

Narrative Analysis of Short Story “Martand” By” Nayantara Sahgal” Through Labov Model

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Abstract

This study focuses on short story Martand by Nayantara, the sub-genre of literature. Narrative analysis refers to a method for interpreting text or visual data that have a storied form. The study shows the peculiarity of short story, through linguistic model of narrative analysis that Labov formed. This model of narrative analysis is effective because it deals with narrative in very clear steps. This research explores the Labovian macro features within the story. These features provide a valuable foundation for analyzing written discourse.. Above model is developed model which has six steps(1)abstract(2)orientation(3)complication action (4)evaluation (5)resolution (6)coda. Present study has used all these narrative steps for analyzing martand narrative story. The study analyzes the presence of all Labovian linguistics elements in this short story. This is a qualitative based study.

Keywords: narrative, steps, discourse analysis, short story, elements.

Introduction:

Narrative has its roots with human beings existence in the world. When human started to convey his ideas; narrative came into being. So we can say that narrative becomes an integral part of human communication. (crowther, 1998)states that the word narrative means spoken and written aspects of incident of a story.

Above argument is supported by (prince, 1982)“Narratology is a kind and function of narrative”. (Gullemette, (-) “In the field of narrative discourse, we endeavor to identify the common, near universal principles of next composition”.

Narrative discourse has so many models and approaches to the analysis of spoken and written text; so there are so many studies on discourse analysis in various genres. Researchers use model, which suits to their study. For instance Labov model has been used for macro level. Narrative discourse can be used to investigate in advertisements, television shows or programs, speeches, storytelling and so on. According to (Fairclough, 2001) “discourse uses the social conditions where the text is broken and also interprets that social condition”

Narrative Discourse examines the language sociologically and linguistically. So it builds relation between macro structure and micro structure. (Van Dijk, 2004) sates that discourse is a tool through which ideologies manifested and builds power base relationships. Narrative discourse refers to the way in which stories or narratives are conveyed through spoken or written diction. It comprises the elements of storytelling for instance plot, characters, events and themes further more style ,structure and language which is used to convey the narrative. So narrative discourse is concerned with the manner in which it is delivered. In order to analyze this short story or narrative; Labov gives his model 1972, which is very appropriate for this purpose.

Problem statement:

The study dives deeper into the six elements of Labov sociolinguistic model and tests that all the elements can apply in the short story “Martand”.

Objective:

To analyze the appropriateness of Labov model for narrative analysis, the short story “martand” by “Nayantara Sahgal”

Research question:

Does the Labov model appropriate for analyzing for analyzing the short story “Martand” by “Nayantara Sahgal”?

Theoretical framework:

(Labov , 1972) Framework has been used by the researcher.

Methodology:

Qualitative approach has been adopted by the researcher to answer the research question.

i. Data collection:

Data has been taken from the short story “Martand” by Indian writer “Nayantara Sahgal.

ii. Tools of data analysis:

Elements of Labov model for instance abstract, orientation, evaluation, resolution and coda are the tools of this research.

Research design:

Descriptive study has been used by the researcher.

Labov sociolinguistic model of narrative analysis:

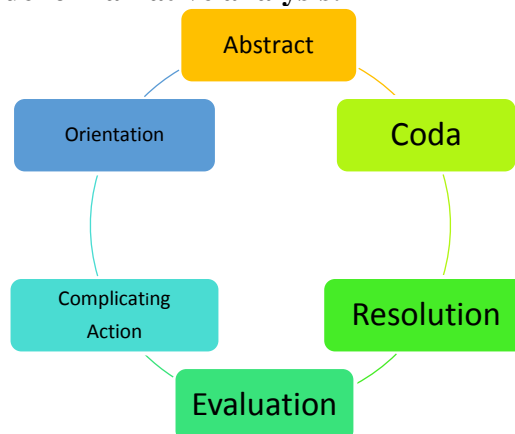


Fig.1, Labovian model

(Labov w. , 1972) Presented six steps of narrative analysis and gave detail of each part how it would be use to analyze narrative genre.

Abstract: what is this story about?

Orientation: It answers who, what, where, why this Story formed.

Complicating action: It provides narrative detail.

Evaluation: It gives additional detail.

Resolution: What did finally happen?

Coda: Sign of completing the narrative. (Labov w. , 1972, p. 270)

Labov clearly says that these elements are not included in every story; sometime there is no abstract and coda. Moreover these elements do not have any sequence each might appear in anywhere.

