



CONFERENCE ARTICLE

EXPRESSION OF NATIONAL REALIA IN LITERARY TEXTS

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the ways national realia are represented in literary texts and examines their role in conveying cultural identity and social experience. National realia refer to culture-bound elements embedded in language that reflect a nation's historical background, everyday practices, and value systems. The study focuses on how literary authors employ such elements to construct meaning, enhance realism, and preserve national distinctiveness. The analysis demonstrates that national realia function not merely as descriptive details but as integral components of narrative structure that shape interpretation and reader perception. The findings confirm that the artistic use of national realia strengthens the connection between literature and national consciousness.

KEYWORDS

National realia, literary discourse, cultural representation, national identity, realism, narrative function.

INTRODUCTION

Literary texts have long served as repositories of national memory and cultural identity. Through narrative language and artistic imagery, writers record the lived experiences, traditions, and moral values of their societies. One of the most effective tools for achieving this purpose is the use of national realia—linguistic elements that represent culturally specific objects, practices, and concepts.

National realia distinguish one literary tradition from another by embedding cultural specificity within the text. These elements enable authors to depict social reality with greater accuracy while simultaneously preserving the uniqueness of national experience. The present thesis investigates how national realia are expressed in literary texts and examines their significance in representing cultural identity and social context.

National Realia as Culture-Bound Linguistic Elements

National realia occupy a distinct position within the lexical system of a language. Unlike neutral vocabulary, they are inseparable from the cultural environment in which they emerge. Such elements often denote traditional customs, social institutions, historical phenomena, or material culture that have no direct equivalents in other linguistic communities.

In literary discourse, national realia provide contextual depth and cultural authenticity. References to traditional clothing, local customs, social rituals, or everyday practices enable readers to visualize the setting and better understand the social conditions portrayed in the narrative. These elements contribute to the formation of a culturally grounded fictional world.

From a semantic perspective, national realia carry layered meanings that extend beyond their basic reference. They evoke cultural associations and emotional responses shaped by collective historical experience. As a result, their interpretation requires familiarity with the cultural framework from which they originate.

Functional Roles of National Realia in Literary Texts

National realia perform multiple interconnected functions within literary works. One of their primary roles is the cultural anchoring function, through which a text is firmly situated within a specific national context. This function allows readers to recognize the cultural background of the narrative and distinguish it from other literary traditions.

Another important role is the representational function. National realia convey information about social relations, everyday life, and cultural norms. By integrating such elements into the narrative, authors enhance the realism and credibility of their works.

National realia also serve a stylistic and expressive function. Their presence enriches imagery, reinforces thematic development, and adds emotional nuance. Through careful use of culturally marked elements, writers are able to communicate meanings that would be difficult to express through neutral language alone.

In addition, national realia contribute to character construction. Characters' speech patterns, habits, and interactions often reflect culturally specific values and traditions, thereby reinforcing their authenticity and psychological depth.

National Realia and the Expression of National Identity

The depiction of national identity is a central concern in many literary traditions. National realia play a crucial role in this process by embodying cultural symbols and social practices that define collective identity. Through such elements, literature becomes a medium for preserving cultural heritage and transmitting it across generations.

In realist literary traditions, national realia frequently function as indicators of social structure and historical change. They reveal the relationship between individuals and their society and reflect dominant moral and ethical values. As a result, literary texts containing national realia often serve as cultural documents that record national experience.

Furthermore, national realia facilitate intercultural dialogue by introducing readers to unfamiliar cultural environments. When presented effectively, these elements encourage cultural awareness and promote understanding across national boundaries.

Interpretative Challenges Associated with National Realia

Despite their narrative importance, national realia may pose interpretative challenges for readers who lack cultural background knowledge. Without sufficient contextual information, the significance of such elements may remain unclear. This issue becomes particularly relevant in cross-cultural reading contexts.

Authors often address this challenge by embedding explanations within the narrative or providing contextual cues that guide interpretation. Such techniques allow national realia to retain their cultural specificity while remaining accessible to a broader readership.

Conclusion

In conclusion, national realia represent essential components of literary discourse that contribute significantly to the expression of national identity and cultural reality. Far from serving as decorative details, they function as meaningful narrative elements that shape realism, characterization, and thematic structure.

The analysis demonstrates that the effective use of national realia enhances the cultural depth and artistic value of literary texts. By integrating culturally specific elements into narrative frameworks, writers preserve national heritage and expand the interpretative possibilities of literature. Consequently, the study of national realia remains vital for literary analysis and cross-cultural understanding.

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