

Exploring Sociolinguistic Dimensions: Analysing Sociolinguistic Elements In The selected Literary Texts

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ABSTRACT

Each language harbours historical, cultural, and social connotations, contributing to the layers of meaning within the narrative. Sociolinguistics studies how language and society interact, a topic covered in various literary works that examine dialects, the intricacies of communication, and the impact of language on individuals and groups. The study of language interacts with social factors, and sociolinguistics is the intersection of linguistics and sociology. Sociolinguistics, a multidisciplinary field, provides a rich framework for comprehending language dynamics in various social contexts. This study aims to investigate the representation of critical elements such as register, polyglossia, diglossia, code-switching, lexical borrowing, bilingualism, trilingualism, code-switching, and language planning in literary narratives. Through closely examining selected novels, this paper investigates how authors employ linguistic diversity as a narrative tool, mirroring societal norms, cultural identities, power dynamics, and intergroup communication. This research aims to contribute to a more in-depth understanding of language's role in shaping fictional worlds and reflecting real-world linguistic complexities by investigating the interplay between sociolinguistic concepts and literary expression.

Sociolinguistics also deals with the variation in the use of language. It examines the possible reasons and variables such as geographic location, region, gender dynamics, socioeconomic class, caste, racial group, nationality, race, and interpersonal connections for understanding this variation or variety in language. Various factors affect patterns, variations, and changes in language. One can use language in multiple ways, and language can take different forms. This paper strives to understand how linguistic and social structures, cultural contexts, and individual identities influence patterns, variations, and changes by investigating the vibrant relationship between language and society. This paper is a comprehensive research that explores the ways in which authors represent linguistic diversity, incorporating a variety of linguistic styles and dialects that reflect cultural and historical diversity. The research paper uses Qualitative research methodology to delve into the usage of dialect and language to reminisce about identity and cultural heritage and attest to how characteristics like social class, region, and gender influence language. As many literary works integrate different regional languages, this opens the scope for analysing code-switching, language ideology, multilingualism, and bilingual puns in the narrative. The study also aims to examine examples from various literary texts to accentuate contemporary society's multicultural and multilingual characteristics while

analysing the use of dialect and language that echoes the characters' social and economic backgrounds.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, bilingualism, code-switching, multilingualism, language planning, linguistic diversity

Introduction

R.A Hudson, in his book *Sociolinguistics*, published in 1996, writes:

“I defined sociolinguistics as ‘the study of language in relation to society’, implying (intentionally) that sociolinguistics is part of the study of language. Thus, the value of sociolinguistics is the light it throws on the nature of language in general or on the characteristics of some particular language.” (Hudson, 1996).

Language plays an integral and essential part in forming social relationships in society and has a crucial role in nurturing the culture and distinctiveness of any community. Still, there is invariably a requirement to study the sociological characteristics of a language, usually referred to as sociolinguistics. William Labov, an influential and popular individual in sociolinguistics, mentions that “the linguistic behaviour of individuals cannot be understood without knowledge of the communities that they belong to.” (Labov, 2006, p. 380). The concrete use of a language differs from one particular place to another. There is a consistent influence of assorted dynamic elements of society, such as context, beliefs, cultural norms, thoughts, and anticipations, on language and its use, which is called sociolinguistics. The research fosters an overview of sociolinguistics, as there is always a relationship between language and humans, which translates this abstract concept into concreteness, evidence that the usefulness of language can characterise any particular society. When viewed through the lens of literature, sociolinguistics takes on a captivating and approachable narrative. It invites readers to explore the links between language, identity, and society. It becomes clear that the combination of sociolinguistics and literature provides a deep comprehension of how language operates as a dynamic entity, closely intertwined with the social fabric. Sociolinguistics, rooted in ethnography, is a constituent of anthropology, a multidisciplinary branch of sociology, and a part of linguistics. Individuals may utilise language in diverse manners and manifest across various structures. Sociolinguistics, as a concept, is itself a branch of anthropology. It brings forth the influence of language on social facets of life.

