A Linguistic Analysis of Behavioral Adaptations and Communal Values in The Doll's House & A Death in the Stadium

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A B S T R A C T

Despite human beings' inherent knowledge of cultural behaviors, most of the content of cultural practices—especially those in common with other cultural identities—remain unnoticeable. The present research represents a detailed statistical analysis of linguistic elements depicting the nature and unique characteristics of such unnoticeable values that result in cultural diversities in the settings of The Doll's House & A Death in the Stadium. Accordingly, the question under study is whether there exists a set of defined linguistic items representing the social discourse flow and to what extent literary theorists and language practitioners can use them in the comparison of different texts as explanation facts. In fact, in both texts, there are some prominent social values and parallel social conflicts. Three of these social values include wealth, hierarchy, and hegemony all of which are investigated in detail. Having found all representations of these three values in each of the texts, the paper also quantifies the data to have a better understanding of the analyses. Since not all representations of the items were the same regarding their relation to the items, three various coefficients are applied to give them more acceptable weight.

Keywords: behavioral adaptations, communal values, linguistic elements, social values, cultural diversity.

1.   Introduction

The diversity in behavioral adaptations is a unique characteristic of all human beings (Henrich & McElreath, 2003; Jakupov et al., 2012; Kolshansky, 1975; Margaritoiu & Eftimie, 2011). Such behavioral adaptations emerge through cultural practices which are communicated among all community members over generations. To have a better understanding of the nature of such culturally evolved adaptations, some social scientists (Deardorff, 2012; Henrich & McElreath, 2003; Mueller & Pope, 2001), suggest that we need an evaluation of the process of evolution of human social learning along with the evolutionary subtleties of cultural structures within communities. An existing challenge, however, is that in spite of our inherent knowledge of cultural behaviors, most of the content of cultural practices—especially those in common with other cultural identities—remain unnoticeable. The present research represents a detailed

statistical analysis of linguistic elements depicting the nature and unique characteristics of such unnoticeable values which result in cultural diversities in the settings of The Doll's House & A Death in the Stadium.

Since the basic unit of any productive culture and the first element in cultural evolution is "individual", understanding the true nature of cultural diversity and behavioral adaptation lead us to a well-structured analysis of main characters in these short stories. This is mainly because many social theorists (Hutnyk, 2006) suggest that the general belief in communal values is in a close connection with the change in individual identities. In other words, to direct any cultural evolution to the well-being of all community members, individuals need to be reconnected through a set of defined communal values. The second element is the community itself. Its main role is supporting individual recognition processes as it is the only context where individuals feel free to practice their personal capabilities which are different from those in the popular culture (Henrich & McElreath, 2003). Directing any ethno-cultural changes to positive cultural evolutions, community is also capable to strengthen the communal values and interests (Holmes et al., 2003; Northmore & Hart, 2011). Of course, these theorists believe that any community engaged in cultural evolution should be too careful to choose the extents in which it desires to function. For example, engaging people with egalitarian commitment have to be in the same line with respecting democracy and not dictatorship.

With the above-mentioned introduction to the concept of behavioral adaptations and the mutual interaction between individual and community to a well-structured cultural evolution based on communal values, the present research aims to demonstrate an enhanced perception to the nature of any cross-cultural encounter among the characters in The Doll's House & A Death in the Stadium and through a detailed statistical analysis of linguistic elements, clarify the influence of such encounters on sustainable development in the created social lives by Katherine Mansfield and Robert Nathan. To this purpose, cross-cultural encounters between characters in these short stories are perceived as leading entities to one of two opposite assumptions; 1) characters and their socio-cultural beliefs and values are the same or 2) every character is socio-culturally different. Of course, the leading hypothesis for such assumptions is what some scholars (Suryadinata et al., 2003) suggest that close observation of any social activity among various "in-groups" makes it evident that all

individuals—despite their shared values and interests—are inherently different and at the same time practice a set of defined common goods within their intercultural communication. Accordingly, the present paper aims at clarifying the point that to what extent and in which areas, are the characters and their social dealings the same and in which are they different. As mentioned earlier, through a well-designed statistical analysis of linguistic features, such similarities and differences are represented in detail and it is further concluded that how the writers of these short stories have applied such divisions to attain intercultural communication skills in their created microcosms. In a broader sense, the present research intends to represent a well-structured framework for illustrating the extent of similarities and differences between cultural practices which may lead to a constructive negotiation between cultures and result in cultural congruity between two various schools of thought.

