

Semantic Relational Structuring and Ideology: a Semantico-Discourse Study of Doris Lessing's "Tragedy of Zimbabwe"

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Abstract:

A semantic theoretical framework, devised by Winifred Crombie is adopted to investigate, analyze and interpret Doris Lessing's "Tragedy of Zimbabwe" in the current study. The aim of this study is to inspect how semantic structuring relationships can help to unearth embedded belief systems, philosophies and attitudes. Crombie's theoretical framework is basically intended to detect the political ideologies that operate in the text. The analysis proves that the essay is loaded with ideological references and cues that are designed by the author to fathom out and comment on political reality in Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular. Lessing frequently resorts to contrasts, comparisons, result-conclusion and conditionals to emphasize the ideological conflicts, racial hostilities and political chaos. Through Semantic Relational Structuring, the author offers her own views and personal assessment of the African version of Marxist politics.

Key Words: Doris Lessing, discourse, semantic relational structuring, ideology.

هيكلُ العلاقة الدلالية والإيديولوجيا: دراسة دلالية-خطابية
لمقالة دورس لسنغ: "مأساة زيمبابوي"

الباحث: زمان توفيق عبد الحسن
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المخلص:

تهدف الدراسة الحالية إلى توظيف الإطار النظري الدلالي الذي صاغته وينيفريد كرومبي للبحث عن الأيديولوجيات السياسية في مقالة "مأساة زيمبابوي" للكاتبة الإنكليزية دورس لسنغ لتحليلها وتفسيرها في محاولة لمعرفة كيف تساعد علاقات الهيكل الدلالية على اكتشاف أنظمة المعتقدات والفلسفات والمواقف المضمرة في النص. يهدف الإطار النظري لكرومبي إلى اكتشاف الأيديولوجيات السياسية التي تعمل في النص. وقد جاء التحليل بنتائج تؤكد قوة وفاعلية حضور العلاقات الدلالية التي تحاول من خلالها الكاتبة إبراز الصراعات الفكرية والسياسية وتبين أيضاً أن المقالة تعج بالأدلة الأيديولوجية المصممة لاستكشاف الواقع السياسي في إفريقيا بشكل عام، ووضع الناس في زيمبابوي بصورة خاصة. تلجأ لسنغ في كثير من الأحيان إلى التناقضات والمقارنات والاستنتاجات والشرطيات للتأكيد على النزاعات الأيديولوجية والعداء العنصري والفوضى السياسية.

كلمات مفتاحية: دورس لسنغ، الخطاب، هيكلُ العلاقة الدلالية، الإيديولوجيا .

1. Introduction

Forms of expression are not randomly chosen by speakers/writers; rather linguistic choices are guided by interlocutors' thoughts, feelings and attitudes regarding the real world (Carver & Pikalo, 2008:120). In the world of discourse, the focus falls on the ways by which interlocutors select the forms of expression according to the contexts they are engaged in to expose and in analogy with social relations, identities, ideologies and attitudes they want to reveal. Hence, one of the main areas within discourse analysis is Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) whose main aim is to trace the presence of ideational cues embedded in the linguistic choices made by language users whether in written or spoken texts (Fowler, 1991: 10).

The current study adopts a critical discourse analysis approach to uncover the mechanisms by which ideologies and beliefs in "Tragedy of Zimbabwe", an essay from Doris Lessing's *Time Bites: Views and Reviews* (henceforth *Time Bites*) are constructed via a theoretical framework proposed by Winifred Crombie's (1985). The aim behind such semantics-oriented approach to discourse is to prove whether the study of Semantic Relational Structuring (henceforth SRS) offers an appropriate theoretical framework to critically research discourse and uncover opinions and beliefs through investigating relations such as contrast, comparative similarity, cause-effect, etc.... These relations are assumed in this study to serve as vehicles for political ideologies, and ideational agents by which the writer builds arguments and promotes or demotes views and opinions.

Through Winifred Crombie's SRS, views, attitudes and ideologies are traced and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively as far as "The Tragedy of Zimbabwe" is concerned. As to the choice of Doris Lessing's essay from *Time Bites*, the Nobel Laureate was always engaged in political, racial, postcolonial arguments, and grappled with ideological questions. Born in England, she lived in Iran when her father was an ambassador there, and then settled in South Africa for most of her life (british council.org.). In the United Kingdom, Doris Lessing's fictional and non-fictional writings have been marked by their left-wing politics and coloured by second-wave feminism. Critical studies have focused first and foremost on class and gender issues that Lessing promoted in her "novels published in the 1950s and 1960s" (Watkins, 2003:97). In *Time Bites*, Lessing's views surface as well as sharp critiques of existent ideologies and belief systems are offered. From its first essay to the last, the book takes the reader on a journey to learn and explore the ideological forces and the influences of the time. The author intellectually and socially evaluates the events that shaped life and consciousness in the twentieth century and which impacted her deeply. This collection represents her documented reactions and measured responses to the ideological conflicts in relation to politics, society and religion (Watkins, 2003:97).

