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Examining the Functions of Ecological Discourses in Joël Egloff's L'Étourdissement

Negar Mazari¹ 0000-0002-8622-5598 Fatemeh Moti² 0009-0001-1326-5409 Zahra Esmaeili Khoshmardan³ 0000-0002-7772-6905

1. Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. Email : Negarmazari@um.ac.ir
2. .Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. Email : Fatima.moti.1991@gmail.com
3. Department of French Language and Literature, Faculty of Letters, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. Email: zahra.esmaeili@mail.um.ac.ir

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received: 01 June 2021 Received in revised form: 20 November 2021 Accepted: 05 December 2021 Published online: 01 August 2023</p> <p>Keywords: ecocriticism, ecological discourse, ecopoetics, zoopoetics, Fairclough</p>	<p>One of the most serious concerns of our time is the impact of modern life on the environment. Language and literature serve as vital tools in transmitting cultural and human heritage, and strive to raise awareness about environmental damage. Many authors have addressed various aspects of this issue. Contemporary French literature, in particular, seeks to reflect the problems associated with industrial development and its negative effects on the environment. This article uses Fairclough's critical discourse analysis model to examine eco-centric themes and their function in the novel L'Étourdissement.</p> <p>According to Norman Fairclough, discourse serves to reproduce social relations within an organizational system, with discourse production aimed at expanding a particular ideology or culture. Discourse can be analyzed at three distinct levels. At the descriptive level, the focus is on studying vocabulary and text. At the interpretive level, the text is interpreted based on prior knowledge. Finally, at the explanatory level, the interrelationships between discourse and society are revealed. This type of analysis seeks to represent social and cultural changes and raise awareness within society by uncovering the dialectical relationships between signs (including language) and other elements of social behavior.</p> <p>In this article, we begin by examining the process of linguistic selection and the various types of coherence in an effort to elucidate the hidden ideology present within the literary text. We study the collocation of words and, in the interpretation section, analyze discourse as a form of discursive behavior. The social context of the text is also considered at the explanatory level. In our examination of the novel L'Étourdissement, we explore various types of eco-centric discourse and their function within the narrative.</p> <p>In this study, we have investigated the role of technology and industrial development vocabulary in shaping risk discourse. Our observations reveal a direct correlation between environmental degradation and industrial development within the capitalist system. Risk discourse demonstrates that the capitalist system, with its exploitative and profit-driven approach to human and environmental resources, exhibits a disregard for environmental justice and the transfer of natural resources as a legacy for future generations. At the interpretive level of contemporary French literature discourse, risk discourse is found to be predominant. At the explanatory level, we have studied discourse within the social context. The novel L'Étourdissement promotes sustainable development thinking through its use of risk discourse and culturalization, aligning with French policies.</p> <p>In this research, we have built on Fairclough's critical discourse analysis to examine the function of eco-centric discourses in Joël Egloff's L'Étourdissement. By juxtaposing words related to the environment and pollution, either through collocation or by creating meaning through paradox and contrast, the author brings attention to the rupturing of the vital</p>



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relationship between humanity and the natural world via the utilization of risk discourse. The narrator finds his only happiness in escaping from the polluted environment. Risk discourse in this novel reveals the potential fate of humanity if we continue on our current path. Social responsibility discourse demonstrates that the solution to the environmental crisis lies in interaction with existence and creating balance within it. This can only be achieved by connecting humans with the world through environmental ethics and attention to the rights of future generations via environmental justice discourse. Industrial life has not only distanced humans from nature but has also pushed us towards confusion. Zoopoetics discourse, through literary images of animals, shows that the world is a shared space for living with other beings and that environmental literature has the potential to shape culture through discourse.

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