Some social theorists (Japakiya, 2008; Kalandides, 2011) suggest that the concept of community causes people feel warmth, friendship and associated to the communal well-beings. Opposed to these scholars, some academics (Bellah, 1995; Volcic, 2011) believe that it may imply the abandonment and cleansing of personal as well as ethnical identities. To a third group of social scientists (Braun, 2010), however, if the term community is to be valuable and useful it must mean something more than small groups like family or workplace. This school of thought perceives community as a social contract which worships both; communal values and individuals' personal beliefs and interests equally (see also; (Bogdan et al., 2012)). Such a consensus community postulates to the fact that individuals perceive themselves as the entities belonging to communitarian social context through a constructive mutual interaction with other community members. In the same line with such ideologies, the present research perceives community as a framework through which characters' values and interests imply a set of defined procedural agreements. Of course, as some scholars (Bellah, 1995; Fernández et al., 2014) suggest, a well-structured community gives room to both, arguments and conflict as well as shared values and interests. Hence, the present paper perceives the created communities by Katherine Mansfield and Robert Nathan as a form of reflective life based on irreversible consensus.

The present research applies a detailed quantitative investigation of linguistic patterns in two distinct literary works and along with a parallel study of various

realizations and representations of behavioral adaptations and communal values, through a detailed statistical analysis, explores the linguistic elements representing the strategies by which both writers direct all actions and dialogues to reinforce certain communal values and resulting cross-cultural coalitions between relatively far cultural identities. The most notable advantage of the present research is its innovation in introducing an interdisciplinary approach to literary criticism from a linguistic perspective.

Since not all authors have the same way of representing communal values and divergences/convergences of social members in their works, there should be some criteria to investigate authors' linguistic instruments used in depicting different communal values and behavioral adaptations of social characters in their works. There seems to be the need of having some objective and quantitative criteria to compare authors' styles in showing social patterns and integrations of thoughts and behaviors in their literary characters.

The present study investigates communal values and linguistic patterns in which these values are shown in two short stories namely, The Doll's House by Katherine Mansfield and A Death at the Stadium by Robert Nathan. The main objective of this investigation is to explore and compare the different styles these authors used to represent the aforementioned social values.

It is supposed that there are some formal linguistic instruments employed by the authors to show social relationships especially communal values and corresponding behaviors of the characters. Accordingly, the question under study is whether there exists a set of defined linguistic items representing the social discourse flow and to what extent literary theorists and language practitioners can use them in the comparison of different texts as explanation facts.

2. Methods and Materials

The data used in this investigation includes two short stories by two famous writers, namely; The Doll's House by Katherine Mansfield and A Death at the Stadium by Robert Nathan. The main reason for choosing these texts was that in both there are some prominent social values and social conflicts on which the two stories are based. Three of these social values include wealth, hierarchy, and hegemony. Having found all representations of these three values in each of the texts, we quantified the data to have a better understanding of the analyses. Since not all representations of the items were the same regarding their relation to the items, we applied some coefficients to give them more acceptable weights. The main coefficient was given to the tokens denotatively showing social values on the basis of Oxford Advanced Dictionary. Finally, the classified and qualified data gathered from both texts are compared to find similarities and differences in the ways the two authors have shown these values in their works.

