

Article history:

April 2023

Keywords:

Received: 14 March 2023

Accepted: 19 June 2023

Culture, non-culture, self,

Research in Contemporary World Literature

http//jor.ut.ac.ir, Email: pajuhesh@ut.ac.ir p-ISSN: 2588-4131 e-ISSN: 2588-7092

From Lutman's symbolic sphere to Grimas's narratology, study of Dostoyevsky's novel "Crime and Punishment"

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ABSTRACT **Article Info** Extended Abstract Article type: Research Article

Received in revised form: 16 Published online: Autumn 2024 Lutman, Grimas, Dostoyevsky

Cultural semiotics is a field of semiotics that pays attention to culture and its various mechanisms, such as art, literature, and media. Cultural semiotics is associated with Juri Lotman, who considers culture a symbolic system used to confront and interact with other symbolic systems. From Lotman's point of view, every culture is self-systematic, and what is outside the scope of its own culture is known as non-culture. The theory of narrative and event based on Lotman's symbolic sphere considers the event a kind of change of the norms in the symbolic sphere, which corresponds to the definition of the event posited by Algirdas Julien Greimas. Relying on Lotman's cultural semiotics and Greimas's narrative process, the present article analyzes Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment (1866) to show how the Russian writer presents some of the main ideological, religious, and political values between two poles, namely Russia and the West. Analyzing various elements such as personalities, attitudes, beliefs, and values in the two poles of "self" and "other" alongside three axes, this article discusses the relationship between religion and personality, on the one hand, and city, place, and society, on the other hand. It should be noted that this analysis also includes Wolf Schmid's approach to narrative and events based on Lotman's symbolic sphere theory. From Schmid's point of view, a symbolic sphere can be defined based on occurrence. If we consider a superscript a space in which the meaning potential occurs, the first point of confrontation with Greimas's narrative process is formed. Therefore, every event is like a change of situation, in which it deviates from the symbolic norms and coincides with the transition from Lotman's border, which occurs in the last chapter of Crime and Punishment in the form of a tremendous nightmare that goes beyond the subject's expectations. Raskolnikov's metamorphosis and the transition from the border of "other" to "self" in the last part of the novel is formed through a nightmare, which corresponds to passing through an unfavorable situation suddenly and without the intervention of the subject. In the semantic system of accident, Greimas considers this border crossing an event. Therefore, the new situation refers to the "self and not the other" approach. The approach that is related to the function of identity formation and the ideology of the culture considers Russian culture superior to the West and worries about the influence of the West on Slavic societies.

Cite this article: Golshiri, Siavash; Shairi, Hamid Reza & namvarmotlagh, bahman. "From Lutman's symbolic sphere to Grimas's narratology, a case study of Dostoyevsky's novel "Crime and Punishment" "Research in Contemporary World Literature, 2024, 29 (2), 473-502. DOI: http://doi.org/ 10.22059/jor.2023.356690.2405.

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Publisher: University of Tehran Press.

DOI: http//doi.org/ 10.22059/jor.2023.356690.2405.