Application of Labov model to the “martand” by “Nayantara Sahgal”:

Abstract:

It is a first part of Labovian model. According to Labov model one or two phrases are the summary of the entire story and has message also. Labov (Labov, 1972, p. 4.5) abstract is the elementary element of the entire event.

(Toprak, 2001) States that abstract is a short summary of the title. So abstract is the idea of tale which may be anywhere in the story. Martand is the title of the present story. Martand is the personification of sun god in Kashmir. In this story martand is the name which is given to both a man and deity or worship place.

After analyzing the story, it was found that this short story has an abstract. According to the title of the present story Martand indicates that it is character and entire story revolves around him. Martand is not a proper abstract but rather a heading and look like abstract, it gives a glimpse and story is dealt it as an abstract.

Orientation:

According to Labov model; orientation is the set of scenes and usually it answers the questions, for instance why, who, which, where and what.

(Labov w. , 1997) States that orientation provides information about characters, time, place and behavior.(Asfar, 2006) Orientation unfolds setting, activities and context in the narrative. Past continuous has used in the orientation for event description. Orientation often used for delaying suspense and it gives more information about the difficult act if it is coming in the tale. (Johnstone, 2001) says that Orientation does not come in the beginning of the story.

The starting lines of the story are:

“I’d better be going

Naresh my husband did not reply

I looked at martand but he was not looking at me”.

These starting lines catch the attention of the readers and arises the interest to know that why Naresh did not reply and why did narrator look at martand.

The central idea of this story is that narrator has love affair with her husband’s friend named Martand. Naresh woman’s husband is totally unaware about this affair. Martand and narrator once tried to tell Naresh but they could not do so. At the end narrator decides to tell but Naresh break out the news that Martand has been killed by his assistant. Further the narrator says:

“He never did eye- to- eye, except when we were alone.....I got up too wanted to cry out every time he left me, to hear my own voice wailing like a lost child’s”.

In this story there are three characters; unnamed narrator a woman, her husband Naresh and naresh’s friend martand. The entire story revolves around the martand. As story proceeds; we come to know that Naresh is a civil servant and martand is a doctor. The narrator falls in love with martand and her husband totally unaware about their affair. There is triangular relationship. The background story is that its partition time and all the three characters are talking about political trauma.

Setting of this story is 1947.It indicates the freedom from British rule and two nation’s partition of India and Pakistan. There were human crises, mass migration, and violation, homeless persons living in the streets; no food and lastly murders in the name of religious intolerance. The point of view of this story is fist person.

There are two kinds for writing:

- ❖ First person central: in this point view; narrator is also the protagonist of the story.
- ❖ First person peripheral: in this point of view the narrator is telling the story of protagonist.

In martand first person central point of view has been used. All events have been described by the woman. Some evens have visual effects. For instance:

“There was a crowed as usual outside Martand’s clinic next morning.....flies, dust, heavy homeless heat.....he was sitting at his desk, his sleeves rolled up, his feet in slippers, his stethoscope still around his neck. He had forgotten to take it off, like sometimes forgot to eat.

Narrator utilizes the external characters actions, emotion, love and reaction. Reader feels as well as visualize like a scene of movie.

Complicating action:

It is the main body of the narrative; providing a lot of details.(Labov w. , 1972)satiates that complicating action is a series of events which are described in sequence.(Johnstone, 2001) Complicating action builds tension in the audience.

(Asfar, 2006, p. 498) says that “the audience or readers are kept interested in the plot by the tension caused by the complex action.

In this story complicating action occurs when martand says:

“Let me speak to Naresh about us ‘it was not the first time he had urged this.

No, I cried.

He is too good a man deceive. Don’t you know anything about human nature? Panic mad me shrill,

All right, all right said Martand softly. I must go now my love.....some of my staff are giving trouble and refusing to work”.

All above utterances occur when Martand, Naresh and narrator go to the shrine that name is martand. In this story martand name has given to both man and deity.

Narrator has no child and they all go to martand shrine for touch some holy stone for fertility.

“I put the flat of my hand on a lovely broken column leaned my forehead against it and felt it all taken into me”

Martand makes fun of that rehearsal, “How’s that going to get a child, granted martand is the fount of fertility he asked.....

Why not, I pleaded.”

Narrator badly love in martand and it is climax of the story then martand says that he will tell all about in him and narrator to Naresh. But narrator does not want to tell truth to Naresh because Naresh is a good man and she does not deceive him.

Evaluation:

Evaluation is the additional part of the story which leads listener or reader to the important events (Labov w. , 1997) evaluation gives information on the sequence of the event.

