

The Influence of Saussure's Linguistics on Modern Literary Criticism

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Abstract. *The emergence of the linguistics has had a significant impact on the literature, particularly on literary criticism, which has witnessed the development of a range of critical approaches that have themselves expanded, spread, and gained wide currency such as the structuralist, semiotic, and stylistic approaches. Accordingly, this study seeks to elucidate the impact of Saussurean linguistics on modern literary criticism. Surely Saussure's ideas were the cornerstone for structuralism and its various directions, and that through the famous opposing dualities that he brought and through which it is possible to describe linguistic systems. Certainly there is a relation between linguistics and Saussure's views in the modern linguistic lesson and modern literary criticism, and this is what this study seeks (to clarify the relation between them). Thus there is a strong relationship between literary criticism and linguistics—and a number of researchers have pointed to this relation. Surely Saussure's ideas were the cornerstone for structuralism and its various directions, and that through the famous opposing dualities that he brought and through which it is possible to describe linguistic systems. Certainly there is a relation between linguistics and Saussure's views in the modern linguistic lesson and modern literary criticism, and this is what this study seeks.*

Keywords: linguistics, Saussure, literary criticism, structuralism, semiotic

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Sössür dilçiliyinin müasir ədəbi tənqidlərə təsiri

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Xülasə. *Dilçiliyin yaranması ədəbiyyata, xüsusən də ədəbi tənqiddə əhəmiyyətli dərəcədə təsir göstərmişdir ki, bu da öz növbəsində genişlənmiş, yayılmış və strukturist, semiotik və stilistik yanaşmalar kimi geniş yayılmış bir sıra tənqidi yanaşmaların inkişafına şahid olmuşdur. Buna uyğun olaraq, bu tədqiqat Saussur dilçiliyinin müasir ədəbi tənqiddə təsirini aydınlaşdırmağa çalışır. Şübhəsiz ki, Saussurun ideyaları strukturizm və onun müxtəlif istiqamətləri üçün təməl daşı idi və bu, onun gətirdiyi məşhur əks ikiliklər vasitəsilə dil sistemlərini təsvir etmək mümkündür. Əlbəttə ki, müasir dilçilik dərində və müasir ədəbi tənqiddə dilçiliklə Saussurun baxışları arasında əlaqə var və bu tədqiqatın məqsədi (aralarındakı əlaqəni aydınlaşdırmaq) budur. Beləliklə, ədəbi tənqidlə dilçilik arasında güclü bir əlaqə var və bir sıra tədqiqatçılar bu əlaqəyə işarə etmişlər. Şübhəsiz ki, Saussure-un ideyaları strukturizm və onun müxtəlif istiqamətləri üçün təməl daşı idi və bu, onun gətirdiyi məşhur əks ikiliklər vasitəsilə dil sistemlərini təsvir etmək mümkündür.*

Əlbəttə ki, müasir dilçilik dərində və müasir ədəbi tənqiddə dilçiliklə Saussure-un baxışları arasında bir əlaqə var və bu tədqiqatın məqsədi budur.

Açar sözlər: dilçilik, Sossür, ədəbi tənqid, strukturizm

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Introduction

There is an important accumulation produced by the structural studies that cannot be ignored as it achieved a great revolution, especially in those works that benefited in deepening the awareness of literary works, and this is result of what the modern theories and methods have reached—and branched out mainly—from the linguistic lesson, and also its role in directing the recipient to it. Likewise no one can ignore that dialectical relationship that connects the litterateur with his social, political, economic and general cultural environment to which he belongs "literature is a social institution, its tool is language and it is the eternity of society"(Al-Tabbal Baraka, 1993, p. 190). But the question raised how linguistics affected the modern criticism, what are the methods that were affected or the methods that appeared as a result of this affect?

The Impact of Linguistics on Modern Arabic Criticism:

The emergence of linguistics linguistique has had a great impact on literary criticism that this science linguistics as its owner Saussure says: "language is the study of language in itself and for itself"(Al-Masdi, 1994, p. 62). Language is the basic subject from which the researcher starts to reveal the essence, nature and function of the text, regardless from this particular vision. And consequently linguistics has established itself as a science with its method and field and goals, then it removed the barriers between it and other sciences in influence and being influenced. Certainly modern criticism was affected alot by linguistics as the latter defined a group of critical methods, which in turn witnessed expansion and spread and great popularity for example the structural method and the semiotic method and also the stylistic, these methods that dominated the western critical and literary scene, where they were closely linked to linguistics, as it is noticed that they derived their origins and principles from numerous knowledge fields most important of which is linguistics especially Saussure's views in his book "Course in General Linguistics".