2. Semantic Relational Structuring

The study of the structuring of semantic relations relies heavily on an exploration of sentential and inter-sentential relations. Robert E. Longacre, as cited in Crombie (1985:111) argues “that there are a finite number of ways” to combine “clauses in inter-clausal relations in the deep structure of discourse which” are encoded “into the surface grammar of languages.” Crombie’s approach to SRS makes use of the morpho-syntactic features of the language. Although different researchers use different hierarchal categorizations, Winifred Crombie believes that dividing semantic relations into three major categories is important to see how discourse parts may relate to each other as well as to “determine the extent to which these relationships may be regarded as stylistically significant.” These specific semantic relations are detailed according to Crombie (1985: 112) as follows:

2.1 Associative Relations

In English, associative relations, as the name suggests, relate to the presence of conjunctions such as *then*, *while*, *and*, *but*, and *or*, which explicitly mark the relation. However, in addition to these conjunctions, expressions such as *precede/follow*, *be simultaneous with*, *be coupled with*, *contrast with*, and *compared with* denote associative relations (Longacre, 1996:51-52). Crombie identifies several subtypes of associate relations:

2.1.1 Simple Contrast

Contrast is a central rhetorical relation that has a clear, intuitive semantic meaning, and it is found to interact with other linguistic structures like VP-ellipsis. It is usually associated with several discourse markers, such as *however*, *although*, and *but* (Kehler, 2000: 533).

2.1.2 Comparative Similarity

Comparative Similarity is often portrayed as “an explicit comparison between two things or actions” mostly triggered by *like* (Cruse, 2006: 165). In a comparative relation, one generally looks at the things that are compared so as to discover the areas of difference or similarity. In addition, one tends to explore in what regards these things are comparable in the first place. More specifically, two types of comparison can be identified: *open* and *closed*. The former does not specify “properties with” regard “to which the two compared things” are similar or different, whereas the latter unequivocally “point to such properties” (Bredin, 1998: 69).

2.1.3 Statement Affirmation

The notion of affirmation is built on the fact that “a statement can be accepted or rejected”. When a person accepts or rejects a statement, s/he performs an act. In linguistically conveying acceptance, a person ends up performing “an act of reaffirming the statement, or” an act that makes clear his/ her acceptance of the

statement until that person “changes his mind or forgets that he has come to accept the statement.” Statement affirmation is usually understood to be “an act of producing” or “reflecting” one's “acceptance of a statement” (Kearns, 1997: 325-349).

2.1.4 Statement Denial

Negation usually indicates denial and it is a process that is complex both linguistically and cognitively. Negation as a function ranges “from simple protest to denial and deception, which” need “the understanding of other minds.” Sometimes, “the same linguistic forms express a wide range of functions” relevant to negation. This is why, negation is crucial to understand “the relationship between cognitive development and language development” (Wode, 1977:87–102).

2.1.5 Concession-Contra-expectation

The notion of *concession* is usually “associated with relations” between a pair of clauses in which “a specific type of contrast is given”, i.e., one of the two makes the other non-possible. According to Quirk *et al.* (1985: 1098), “the situation in the matrix clause is contrary to expectation in the light of what is said in the concessive clause”. In a similar vein, Taboada and Gómez-González (2012: 19) explain that it is “a relation that joins two clauses or units in a potential or apparent contradiction [and] helps writers and speakers express opinions, while mitigating their strength, or acknowledging potential alternative viewpoints” .

2.2 Logico-Deductive Relations

In this type of relations, semantic markers are operative to create logical deductions and rational results. In very simple terms, rain is likely to fall if the sky is dark with clouds. Likewise, heavy rain may lead to floods and very low temperatures are likely to cause snowfall. More specifically, the cloudy sky, heavy rain and low temperatures function as the *grounds* that make a person arrive at the *conclusions* about rainfall, floods and snow. According to Crombie, logico-deductive relations fall into the three subtypes discussed below:

2.2.1 Reason-Result

The reason-result relation impacts every aspect of life. It motivates the human's rational actions and pervades his/her thinking. Knowing reasons and results is “the basis for” problem-solving and “rational decision-making” since “it is important” for “all areas of science and technology” (Hitchcock, 1998: 271).

