

Discourse Analysis of Fairy Tales

Abstract :

One of the branches of modern linguistics is Applied Linguistics. Discourse analysis is a part of Applied linguistics. The pioneers of discourse analysis theory are Roger Brown, Stephen Levinson, Leeven and Hebbbar. In discourse analysis, the meaning of a sentence is analyzed from two aspects - external and internal. Similarly discourse analysis reveals the true meaning by considering linguistic and nonlinguistic backgrounds. The writing process is approached through discourse analysis. Fairy tales can be analyzed in terms of discourse analysis. Fairy tales can be analyzed in terms of discourse analysis. This analysis is called story based analysis.

In the study of 'Discourse Analysis of Fairy Tales', the structure of the stories will be analyzed through discourse analysis theory. Possible analytical aspects are -

- a) Grammatical discourse analysis.
- b) Chronicle analysis.
- c) Analysis of peaks.

Introduction :

Modern Assamese Linguistic began in the 19th century. In 1760's Noam Chomsky proposed the theory - 'Transformational- generative Grammar'. Discourse analysis is a part of Applied linguistics. The discourse analysis theory was originated in 1978 at the University of Pennsylvania. The word 'discourse' has been derived from the Latin word 'discoursus'.

'Discourse Analysis' theory is currently being discussed in the field of linguistics from various perspectives. This study makes an effort to introduce how fairy tales are analyzed through discourse analysis theory.

Nature of Discourse Analysis :

In the sixties, Noam Chomsky pioneered a new direction in the study of descriptive linguistics. The two most notable works of Chomsky are 'Syntactic Structure' and the 'Aspect of theory of Syntax'. The theory proposed by Chomsky in his book 'Syntactic Structure' is known as 'Transformational- generative Grammar'. Linguists before Chomsky only dealt with the external structure of sentences. Chomsky's theory talks about internal structure. According to Chomsky there are two types of sentence structure - external and internal. If we find one meaning in a sentence externally, the same sentence can have another meaning internally. The theory proposed by later linguists based on Chomsky's theory is Discourse Analysis theory. Discourse analysis reveals the true meaning of the sentence by considering the linguistic and non-linguistic background. The pioneers of discourse analysis theory are Brown, Hebbbar, Leeven and Levinson.

The range of discourse analysis is wide. It covers a wide field of linguistics. It is related to psycholinguistics, Applied Linguistics and Sociolinguistics. Discourse analysis theory is closely related to Contextual Science. According to Hymes, a single use of a word can convey multiple meanings. But the context determines when and what it really means.

The main aspects of discourse analysis theory are as follows -

- * The connection between the text and the social environment can be analyzed on the basis of discourse analysis.
- * Through discourse analysis, the whole writing process of the story can be approached through a thorough study of the outside and background story of the selected subject.
- * Discourse analysis can be used to study social practices of story telling.
- * Discourse analysis is conversational discussion. Where the patterns of communicative language is studied.

In 1981, a linguist named Webbar mentioned four components of discourse analytical theory - meaning or response, intention or motivation, social tradition and prior knowledge of the subject. These elements help in analyzing all types of texts with discourse analytical theory.

Discourse Analysis of Fairy Tales :

Fairy tales are a part of folk literature. It is also associate with folk culture. Fairy tales were initially prevalent in social life in oral form. It later received written form. Fairy tales are flawless story. Stories are collections of events. The structure of the text language is analyzed through discourse analysis. The analysis of the story of a fairy tale using discourse analysis theory is called story based analysis. Aspects of narrative analysis of fairy tales include :

- * Analysis of grammatical sentences.
- * Sequential and grammatical situations of events.
- * Chronicle.
- * Analysis of peaks or tops.

The story of the fairy tales is told by the narrator one after another. Fairy tales are sets of sentences. Through sentences, the narrator expresses the fairy tales in spoken and written form. These sentences are analyzed by discourse analytical theory. Analytical aspects include fragmentation of sentences from the primary perspective sentence forms according to purpose and object, different types of sentences, mono-syllabic sentences, verbless sentences, multi-word sentences, dialogical sentences, par aphrases etc.

Every fairy tale has the some thread from beginning to end. The story continues in order. Discourse analyzes the grammatical situation of a sentence with the sequence of events that it maintains.