3. Findings and Results

Since this is a comparative as well as an analyzing study, the results are put in two groups. The first group of the results is related to the analyses done on each of the stories separately. As mentioned previously, each of the stories is investigated to find any item directly or indirectly representing communal values. For doing so, total number of clauses (finite and infinite clauses) in each of the texts is counted and the words/phrases showing communal values in every five sentences are extracted. As it is seen in Table 1, in the story No.1 (The doll's house)

Table 1

Words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 1 (The Doll's House)

Number of Sentences	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	86-90	91-95	96-100	101-105	106-110	111-115	116-120
Words/phrases showing Positive Communal Values	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Words/phrases showing Negetive Communal Values	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7	2	1	2	5	4	0	0	1

Number of Sentences	121-125	130-134	131-135	136-140	141-145	146-150	151-155	156-160	161-165	166-170	171-175	176-180	181-185	186-190	191-195	196-200	201-205	206-210	211-215	216-220	221-225	226-230	231-235	236-239
Words/phrases showing Positive Communal Values	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Words/phrases showing Negative Communal Values	3	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	4	1	3	0

Figure 1 shows how textual representations of communal values have made the total construction of discourse and how representations of positive and negative communal values compete with each other in the flow of discourse.

Figure 1

The flow of discourse regarding words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 1 (The Doll's House)
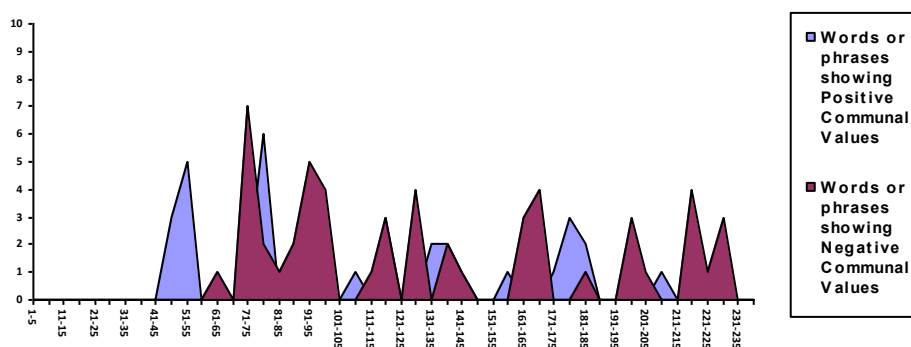

Figure 1 not only depicts different parts of the text that have items showing communal values, but also shows the patterns these items have in the text. The story starts with the background discourse and after about 40 clauses, a considerable use of items having positive communal values in their contents is applied by the author; then a parallel use of both positive and negative items goes on with more weight on the latter and finally the story ends with considerable use of negative items.

As it was mentioned earlier, each of these items had taken a coefficient value on the basis of existing denotative, connotative or no formal semantic relation to the concept of coalition—referring OED. Applying these coefficients, the affecting distribution of each item would be different from what is shown in Figure 1. In Figure 2 the affecting distribution of each item after applying the corresponding coefficients depending on the degree of explicitness of the items. Table 2 shows the number of items representing communal values in the story No.1, with different values.

Table 2

Words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 1 with values 1-3.

Words or phrases showing Communal Values In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House)	Items with the value 3 In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House) (having Communal Values in their denotative meaning on the basis of OED).	Items with the value 2 In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House) (having Communal Values in their connotative meaning on the basis of OED)	Items with the value 1 In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House) (having Communal Values in their surrounding context)
Number of Items representing Positive Communal Values In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House)	4	13	31
Number of Items representing Negative Communal Values In the story No. 1 (The Doll's House)	7	19	43

Table 3 and Figure 2 show the percentage of each of the two items in the story No.1.