2.2.2 Grounds-Conclusion

Grounds-Conclusion relation can be shown through “entailment”, which is a term originally used in formal logic which influences semantics. It can be defined as “a relation between a pair of SENTENCES in which, the truth of the second sentence necessarily follows from the truth of the first one” (Crystal, 1985:109).

2.2.3 Condition-Consequence

A conditional structure indicates a possible scenario that may or may not be realized and it describes a hypothetical situation in case that scenario is actualized. The form of a conditional is a typically sentence that has two parts; one is an “antecedent” (or: “premise”) that is typically marked with *if* and the other is a “consequent” (“apodosis”) occasionally marked with *then* (Iatridou, 1993: 171).

2.3 Temporal Relations

Temporal relations are central to natural languages. They usually take on the form of phrases that describe “precisely a point or duration.” Occasionally, “these points reference an absolute unambiguous time, which is of great help when” one is “trying to map events from a discourse to a timeline” (Longacre, 1996:63). Crombie recognizes two subtypes of temporal relations:

2.3.1 Temporal Overlap

According to Hitzeman (1997:87), temporal expressions serve as “discourse segmentation markers”; hence, they clarify any “potential ambiguity”. He also points at the role of the syntactic position of a given time expression in facilitating its interpretation. As to temporal overlap, “it includes notional meanwhile and at the same time relations” to denote “an event which takes place during a span” (Longacre, 1996: 64).

2.3.2 Temporal Succession

Temporal succession can be shown when two or more activities follow each other. Orvokki (1978:74) argues that the sequence of the events can be indicated anaphorically and cataphorically by time connectives; the typical time connectives are *after* and *before*, *earlier* and *later*.

3. Methodology

This section covers the analysis of the essay under study, namely, “The Tragedy of Zimbabwe”, by tracing the morpho-syntactic categories of Winifred Crombie's SRS. It shows the results and discussion of the findings of the analysis. The study endeavors to discuss how Doris Lessing signals ideologies, promotes/demotes belief systems, expresses personal views and opinions and structures arguments through her choice of semantic relations which the SRS outlines. The starting point of this

research is that Doris Lessing makes full use of SRS to build up arguments that fathom out the corrupt political reality in Zimbabwe under the rule of Robert Mugabe. Overshadowed by Marxism, Mugabe's dictatorship aggravates the situation and racism, injustice, poverty and totalitarianism take a toll on the country.

The study adopts a **quantitative and qualitative** research approaches in which the essay is explored in pursuit of relational semantic structurings responsible of its ideological content. The results are statistically detailed in tables and figures are added to show the frequencies of occurrence of every category identified in the essay. Then, the results are read and interpreted from critical and ideological perspectives.

3.1 The Tragedy of Zimbabwe

Doris Lessing wrote this article to reflect on the political corruption in Zimbabwe under the rule of Mugabe. Entitled as "The Jewel of Africa", this article was originally published in *The New York Review of Books* (April 2003). If Lessing had written it in 2008, she "would certainly have more to say about the recent events in Zimbabwe, where she grew up" (<https://southerncrossreview.org/61/lessing-zimbabwe.htm>). However, the essay shows "that Lessing's work is over-ripe for reassessment in relation to ideas from post-colonial theory" (Chennells, 2001: 4). In this article, Lessing discusses issues relevant to identity and its relation to race. The author raises questions and offers evaluation of national identity and racism that overlap inadvertently with her feminist and Marxist arguments. Further, this article draws on *The Sweetest Dream*, a novel Lessing published in (2001), in which she levels severe criticism against political idealism. In the essay, Doris Lessing discusses such notions as *home*, *memory*, *race*, *gender*, *politics* and *city* in a way that compares favourably with Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987).

Lessing tampers with the concept of *home* so as to make both racial and national differences recognizable and allow the narrative to break from them. For Lessing, *memory* is "productive for" both the individual citizen "and the nation only when it" takes on the form of Morrison's "rememory". Such a memory gives a nod to the role of "imagination in dealing with trauma" and hence it reflects the instability and mobility of identity (Watkins, 2007:97). Lessing's article powerfully suggests that fiction can be a more expressive medium than factual writings in that it gives people access to the past as well as evaluates and illustrates reality (Watkins, 2007:98).

