ISSN: <u>2538-3116</u> Home Page: <u>Jwica.ut.ac.ir</u>



Woman in Culture and Arts

Analyzing the Concept of Subject, Identity and Other in Women's Writing Based on Greimas' Ideas

(The Pear Tree, The Great Lady of My Soul, Another Place of Goli Taraghi)

Matin Vesal^{1⊠} | Atiyeh Arabi²

- 1. Corresponding Author, Associate Professor of French Language, Department of French, Faculty of Literature and Humains Sicences, Shahid Chamran University of Ahvaz, Ahvaz, Iran. E-mail: m.vesal@scu.ac.ir
- 2. Associate Professor of French Language, Department of French Language, Faculty of Persian Literature and Foreign Languages, University of Mazandaran, Babolsar, Iran. E-mail: a.arabi@umz.ac.ir

Article Info

Introduction

Article type:

Research Article

Article history:

Received: 3 July 2024

Received in revised form: 20

November 2024

Accepted: 10 December 2024 Published online: 2 October

2025

ABSTRACT

The contemporary era is characterized by a strong emphasis on individuality, and the concept of self and identity is a significant theme in fiction. This distinction is apparent in the literary works of women, as the process of identity formation in women differs from that of males. In fact, the sexual identification of the author must be taken into account when analyzing the work of female writers. One of the methods of analyzing the structures of a narrative text that Greimas proposes is the action model, which examines the role of the subject and the relationship of characters among themselves as story actors. Creating aligned or non-aligned identity challenges, actors can either interact with society or rebel against it. This essay aims to elucidate the issue of how story actors can interact with society or rebel against it by creating aligned or non-aligned identity challenges. It does so by referencing Greimas's action model and examining three short stories by Goli Targhi: "The Pear Tree," "The Great Lady of My Soul," and "Somewhere Else." What is the significance of the communicative subject and fragmented identity in women's writing, and how do they influence the text's action pattern? How do the subject and the other ultimately align, thereby presenting a new identity for women?

Methodology

One of the methods of analyzing the structures of a narrative text that Greimas proposes is the action model, which examines the role of the subject and the relationship of characters to each other as actors in the story. Creating aligned or non-aligned identity challenges, actors can either interact with society or rebel against it. Consequently, Greimas' action model examines the areas that connect the characters' actions and the relationship between characters and their roles, thereby facilitating comprehension. Greimas attempted to analyze the narrative by presenting the fundamental structures in the form of an action model. In his opinion, the foundation of all narratives is comprised of only six roles or functions, which can be categorized into three related pairings. The actor is an individual or entity that either conducts the action or is the subject of an action. The term "actor" encompasses more than just a fictional character; it can also refer to an abstract concept such as freedom, an object, a group, or an individual. Narrative is fundamentally the act of transferring a value or object from one actor to another. The sender sends the subject actor in pursuit of an objective or object of value that the receiver can utilize. During the quest, the assisting actors provide assistance, while the rival actors obstruct him.

Discussion

The political, cultural, and social influences of the period and place in which a literary work is written are the primary factors that influence its form, thematic, and aesthetic orientation. Consequently, the inquiry is raised as to whether the female speech and writing that is produced by the "second sex" can serve as a reflection of cultural determinism, discrimination, and domination in a patriarchal society. "In Goli Targhi's works and in women's literature in general, the endeavor to ascertain one's individuality and identity as a woman occupies a significant position. This literature examines the world from a female perspective and, by highlighting the social role and innermost nature of women, presents a distinct image of women from the one depicted in the works of male writers. Female writers

Keywords:

Identity,
Goli Taraghi,
Greimas,
Other,
Subject.

perceive their identity as the result of ongoing communication with others, as opposed to the individual process by which the "I" is established in the writing of males. Therefore, the feminine "I" is distinct from the masculine "I" and is defined in relation to the latter. Simply put, the subject is present in the latter.

In other words, the subject establishes an interactive relationship with another in order to regain their lost identity. Consequently, in the writing of women, a distinct form of subject individuality is established, which can be referred to as communicative identity. This implies that women consistently rediscover their identity in relation to others, and the "other" is a significant factor in its development. The writer's mind is fertilized by the incarnation of the female spirit of the narrator's lost love in the pear tree and its inspiration in the story "The Pear Tree." In "The Great Lady of My Soul," the narrator achieves spiritual tranquility by immersing himself in a verdant garden that serves as a reminder of the great lady of fecundity and nature. Similarly, in "Somewhere Else," the narrator rediscovers his authentic self by uniting with the earth, nature, and soil.

Conclusion

In order to alter their social status and reclaim their denied identity, women writers seek to present a new image of women, leveraging their extensive presence in the field of literature and fiction. This endeavor results in the introduction of various characters into the narrative. The primary focus of the narrative is the character or subject, and the story's significance can be deduced by examining its actions and reactions. In reality, the subject has the ability to influence its identity by making decisions and taking action. A novel concept of identity and subject is introduced in the realm of women's writing. A network of meanings that are consistent with social expectations, ideals, and values is no longer the sole means by which identity is established. In this manner, the discipline of women's writing serves as a platform for challenging societal norms and conventions. This analysis, which concentrates on the subject's actor role and its relationship with other actors, demonstrates that the boundaries between the subject and the sender are blurred in the stories analyzed in this study, and the two actors occasionally merge. This phenomenon, which challenges the model of action, is closely associated with the notion of female identity. Consequently, identity in the realm of women's writing is characterized by the perpetual exchange between the subject and the other. In the narratives examined in this study, the feminine nature and spirit are manifested in the characters, resulting in the representation of a new image of women.

Cite this article: Vesal. M., & Arabi, A. (2025). Analyzing the Concept of Subject, Identity and Other in Women's Writing Based on Greimas' Ideas (*The Pear Tree, The Great Lady of My Soul, Another Place* of Goli Taraghi). Woman in Culture and Art, 17(3), 363-380.

DOI: http://doi.org/10.22059/jwica.2024.378719.2049



© The Author(s). Publisher: The University of Tehran Press.

DOI: http://doi.org/10.22059/jwica.2024.378719.2049