(Johnstone, 2001) States that evaluation often comes before resolution and it highlights unusual events. In evaluation, story teller keeps talking while audience keeps in touch with it.

(Labov , 1972) Evaluation comprises superlative phrases, modals, futures, comparatives’ and negatives. Moreover simile and metaphors also occur in the evaluation. (Labov w. , 1972) the clauses of evaluations create suspense, pauses interest within the listener.

Examples:

- ❖ No i cried.
- ❖ We’ll go away.
- ❖ We would go where my child could be born in safety.
- ❖ A man would not be murder for loving mankind.

All these citation shows internal evaluation.

Resolution:

In resolution there are final events that give the narrative closure (Labov w. , 1997) states that resolution has the most notable events. (Johnstone, 2001) Says that resolution releases tension and stress and gives answers and tells what finally happen. it begins final narrative utterances and descriptions.

When martand comes to the point that he will tell all about to Naresh, narrator cried that “Naresh is too good a man to deceive”. But now she takes a decision and ready to tell Naresh.

“You’re home early said and i knew in a flash it was time-if at once-to tell him about martand. Naresh had strange look in his face with fear and full of tension. I went to him and he put his arms around me. Then you hadn’t heard; that’s why i came to tell you.”

Further Naresh says, ‘Martand was stabbed’ he said, ‘less than half an hour ago. Not by a refugee, by one of his own assistants. They sent for me immediately was with him when he was died’ Naresh sobbed while I stood holding him, deadly calm, as if I had known this would happen still had my sight and hearing, but that was all. Nothing could move me anymore.

All these lines indicate the resolution of the short story; when the thing resolved and martand has been killed by his own assistant.

Coda:

Coda is sign that narrative is complete now. It includes the ending or summary of the story. (Labov w. , 1997) Says that coda comprises final clauses. (toolan.1988) says that coda is the ending of the narrative and it does not ask question what happened next. (Toprak, 2001) States that coda declares that the narrator finishes his story and drags the audience to the future.

At the end Naresh sums up the story by saying that:

“We’ll go away, he wept, we will go away thought to a place where was enough of everything and charity could be a virtue, not a crime. we would go where my child could be born in safety and where a man would not be murdered loving mankind.....Naresh mourning martand.....I surely as i breathed knew that every where within hand’s reach was evil”.

Findings:

The Labov model is appropriate of narrative analysis to analyze of the short story”“martand” by “Nayantara Sahgal”. Data analysis has been vividly explained by applying all the six narrative steps. They were present in the narrative for example abstract, orientation, complication action, evaluation, resolution and coda. The narrative also incorporates all the clauses which are essential and effective for a narrative. Resolution and coda have made narrative more interesting. This short story indicates personal liking in a very effective way. Labov sociolinguistic model has discovered all the aspects of this short story.

In orientation and resolution we come to know that martand is about love and lose at a time of intense political crisis. The protagonist who is a woman; find herself caught up in a triangular relationship with her husband Naresh (a civil servant) and martand (a doctor) on the other hand. The love story is poignant one. The woman has fidelity to her husband and an irrepressible heartache for the other man. They had so little time to talk about their personal problems but when they alone they did not talk.

In the story, the character Martand is so innocent and pure because he was too much concerned with the refugees and their crisis. He often talked about their problems, whilst Naresh had no sympathy with the refugees. The end of the story was very sad. The death of martand depicts end of hope and love.

Conclusion:

The narrative analysis of the short story martand by Nayantara Sahgal has done through Labov model; amplify our comprehension. The story has an abstract which gives topic sentence that is followed by detailed orientation. It highlights the setting of the story, characters, and narrator’s point of view that is first person. It also highlights unnamed woman which is fall in love with husband’s friend and her husband totally unaware of all about. After detailed orientation then comes complicating action; when the man is ready to tell woman’s husband about that affair. In evaluation modals, negatives, adjectives and futures make the story enchanting and suspenseful. The climax gives us resolution that creates suspense and

reader finds themselves in disgusting situation; when the woman is ready to tell her husband about that affair. According to Labov model; this story has coda, when woman's husband comes and disclose that the man has been killed by his own assistant and utters ending lines that they will go somewhere else where love is acknowledged.

Labov model is very appropriate for analyzing long and short stories as compare to other models of narrative analysis. The reason is that it can be divided into sub-plots therefore can be easily concluded. Labov model can be applied to other narratives such as moral teachings, religious, Sufism and mysticism. Main objective of this study has been achieved by applying Labov model.

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