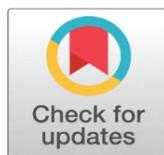


INTERTEXTUALITY AND THE COLLECTIVE FORMATION OF WORLD LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT

Literature should never be interpreted or understood as an exclusive creation of a single culture, community or nation. It is rather the collective outcome of shared human experiences taking place in synonymous tones across cultures and varied historical periods. Literary traditions develop through exchange, continuity and relearning. One achieves literary innovation when a network of relationships within texts go on to inherit, reshape, and respond to one another. The interplay of culture, language, philosophy and psychological factors collectively shapes the essence of world literature. In an age marked by globalization and rapid technological advancement, interactions among nations have become increasingly visible, making literary interconnectedness not only apparent but unavoidable. This dynamic process of textual interaction is commonly described as intertextuality. Intertextuality operates within literary works through multiple forms of social and cultural contact. Forces such as religion, trade, warfare, migration, economic change, and more recently, digital media and communication technologies play decisive roles in enabling the circulation of ideas, narratives and forms. Since literature reflects the societies from which it emerges, these interactions inevitably surface within literary texts. As a result, literary scholarship often focuses on identifying similarities and transformations across cultures, examining how shared experiences are expressed through recurring themes, formal structures and stylistic choices.

Keywords: Literature, Intertextuality, Narrative Story Telling, Myth, Language, Folklore

1. INTRODUCTION

A single culture or nation can never present a holistic understanding of literature. Substantial knowledge comes from every shared experience, idea and historical narratives of the entire human race. Global literary traditions tend to be connected and shaped through frequent national and cultural exchanges between diverse societies from time to time. These exchanges go on to produce a unique form of inheritance, wherein literary texts and oral traditions influence, echo and transform one another, altogether creating the basis of what is now commonly known as World Literature. Every form of literature, ranging from ancient myths to modern fiction, carries traces of earlier narrative ideas, devices and forms that had originated way beyond or prior to its immediate cultural boundaries. Intertextuality explains the process of literary inheritance brilliantly. The theory basically states that literary texts have no sole existence because each work depends on its connections to other texts. Intertextuality emphasizes the transcendental feature of

literature. Any work takes existing narratives/stories, blends together genres, incorporates symbolism and applies discourses that manifest new meanings and contexts. This interaction between voices and cultures from different places and time-periods produces a living space for the evolution of literature. Texts don't necessarily repeat what came before them, but they rather absorb and transform earlier materials, giving rise to new interpretations and cultural expressions. The literature of any society shows its unique social identity through all its artistic expressions, in a holistic manner. The primary method for this development occurs through language, conveying cultural values together with historical memory and social norms.

Language is the primary catalyst for diverse experiences and expressions to be understood, hence enabling literature to reflect both national and cultural identity. It further serves as a binding agent between cultures. Through the convenience of translation, adaptation and multilingual writing processes, literary works transcend national and human-made boundaries, effectively entering into dialogue with other cultures, communities and traditions. In this very manner, literature participates in global exchanges while simultaneously preserving cultural specificity or authenticity. Interactions between nations have become more vivid and frequent in this age of globalization and rapid technological advancement. Cultural contact has now been intensified through advances in communication, travel and the emergence of digital/social media. The postmodern era has now made the exchange of ideas faster, instantaneous and way more widespread than ever imagined. Literature has always been impacted by these transitions. Writers/authors are exposing themselves to diverse literary traditions, new methods of narration and philosophical perspectives that stem from the understanding of diverse cultures and societies across the world. This process of cultural circulation results in a profound mechanism of literary exchange, through which different languages and cultures exchange elements, including motifs, themes and musical styles. Intertextuality provides the central basis for studying diverse or transforming literary forms during cross-cultural exchanges. Social interactions also produce multiple routes through which literary works can establish intertextual relationships. These intercultural relations between different literary traditions reflect the impact of major historical and social forces that unite different cultures. Narratives of protest and negotiating social structure based on one's individuality can be seen as a product of such cultural literary exchanges, uniting varied backgrounds. Shared religious beliefs have also shaped the commonly observed mythological elements, symbolic representations and ethical values existing in diverse literary traditions. The practice of trade combined with population movement has established clear channels for different cultures to communicate or interact, altogether enabling the transmission of stories and ideas between goods and individuals. International borders function as a pathway for powerful narratives that have emerged from invasions, wars and political upheavals. The combination of economic change, mass media, internet access and digital technology has collectively produced new approaches or methods to produce and distribute literature that encourages global literary collaboration.