And what linguistics has reached and what it achieved in various sciences and knowledges, is considered as pillars or theoretical preliminaries invested by contemporary critical methods for example the semiotic la sémiotique (Semiotics: It is the study of signs and systems of signs, and how meaning is produced, and its use in different contexts, whether linguistic or visual or social or cultural. Semiotics aims to how signs work in producing signification and communication between individuals and societies). Also the crystallization of these methods in literary and critical thought and in humanistic studies was not suddenly, but rather result of numerous portents. Just as it is also noticed regarding the semiotic method and its great connection with linguistics, most researchers agree that semiotics derives its origins from linguistics.

The emergence also of many critical currents like stylistics la stylistique (Stylistics: La stylistique or science of style is a branch from branches of applied linguistics, and it is study of texts from all types or spoken language and interpreting it in relation to stylistic features that distinguish the text on linguistic or psychologic level. So it is not independant field by itself, and it can be applied in

understanding literature and journalism and linguistics) and its founder Charles Bally one of Saussure's students who along with his colleague Sechehaye collected the famous lectures of their professor Saussure, and all of them if they were fruits of the development of the linguistic lesson. In modern stylistic studies, the influence of linguistics on modern literary criticism is examined (Verdonk, 2002; Prasannata, 2017; Rzayeva və b., 2025; Hamid, 2023)

Surely Saussure's ideas were the cornerstone for structuralism and its various directions, and that through the famous opposing dualities that he brought and through which it is possible to describe linguistic systems. Certainly there is a relation between linguistics and Saussure's views in the modern linguistic lesson and modern literary criticism, and this is what this study seeks (to clarify the relation between them). Thus there is a strong relationship between literary criticism and linguistics—and a number of researchers have pointed to this relation.

In the West:

- **Sigmund Freud:** Austrian neurologist, founded the school of psychoanalysis and modern science, became famous for theories of mind and unconscious reveals the depths of inner science
- **Darwin** (1809-1882 AD) British natural history scientist and biologist and geologist, gained his fame as founder of evolution theory, as it reveals the origin of man according to evolutionary theory.
- **Karl Marx** (1818-1883 AD) German philosopher and economic critic and historian, his philosophical thought had huge impact on world intellectual and economic history, and his name was used to express a school of thought with many developments which is the Marxist school, and among his most important ideas it shows the dialectical relationship binding the individual and society.
- **C. Levi-Strauss** (1908-2009 AD) French anthropologist one of the most important contemporary structuralists and most famous—he is nicknamed dean of structuralists for his use of structural method in all fields he researched especially in anthropology. He derives from linguistics a method in his anthropological studies relying on studies of linguistic phenomena of peoples through their customs and traditions. So for him literature had only to be affected by that, so from creative side we witnessed "the new novel" and its modern techniques.
- **Ferdinand de Saussure** (1857-1913 AD) Swiss linguist considered father of modern linguistics made a linguistic revolution, considered founder of linguistics science and one of the most famous scientists of modern age, was first who considered linguistics as branch of broader science that studies sound signs. He proposed calling it semiology, currently known as semiotics or science of sign, and among his views also language is social phenomenon and institution emphasizing importance of language among humans.
- **The Russian Formalist School:** It was one of the influential doctrines in the field of literary criticism in Russia (1915-1930) and it includes many influential Russian thinkers on the literary scene like Shklovsky and Roman Jakobson and others. They were affected by structuralism in studying literature and subjecting it to scientific measures, and establishing its methods based on linguistics especially. Which made it obligatory for the literary critic to equip himself with solid renewed linguistic culture, and thus both the linguist and the literary critic are required today, and by tightening the connection between them to unlock the closures of the text. Roman Jakobson (1886-1982 AD) is considered one of the most prominent pioneers of this school, Russian linguist and literary critic, one of the linguists of the twentieth century, and that for his pioneering efforts in developing structural analysis of language and poetry and art, he called for documenting the relationship between linguistics and literature where he says "the boundaries between linguistics and textual criticism are abolished" (Al-Masdi, 1994, p. 75).