Table 3

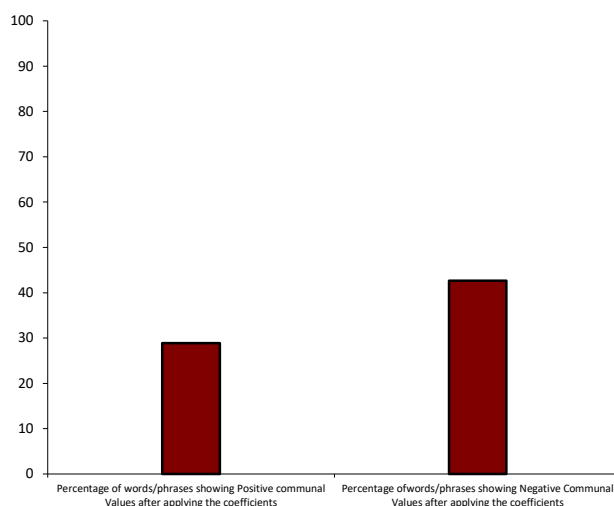*Words or Phrases Showing Positive Communal Values (Story No. 1)*

Description	Total Number	Percentage
Words or phrases showing Positive Communal Values after applying the coefficients	69	28.87%
Words or phrases showing Negative Communal Values after applying the coefficients	102	42.67%

For better understanding of the distributions of the items in each story, the data related to the frequencies of representation of each item over the text is shown in a diagrammatic view. As it is seen in figure 2, items representing negative communal values play a more considerable role in the flow of socio-cultural discourse in the story No.1.

Figure 2

Percentage of words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 1

Having finished initial analysis on the first story, we investigated the story No. 2 by the same analyses. First the frequency of items showing positive/negative communal values all over the text was calculated. Table 4 shows the results of this analysis.

Table 4

Words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 2 (A death in the stadium)

Number of Sentences	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	41-45	46-50	51-55	56-60	61-65	66-70	71-75	76-80	81-85	86-90
Words or phrases showing Positive Communal Values	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	5	0	1	1	0	1	2
Words or phrases showing Negetive Communal Values	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Number of Sentences	91-95	96-100	101-105	106-110	111-115	116-120	121-125	130-134	131-135	136-140	141-145	146-150	151-155	156-160	161-165	166-170	171-175	176-180

| Words or phrases showing Positive Communal Values | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Words or phrases showing Negetive Communal Values | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Figure 3 shows different patterns positive and negative items have in the flow of the discourse of the story No.2. (A Death in the Stadium) as it's shown in this figure, the text starts and ends having negative communal values and positive items are just scattered in the middle of the text.

Figure 3

The flow of discourse regarding words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 2 (The death in the stadium)
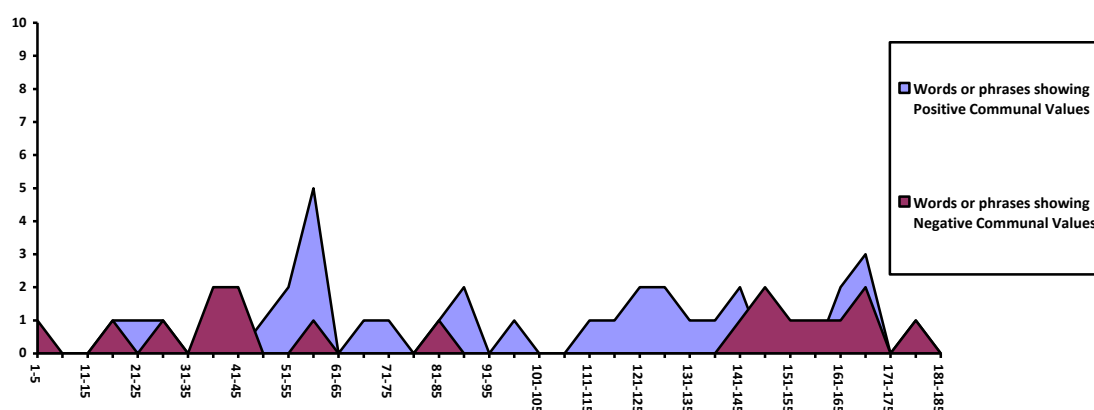
Tables 5 and 6, respectively show the frequency of each of the items regarding the coefficients they take on the basis of their degree of explicitness.

Table 5

Words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 2 with values 1-3.