3.2 SRS in "The Tragedy of Zimbabwe"

In this essay, Doris Lessing grapples with ideological questions which are all shown through the semantic relations of SRS according to which the argument is constructed. Additionally, it is found that the various semantic relations play a crucial role in revealing and promoting the writer's beliefs. Moreover, categories like *contrast*, *comparative similarity*, *reason- result* and *condition consequences* are

employed by Lessing to indicate her attitudes towards Africa in general and "Zimbabwe" in particular. Her zealous discussion of this African country exposes her love of it and keenness on helping both the country and its people. The frequent use of contrast denotes the many contradictions of the country with its mixed population of native Africans and decedents of European immigrants. In Zimbabwe, like it is in the rest of colonized Africa, the whites and blacks are not deemed as equals and native African are not even treated fairly. The way Lessing recruits contrast denotes the precarious relationships that exist between the two sides and the conflicts that tear the country apart. As such, the ideological frictions in the community are clearly portrayed. Namely, Zimbabwean society seems to object to those who want to change values and traditions to which people have already adjusted.

Tracing Winifred Crombie's SRS in Doris Lessing's "The Tragedy of Zimbabwe", the analysis shows that a total number of (112) relations are detected. Upon inspection, most of the semantic relations used by the writer are explicitly rather than implicitly given. The semantic markers are present at large to indicate (75) relations intended by the writer. On the other hand, (37) semantic relations have to be inferred from the context as it is shown in Table (1) and Figure (1) below:

Table (1): Explicit vs. Implicit SRS

Category	Number	Percentage
Explicit	75	66.96%
Implicit	37	33.04%
Total No.	112	100%

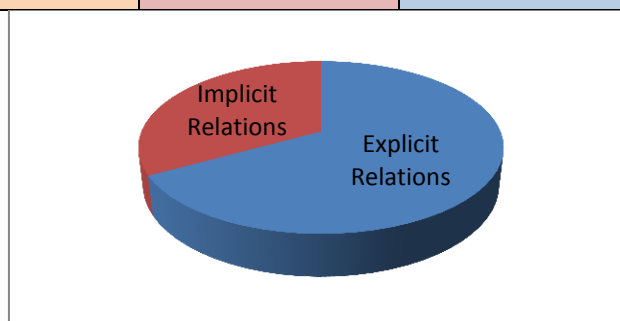


Fig. (1) Explicit Vs. Implicit Relations

As it is shown in the table and figure above, *Explicit Relations* have a higher frequency of occurrences than *Implicit* ones, in the article under study, a matter that contributes to the clarity and sharpness of Lessing's arguments.

The analysis, according to the SRS, proves that explicit and implicit *Associative Relations* have the highest frequency of occurrences in the article under study with 55 instances, taking up almost half of the relations detected. *Logico-Deductive Relations* occupy the second position as they occur 34 times representing a third of the entire relations analyzed. *Temporal Relations* have the lowest frequency of occurrence among the relations with no more than 23 instances. The total number of occurrences and percentages of both explicit and implicit relations of the main three categories of SRS are shown in Table (2) and are mapped in Figure (2) below:

Table (2) Explicit and Implicit Main Categories

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Associative Relations	55	49.11%
Logico-Deductive Relations	34	30.36%
Temporal Relations	23	20.53%
Total No.	112	100

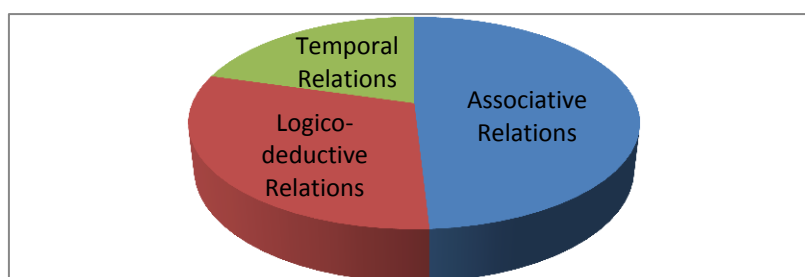


Fig. 2: Explicit and Implicit Main Categories

Upon a more detailed analysis of the relations in the text, results crop up to indicate that all subcategories are recognized in the text. In Table (3) below, the occurrences and percentages of the explicit relations of the main three categories of Winifred Crombie's SRS are listed. *Associative Relations* top the list, achieving the highest frequency with **42** occurrences which represent **(56%)**. *Logico-Deductive Relations* come next with **25** relations **(33.33%)**. *Temporal Relations*, on the other hand, appear **8** times only representing **(10. 67%)** of the total number of explicit relations as it is shown in Table and Fig. (3) below.

