



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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Cohesion in African Narrative: A Linguistic Study of Racial Discrimination and Colonialism in Three Novels by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

**A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English
Language and Literature in Candidacy for
the PhD degree in Linguistics**

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Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation to God Almighty my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He has been the source of my strength throughout this research journey, and on His wings, I soared. Without his blessing, the achievement would have been impossible. I also dedicate it to my late father and mother Momoh koroma and mother Mamie Maseh. May Allah Almighty grant them paradise and place them among the righteous. "Lord! Have mercy on them, as they reared me when I was small" amen amen. I dedicate this work to my elder brothers and sisters; Lucy, Mohamed, Jusufu and Hawa for their tremendous support and prayers, hoping that with it I have proven to you that there is no mountain higher as long as God is on our side. Also, I dedicate it to my children Abdul Karim Koroma and Mariama Koroma, who have been affected in every way possible by it. I pray that God Almighty bless them all in their educational career. A Special feeling of gratitude goes to the Sierra Leone Ambassador in Egypt Mr. Morie Fofana, consulate Mr. Mohamed A. Hashim, Secretary Madam Lahai and member of staff for their total support during the implementation of the whole work. I dedicate the work to the Sierra Leone student's union and community at large in Cairo for their advice and spiritual support. Finally, I dedicate this dissertation to my friends and college mates who have supported me throughout the process. I appreciate all what they have done, especially Abdulhamid Muhamed, a computer specialist, for his help in developing my editing skills.

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Abstract

The present study endeavors to linguistically investigate Ngugi wa Thiongo's selected novels, "Weep not Child" (1964), "The River Between" (1965) and "A Grain of Wheat" (1967). The main aim is to reveal the cohesive elements that are responsible for creating semantic understanding of the racial discrimination and colonialism in Africa, namely in Kenya. These novels have been chosen because of their related theme regarding colonialism and racial discrimination. They cover the period in Kenya's history dating from the first arrival of the white men and the Indians in the late nineteenth century to the attainment of independence in (1963).

These African novels are analyzed in terms of their linguistic cohesion based on Halliday and Hasan's model (1976) which has been proved a successful tool for literary discourse studies. In discourse studies, cohesion underlies meaningful relations across the boundaries of sentences and its categories function to build texture and provide continuity of meaning for discourses.

The study analyzes the concept of text and discourse as well as those of cohesion and coherence. It also explores their differences, and presents manifold approach towards these concepts from the point of view of various linguists. The main research question addresses how the author uses cohesive device to establish semantic relations elements in the selected novel. In order to answer this question, the study applies qualitative research method to collect the data. The results show that Ngugi wa Thiong'o uses many more grammatical devices such as: anaphoric reference, personal reference, demonstrative reference and comparative reference than lexical in addressing the audience about colonialism and racial discrimination.

The study reviews the related literature on both language and Africa literature to find out what others have done in connection to the three selected novels. The primary resources which formed the main source of the study have been well apprehended. Many reference materials in relation to the study have been reviewed. It was discovered that

nothing has been written about the three selected novels in terms of grammatical and lexical cohesion. The study consists of an introduction, six chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and appendices.

The classic hypothesis that cohesion is realized through the grammatical and lexical cohesion was proved adequate for this study. As a result, a linguistic framework is constructed which explicitly accounts for the properties that make a text hang together at these two particular levels, and its applicability is tested against given empirical data. The study also employs stylistic devices to reveal the author's style of language used in the three novels. Out of the stylistic analysis, it has been found out that the writer uses a language deviated from literary convention or everyday speech (norm). He uses different types of linguistic deviations to achieve his purpose. The author motives behind using these deviations are to imply some specific information and, thus, shape various characters with their social status. Moreover, the author tries to depict the real life situation of the Kenyan society from the impact of colonialism and racial discrimination. The study argues that the author is stylistically successful in constructing the ideas of colonialism and racialism. Racism and colonialism need to be voiced out. Hence, this study contributes to existing issues on the construction of racism and colonialism. The study, therefore, has achieved its objective and proved the hypotheses. "Cohesion" in African narratives has added new dimension to know more about the ideology of colonialism and racial discrimination.

Keywords: Cohesion, Narrative, Grammatical and Lexical Cohesive Devices, Colonialism and Racial Discrimination

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