



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم



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جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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A Corpus-Based Study of Fables: An Ecolinguistic Perspective

A Thesis

submitted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements of the
degree of M.A. in linguistics

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Abstract

The thesis seeks to explore the representation of nature in fables, from an ecolinguistic perspective, taking *Further Fables for Our Time* and *Animal Farm* as two examples. The aims of the study are: 1) to explore the language patterns which are used to depict nature, e.g., the repetition of certain lexis, ideas, and switching between opinions, so that the reader may understand both sides; 2) to investigate the tendencies and attitudes found in these fables toward nature through examining whether these fables encourage respect and care for the ecosystems, or encourage ecological destruction; 3) to provide an ecolinguistic example by tracing the animals' relationships, how they treat the elements of nature, and how they reflect human social relations and attitude towards nature. The study seeks to answer the following questions: 1) What language patterns do the writers use to explore nature? 2) How do the fables either encourage respect and care for the ecosystems, or encourage ecological destruction? 3) What makes the fables a model for ecolinguistics? 4) To what extent do the fables succeed in portraying human social relations and attitude towards nature? The thesis draws on ecolinguistics as a new perspective of looking at language, adopts five types of ecosophies categorized by Stibbe (2015), i.e. frame, evaluation, erasure, salience, and identity, relying on these theories in the analysis: Lakoff's frame theory, Martin and White's appraisal theory, and Halliday's

systemic functional grammar theory. Besides, the researcher uses corpus linguistics as a tool to achieve the objectives of the thesis, depending on LancBox version 4.0. The data is comprised of 47 fables written by James Thurber and a novel written by George Orwell collected from the internet in pdf form. The analysis shows the possibility of studying fables from an ecolinguistic perspective. In addition, the conclusion elucidates that the interactions between animals, to a large extent, resemble human social relations and manner of exploiting nature.

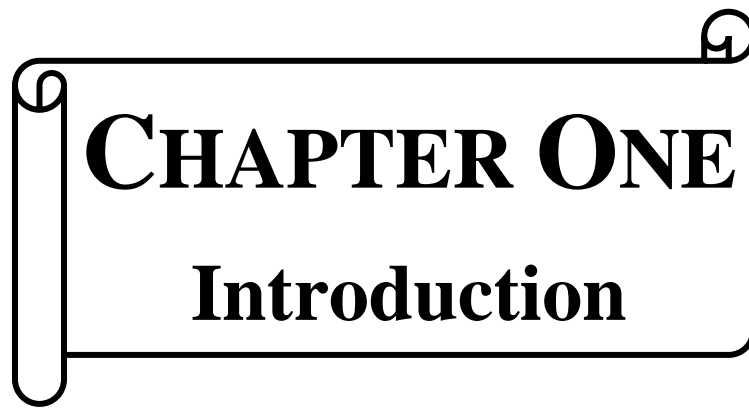
Keywords: Ecolinguistics, Corpus, Fables, *Further Fables for Our Time*, *Animal Farm*

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CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter clarifies the emergence of ecolinguistics, and represents its major figures and bases. In addition, the chapter shows the definition of fables, explains what is meant by language pattern, and gives a brief overview about corpus linguistics. Objectives of the study, rationale of the study, research questions, and data sources are included. A review of the literature is given. Moreover, the chapter demonstrates the organization of the thesis.

1.1The emergence of ecolinguistics and its essence:

The environmental issues and crises led us to pay attention to ecology, especially in the 21st century. “An inclusive view would be that ecology consists of the relationships of humans with other humans, other organisms, and the physical environment” (Wu, 2018, p.646). Consequently, many studies and disciplines which focus on the environmental issues, e.g. ecopsychology, ecofeminism, ecocriticism, ecopoetry, and ecosociology have emerged.

Humans use language as a means to reflect their perception, ideas and beliefs about the outside world, and specifically about our environment. Thus, through language we either reduce the natural world mentally to objects, and encourage resources to be exploited, or respect and care for the

systems that support life. Language plays a vital role in raising the awareness of people towards the issues of environment.

Ecolinguistics is one of the new disciplines. It comprises two disciplines (linguistics and ecology). This new discipline is concerned with the ecological analysis of any discourse, whether this discourse is a signpost, a literary work, a text about environment, an advertisement, a text that discusses the diversity of the language and its dialects, a conversation between friends, or a news report.

“The tendency to speak of language ecology as the study of language interacting with the environment goes back to Einar Haugen” (Kravchenko, 2016, p.105). Haugen is regarded as the founder of ‘language ecology’ or ‘ecology of language’. It is worth noting that these two phrases are not opposed to each other, but they complement each other. Haugen highlights the need to focus on the ecological study of language and the linguistic study of ecology. Dash (2019) states that “It was Einar Haugen who, in 1972, brought about the symbiosis between ecology and language by highlighting the need for the ecological study of language and linguistic study of ecology” (p.380). In 1990 a paper was presented by the famous linguist Halliday. He draws the attention to the importance of considering problems like “classism, destruction of species, pollution not only as biological and physical problems, but also as problems for the applied linguistic community” (cited in Fill & Muhlhausler,

2001, p.199). He studies the role linguistic patterns play in preserving the environment.

There is a close link between ecolinguistics and other subfields of linguistics such as critical discourse analysis and sociolinguistics. It is important to understand ecolinguistics as an interdisciplinary field that is concerned with the study of language from an ecological perspective. The term “ecolinguistics” itself provides an example of interdisciplinarity, in which “eco” stands for ecology and “linguistics” means the scientific study of language.

The relation between ecolinguistics and critical discourse analysis is distinguished by focusing on the discourses that have a deep impact, not only on how people treat each other, but also on how people treat the ecological system that life depends on, by showing the linguistic features which represent a particular worldview. Likewise, Sapir (1912), one of the most prominent figures of sociolinguistics, maintains that “Each feature of the living environment influences language units and finds a place in grammatical construction”. Furthermore, the geographical and the social context influence the way how an individual uses a language. Accordingly, ecolinguistics considers language from the point of view of interaction. Just as in ecology, where the interaction between organisms and the environment is examined, ecolinguistics explores the interaction between languages and their environment and the society in which they