Table (3) Explicit Main Categories of SRS

Category	Number	Percentage
Associative Relations	42	(56 %)
Logico-Deductive Relations	25	(33.33%)
Temporal Relations	8	(10. 67%)
Total No.	75	(100%)

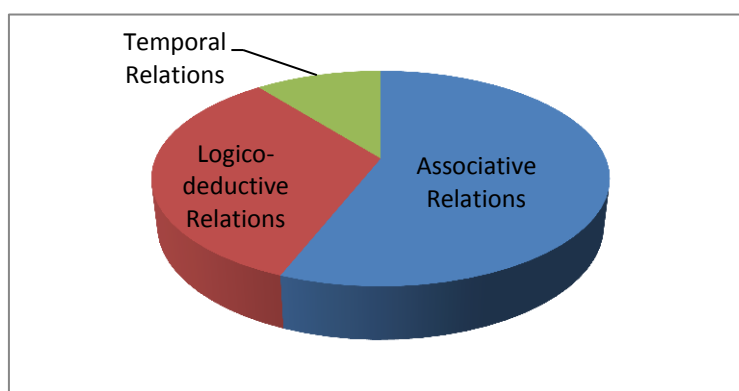


Fig. (3): Explicit Main Categories

With respect to implicit SRS, semantic relations are expressed implicitly or indirectly in the absence of indicators. In such a case, semantic relations have to be inferred from the context. In this article, some semantic relations are implicitly expressed. The table below shows the occurrences and percentages of the implicit relations of the main three categories of Winifred Crombie's SRS. The frequencies and percentages of main categories of SRS differ from those of the explicit SRS due to *Temporal Relations* which acquire the highest frequency of **15** occurrences, representing **(40.54%)**. *Associative Relations* scores the second highest frequency as they occur **13** times **(35.14%)**. The *Logico-Deductive Relations*, however, appear at the bottom of the list with **9** occurrences only representing **(24.32%)** of the total relations observed in the text under study, as it is shown in Table (4) below.

Table (4) Implicit Main Categories

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Associative Relations	13	(35.14%)
Logico-Deductive Relations	9	(24.32%)

Temporal Relations	15	(40.54%)
Total No.	37	(100%)

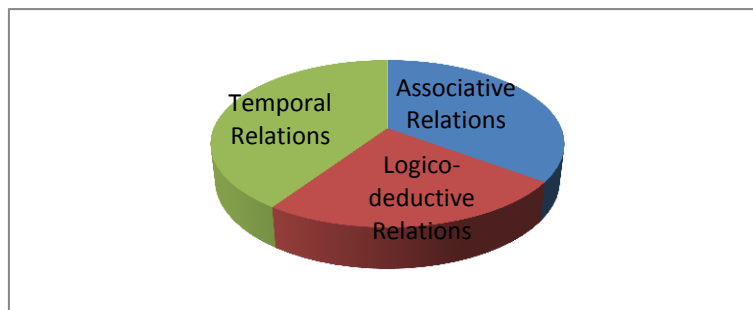


Fig (4): Implicit Main Categories

The detailed analysis of subclasses of SRS, on which arguments in “The Tragedy of Zimbabwe” are built, appears in Table (5) below where the occurrences and percentages of the subclasses of SRS are listed. The explicit and implicit subclasses combined in Table (5) below reveal that *Simple Contrast* achieves the highest frequency of occurrence as it appears **32** times (**28.57%**), while *Reason-Result* comes second with **17** occurrences (**15.18%**).

Table (5): Explicit & Implicit Subclasses of SRS

Semantic Relation	Frequency	Percentage
Simple Contrast	32	(28.57%)
Comparative Similarity	11	(9.82%)
Statement Affirmation	1	(0.89%)
Statement Denial	5	(4.46%)
Concession-Contra expectation	6	(5.36%)
Reason-Result	17	(15.18%)
Grounds-Conclusion	1	(0.89%)
Condition-Consequence	16	(14.29%)
Temporal Overlap	13	(11.60%)
Temporal Succession	10	(8.94%)
Total No.	112	100

With respect to *Condition-Consequence*, it prevails on **16** relations. *Temporal Overlap* comes next as it occurs **13** times (**11.60%**) in analogy with (11) occurrences of *Comparative Similarity* (**9.82%**). There are **10** instances of *Temporal Succession*, (6) examples of *Concession-Contra expectation*, and (5) occurrences of *Statement Denial*. Lastly, *Statement Affirmation* and *Grounds-Conclusion* come in the last place with only (1) each.

