing climate issue needs to be encouraged amidst political differences because the future of this planet lies in the hands of younger generations. This study would make an effort to state the urgent need to declare a climate emergency and to limit climate change, by studying different political perspectives on the subject.

Keywords

Climate change, climate strike, environmental protest, climate action, greenhouse gas emissions, climate emergency, Paris Agreement, political differences.

Aspects of Climate Fiction in Tanushree and Ajay Podder's *Decoding the Ferolina Files*

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Abstract

Climate Fiction (Cli-Fi), a new genre of Sci-Fi, is usually set in the past, present, or the near future and depicts a radically different environment due to the advancing global warming. It reminds the readers of the severity of climate change while persuading them to imagine the impact of climatological change on human life and perceptions. *Decoding the Ferolina Files*, the debut novel of Tanushree and Ajay Podder, discusses the conspiracy of weather manipulation. The novel deals with a new weapon of mass-destruction weather. The present paper attempts to unravel the central themes of *Decoding the Ferolina Files* (2019), a Cli-fi novel by Tanushree and Ajay Podder

Keywords

Climate Fiction, climate change, weather manipulation, climate control, dystopian, post-apocalyptic world.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Climate change has been universally recognised as a global problem. Environmental degradation and its inescapable aftermath have reached its zenith which warrant immediate interventions for sustainable development policies both globally and locally. By adopting 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals UN presents a roadmap for future development by eradicating poverty, achieving environmental sustainability, peace and prosperity. Climate change requires concerted global effort as it is an environmental issue. This paper highlights the need to consider climate change as the biggest challenge to sustainable development as it triggers multiple negative effects on the planet. The natural environment provides all fundamental services, without which life on Earth would not be possible. But humans misuse these services without any future concern. This has necessitated the need to address the alarming scenario and the way we have to wisely use natural resources and the accompanying lifestyle adopted by us. Sustainable development is the only solution to meet basic human needs, integrating environmental development and protection, achieving equality, ensuring social well-being and maintaining ecological integrity. The fundamental principles and goals for sustainable development have helped humans to adapt to the limitations of the environment to an extent.

Keywords

Climate change, sustainable development, Agenda 2030, future, natural environment.

Hijras in Celluloid: An Indian Perspective

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This paper focuses on the problems faced by the Hijra community as portrayed in three Indian films in three different languages: *Ardhanaari* (Malayalam), *Kanchana* (Tamil) and *Tamanaa* (Hindi). As films are the reflection of society it points to the atrocities faced by the transgender people. Through this paper an attempt has been made to look into the issues that surround the eunuchs and the attitude of society towards them. It penetrates into the questions of identity crisis faced by the third gender community.

Keywords

Indian films, transgender, society, laws.

A Study on Automotive Emission in Three Different Localities in Kerala

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Abstract

Vehicular air pollution is one of the serious problems that the humanity is facing today. Some studies report that automobiles are one of the major contributors to climate change today. Though sustainable development is aimed at by all the nations including India, the prevailing situations seem to be not very promising. A country needs to balance its responsibilities between environment and development. The problem of unethical automotive emission is usually encountered in the Indian roads, to the dismay of many citizens. Follow-up or remedial measures seem to be pending and neglected in day to day experiences. The present study on the level of automotive emissions by different types of vehicles in three different localities in Kerala throws light on the degree to which it is true. The results indicate that the level of emission of automobile exhaust between the areas and that between the different vehicle types is statistically significant. Automotive emissions could be reduced if certain aspects are taken care of.

Keywords

Vehicles, automobile exhaust, air pollution, environment, pollutant.

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