Literature is a bridge, allowing study to delve into characters' inner thoughts and emotions. Through their use of language, we can hear the echoes of the larger sociolinguistic context. By using this perspective, we can analyse the intricate language used in novels and gain a deeper understanding of how language influences and mirrors the world in which it exists. In addition to the specific elements discussed in this paper, it is essential to acknowledge that sociolinguistics, as revealed in the literature, is a constantly changing field that is still developing. The narratives found in novels provide glimpses into the linguistic landscapes of specific moments in time. However, they also invite readers to reflect on the continuous changes and adjustments that language experiences concerning evolving social, cultural, and political circumstances. The pages of these novels make the realisation that language is more than just a means of communication. It is a container that holds the echoes of culture, the imprints of history, and the whispers of societal transformation. The intersection of sociolinguistics and literature offers a captivating and illuminating space for boundless linguistic exploration, which continues to captivate and challenge.

The Interplay of Language and Society: A Multifaceted Perspective

Human beings comprehend the language in society to express their ideas, emotions and imagination in society. Language and culture are interconnected. Language usage varies based on regional social strata, occupational dialects, and gender differences. According to Richards, Identity is “something that is formed and shaped through action” (Richards, 2006, p. 3). This is why sociolinguistics is a multidisciplinary subject connecting various academic disciplines. Gumperz uses the phrase called “a bewildering array of language and dialect divisions” and says that, “the literary and colloquial forms of Arabic used in Iraq, Morocco, and Egypt, or the Welsh of North and South Wales, the local dialects of Rajasthan and Bihar in North India are grammatically quite separate, yet only one language is recognized in each case.” (Gumperz, 1982, p. 20). There exists a correlation between language and its functionality within a social setting. Language influences and mirrors societal structures. Dittmar mentions, ‘speech behaviour and social behaviour are in a state of constant interaction.’ (Dittmar, 1976, p. 238).

Individuals frequently communicate and use language distinctively, diversely, and uniquely when they belong to diverse social classes. Numerous variables, such as quality of education, gender, ethnicity, status, age, geographical barricades and religion, lead to dissimilarities in the usage of language. Chomsky himself asserted that “Linguistic theory is concerned primarily with an ideal speaker–listener, in a completely homogeneous speech-community, who knows its language perfectly and is unaffected by such grammatically irrelevant conditions as memory limitations, distractions, shifts of attention and interest, and errors (random or characteristic) in applying his knowledge of the language in actual performance. This seems to me to have been

the position of the founders of modern general linguistics, and no cogent reason for modifying it has been offered. To study actual linguistic performance, we must consider the interaction of a variety of factors, of which the underlying competence of the speaker–hearer is only one. In this respect, study of language is no different from empirical investigation of other complex phenomena.”(Chomsky, 1965, p. 3–4).

A particular social class has its own pronunciation, accent, dialect, and ways of speaking that describe linguistic variation. There is language variation because each individual may have a different morphology, accent, lexicon, and syntax. Particular social classes are commanded to live in specific regions and have their own distinct language. Hence, language also depicts the class-based variation of its practitioners. Ferguson shares his opinions about variety and quotes that “any body of human speech patterns which is sufficiently homogeneous to be analyzed by available techniques of synchronic description and which has a sufficiently large repertory of elements and their arrangements or processes with broad enough semantic scope to function in all formal contexts of communication.” (Ferguson, 1972, p. 30).

Sociolinguistic Dynamics Reflected in Literary Narratives

Chambers has acclaimed that: “Sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language, and the most productive studies in the four decades of sociolinguistic research have emanated from determining the social evaluation of linguistic variants. These are also the areas most susceptible to scientific methods such as hypothesis-formation, logical inference, and statistical testing.” (Chambers, 2002, p. 3). Sociolinguistics examines language attitudes, language contact, and language variation. The specialisation scrutinises how distinguishable social characteristics, such as gender, ethnicity, age, occupation, class, education, and geographical surroundings, can impact language. For this matter, sociolinguistic elements like dialect, standard language, register, idiolect, sociolect, pidgin, creole, and diglossia are traced to notice how the use of language maintains social roles within a community, as this also highlights the social elements of language use. Linguists employ the term “vernacular” to denote the language that an individual acquires during their upbringing and utilises in their day-to-day existence for regular, everyday life, interactions with others.

