

Characterization in Katherine Mansfield's 'The Doll's House': A Transitivity Analysis

UJJAL JEET

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

ABSTRACT

This paper extends the existing research in the field of Functional Stylistics. The aim of the study was to explore the characterization in a short story 'The Doll's House' written by celebrated writer Katherine Mansfield in order to study the power differential based on class distinctions between the rich and the poor children. The theoretical framework adopted for the purpose is Michael Alexander Halliday's Systemic Functional linguistics. An exhaustive transitivity analysis has been conducted to find the processes associated with each character in the story. The study has confirmed the preliminary observations that the process types attributed to various characters in the story are in complete agreement with their socio-economic status and the consequent power quotient.

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the most traditional applications of linguistics has been to study the language of literature in order to interpret the meaning of the text. Linguistics explores the structural aspects of a literary text which enable the text to produce the literary experience which it does. The systematic regularities in the language of the text are identified and based on them a grammar of the text is constructed. This helps to hypothesize about the overall internal structure of the text. Thus, stylistic observations are made in an organized way about the most detailed facts of language. Also, linguistics provides the necessary theoretical framework and methodology for the analysis.