The chronicle of fairy tales is a collection of different events. Chronicle analyzes the characteristics or aspects of different types of events. Behind every event there are problems and solutions. The various events move from the beginning of the story are analyzed in this aspect of discourse analysis. In story structure, the sentences determine the pace of events and explain them.

The tops of a fairy tale are- title, presentation, previous peak, scene, peak, next peak. Every fairy tale has a title. The title gives the readers an idea of the content of the fairy tale. Therefore, the study of the presentation varies according to the subject matter. The presentation analyzes the theme behind the fairy tale and gives a thorough understanding of the story of the fairy tale in a concise manner. The main elements of the story are the beginning, pace and problems of the characters and solu-

tions. These various programs are also analyzed in terms of previous peak, scenery, post peak etc.

Analysis of the Obtained Sample data :

The Story of the Cat's Daughter

In the fairy tale, the narrator tells the whole story about a cat. The narrator continues the story with the ups and downs of the lives of the two daughters birth from the womb of a cat. The characters in the story are : the cat, the owner, the cat's eldest daughter and younger daughter, the merman, the merchant (mudoi), the merchant's two wives and the two sons of cat's daughter. The story of the fairy tale 'The story of the Cat's Daughter' goes like this -

The story of the Cat's Daughter

There was a very beloved cat in a house. The cat became pregnant, the housewife was also pregnant at the same time. The cat wanted to eat fish so much that she said to her owner, "I want to eat fish." The owner replied, "Oh, I can only make it if you bring it to me. Otherwise, where shall I give it?" From that day on, the cat began to steal fish from other people's houses. Mean while, the owner cooked and fed the cat thorns. Similarly, the cat does not get to eat fish every day. Then she became very sad and she cursed the owner, saying, "Let what is in my womb go into her womb and what is in her womb come into my womb."

A few days later the woman did indeed have two kittens and the cat had two daughters. The cat managed to raised the two girls. The cat leaves the two girls at home and goes looking for fish, milk etc. everyday. When the two girls found out, they said to their mother one day, "Mother, if someone kills you while you are going to the village, how will we know and what will we do?" Then their mother brought a basil tree and put milk in a pot next to the basil tree and said, "if, anything happens to me, the basil tree will wither and the milk will turn black. Then you will go looking for me." After a few days the basil tree suddenly withered and the milk turned black. Then the two girls knew that something had happened to their mother and went to look for her. After searching so far, her sister became very thirsty. Then they went to a river. The elder sister told her younger sister to stay by the river. The elder sister told her younger sister to stay by the river. The elder sister went down to the river and drank herself and started to fetch water for her sister. The water in the river dried up and the merman called out, "If you give me the ring in your hand, you can take water. " The elder sister thought, wondering if the ring would be bigger than her sister's. She gave her ring to the merman and brought water for her sister. The younger sister drank the water and sent her sister to fetch the ring again. This time, when her elder sister went down into the water, the merman took her away. When she saw her sister taken away, she sat on the bank and began to cry. After a while, a merchant came to the market and saw the beautiful girl sitting alone on the bank of the

river. He took her into a boat and left. When he arrived at his home, the merchant took her as his younger wife along with his two wives. The merchant began to love his younger wife more than his previous two wives. Because of this, the other two became jealous and think of the ways to make the merchant dislike her. During the younger wife's first pregnancy, they blind folded her and told that she gave birth to a pestle (Dhekithura) and the baby boy she gave birth to was drowned in the river by the granddaughters. The next time, they told she gave birth to a pumpkin and drowned the baby boy again in the river. Meanwhile, the elder sister which was taken away by the merman learned that the two drowned boys were her sister's sons and raised them. The merchant thought these things about his younger wife were true and drove her out of his house as a bad woman and built a house in cesspool (chuapatani) for her. She began to live in misery in that house. One day, the merchant was going to trade, someone stopped his boat in the middle of the water. While the merchant was confused about what to do, someone called out from the water, "You undertake to do a feast and throw away your hasati (a small piece of cloth used to carry betelnuts by wrapping them in it) and stick and your boat will be free." The merchant had no choice and decided to arrange a feast and threw his hasoti and stick there. Meanwhile, the uncle told the boys all these things from their mother's birth in the river and asked them to tell the people all these things on the day of the feast, they took their father's hasoti and stick and started going towards the merchant's house. They went straight to their mother and asked her for a cup of water. She thought they were joking and said, "Why are you insulting me? Go to the feast and eat what you find." Then they told their mother everything and introduced themselves, and they rested a little and went to the feast. In the feast, everyone is sitting in their places and news comes that two people were sitting at the feast after waiting at the merchant's younger wife's house. When this became known, it was decided by the people that the two men should come out of the feast and introduce themselves. After hearing that the two brothers got up and shouted, "She is our mother where we entered." When the people asked him to tell them about it, the elder brother called out to the people to listen carefully. He explained everything and proved them true by showing the people the hasoti and stick of the merchant. The merchant sighed and acknowledged that the hasoti and stick belonged to him. Then everyone understood the conspiracy of the two wives and they called the wives and they called the wives of merchant and asked them everything, but they could not say anything. The people also ate the feast without any fuss. After the feast, the merchant cut off the nose and ears of the two wives and drove them away and brought the younger wife and the two sons into the house. They both stayed with their parents.