What makes researching sociolinguistics through the lens of literature possible is that sociolinguistics has deep roots in anthropology and social psychology. Researchers have explored how changes in attitudes and perceptions of in-group and out-group behaviours impact language. Using literature can help analyse language from a social perspective, too. Analysing the impact of language is also vital, as this helps to untangle nuisances that encircle problems such as language policy, language planning, social inequality, and identity crises. This research reevaluates the spectrum and effectiveness of culturally conditional speech manner, code-switching, nativisation, coinages, direct translation, proverbs, hybridisation, semantic extension and loan words. There is a correlation between language, its use, and how social groupings structure themselves. Using examples from various literary texts to analyse what roles the language plays and demonstrates is critical. The paper also uses literary works to shed light on other key concepts of sociolinguistics, like language pidgins and creoles, planning, register and jargon, and mutual intelligibility.

This could be reasonably comprehended with the benchmark of George Orwell’s 1984 Party regime language through the concept of Newspeak. The novel probes how language manipulation can be a mechanism for political governance and social engineering. This demonstrates the sociology of language as it showcases how language policies—in this circumstance, the purposeful manipulation of language by an ungenerous authority—can manipulate society to enforce social conformity. According to Cameron, what is significant to note that sociolinguistics can “deal with such matters as the production and reproduction of linguistic norms by institutions and socializing practices; how these norms are apprehended, accepted, resisted and subverted by individual actors and what their relation is to the construction of identity.” (Cameron, 1997, p. 62). By restraining the vocabulary and transforming the meanings of words, the party aspires to manipulate and gaslight thought, annihilate dissent, and bolster power structures. On the other hand, sociolinguistics can be considered a subfield of linguistics. Holmes says that “the sociolinguist’s aim is to move towards a theory which provides a motivated account of the way language is used in a community, and of the choices people make when they use language.” (Holmes, 1992, p. 16). It frequently employs linguistic methodologies to analyse language conventions in dissimilar social settings.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is also a literary work that presents worthwhile perspicuity into the intricate relationship between language and society. The characters’ language preferences contribute to the decadent tapestry of cultural and social diversity sketched in the novel. The characters in this novel use dialects or speech patterns that reminisce about their cultural contexts and social backgrounds. The protagonist, Janie, is oftentimes witnessed operating distinct linguistic styles designated for the social setting. The writer mentions, “Two things everybody’s got tuh do fuh theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about livin’ fuh theyselves.” (Hurston, 1937, p. 183). The novel apprehends the affluence of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE). The work shows multifarious dialects within the African-American society. The novel investigates the diversity of language within a precinct and its linkage to identity. This symbolises sociolinguistics by demonstrating how language variations, such as speech patterns and dialects, are concatenated with social factors like class, race, and community.

One enlightening example of sociolinguistics that can be articulated is the aspect identified in J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951). In the narrative, the character of Holden Caulfield has a distinctive voice and informal language that reminisces his teenage rebellion and social alienation. He continually uses colloquial expressions and slang. He says, "I'm always saying 'Glad to've met you' to somebody I'm not at all glad I met. If you want to stay alive, you have to say that stuff, though." (Salinger, 1951, p. 35). The novel furnishes a sociolinguistic exploration of how language can be a gravestone of youth subcultures and an instrument for expressing individuality. A similar aspect of sociolinguistics can be seen in the novel Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007). It also assimilates Spanglish, a combination of English and Spanish, echoing the linguistic reality of considerable Dominican Americans. In the novel, characters swap communication between dialects and languages according to their environments. The novel hence exemplifies how language preference is concatenated with cultural identity and the strata of bilingual communities. The writer remarks, "You really want to know what being an X-Man feels like? Just be a smart bookish boy of color in a contemporary U.S. ghetto." (Díaz, 2007, p. 6).