The number of occurrences and percentages of explicit relations of the subclasses of SRS are shown in Table (6) below. *Contrast* has the highest frequency of occurrence with 25 instances (**33.33%**), followed by *Condition-Consequence* that occurs 14 times (**18.67%**). As to *Comparative Similarity* and *Reason-Result*, they come in the third place with 10 occurrences each, making (**13.33%**). *Statement Denial*, *Temporal Overlap* and *Temporal Succession* have the same number of instances, i.e., 4 times (**5.33%**) coming in the fourth place, while *Concession-Contra expectation* occurs 3 times only and represents (**4%**). Lastly, the analysis shows that neither *Statement Affirmation* nor *Grounds-Conclusion* is explicitly observed in the text under study.

Table (6) Explicit Subclasses of SRS

Semantic Relation	Frequency	Percentage
Simple Contrast	25	(33.33%)
Comparative Similarity	10	(13.33%)
Statement Affirmation	0	(0%)
Statement Denial	4	(5.33%)
Concession-Contra expectation	3	(4%)
Reason-Result	11	(14.68%)
Grounds-Conclusion	0	(0%)
Condition-Consequence	14	(18.67%)
Temporal Overlap	4	(5.33%)
Temporal Succession	4	(5.33%)
Total No.	75	(100%)

With respect to the implicit SRS, (37) relations are detected in the article and all the subclasses are present as clear in Table and Figure (7) below. *Temporal Overlap Relations* have the highest frequency of occurrence, topping the list with 9 instances (**24.32%**), while *Simple contrast relations* come second, occurring 7 times (**18.91%**). Regarding *Temporal Succession* and *Reason-Result relations*, they occupy the third position, occurring 6 times each (**16.21%**). As to *Contra expectation relation*, it appears three times only (**8.11%**), compared to *Condition-Consequence relation* which comes fifth with 2 occurrences (**5.40%**). Finally, *Comparative Similarity*, *Statement Denial*, *Statement Affirmation* and *Grounds-Conclusion* are the least in occurrence with (1) instance apiece (**2.71%**).

Table (7) Implicit Subclasses of SRS

Semantic Relation	Frequency	Percentage
Simple Contrast	7	(18.91%)
Comparative Similarity	1	(2.71%)
Statement Affirmation	1	(2.71%)

Statement Denial	1	(2.71%)
Concession-Contra expectation	3	(8.11%)
Reason-Result	6	(16.21%)
Grounds-Conclusion	1	(2.71%)
Condition-Consequence	2	(5.40%)
Temporal Overlap	9	(24.32%)
Temporal Succession	6	(16.21%)
Total No.	37	(100%)

4.4 Reading “The Tragedy of Zembabwe” through SRS

This section discusses types of SRS found in the analysed text. The analysis makes of the semantic relation as the starting point for interpretations and discussion.

4.4.1 Associative relations:

The statistical findings prove that most semantic relations observed in this essay are associative and they are realized by diverse categories of SRS as follows:

4.4.1.1 Simple Contrast

The analysis of “The Tragedy of Zimbabwe” according to SRS results in detecting (32) occurrences of Contrasts, representing (28.57). Doris Lessing employs contrast basically to introduce and expand on ideological dialectic whether it is political, racial, post-colonial or anti-feminist:

1. The law of the land may say one thing–Zimbabwe’s early Marxist days, as in other communist countries, ensured all kinds of equality–on paper. **But** ‘our customs’ still make sure that a woman has no right to the money she has earned, or to her children (131).

In this example of explicit contrast, Doris Lessing touches on two ideological issues relevant to Marxism-Communism and feminism respectively. She uses the politics to introduce the question of gender equality to criticize firstly the false claims of communist countries to achieving equality. And secondly, she points to the failure of the so-called Marxist government to create equality among the diverse population of Zimbabwe, especially women who are always promised to have equal rights with men, still, none of these promises were fulfilled. Lessing, however, points the finger at the culture as well that sees women unfit to manage their lives. But more significantly, she throws a hint at the failure of Marxist ideology to even the scales and give women equality. As such, neither ideology nor culture works on the side of the oppressed female population of the country.

