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Semantics of Discourse in Child Theatre
Analytical Study In Texts Of Plays Represented

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Abstract:

Childhood witnesses had a due care throughout the two last decades, especially when the United Nations issued the document that announces the child rights in 1959 and the preparatory document of the child rights in December 1988. Egypt has signed this document in December 1990 .., and President Mubark has announced the years from 1990 to 1999 a contract to protect the Egyptian child socially, educationally, economically and psychologically.

Child theatre is one of the effective media in developing children mentally, emotionally, culturally, aesthetically and linguistically.

It is also considered an effective means to implant new values deep down in children .

It is worth noting that the role of theatre surpasses the influence of the other media of literature because it has a special nature represented in the live embodying to the different elements of the show .

Moreover, the child theatre is considered one of the tools that form the children's culture as it cleverly transmits the ideas and the concepts to children through artistic frames full of music, dance and singing.

In a content that respects the child addressing him in a suitable way. It doesn't address him in isolation from the surrounding circles that contribute in forming and upbringing him socially. A content that tries to encourage him to have a critical mind that doubts criticizes compares and correlates away from the logic of dictating that minimizes our children talents and abilities and thus seizes the future for the past and the present. Since the theatre is one of the tributaries of the child culture that contributes in building him mentally and sentimentally providing the great role of movement in the show.

The problem:

Since the child theatre has been based upon the text and the technique of child play righting, then the suitable theatrical form and organizing the theatrical work according to the vision and directions of the playwright and embodying the discourse in term of the message that he wants to convey.

The values are one of the most important pillars of the artistic work, so it is the most important targets and functions especially the arts that target children.

In accordance, the problem of our study is clarified in two main topics:

1- The values and the issues tackled by the studied tests.

2- The artistic treatments of the values and the issues (the style and the form) .

First: The values and the issues (the playwright)

- Stating the discussed issues in the texts of shows that were presented during the time of the research.
- Stating the values presented in those texts and the unfavorable characteristics.

Second: The form or the style (the playwright's vision)

- Stating the forms of play writing.
- Recognizing the formulas of the plays (folkloric, legendary, social, historic ...etc) .
- Recognizing the used language (slang, classical Arabic, the intellectuals, slang) .
- Recognizing the style (verse – prose) .
- Stating the dimensions of the characters (physical, psychological, social values) .
- Stating the kinds of the events (primary, secondary) .
- Recognizing the plots' style (simple, complex).
- Stating the kinds of conflicts within the play (leaping, ascending, descending, stable) .
- Recognizing the different ends (open, closed), in addition to the influence (sad, happy, decisive).

The problem is summarized in this main question?

What are the types of the discourse in the children plays, and how were they presented?

The importance of the study:

The study is important due to the following considerations:

1- The important role of children theatre as means of communication and education urgently needed in the society. Mark Twain considers it one of the greatest achievements of the 20 th century as it has several functions:

Cognitive function: transmits certain amounts of knowledge through a text and audio visual effects.

Educational function: a tool of building and supporting a common value or a target one.

Entertainment: a tool of achieving happiness and joy through specific dramatic situations.

2- This study is related to an important category of the society, the children who represent nearly 40% of the whole society. Moreover, they considered the leaders of the future and thus we should care about all that concerns them culturally, religiously, socially and scientifically so that we reach a better future.

3- Rare of such researches and studies in the Egyptian library.

The type and methodology:

This is a descriptive one. It depends upon the method of comprehensive survey.

The researcher used the analytic method that concentrates on describing the nature , the feature and the characteristics of the discourse in the child theatre through analyzing the values and the issues discussed in the texts of the child theatre through analyzing the selected texts during the period from 2000-2006 .

Sample of the study:

The study includes children plays that were shown during the period from 2000-2006 using the technique of comprehensive

counting. The researcher took all plays that were shown during this period into consideration, except the play "The toys planet" it was excluded because it depended on involving the children from the audience in acting for a certain time and in a respective way. And thus, it had no plot or dramatic structure. It was just based upon certain situations that depend on virtual acting and transforming the audience to a doer.

The sample included 18 plays, 100 scenes and 105 characters, and this helped in covering most of the variables like:

- . Covering all types and patterns of discourse (religious, legal, historic, etc).
- . Writing was varied between writing and adaptation.
- . Covering all the dramatic forms (tragedy, comedy, melodrama)
- . Language variation (classical, slang) .
- . Shedding light on all texts.
- . Different styles (prose, verse) .
- . Tackling with different times (past, present, future).
- . Tackling with texts inside Cairo or outside it.
- . Different production (public, private) .
- . Different ages targeted by these plays (young, old).

So samples were as follows:

Name	Year	Number Of shows	Number of scenes	Time of play
1- The wooden mother	2000	2	4	180 min.
2- Think with uncle Hakim	2000	2	5	60 "
3- Halhota and Barakota	2000	1	8	180
4- Adventures in the depths of seas	2001	6	4	40
5- The secret of city book	2001	2	6	60
6- Mido's adventures	2002	1	5	60
7- Digital Zizo	2002	1	7	90
8- Moka & Maroka	2002	1	5	60
9- A rabbit, a scorpion and an elephant	2002	1	8	180
10- Micky's planet	2003	1	7	180
11- A bird that fears flying	2003	2	4	45
12- Fassih in the jungle	2004	2	6	60
13- The animal conference	2004	2	4	30
14- The arrogant pen	2005	2	4	25
15- The young musician	2005	2	4	30
16- Prince of imagination	2006	1	5	40
17- Pharoes. Com	2006	1	7	120
18- A knight from Egypt	2006	2	7	120

Tools of data collection: a questionnaire of content analysis.

The most important results:

These points were deducted through the explanation of the results of the analytic study:

1- Due to the nature of the child theatre that targets a certain age. Most of the shows were based on written texts (88.88 %) . This because of the poor theatrical companies as the international texts need a deep understanding in addition to the limited available time and the difficulties that face the acting troupes in their preparing to festivals.

2- The study marked the great variation in the source of inspiring the plays. History, science fiction and reality come on the top of the list (88.8 %)while fantasy was (11.11 %) .

3- Most of texts took place in an imaginary place (33.33 %) while the real place was (66.66 %) .

4- The study marked the social issues in the texts of child theatre that came in the first place (61.11 %) then the political issues (16.11 %) followed by the scientific one (11.11 %) and the historic issues (11.11 %) .

5- Most plays dealt with the social issues negatively (77.77 %) , while the positive treatment (22.22 %) . This may be due to the nature of the theatre as an expressive means not as a solving one. It sheds light on the negative aspects, its harmful effects leaving the audience to react.

6- The sample of the study showed that bravery and determination were at the top of the list of the positive values (88.88 %) .These are logical characteristics of the characters that fight evil .

7- The of the study showed that the most negative characteristics was low enthusiasm (44.44 %) then evil and arrogance (33.33 %) then primitive thinking (22.22 %) .

8- The plays haven't presented the scientific ways of so long the characters' problems, but presented values and characteristics as a solution. This can be explained if we know that the scientific ways of solving problems can't be used in theatre, otherwise, it will be direct and boring.

9- The variation in covering the types of conflict (inner , outer) , its forms (ascending , leaping , staple) , its parts (against a person , against a principle , against group , against traditions) .

10- The open ended plays were (16.66 %) while the closed ends were (83.33 %) because the child theatre is a mean to present issues not solutions leaving the audience to react . The solutions may come indirectly.

Through these results and explaining it, the researcher did her best to know the most important social issues in child theatre, the form , the type of conflicts , parts and ends .