Examining Deviation from the Standard Language in Adonis's Poetry Using Geoffrey Leech's Linguistic Theory

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Extended Abstract

Problem Statement and Purpose

Linguistic analysis in literature is a relatively recent method that reveals deeper meanings within texts. One key factor in the development of unique literary styles is the intentional breaking of linguistic norms, which gives a work its distinctive voice and makes its language stand out. These norm violations often involve various literary devices that can challenge readers unfamiliar with such departures and sometimes conflict with conventional language rules. The idea of defamiliarization, central to Formalist theory, focuses on renewing how readers perceive words by disrupting familiar linguistic patterns. According to Geoffrey Leech's theory, norm violations disrupt the rules of standard language, producing a distinctive literary style that attracts readers' attention and enhances a text's aesthetic qualities. Leech identifies eight types of norm violations: lexical, syntactic, stylistic, semantic, temporal, dialectal, and phonological. Adonis, a prominent contemporary poet, skillfully uses all these linguistic tools to enrich his poetry and secure its lasting influence. He deliberately incorporates norm violations to convey his poetic vision and engage readers' imagination, inviting them to explore his themes more deeply. This study examines norm violations in Adonis's poetry through a comparative

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approach grounded in Leech's theory, aiming to apply Western literary concepts to Arabic poetry. This method fosters meaningful dialogue between theory, criticism, and comparative literature, while also generating fresh insights in all these areas.

Methodology

The study employs a descriptive-analytical approach with an interdisciplinary outlook. It explores defamiliarization in Adonis's poetry through library research and applies Geoffrey Leech's linguistic theory to analyze deviations from the standard language in the structure of his poems.

Analysis

Stylistics is the study of how language is used in speech or writing by individuals, groups, or texts. It examines choices made across various linguistic levels—such as sound, vocabulary, grammar, meaning, and usage. Stylistics and linguistics are closely interconnected, especially when it comes to analyzing poetry. The standard language refers to the commonly accepted spoken or written form, governed by fixed grammatical rules that are generally followed. However, poets often deliberately break these rules for artistic purposes, a phenomenon that Formalist theory finds particularly significant. Adonis is notable for employing all eight of Leech's categories of norm violation in his poetry. This showcases his imaginative depth and helps reveal the core meanings he aims to express. Therefore, examining Adonis's poems through Leech's theory of norm violation, while taking into account the poet's emotional perspective, offers valuable insights.

Findings

Interdisciplinary studies applying Leech's theory to Adonis's poetry reveal that through defamiliarization, Adonis encourages readers to actively engage with and interpret his work, thereby enhancing its aesthetic impact. All eight types of norm violations identified by Leech are present in his poetry, with semantic violations—such as similes, metaphors, and paradoxes—being the most frequent. These are followed by syntactic, phonological, temporal, stylistic, orthographic, and dialectal deviations. Defamiliarization forms the foundation of Adonis's poetic style, and his

distinctive aesthetic approach has elevated the language of his poetry. As a result, he is recognized as one of Syria's most influential and innovative poets. His conscious departure from the standard language reflects his creative and masterful command of linguistic expression. The presence of all eight categories of norm violations in his work confirms the comprehensive application of Leech's theory. This strategy not only enhances the beauty and emotional impact of his poetry but also challenges readers to reconsider and deepen their understanding of its meanings. Adonis intentionally presents his ideas in unfamiliar and unconventional ways, and Leech's framework helps clarify this approach. Among the norm violations, semantic deviations like similes, metaphors, and paradoxes occur most frequently. Syntactic violations are also prominent, including the placement of the predicate before the subject, the object before the subject, and the separation of incomplete verbs from their related nouns. Examining Adonis's poetry through Leech's lens opens new avenues for interpretation and enriches readers' experiences.

Keywords: Linguistics, Norm Violation, Comparative Analysis, Adonis, Geoffrey Leech.

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