It has been widely observed and accepted that social and historical forces inevitably leave their traces on literary texts. Writers incorporate the themes of love, power, suffering, identity and even resistance, often drawing upon similar narrative structures or symbolic patterns across cultures. This has led to the usage of methods, wherein scholars compare and contrast similarities/connections between literary works coming from different cultures. One may observe such similarities or connections through themes, narrative forms and stylistic choices, revealing shared

cultural influences as well as local contexts shaping unique adaptations. So, it can very well be said that the study of intertextuality becomes a means of understanding how literature mirrors both universal human experiences and culturally-driven conditions. Literary interactions can be broadly examined through two major dimensions: thematic and formal. Thematic interaction explores how different literary traditions share common ideas and subjects, altogether addressing relatable social issues, including specific themes/motifs such as exile, heroism, spirituality, oppression, social injustice and so on. Formal interaction, on the other hand, involves similarities in structure, genre, narrative technique and style. Stylistic elements including symbolism, narrative voice and poetic form traverse cultural boundaries but undergo transformations when people interpret them through different linguistic and cultural contexts. So, the interrelated dimensions of such traits establish a complex relationship network that portrays literature as a worldwide interconnected system instead of existing as separate national literary traditions.

2. SHARED MYTHS, ARCHETYPES AND INTERTEXTUAL DIALOGUES

Countries have developed their own unique mythologies, across cultures and historical periods, despite having superficial differences, still revealing striking similarities. The similarities found in the different religious narratives of the world are a striking example. Upon close inspection of these stories, it becomes quite vivid that people often express the same fundamental human emotion or concern. Themes of fear, sorrow, love, hope and familial losses may be shaped by different cultural symbols, yet their emotional essence remains remarkably alike. Focal literary themes coming from different cultures show commonality because they follow similar patterns. Theories suggest that diverse emotional experiences create a shared basis through which literature is used to express significant meanings or truths. Famous love stories have been found to reflect thematic similarities. For instance, the tragic romance of Romeo and Juliet in English literature closely resembles the story of Leyla and Mecnun in Turkish literature. The synopsis is absolutely similar. Two forbidden lovers who share deep devotion for one another try to make things work, simultaneously navigating through social conflicts. Characters are seen to experience identical emotional states while they navigate through similar ethical challenges, without having shared any historical link or ancient connection between the two. Henceforth, literature effectively shows a pattern where fundamental themes are developed and maintained throughout various eras and cultural regions.

Even when authors may seem to adapt or imitate narrative structures and other literary traditions, the deeper thematic concerns explored in literature tend to always be universal. Literature doesn't merely introduce ideas that are alien to the human condition and experience. On the contrary, it reshapes familiar emotions, inviting new interpretational lenses and enabling a larger understanding of situations within culturally specific ways. In short, one gets a broader world view through similarities and juxtapositions. What literature presents isn't something external or unusual, but is simply the shared realities of diverse human conditions. Differences between literary texts are often situated in expression and form, rather than in the underlying themes they explore. The persistence of these shared patterns can be further understood through the concept of archetypes. Archetypes can be defined as recurring symbols, narrative patterns and literary figures that appear across cultures and historical periods. These theories positively state that

human societies, although diverse in nature and heritage, have still followed similar psychological or imaginative pathways throughout the course of history. So, Literature as a product of collective human creativity, draws repeatedly from these deep symbolic structures. The study of literary history, therefore, demonstrates its cyclical nature because particular character types and their associated conflicts keep returning throughout different generations, in a relatable fashion. The prevailing existence of literature throughout different worldly cultures demonstrates its universal nature, existing beyond particular cultural boundaries of any one society or nation. Language serves as an essential element in this process because it functions as a cultural reflection and enables people from different cultures to communicate with each other. Through language, literature carries cultural values and social experiences, simultaneously absorbing influences from other linguistic and literary backgrounds as well. When people investigate literary works in detail, they evidently find that almost every literary tradition includes intertextual connections. Texts create a complex web of connections through their repetition of earlier myths and religious narratives, including similar ideas in philosophy, spirituality and literary genres. Such observations vividly point to the fact that literature develops through conversations between different works instead of existing as separate entities. Literary scholars study the movement of archetypes and motifs across different cultures and historical periods to understand how their elements change over time. The path of rebellious characters starts in ancient myths and religious texts which lead to their presence in contemporary philosophical and literary works. From the defiant angel to the tragic overreacher and the charming rebel characters, everyone shows different expressions of these archetypes which majorly change their representation through different historical periods.

