



RESEARCH PAPER

A Study of the Narrative and Discourse Strategies in Rabindranath Tagore *Kabuliwala*

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PAPER INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Received: February 13, 2022</p> <p>Accepted: April 10, 2022</p> <p>Online: April 15, 2022</p> <p>Keywords: Accent, Dialect, Kabuliwala, Narrator, Point, Rabindranath, Stylistics, View</p> <p>*Corresponding Author: rubinamasum@gmail.com</p>	<p>The qualitative study aims at exploring the way Rabindranath Tagore projected Narrative stylistic in his short story <i>Kabuliwala</i>. This study provides an overview of Narrative Stylistic. Paul Simpson Narrative Stylistic is taken as a theoretical framework. The research focuses on the medium of communication between the reader and narrator in <i>Kabuliwala</i>. This study reveals that the events of the story are depicted from narrator's point of view or other characters. The research paper also finds out that event and action happened and arrange in order. The use of language with accent and dialect is also examined. This thesis has analysed short story <i>Kabuliwala</i> through narrative stylistics where researchers have taken narrator along with major characters who fulfilled all the requirement of the theory. The methodology used for this research paper is descriptive approach and analytical method. This qualitative research finds out how narrative stylistics is portrayed in the short story <i>Kabuliwala</i>.</p>

Introduction

This current study is qualitative analysis which appeals to explore the narrative stylistics theory with the framework of Paul Simpson in the short story *Kabuliwala* by Rabindranath Tagore. This paper discusses the six basic units of narrative stylistics by Paul Simpson in the short story *Kabuliwala*. Textual medium is the first one where the medium of communication between the narrator and reader would be analysed. Sociolinguistic code is the second basic unit where the historical, linguistic and cultural setting of the language with its accent and dialect would be discussed by the researcher. Action and event is the third basic unit where development of the character and the process of doing, saying, thinking by the character during the action and event in story would be analysed. Point of view is the fourth basic unit of Narrative Stylistic theory where the mode of narration will conform that the narrator is first, second or third person. It would also explore that the event of the story is depicted from narrator's point of view or characters. Textual structure is the fifth basic unit where the story organization and arrangement in a narrative would also be analysed. Intertextuality is the last basic unit where the use of allusions would be discussed.

Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) was a Bengali who is globally known poet, philosopher, writer, educator and artist. He was a writer of many short stories, poems, essays, novels and plays. As he was a native Bengali writer who started writing from his childhood. Once after the translation of his few poems and stories he become known to India and west. He was awarded with a Nobel Price. His contribution to the field of literature is

based on a large section. He was the reason behind the change of impression in Bengali literature. Many of his work was made international and considered successful for finding a number of readers.

He began to write short stories at the age of ten. His short stories mainly reflect the society he lived in. He majority of the time wrote about the social issues of a common and poor man. Some of his short stories which are famous around the globe are Pashan', 'Atottju', 'Haimanti' 'Kabuliwala' and 'Musalmanir Golpo', etc

Mostly his work including novels, short stories and poetry are written in narrating style. Which was considered hard to be understood by a reader and writers of his age. His work has a unique style of narration. Many of his work are narrative specially his novel 'Sheshar Kobita' and 'Kabuliwala'. By reading Tagore's narrative text reader understand that he/she is having a communication story.

Kabuliwala is a famous short story by Rabindranath Tagore. The title of the story is named after the man Rehmun who is from Kabul. The narrator's daughter Mini called him *Kabuliwala* which shows a belongingness to one state. The writer medium of communication with his reader is through this short narrative. Mini's father is the first person narrator. The narrator describe himself as a "Bengali Babu". By profession narrator is a writer.