Sequence at event :

1. The cat have human children the owner's have kittens

The target of birth -

The cat cursed her owner, "Let what is in my womb go into her womb and what is in my womb go into her womb."

Cx mixed creation.

Centre point : G 10, 11, 12

- Cat give birth to two daughters

- Owner give birth to kittens.

2. Target related to the problems of the cat's daughters -

- the death of the cat.

Centre point : G 13,14,15,16

problem Creation : The cat's eldest daughter is taken away by the merman and youngest daughter was tortured by the granddaughters.

Solution : The boys were raised by the eldest sister, who was taken away by the merman.

- The cat's daughter is given justice by her own child.

The top of the list or Peakpoint :

Title : The story of the Cat's daughter

Presentation : There are many obstacles in the lives of the cat daughters.

Pre-peak : Conspiracy created by the merman and two wives of the merchant upon the lives of cat's daughters.

Scenery : Trying to harm the cat's daughters.

Peakpoint : Cat's little daughter's two sons ending all troubles.

Subject Matter

Subject matter refers to the central idea of a subject. The subject matter of a fairy tale can be studied through discourse analysis. Through the study of the subject matter, the narrator's feelings, main focus, and theme of the fairy tale story can be studied. Fairy tales are fictional and moral and therefore the content of the stories aries. The story of the cat's daughter is the result of a curse. The narrator tells the story around that curse. There is a cat as a motif to express this feeling. A cat is the motif of fairy tale. The author's imagination has advanced by restoring to motifs. The story is about various incidents related to the cat.

Through studing the whole story, the main theme of the story is - curse and justice.

At the beginning of the story, the cat gives birth to two daughters. The sense of curse that is reflected here. Because cats only produce kittens. Cats giving birth to human children is the result of a curse.

The story continues through the various obstacles that happen to the cat's daughters. The cat's daughters are the victims of various evil conspiracies. But at the end, peace has returned to the lives of the daughters and justice has been given.

Conclusion :

From the above discussion, the following conclusions can be drawn about the discourse analysis of fairy tales :

1. Fairy tales have their own characteristics of plot.
2. The story of fairy tales is a collection of sentences. One of the aspects of language structure is sentences. The grammatical sentences of the story are analyzed.
3. Fairy tales are analyzed chronologically through discourse analysis.
4. Through discourse analysis, the title, pre-peak, scene and post peak of each fairy tale is analyzed.

From the above conclusion, it can be seen that there is no proper analysis of discourse analysis in the field of Assamese language studies. There should be a proper analysis of discourse analysis theory to understand how all types of writing style can be approached through discourse analysis. Appropriate research will reveal more information about various aspects about various aspects of discourse analysis.

References :

1. According to Bilimes, "The study of the relation of utterance to their linguistic and non-linguistic context has come to be known as linguistic pragmatics of discourse analysis. (Bilims 1986, 126)
2. According to Hymes, "The use of linguistic form identifies a range of meanings. A context can support a range of meaning. When a form is used in a context eliminates the meaning possible to the context eliminates for consideration the meaning possible to that other than those that context can support. (Hymes 1962, 19)

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