Mythological tales evolve into motifs, and motifs later develop into new narrative techniques and artistic expressions. Scholars often link these transformations to broader empirical transitions, including major shifts in the prevalent school of thought, knowledge systems, social structures and even political thought. These proceedings further result in the emergence of new literary genres. For instance, Romanticism unites cross-border cultures with the common themes and concerns of humans disconnecting from nature, industrial exploitation, existentialism and so on. One other noteworthy concept related to literary interaction is that of metalanguage, a term often used in critical poststructuralist discourse. The theory states that any literary text operates on multiple levels of meaning, hence incorporating widened knowledge systems. The study of texts extends far beyond its visible elements, because the narrative reveals hidden dimensions, broader historical context and cultural beliefs that prior literary works may have created. It is upon the reader to derive meaning and trace the hidden elements, in order to understand in a holistic or complete manner. Complete text comprehension requires readers to study all ideas and discussions that produce its overall content. The modern approach to literary analysis becomes evident through the study of contemporary literature. Thematic exploration of alienation, the loss of innocence, stories of protest and social resistance creates a deeper basis for connecting with psychological and philosophical concepts that exist beyond their main plot. Theatrical productions and realistic plays show how political ideologies, scientific discoveries and social beliefs from their time period hinders or influences their mode of development. Theatrical productions about gender roles, class distinctions and social change also display their connection to intellectual discussions, ones that may have started outside the author's cultural and linguistic traditions. So, the intersection of all major fields, namely psychology, philosophy, science and social theory finds expression through world literature.

3. INTERTEXTUALITY, FORM AND LANGUAGE INTERACTION

In literature, intertextuality doesn't appear through shared meanings, themes or recurring events alone. It is also predominantly visible in the formal structures of literary traditions pertaining to different cultures. World literature shows that literary forms are shaped through long histories of interaction and mutual influence. It also unearths undeniable similarities in genre, style and language. These similarities or connections show that literature develops collectively, rather than in isolation, and that writers/authors around the world engage in similar artistic challenges and apply related structural solutions too. One of the vivid demonstrations of intertextuality appears through its connection to musical genres. Unsurprisingly, every literary form exists because it specifically draws or takes from existing literary traditions which precede the respective works of the time. Studies on literary history reveals that all written works must choose between two fundamental forms, which are either prose or verse. These two forms or modes evolved through time into newer forms encompassing different contents, artistic traditions and required purposes. The evolution of hybrid literary forms emerged when authors combined prose with verse to create new works that matched newly developing reader preferences and societal demands. From the earliest development of literary theory writers and critics established their debates on how to use language, rhythm and structure, all of which later led to the creation of different genres. For instance, the genres Tragedy and Comedy both originated from communal storytelling practices, ones that existed long before they even became established as separate theatrical genres in the respective period.

Another example is Theatre, which now happens to be an essential or central feature/genre of most national literature. Theatre existed through diverse forms across different cultures long before it was even formally recognized. With the passage of time, playwrights began adapting dramatic conventions to suit their linguistic differences, artistic preferences and overall cultural expectations. Some writers even followed poetic language closely, while others moved toward more flexible or natural forms of expression like prose. Traditions weren't harmed through these transitions or variations, rather it began reshaping literary conventions, altogether strengthening the fact that genre is always evolving through dialogue and contemplation with the past. The rise of new genres in the modern literary world further depicts how form invariably responds to social change. Take for instance the Short Story, which emerged as a response to changing patterns of life, reading habits, public attention spans and factors of mobility. As societies became fast-paced and readers couldn't devote too much time to lengthy novels, writers produced more compact narratives that could be read in a single sitting. This genre soon spread beyond its original context and became a major literary form worldwide, especially suited to modern technological and cultural conditions.

Historical events and human experiences are essential for the formation of newly emerging genres. Developing one's writing style is the second essential method for writers to interact or express through their works. Every writer has their own distinguished style, yet none emerges independently of language, culture or prior models. Cultural perspectives tend to influence how events get depicted or narrated, including the focal points of any story or narrative. Some literary traditions require authors to present their goals and explanations together with their ethical arguments before they reveal the outcomes of their stories. The other approach gives more importance to actions and their resulting consequences. Linguistic structures themselves create these variations through their elements,

which include sentence order and grammatical emphasis. Language controls human thought processes, which then create distinct styles of writing. Intertextuality has its greatest poetic impact through its relationship with poetry. Poets developed new meters and sonnet structures through their travels across different cultures and languages, which resulted in the creation of new musical and rhythmic patterns. Poetic forms needed to change their shape whenever they entered a new language because their sounds and rhythmic patterns had to match the purposes of that language. Theatrical performance shows this way through which people interact with one another. Some modern dramatists returned to classical principles of structure and unity, while others broke away from them to explore new theatrical possibilities. The selection process required the performer to establish a connection with previous traditions while he maintained his link to literary history. The novel serves as yet another strong demonstration of how different elements create structural transformations.