When the story starts the narrator is talking to his five years old daughter, Mini. She is showed as a talkative girl. She sees Kabuliwala going pass in the street. She calls him "Kabuliwalla", "Kabuliwala". Kabuliwala is a dry friuts seller from Afghanistan. Upon hearing a call he enters in the house. She runs into another room for getting scared of Kabuliwala. She thinks that the large bag of Kabuliwala is full of kidnaped kids. Few days later, narrator finds his daughter sitting with Kabuliwala. Narrator notices a lot of nuts with Mini. He is not happy with Kabuliwala for giving his daughter too much nuts. Mini's father than gives money to Kabuliwala which he takes. Later Mini's mother discover money with Mini. Upon inquiring by her father Mini tells that Kabuliwala gave it to me. During this time Mini and Kabuliwalla become good friends. Kabuliwala use to pay his visit to see Mini. They both spend time and joking around. Mini's mother is scared of Kabuliwalla. In her view Kabuliawala seems to be a kidnapper. Now it was a time for Kabuliwala to go back home and collect his debt. One morning Mini's father sees Kabuliwala in handcuffs. Upon demanding to know about the matter he Comes to know that one of their neighbour was in debt for a Rampuri Shawl. When the neighbour denied for the debt both started arguments. In a result Kabuliwala stabs the neighbour. Kabuliwala is then send out to jail for many years. After many years when Kabuliwala Is free from jail. He goes directly to Mini's house. It is a day of Mini's wedding. She is all dressed up in wedding dress. Firstly, Mini's father could not recognize him. But later he recognizes him through his smile. Kabuliwala wanted to meet Mini. Mini meet him in her wedding look. She also could not recognize him. As she went back Kabuliwala slouch on the ground. He might be thinking of his own daughter. Who he left back in kabul. Mini's father gives him some money to reach back to kabul.

The research paper is channelized by a theory. Theory is required for many purposes. These includes depiction, invention, analysis, exploration, interpretation and discussion of data of the text. The theory of Narrative Stylistics by Paul Simpson is used in this research for the purpose of analysis. The six basic units of Paul Simpson will be analysed by the researcher on the text. Paul Simpson gave a complete frame work in his book "Stylistic".

Literature Review

This section of the research thesis is based on the literature review. Here researcher will discuss the previous research work which is already done on the short story *Kabuliwala* and theoretical framework of Paul Simpson narrative stylistics.

Jaya (2020) "Rabindranath Tagore's *Kabuliwala*: An Exemplary Tribute to Filial Love" states that this short story is loved based. Throughout the course of the story a tribute to filial love is admirably presented. Firstly, the love bond between father (narrator) and daughter is showed. Afterwards the love relationship between *Kabuliwala* and Mini is an example of filial love. *Kabuliwala* daughter is not though present in the story but her love bond with father has surely attracted reader towards them. The story is really heart touching about all these filial live. (2)

Sankar (2016) "Hallucination on the Society in the Short Stories of Tagore: A Select Study" discusses the Tagore short stories. He states that Tagore short stories have a depiction of different societies. He discusses majority of Tagore's short stories where main concentration is on society. The characters of Tagore's short stories are built up with strong relation to society however their social sector is completely different. The researcher further states that the title of Tagore's short stories are proving a good behaviour of characters. Tagore first study about the society later he wrote about it showing the same image of society and community with their responsibilities. At the end researcher concludes that the characters like Mini's father, Rahmun, Dadababu, king and Ratan are doing the real society struggle for their tradition and faith. (1)

Lal (2010) "Tagore, Imaging the 'Other': Reflections on The Wife's Letter & *Kabuliwala*" here in this article researcher is examining the concept of "Others" in Tagore's two short stories *The Wife's Letters* and *Kabuliwala*. His work look into the portrayal of two main characters the married bengoli woman and *Kabuliwala*. The term 'Other' is constructed by Tagore. Whether male or female both (*kabuliwala* and *begoli* woman) were foreignizing. *Bengoli* woman is doing wifely duties and on the other hand poor *kabuliwala* is trading on the roads of *culcata*. (1)

Khaleeludin (2021) "THE THEME OF PAIN OF SEPARATION IN TAGORE SHORT STORY *KABULIWALLA*" this thesis states that in *Kabuliwalla* by Tagore focuses on the major theme of pain of separation. The leading character of short story *Rahmun* left his daughter and work as a trader in *culcata*. He sees the reflection of his own daughter in five years old *Mini*. He had a very beautiful connection and bond of friendship with *Mini*. Which takes this portrayal to another level of human relations. Researcher further states that the after reading the text of *Kabuliwalla* reader has a provoke his emotions about father daughter love. According to researcher the main theme of Tagore short story is pain and separation. (38)