Similarly, Yunior, the Narrator, indulges in switching between languages and dialects, "And like that, instead of just my old Jefita, I had a Dominican mother who did the azabache and who talked about her home in Baní and about the mariposas and the ciguapas and the perdidos and the mundos, all in a Spanish so elemental even I could follow it." (Díaz, 2007, p. 47). In the same text there is another character who can be glimpsed as a mouthpiece of the sociolinguistic aspect which is Oscar's Mother. The narrator asserts, "His mother was a wildcat of a woman, and I know he sometimes caught her speaking to him in an alien language, a language only her son could understand." (Díaz, 2007, p. 3). Then there is another character, Oscar's Sister Lola, who emphasises steering and switching between languages, mirroring the linguistic complexity of the Dominican-American background and the characters' affinities to their cultural roots. There is a mention that "Lola knew that the more she buried herself in the language, the more she buried her family. Yet she spoke it like a poem." (Díaz, 2007, p. 57). Language and culture are interconnected. The next concept is ethnolinguistics, which discusses the connection, interrelationship, and interrelatedness between a language and the cultural demeanour of those who speak it.

Multilingualism: Transcending Cultural Norms of Monolingual, Bilingual, and Trilingualism

Different languages can be used for different purposes. Another notion to analyse while researching sociolinguistics is multilingualism. Sridhar asserted that, "multilingualism involving balanced, natively-like command of all the languages in the repertoire is rather uncommon. Typically, multilinguals have varying degrees of command of the different repertoires. The differences in competence in the various languages might range from command of a few lexical items, formulaic expressions such as greetings, and rudimentary conversational skills all the way to excellent command of the grammar and vocabulary and specialized register and styles." (Sridhar, 1996, p. 50).

Evidence and research even go one step further in showing how multilingualism helps individuals use more neurons, encode sounds, and, in fact, become more resistant to diseases such as Alzheimer's. Multilinguals have greater access to cultures, express their ideas in more than one language, and foster greater tolerance and appreciation for cultural differences. Monolingualism is the natural ability to use only one language. In comparison, multilingualism is the ability to communicate in multiple languages. Before propelling abysmal into the dregs of sociolinguistics, there is the computation of multifarious classifications of multilingualism, such as bilingualism, which is the use of two languages, and Trilingualism, which implies the use of three languages. Polyglot is an individual who comprehends and uses multiple languages for merriment. There are considerable edges of being multilingual over being monolingual, such as better resolving conflicting information, brain plasticity, memory generalisation, and mental flexibility. Before proceeding to a profound descent into the computation of ideas of multilingualism in literary works, it is vital to understand the concepts of a multilingual community, which could be either multipart-lingual, polyglossia, or omnilingual.

Polyglossia, Code-Switching and Lexical Borrowing in Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children

Multipart-lingual is a society where individuals have knowledge of multiple languages but prefer to speak mostly in the mother tongue. In such a society, despite knowledge of more than one language, the individuals speak primarily in one language, desiring to use their mother tongues. Considerable multilingual societies are polyglossies. Polyglossia is a concept that refers to the existence of multiple languages. In a single society, there could be the coexistence of varieties of the same language. Polyglossia suggests a live exchange of ideas by individuals in multiple languages within one culture. On the other hand, "Omnilingualism" is a society that implies the understanding and use of numerous languages interchangeably for various functions. Various novels feature characters who are categorised as polyglot or multilingual. Such characters can share sentiments in multiple languages. There is a multilingual society in the fictional world of *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie. The characters use various languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, and a rustic dialect. For example, one of the characters named Parvati-the-Witch, "Arre' baap, Saleem, you remember—the children, yaar, O this

is too good! So why are you looking so serious when I feel like to hug you to pieces? So many years I only saw you inside here," she taps her forehead, "and now you're here at last with a face like a fish. Hey, Saleem! Say one hullo at least." (Rushdie, 1981). Also, in *Midnight Children*, there are characters like Tai whose language has code-mixing, language hybridisation and vernacular elements.

Code-switching refers to the use of two or more languages simultaneously in a speech or communication. Code-switching leads to language hybridisation. Gal says, "Codeswitching is a conversational strategy used to establish, cross or destroy group boundaries; to create, evoke or change interpersonal relations with their rights and obligations." (Gal, 1988 p. 247). Language hybridisation refers to one language's grammar or structure used by another's language. Tai says, "Nakkoo, listen, listen. I have seen plenty. Yara, you should've seen that Isa when he came, beard down to his balls, bald as an egg on his head. He was old and fagged-out but he knew his manners. "You first," Tai, he'd say, and "Please to sit"; always a respectful tongue, he never called me crackpot, never called me tu either, always aap. Polite, see?" (Rushdie, 1981). The primary language of the novel is English, a legacy of British colonial rule. But English evolves a conveyance for characters to steer the complicatedness of their roots and reconcile their establishment in a dynamic society. Rushdie employs English not only as an instrument of storytelling but also as a pawn to investigate the consequence of colonisation on identity and cultural expression.