Modernist writers had challenged traditional realism by radically altering narrative form and content. They not only focus on external factors/events but also explore themes of human subjectivity, individuality, inner consciousness and memory. Narrative techniques like the stream of consciousness and interior monologue reshaped the very basis of how stories were told, raising the preference for fictional works across the world. These developments weren't spontaneous. They were the results of writers/authors conversing with each other, sharing philosophical ideas, artistic movements and cross-national realizations. Language is the fundamental element that enables the existence of all literary works, because it functions as both a technical instrument and a medium for cultural expression. There are three distinct language states: monolingualism, bilingualism and multilingualism. The modern worldwide society increasingly detects the absence of pure monolingualism which has become an uncommon aspect of contemporary life. The presence of spoken dialects and accents brings multiple forms of expression into literary works, all of which emerges from societies that maintain a unified written language system. Writers create authentic characters through their use of diverse language patterns. It also enables them to establish social status/hierarchies and develop cultural backgrounds. Languages always go beyond standardized language and dialectal speech patterns. People create their distinct speaking patterns which eventually develop through their senses, experiences with distinct social environments, their workplace, educational background, age and perhaps their geographical location as well. Character dialogues and narrative patterns/perspectives showcase the individual patterns of speech which people develop over time. So, in a nutshell, the personal language of a writer coupled with the national linguistic system of their country collectively shapes the entire framework of their narrative structures.

Another layer of complexity is yet introduced by Bilingualism. It is evident that multiple languages coexist within a single cultural space, within societies that were formed through invasion, conquest, migration or political domination. Literature produced in these conditions are indicative of contexts that showcase the interplay between dominant and subordinate languages. The Indianization of the English language is a formidable example. This interaction may seem to the observer as a simple case of cultural borrowing, or stylistic blending, or the use of certain languages offers special prestige, authority or intimacy between different cultures. English has now become a worldwide linguistic phenomenon. It has reached every corner of the globe through translated texts, modern genres and so on, because the language has become a global standard, altogether influencing the proceedings of different cultures. The ability to speak two languages creates vital challenges that

require immediate attention and a resolve to be solved through specialized translation methods. English literature undergoes frequent translation processes into different languages through their international distribution systems, a perk of globalization. Translation in-turn enables wider access to literature, simultaneously exposing the boundaries that exist between different languages. Poetry, however, requires a complete sound and rhythm, including cultural elements that exist in its original language. Because, these components cannot be completely translated into another language. On the other hand, Prose allows relatively higher flexibility because it can include a larger space, contain hidden meanings, emotional expressions and cultural elements that need special handling when getting translated. Translation also requires people to interpret texts instead of simply duplicating its content. The writer's language background exists as a vital element for assessment. Bilingual authors who live between different cultures and languages create works which combine elements from both worlds. They write in their primary language to show how bilingual and multilingual experiences create cultural disputes and personal development. Literature therefore serves as a platform wherein people can study, analyze and re-create language from its core/fundamental elements.

The most comprehensive framework to explain how languages interact in literary works exists through multilingualism. The system includes every type of native language and dialect along with all second languages and specialized terms and personal communication methods. Multilingual literary environments exist in societies which experience migration and colonialism and multiculturalism. The literary works of this period show how people from different cultures negotiate their identity and their sense of belonging. Writers use different artistic techniques which include switching languages, combining different language styles, and showing diverse language forms. Multilingual literary histories reveal multiple cultural influences which have developed throughout history. Languages take in elements from previous customs and religious beliefs and mythical stories and governmental relationships. These influences generate different literary traditions because they determine the way stories develop their themes and their narrative formats. Multilingual societies use language selection to establish their identity which becomes essential for their artistic expression. Authors need to select the language that best represents their life experiences while determining their intended readers and their social and cultural standing through language use. When multilingual writers have the freedom to explore different writing styles, their work becomes more experimental and allows for a playful and subversive nature to emerge. A single text combines different voices and language styles and various languages to build an active and colorful reading environment. The creative possibilities of linguistic diversity emerge through this phenomenon which demonstrates that intertextuality functions between different texts and within single languages. Literature transforms into a collective artistic output which represents human experience via its process of evolving through its various forms and genres and authentic language use situations.

4. CONCLUSION

Literature has expanded continuously over the centuries through collective human effort, much like the gradual and cumulative progress of the sciences and technological space. Each nation, community, culture and writer, no matter how small their contribution may seem, has added a distinct layer to the ever-growing body of world literature. This shared creative process has transformed literature

into a rich and dynamic space where voices, forms and ideas constantly interact. As literary traditions build upon one another, borrowing, reshaping and reinterpreting earlier works, intertextuality emerges not as an exception but as a natural and unavoidable condition of literary creation. In the contemporary world, where technological advancement has intensified cultural contact and accelerated the circulation of texts, this interconnectedness has become even more visible, reinforcing the idea that literature is a collective, evolving expression of humanity rather than a set of isolated national achievements.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None .

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