Foschini (2012) states *Afghanistan in World Literature (III): Kabuliwalas of the Latter Day* states that the writer has done wrong to the character of *Afghani* who named his short story. Narrator's wife is calling him a kidnapper. Researcher is angry at the way humanism is thrown away in this short story. The *Kabuliwala* has left his homeland and he has to collect his debt for which he is ill-treated. He is of the view that people who are seen as sailor in the streets of *culcata* are not often *Afghan*. (1)

Hanifi "(2018) shows *The Kabuliwala* as a dilemma between the state and migratory history of the world"-*Shah Mahmoud Hanifi*" took the short story *Kabuliwala* of Tagore as a preference to talk about the people of South Asia. He states that trade, culture, religion, commerce is the reason behind the migration of South Asia's people. He took *Afghanistan* as an example to talk about the migration in South Asia. (1)

Narrative Stylistics

Paul Simpson theory of Narrative Stylistic theory is based on six basic units. Textual medium is the first one where the medium of communication between the narrator and reader would be analyzed. Sociolinguistic code is the second basic unit where the historical, linguistic and cultural setting of the language with its accent and dialect would be discussed by the researcher. Action and event is the third basic unit where development of the character and the process of doing, saying, thinking by the character during the action and event in story would be analyzed. Point of view is the fourth basic unit of Narrative Stylistic theory where the mode of narration will conform that the narrator is first, second or third person. It would also explore that the event of the story is depicted from narrator's point of view or characters. Textual structure is the fifth basic unit where the story organization and arrangement in a narrative would also be analyzed. Intertextuality is the last basic unit where the use of allusions would be discussed.

In the light of all these basic units the researcher finds out the literature review of the narrative stylistic given below: Ufot (2014) "Narrative Stylistics: A study of the Narrative and Discourse strategies in Omotoso's Just.

Before Dawn" states that the Paul Simpson narrative statistics and discourse incorporates the theoretical postulations in Just before the dawn. The researcher also discussed six basic units of narrative stylistic which are identified by Paul Simpson. In the light of Paul Simpson, the researcher has successfully analysed his work Just Before the dawn. (28)

Choirany & Syarif " A Narrative Stylistic Analysis of Association Press (AP) News" stated that news has many categories. One of them is narrative which contain the use of nine narrative component and six narrative domains. Textual medium, sociolinguistic code, point of view, action and event, textual structure and intertextuality are those six stylistic domains. (16)

Al-Alami (2019) "Point of View in Narrative" shed light on the only one unit of Paul Simpson theory of narrative stylistic analysis. Researcher states that the stylistic is highly studied through point of view. It discusses types of narrators in the text. He further added that the most important type of narrator are first-person, second-person and third person. (915)

Theoretical Framework

Paul Simpson gave six basic units for the analysis of narrative stylistics. Those six basic units are arranged and organized by Paul Simpson in his book "Stylistic": A source book for students. This framework will be applied to the study of narrative stylistic in the short story Kabuliwala by Rabindranath Tagore. The complete framework of Paul Simpson "Narrative Stylistic" is given below:

Textual Medium (Story)

This means a physical medium of communication through which a narrative or story is narrated like novel drama short story etc.

Sociolinguistic Code (Language)

This explains the historical, cultural and linguistic setting of the language which comprises a narrative. It also pinpoints the time and place of narrative. The sociocultural

context of a narrative is reflected in it. The collection of accent and dialect utilize in a story it could also be ascribed to characters or narrator in the narrative.

Characterization (Action and Event)

It tells that how the development of a character advances with the action and event of the narrative. The process of saying, doing and thinking is attributed to narrator and characters.

Characterization (Point of View)

This explores the link between mode of narration: It tells or conform that the narrator is first, second or third person. It also explores the characters or narrator point of view: It gives a specification that the event of the story is minded from the characters or narrators' perspective.

Textual Structure (Order)

It accounts for the story organization. It focuses on how individual narrative is arrange and organized in a narrative.

Intertextuality (Other Text)

This one component is technique is reserved for "Allusion". It refers to the variety or varieties of language through which story development occurs.

Material Methods

The present methodology used throughout in the research will be descriptive and analytical. It seeks to investigate important aspects of narrative stylistics by Paul Simpson by subjugating the short story *Kabuliwala* by Rabindranath Tagore in keen analysis.