Also, there is a concept in sociolinguistics: lexical borrowing, which means transferring words or expressions from one language to another. Another example of Code Switching in the novel is explicit in the words of the character Hanif who says, "'Yes, tickety-boo! The boy is really ship-shape! Come on phaelwan: a ride in my Packard, okay?" And talking at the same time is Mary Pereira, "Chocolate cake," she is promising, "laddoos, pista-ki-lauz, meat samosas, kulfi . So thin you got, baba, the wind will blow you away.'" (Rushdie, 1981). One striking attribute is the coherence of integration of Hindi and other regional languages into the chronology through code-switching. The novel utilises a polyglot approach, interweaving considerable languages to ricochet the eclectic linguistic landscape of post-colonial India. The characters in "Midnight's Children" show a consistent low-viscosity switch between English and their native languages, echoing the multilingual existence of India.

Analysis of Diglossia and Bilingualism in Literary Narratives

A person is considered bilingual if they are able to read, write, listen, and speak fluently in two languages. Accordingly, sociolinguists occasionally draw attention to the connections between the notions of bilingualism and diglossia. Bilingualism, which refers to people within the same community communicating in two or more additional languages, is occasionally employed as a similar term for, according to sociolinguists, diglossia. Diglossia and bilingualism are distinct concepts. A society is considered bilingual if a sizable fraction of its members speak and understand two languages on a regular basis. In bilingualism, the two languages are interchangeable and incorporated into the community's everyday exchange of ideas. There is an example of bilingualism in *Midnight Children* by Salman Rushdie, identified from the quote, "a real rutputty joint, with painted boards proclaiming LOVELY LASSI and FUNTABULOUS FALOODA and BHEL-PURI BOMBAY FASHION with fi lmi play-back music blaring out of a cheap radio by the cash-till . . ." (Rushdie, 1981). The lexical connections between English and Hindi-Urdu are identified in the English variant, which shows the linguistic situation of post-Independence India. This linguistic dexterity counts verisimilitude to the characters and the narrative, apprehending the fine distinction of transmission of language in a linguistically miscellaneous nation.

Diglossia refers to a linguistic situation wherein an individual or a community employs two different varieties of the same language for various purposes or social contexts. In general, one form of the assortment of two languages is more refined or esteemed. In a given geographic region, one language is commonly employed in formal or written contexts, whereas the other is used colloquially or in a derogatory manner in everyday, commonplace discourse. Diglossia brings into existence the condition in which two easily distinguishable oddities of a language are used in perceptible social contexts or for unequivocal functions within the same society. Diglossia exists in a multilingual society. Ferguson provides a definition of the term "diglossia" as follows: "diglossia is a relatively stable language situation in which, in addition to the primary dialects of the language (which may include a standard or regional standards), there is a very divergent, highly codified (often grammatically more complex) superposed variety, the vehicle of a large and respected body of written literature, either of an earlier period or in another speech community, which is learned largely by formal education and is used for most written and formal spoken purposes but is not used by any sector of the community for ordinary conversation." (Ferguson, 1959, p. 336). In diglossic societies, which are also marked by extreme social class inequality, the majority of individuals who belong to the backward class lack proficiency in the high dialect. The high-prestige dialect is used to show the status of those who are higher in the hierarchy.