Doris Lessing uses contrast occasionally to indicate irony as she mocks the absurdities of down-to-earth reality. In her comparison between herself, as a

privileged well-to-do person and the majority of the hungry black population, she levels criticism at the vanity of her class and brings to the front the question of poverty and famine rampant in Africa:

2. "I was talking about books to people who haven't eaten for three days" (128).

More specifically, the speaker here is a member of a "Book Teem" who tells his companions that he cannot preach reading to people who have been starving for days. In the absence of a proper education environment, education, learning and schooling could not flourish in Africa. The wealthy, educated West often criticizes Africa as an illiterate, backward continent, forgetting that people's priority is survival, not literacy. Africans have been long ravished by famine and hence books are a luxury starved people cannot afford. The contrast between education and hunger is established as the writer makes fun of any claims made by the West to educate Africa when in fact the latter has been struggling with poverty for decades.

4.4.1.2 Comparative Similarity

The analysis of the article reveals **(11) (9.82%)** occurrences of this relation. Lessing resorts to this semantic relation as she expands on the gap between ideology as theory and practice:

2. He was a Marxist, true, but **like** other politicians before and since he said the right things, for instance, that blacks and whites must flourish together (126).

In this example, Doris Lessing compares the president of Zimbabwe (Robert Mugabe) with the other corrupt politicians who ruled the country before him. Mugabe painted a theoretical paradise of Marxist principles of equality and justice, making the same fake promises that his predecessors made. Ultimately, racism continued during his time as it has before him. He also pledged his word about passing "a law against corruption and forbidding the top officials from owning more than one property." Those powerful officials continued to buy farms, businesses, hotels, and whatever they could get their hands on, he did nothing. Furthermore, he has sparked racial hatred throughout the period of the independence. His "anti-white rhetoric went" hand in hand with the "Marxist slogans" which were as underdeveloped and elementary as if Zimbabwe was the birth place of Marxism. The country was supposed to foster "amiable race relations" and "friendliness between whites and blacks", in comparison to, for instance, South Africa, where racism caused "such a bitter legacy". Lessing also builds on comparative similarity when she pits articles in

the Zimbabwean government press against the public pronouncements of the Soviet government:

4. Fiery articles in the government press were read in the same way **as** were the public pronouncements of the Soviet government, or any communist government. (128).

Here, Doris Lessing continues to criticize Mugabe using comparative similarity and emphasizing the shortcoming of his communist government. Mugabe has not only instigated racial hostilities between whites and blacks, but also governed the country by adopting Soviet-like policy in which the press is monitored and opposition is suppressed.

4.4.1.3 Statement Affirmation

Analyzing this article using SRS, this relation has the least frequency of occurrences as it appears only once:

5. Many people said he was mad: I among them (129).

Here, in this example, Lessing uses a Statement Affirmation Associative relation when Lessing triggers her agreement with those who describe Robert Mugabe as a mad person. She uses affirmation to support her argument against what she thinks his insane decisions. He committed many stupid mistakes, among which is the Congo war, which drained Zimbabwean resources while the country was already experiencing economic difficulties. The war, however, "enriched him personally with the loot he got from its mines," in return for" sending troops.

4.4.1.4 Statement Denial

The analysis of Doris Lessing's article shows that there are (5) occurrences of Denial (4.46):

6. Are you going to live here?' enquired the dispossessed one. 'Me? I **wouldn't** live in this dump,' scorns the black woman (132).

Here, a dialogue between a rich black women and a white woman who happens to be the wife of dispossessed farmer. The black woman who belongs to the elite black community in the most fashionable area in Harare arrives in her "smart car" to take over the farm. The white lady who is forced out of her home asks the new black owner whether she is going to live in her newly acquired property. The black woman's reply, using statement denial type, shows arrogance and betrays a reversed case of racism. The place which has formerly housed white people is scornfully described as a dump. The racial differences and disagreement between blacks and

whites are vividly portrayed. Reporting this dialogue, Lessing argues that poverty and economical struggles do not take into account the skin colour and they hit blacks and whites equally.

4.4.1.5 Concession-Contra Expectation

The analysis according to SRS shows (5) occurrences of Concession-Contra Expectation relations (5.36%):

7. Throughout the period from Independence anti-white rhetoric went alongside the Marxist slogans which were as primitive as if Marxism had been invented in Zimbabwe. **Yet** what everyone remarked on was the amiable race relations, friendliness between whites and blacks, compared to South Africa, where apartheid created such a bitter legacy (128).