Words or phrases showing Communal Values In the story (a Death at the Stadium)	Items with the value 3 In the story No. 2 (a Death at the Stadium) (having Communal Values in their denotative meaning on the basis of OED)	Items with the value 2 In the story No. 2 (a Death at the Stadium) (having Communal Values in their connotative meaning on the basis of OED)	Items with the value 1 In the story No. 2 (a Death at the Stadium) (having Communal Values in their surrounding context)
Number of Items representing Positive Communal Values In the story (a death at the stadium)	8	8	13
Number of Items representing Negative Communal Values In the story (a death at the stadium)	4	5	9

Table 6

Words or phrases showing Positive Communal Values after applying the coefficients in the story No. 2

Description	Total Number	Percentage
Words or phrases showing Positive Communal Values after applying the coefficients	53	28.64%
Words or phrases showing Negative Communal Values after applying the coefficients	31	16.75%

Figure 4

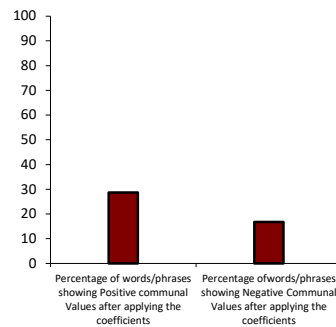*Percentage of words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the story No. 1*

Figure 4 represents different frequencies of positive and negative values in the story No. 2. It shows that positive items have higher frequency.

In the figure, the vertical axis shows the number of realizations of each item and the horizontal axis shows different items.

Figure 5

Percentage of words/phrases showing Positive/Negative Communal Values in the two stories (The dark color shows the items in the story No. 1 and the light color shows the frequency of the items in the story No.2)
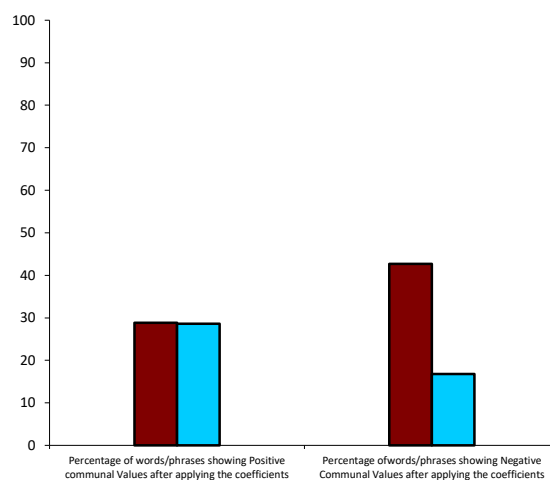
Taking the data in Figure 5 into account, we can say that the authors have nearly used the same frequency of positive items in the two texts but regarding the negative items it's considerably different. In the story No.1 the use of items with negative communal values is more than twice the story No.2.

4.   Discussion and Conclusion

the present research aims to demonstrate an enhanced perception to the nature of any cross-cultural encounter among the characters in the Doll's House & A Death in the Stadium and through a detailed statistical analysis of linguistic elements, clarifies the influence of such encounters on sustainable development in the created social lives by Katherine Mansfield and Robert Nathan. Accordingly, the main objective of this investigation is to explore and compare different styles by which these authors try to represent the aforementioned social values. In this regard, in both texts, prominent social values and social conflicts on which the two stories are based, including wealth, hierarchy and hegemony, were investigated. For

quantifying the data to have a better understanding of the analyses, we applied three coefficients (1, 2 and 3) to give them more acceptable weights.

Results of this investigation show that the two authors have applied different styles regarding the use of items representing social communal values, especially negative communal values. The analyses also revealed differences in the flow of context between the two stories, taking communal values into account. In the story No.1. positive social values and in the story No.2. negative communal values have more prominence.

Authors' Contributions

All authors equally contributed to this study.

Declaration

In order to correct and improve the academic writing of our paper, we have used the language model ChatGPT.

Transparency Statement

Data are available for research purposes upon reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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Declaration of Interest

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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Ethics Considerations

Not applicable.

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