The concept of diglossia could be highlighted in a very famous work, *The Cairo Trilogy*, by Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz. The trilogy consists of three world-famous novels. *Palace Walk*, *Palace of Desire*, and *Sugar Street* all produce an intriguing illustration of Egyptian society during the beginning of the 20th century,

specifically between the imperilment of World War I and the outset of the Egyptian revolution in 1952. Even after their victory in World War I, the British refused to leave their control in Egypt. Britain possessed control of the Suez Canal zone. In addition to equipping a fascinating narrative, *The Cairo Trilogy* offers insights into sociolinguistic investigation, contributing discernment into the intricacies of language use and societal standards within the context of diglossia in Egypt during that span. The novels portray the cultural dynamics and linguistic discourses in the setting of Cairo, accentuating the coexistence of two linguistic miscellanies. The community uses classical Arabic or Fusha as the formal language and colloquial Arabic or Amiyya as the informal language. This duality in language recollects the diglossic disposition of Egyptian Arabic. Analysing the role and languages of multiple characters in the novel shed light on linguistic diglossia, employing dissimilar types of Arabic depending on the context. Naguib Mahfouz excellently exemplifies classical Arabic in formal backdrops, such as literature, religious discourse, and education. It distinguishes from the everyday use of colloquial Arabic in domestic and informal interchanges.

Language planning and Register

Language planning refers to the intentional actions taken by individuals, communities, or governments to exert control over the usage, structure, or standing of a language. Language planning includes activities such as standardisation, compiling dictionaries, and formulating language policies to encourage or discourage specific linguistic characteristics. Trudgill gives definition of “Standard English” as follows: “Standard English is that variety of English which is usually used in print, and which is normally taught in schools and to non-native speakers learning the language. It is also the variety which is normally spoken by educated people and used in news broadcasts and other similar situations. The difference between standard and nonstandard, it should be noted, has nothing in principle to do with differences between formal and colloquial language, or with concepts such as ‘bad language.’ Standard English has colloquial as well as formal variants, and Standard English speakers swear as much as others.” (Trudgill, 1995, pp. 5–6).

Register refers to a specific form of language that is employed for a certain purpose or within a specific social context. Distinct records are employed in official and informal settings, including academic writing, casual conversation, and legal speech. Hudson asserts, “Your dialect shows who (or what) you are, whilst your register shows what you are doing.” (Hudson, 1996, p. 46). Jargon refers to the specialised vocabulary or terminology that is operated by a specific organisation or profession. It frequently incorporates specialised terminology and can be challenging for individuals who are outside the group to comprehend. Mutual intelligibility refers to the ability of two or more languages or dialects to be understood by speakers of different languages without the need for translation or interpretation. Mutual intelligibility refers to the capacity of individuals who speak distinct yet closely related languages to comprehend one another to a certain degree. Mutual intelligibility refers to the ability of speakers to understand one another's speech even in the absence of prior exposure to each other's language. It is a prevalent characteristic among languages that are closely related. Sociolect refers to the specific language and speech patterns used by a particular social group or community.

Literary Exploration of Language planning and Register

Literature serves as a bridge, allowing readers to delve into characters' inner thoughts and emotions. Through their use of language, one can hear the echoes of the larger sociolinguistic context. Using this perspective, one can analyse the intricate language used in novels and gain a deeper understanding of how language influences and mirrors the world in which humans exist. *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy incorporates elements like the language of pidgins and creoles. The work incorporates a blend of English and Malayalam, the local language of Kerala, to mirror the linguistic variety of the characters and their cultural milieu. The novel adopts a non-linear structure, carefully unveiling events to generate suspense and underscore the influence of social and cultural planning on the characters' livelihoods. The novel presents specific registers and jargon associated with the characters' social classes, professions, and the cultural context of Kerala. The work presents distinct linguistic styles and specialised terminology related to the characters' societal positions. The use of both English and Malayalam languages demonstrates mutual intelligibility among the characters, hence offering valuable insights into their individual identities and interpersonal connections. The characters in the narrative possess unique perspectives on language, as English is frequently linked to privilege and authority, while Malayalam is associated with cultural heritage and family connections. Power is “the ability to control events in order to achieve one's aims” (Tollefson, 2006, p. 46) and is “the control someone has over the outcomes of others” (Myers-Scotton, 2006, p. 199). The novel characterises prosperous linguistic interactions, including narrative elements, thoughts, and dialogue, to communicate the elaborateness of communication within multilingual and culturally diverse surroundings. The linguistic variation found in Kerala is seen in the usage of Malayalam phrases, colloquial expressions, and English with regional influences, indicating language variance. The characters' sociolects, influenced by their social origins and experiences, are expressed through linguistic variants, emphasising the cultural and social aspects of their identities. The multilingual cast of characters navigates a multilingual society, and language plays a role in forming personal relationships; this leads to an examination of communication used in the context of historical, cross-cultural interactions. The themes of identity, belonging, and the influence of language on cultural integration to scrutinize how members of society preserve their cultural and linguistic identity while acclimating to a reinvigorated language and

culture. Through their multilingual narrative, or the choice of language the literary works mark cultural and geographical affiliations, entitling readers to immerse themselves in the diverse communities depicted in the novel.