Descriptive Approach

In descriptive approach material from the short story is gathered including characters, events and setting. The researchers describe everything in the text in order to see that how the character started what happen in the middle and which thing leads them to a critical situation. This method depends upon the characters that what are their characteristics how are they build. As setting, time and place key role in the event of the short story so descriptive tell us all about it. This method makes us familiar with the events and incidents in the short story. For example, why this thing happened to this character. There is a great importance of this method in the analysis of the text.

Analytical Method

The analytical method explores the literary text which focuses on how the creative work is built. This evaluation is

Contented through breaking the text down into its essential elements such as characters; events and setting as this way make literary text easier for the reader to acknowledge. For the clear study of literary text every component is studied separately. Researcher then studies these concepts separately in order to know the relationship between components. Researcher also studies the effect on the character's feelings, actions and attitude through nearby environment. This approach of analytical method gives a chance to reader to find out what writer want to give in theme and main idea. When the reader is done with the reading he/she will give a conclusion that whether the writer has succeeded in job or not.

Sample of the study

The sample of the study was Rabindranath Tagore short story *Kabuliwala*. It was explored thematically and technically in order to prove the main predicate of this research

Textual Analysis

Here the researcher has taken the text of the short story *Kabuliwala* where researcher has analyzed the text by applying Paul Simpson theory of Narrative Stylistic. This theory is based on six basic units.

Textual medium is the first one where the medium of communication between the narrator and reader would be analyzed.

Sociolinguistic code is the second basic unit where the historical, linguistic and cultural setting of the language with its accent and dialect would be discussed by the researcher.

Action and event is the third basic unit where development of the character and the process of doing, saying, thinking by the character during the action and event in story would be analyzed.

Point of view is the fourth basic unit of Narrative Stylistic theory where the mode of narration will conform that the narrator is first, second or third person. It would also explore that the event of the story is depicted from narrator's point of view or characters.

Textual structure is the fifth basic unit where the story organization and arrangement in a narrative would also be analyzed. Intertextuality is the last basic unit where the use of allusions was discussed.

Textual Analysis of the Text

The theory of Narrative Stylistics by Paul Simpson is used for the purpose of analysis. The six basic units of Paul Simpson will be analyzed by the researcher on the text. Paul Simpson gave a complete frame work in his book "Stylistic". Every basic unit is analyzed separately.

Textual Medium

This means a physical medium of communication through which a narrative or story is narrated like novel drama short story etc.

The textual medium of Kabuliwala, as the study has already observed, is narrative short story. In which past felt experience is shared by the narrative. The medium of communication between the narrator and the reader is short story. So the short story Kabuliwala is a medium through which narrator communicated to reader.

Sociolinguistic code

This explains the historical, cultural and linguistic setting of the language which comprises a narrative. It also pinpoints the time and place of narrative. The sociocultural context of a narrative is reflected in it. The collection of accent and dialect utilize in a story it could also be ascribed to characters or narrator in the narrative.

I saw my tinny daughter sitting on the bench next to the door and speaking nonstop with the Kabuliwala who was park next to her feet and listening to her with a grin and interjection now and then in broken Bengali to give his opinion. (Tagor , 2)

The above lines show that language is used as a source to express. Kabuliwala use of language in his context to frame the narrative. His broken Bengali is sociolinguistic code through which this narrative is framed.

Rehmat would tell the girl in his characteristic thick accent Missy you should never go to In-laws'. (Tagore , 2)

The only character that is showed who has a difference of accent and dialect. The above lines Kabuliwala is calling Mini as Missy. Here the use dialect and accent is ascribed to the character of Kabuliwala. The narrator has successfully showed in narrative the difference of language because of dialect and accent.

Adding an unnecessary nasal tone to the word Rahamat could roar "Hanti". (Tagore , 2)

Here the narrator again ascribes the use of different accent and dialect to the character Kabuliwala. In Bengali language an elephant is called as "hati" but not being native Kabuliwala called it "hanti". So again by the same character different accent and dialect is used.

Before I could begin to enlighten her on the difference between languages. (Tagore , 1)

Here the narrator himself is giving an answer to his daughter about the difference of language does occur in different areas. This means this short story has a linguistic setting where the narrator is just focusing on the language.