Among Arab Researchers:

Modern Arabic criticism up to now is captive to taking not giving. And we believe that there must be after this evaluation reading the modern Arabic critical heritage and modernizing important critical principles from several great critics like Qudamah ibn Ja'far, Ibn Rashiq al-Qayrawani, Ibn Tabataba al-Alawi and Hazim al-Qartajanni. As for the moderns we find:

- **Abd al-Salam al-Masdi** in his book "Language and Modernity": Academic and writer and diplomat and Minister of Higher Education in Tunisia, one of the most important researchers whose names have been established in the movement of literary criticism and in linguistics. This influence is highlighted in the following points:

- a- What became clear evidently through his book "Language and Modernity" we notice his interest in the relationship of literary criticism with linguistics: where he showed the synergy between linguistics with its various schools and modern criticism, and put the linguistic foundations that became the general tributary, rather the only one for today's critic and manifestations of this interaction" (Hijazi, n.d., p. 5).

- b- Al-Masdi insists on the necessity for modern criticism to benefit from stylistics science and linguistics science and semantics (and semiotics), for what is in that of rich fertilization for criticism he says: "We must extend the bridge between criticism and linguistics science through stylistics—we refuse fragmentation on this interaction between language sciences and literary criticism hangs all hope. Human knowledge owes linguistics a great favor, whether in its research methods or critical or its scientific yield" (Al-Masdi, 2024, p. 85). Thus literary criticism was at the forefront of the fields benefiting from the achievements of general linguistics, through investing a number of its concepts and its procedural mechanisms.

- **Dr. Tawfiq al-Zubaidi** in his book "The Impact of Linguistics on Modern Arabic Criticism": He summarizes this influence in the following points:

- a- He addressed the relationship of linguistics and modern Arabic criticism and its impact, so according to him he sees that there is an intimate relationship between language science with all its methods and schools and directions, and literary criticism in its contemporary perspective which analyzes the poetic or literary text as a linguistic artistic structure. Where stylistics intersects with language science and criticism. Especially since levels of literary speech are linguistic levels (artistic also with semantic dimensions" (Jakobson, 1988).

The abundance of interest in linguistic studies with its methods in literary studies made modern linguistic theory as a helping system in literary criticism. And linguistics grants the critic a theoretical support, so the foundations of linguistic approach the literary critic cannot dispense with it, especially since any literary criticism cannot exceed the dimensions of its language. Just as the linguistic method transferred from anthropological study then philology then structuralism and semiotics appeared (science of sign/science of signs) first known as: science of semiology, deconstruction (Awad, 2016, p. 590)

- b- Emergence of linguistic critical methods in studying and analyzing the literary text, and among them the critical structural method "which sees that the word in itself, a verbal type of signsits signification from the value of the word in some culture does not form meaning except the semantic value linked to the word, example: word (la) in Arabic (negation) does not signify anything in English.

- c- Emergence of what is called critical analysis which turned into linguistic critical analysis through the sentence or into stylistic critical analysis through the text, that is the sentence and the text are the

pillar of literary linguistic analysis which was found in stylistics. And the progress that the linguistic field gained recently seeped into the critical field of literature which was not isolated from the general atmosphere represented by the revolution of humanistic knowledge with its modern terms, so it linked literary critical culture and linguistic culture as specialization and concept and method.

Conclusion

From what preceded it can be concluded the following:

- There is an intimate relation between language science with all its methods and schools and directions, and literary criticism in its contemporary perspective which analyzes the poetic or literary text as linguistic artistic structure. Where stylistics intersects with language science and criticism. Especially since levels of literary speech are linguistic levels (artistic also with semantic dimensions" (Al-Zubaidi, 1984, p. 36)
- The field of literary linguistic studies is fertile field needs intensification of researches and studies in it, and because such researches with linguistic literary orientation have great importance.
- Caring by researchers for the linguistic phenomenon in light of modern linguistics what produced several valuable researches in various branches of linguistics.
- In the West after emergence of linguistics by Saussure critical methods were affected and other new methods appeared like the literary method which benefited alot from Saussure's views in analyzing literary texts.
- Among Arabs it goes back to determining the subject of linguistic research, so there who counted language as subject of linguistics, so they described term (linguistics science). Then it is a field that can be arena for criticism which is linguistics so was the process of transferring the linguistic model to modern Arabic criticism through books and articles.

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