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy is only one example of how code-switching reveals how language is malleable and adaptive, mirroring the cultural blending that occurs in society. Because they are bilingual, the characters in these stories can cross language barriers. Glimpse the complex power dynamics, interpersonal dynamics, and negotiations of identity that influence language choices as they engage with one another. The characters' perspectives on language serve as a poignant underlying theme in the narrative, mirroring their cultural identity and personal background. Using English and Malayalam in Arundhati Roy's work allows characters to express their desires, associations, and the intricate dynamics between traditional and contemporary elements. The attitudes are portals into the characters' inner worlds, influenced by historical, cultural, and personal circumstances. The Colonial Legacy helps us observe the language peculiarities found in literature, providing a clear indication of the lasting influence of colonial history and allowing us to analyse their ongoing effects. The characters' challenges in dealing with language symbolise the more comprehensive post-colonial identities. English is both a linguistic remnant of colonialism and a means to navigate the intricacies of a swiftly evolving global landscape. The act of assigning names, which is closely connected to one's linguistic identity, emerges as a crucial factor. The literature illustrates how characters' names, whether personal names, official names, or nicknames, symbolise familial connections, societal norms, and the process of navigating individual and cultural identities through language. The interaction between language and social environment is a recurring motif, demonstrating how people's linguistic decisions are profoundly ingrained in the cultural framework that envelops them. The linguistic landscape also changes when individuals transition between various social contexts, which illustrates how language adapts to evolving surroundings.

Bainbridge mentions that, "While sociolinguists without number have documented class-related variation in speech, hardly any of them asked themselves what social class was. They treated class as a key independent variable, with variations in speech dependent upon class variations, yet they never considered the meaning of the independent variable. In consequence, they seldom attempted anything like a theory of why class should have an impact, and even more rarely examined their measures of class to see if they were methodologically defensible." (Bainbridge, 1994, p. 4023). Woolard says that, "sociolinguists have often borrowed sociological concepts in an ad hoc and unreflecting fashion, not usually considering critically the implicit theoretical frameworks that are imported." (Woolard, 1985, p. 738). The nuanced portrayals underscore language's crucial role in creating and maintaining societal divisions. By intertwining the various aspects of sociolinguistics within the realm of literature, we discover that novels reflect the realities of society and act as tools for exploration. They challenge our preconceived ideas and encourage readers to delve into the intricate complexities of language.

Conclusion

The paper summarises the main findings, emphasises the importance of sociolinguistics in comprehending different linguistic environments, and underscores the role of literature in depicting these intricacies. Exploring sociolinguistics has shed light on the intricate relationship between language, society, and culture, with literary works playing a significant role in this understanding. Considering the aspects of sociolinguistics and how they are portrayed in novels, it becomes clear that literature offers a valuable perspective for understanding the complex interactions of language in various social settings. The post-colonial legacy, which shapes language planning and policy, is implicitly present in the narrative threads of our literary examples. The characters' decisions regarding the use of English and vernacular languages reflect more considerable societal challenges related to autonomy, identity, and negotiating power dynamics. Overt and covert language planning significantly influence the novels, which is evident throughout the text. This influence reflects the socio-political contexts in which these novels take place. By examining social class from a sociolinguistic perspective, literature reflects the scope to understand how linguistic variation serves as both an indicator and a driver of social stratification. The contrast in language choices between upper and working-class characters highlights the different sociolects that influence their identities. It becomes clear that the combination of sociolinguistics and literature provides a deep comprehension of how language operates as a dynamic entity, closely intertwined with the social fabric. The combination of sociolinguistics and literature invites scholars, researchers, and enthusiasts to continue exploring. The narratives in novels invite readers to explore further, discover additional levels of linguistic complexity, and participate in a conversation beyond academia's confines.

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