Dad our sentry Ramdayal doesn't even know how to pronounce the word crow. (Tagore , 1)

Here five years old Mini comes to her father and says that their sentry is pronouncing a crow wrongly. Mini has no idea about the difference between languages and accent and dialect do exist. Narrator again clarified about the accent and dialect.

Characterization (Event and Action)

It tells that how the development of a character advances with the action and event of the narrative. The process of saying, doing and thinking is attributed to narrator and characters

My five years old daughter....; She was to get married during the puja hoildyas. (Tagore , 1-6)

When the narrative started Mini is just five years old but with the development of the action and events the character also advances. At the end she is seen as an adult who is getting married. Same is the case with Kabuliwala. In the middle of the story Kabuliwala is taken to jail and at the end after eight years he us set free.

Mini mother is naturally a timid person. Whenever she hears a slight noise from the street, she thinks all the triples of the world are rushing together towards our house. (Tagore, 3)

Event and action also includes that what are the character or narrator "thinking". Here the narrator tells about the thinking of the character of mother. What she thinks about is that every triple is rushing toward her house. So that is what a character of mother thinks.

One morning as I had just started writing the seventeenth chapter of my novel. (Tagore, 1)

Event and action also includes that what are the character or narrator "doing". Here is the narrator who is writing his novel. He is working on the seventeenth chapter. So this this expresses that what is narrator doing. *'Can't I see the girl for a moment'? (Tagore, 5)*

Event and action also includes that what are the character or narrator "saying". Here Kabuliwala is saying that that he wants to see a little girl Mini who grew up. And now she is getting married. Kabuliwala is saying that he wants to see Mini.

Characterization (Point Of View)

This explores the link between mode of narration: It tells or conform that the narrator is first, second or third person. It also explores the characters or narrator point of view: It gives a specification that the event of the story is minded from the characters or narrator's perspective.

My five years old daughter Mini is a chatty girl and likes to talk all day long. (Tagore, 1)

This explore that the Mini's father is the first-person narrator. He used the word "My" which is singular first person pronoun. So it is conformed that the narrator is a first person not second or third.

She was not free of suspicion about the Kabuliwal , Rahamat and nagged me to keep a watchful eye on him. (Tagore, 3)

This element of the theory wants to conform whether the narrator mind his point of view only or the other character too or from both. So here the narrator shared the point of view of Mini's mother. She is suspicion about the Rahamat. That is her point of view.

She had a childish fear that if someone look through the bag of this Afghan man, several living children like herself would be found in there. (Tagore, 1)

Here the narrator shared the point of view of his five years old daughter Mini. Little girl thinks that Afghan man Kabuliwala has kidnap kids in his big bag. So the narrator gave a right of opinion or point of view to his all character.

But being more Modern, we chose not to load our daughter mind with precocious thought at such tender age. (Tagore, 2)

Here narrator is giving the point of view of his own along with his wife. Pronoun "We" is used by narrator which is for both of them. So it is conformed that the point of view is mixed in the narrative of Kabuliwala

Textual Structure

It accounts for the story organization. It focuses on how individual narrative is arranged and organized in a narrative.

The short story by Kabuliwala is chronologically ordered. The story is organized and arrange according to narrative proceed. Time shift occur only once where when the Kabuliwala is sent to jail and afterward he is free from there after eight long years. No flash back is seen in the story.

Intertextuality

This one component is technique is reserved for "Allusion". It refers to the variety or varieties of language through which story development occurs.

The last component of the narrative stylistic is intertextuality. Where the technique of allusion is reserved. But here in Kabuliwala no such allusion is given.

Conclusion

This research is qualitative in its nature which deals with the Narrative stylistic framework proposed by Paul Simpson in the short story Kabuliwala by Rabindranath Tagore. The main aim behind this research was to investigate all the aspects of narrative stylistic theory where the medium of communication, language, point of view, event and action, arrangement of narrative and technique of allusion are all analyzed. Short story is the medium of communication between narrator and reader. Language is used with accent and dialects. Unfortunately, the technique of allusion is not found in the text. Point of view is depicted from the perspective of both narrator and character. Action and events happen in order with fully arranged and organized.

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