In this example, there is a concession-Contra expectation relation that shows two things. The first is that Mugabe is a racist, and the second capitalizes on the anti-racial sentiment of Zimbabwean people whether whites or blacks. Mugabe, using his power and authority, tries to incite racial hatred between whites and blacks, and promotes an anti-white rhetoric that puts to risk the friendships and amiable race relations between blacks and whites in the country. On the other hand, with the presence of "as if", Lessing ridicules the way Mugabe misinterprets and abuses Marxism whose principles he seems to bend unscrupulously to serve his needs. So, instead of bolstering up peace and prosperity of his people, he engaged the whites and blacks in a bitter racist war.

4.4.2 Logico-Deductive Relations

Logico-Deductive Relations occupy the second position as they occur 34 times representing a third of the entire relations analyzed. They take on the form of the semantic structuring relationships below:

4.4.2.1 Reason-Result

The analysis of the essay shows that there are 17 **Reason-Result** relations (15.18%), which are expressed either explicitly or implicitly. Explicit Reason-Result relations are marked by the use of some discourse markers such as: **because, that is why, the reason behind that**. On the other hand, implicit reasoning takes place in the absence of explicit indicators and this type of semantic relations has been inferred depending on the context. However, Doris Lessing usually resorts to explicit reasoning to justify the events that happened in Zimbabwe and to emphasize the suffering of people. In all, the reason-result arguments are oriented towards depicting the deficiencies of Marxist ideology which Mugabe claimed to honour. For instance, the use of reason-result relation is employed to expose why Marxism failed to support Zimbabwean people:

8. But he did not know how much he was trusted, **because** he was too afraid to leave his self-created prison, meeting only sycophants and cronies, and governing through inflexible Marxist rules got out of textbooks (127).

Doris Lessing refers to the Zimbabwe's president, Mugabe, who was unaware of how much he was trusted by his people and how much he meant to them. People obviously expected a lot from him which he could not offer simply because he was highly misinformed and detached. Therefore, he did not have the confidence to break from his circle of hypocrites for whom Marxism remained an idealistic theory rather than actual practice.

Furthermore, in her use of explicit reason-result, Lessing discusses the economic losses African agriculture incurs due not only to the hardships of the climate, but also racial discrimination:

9. They would not let the farmer feed and water his beasts: drought, great heat, and *so* they died (132-33).

Lessing exposes the extent of racism tearing Zimbabwean citizens in an argument that she supports with and wraps up by an explicit reason-result relation. White farmers refuse to share water and fodder with black farmers whose livestock could not survive the dry season. As such, while black farmers lose their animals and farms due to droughts, white farmers grow richer and more prosperous. Ultimately, the economical gap between the two enlarges, fuelling hostilities and grudges against white Zimbabweans.

4.4.2.2 Grounds-Conclusion

Grounds-Conclusion is detected only once in the entire article. It is used to focalize Mugabe's failures:

10. Why had he made such foolish and impossible promises? Ah, but then it was by no means certain he would come first in the race to be Leader (129).

Robert Mugabe has given so many promises such as, passing a law to indict corruption, allowing high ranking officials to own only one property and making the country Britain-like. Doris Lessing, in this example, enquires rhetorically about the reason behind giving such impossible promises. Then she uses **Grounds-Conclusion** relation to conclude that without giving these promises, he could not have climbed his way up to presidency. His position of power came at the very costly price of losing his authenticity and credibility.

4.4.2.3 Condition-Consequence

The analysis of the article under study shows that it invests in this semantic relation to promote arguments relevant to possibilities, options and potentials. Conditionals

also fathom out the depth of regret and disappointment when hopes and dreams collapse. There are (16) occurrences of conditional relations in total, making (14.29%):

11. If you visited Zimbabwe and met only that type of white, or black, who never leaves Harare or Bulawayo, you heard only laments for the corruption, the incompetence, the general collapse of services, but if you took the trouble to visit the villages then it was impossible not to be inspired by the people (127).

The example above mixes Contrast with Condition-Consequence, which are both used by Doris Lessing to show Zimbabwean people complaining about the corruption of government officials and about the absence of services. She hints at the fact that big cities like Harare or Bulawayo are often discussed as stereotypes of the contrast between the whites and blacks. These metropolitan centres eclipsed the remote villages which remain off the radar. However, the light is always focussed on big cities and the grievances of townspeople rather than remote villagers who are outside the limelight and whose struggles and stories of survival are unheard.

Furthermore, in her essay, Doris Lessing's **Condition-Consequence** describes and comments on the value of the customs and traditions of Zimbabwean people proposing that:

12. If you want to see just how much 'our customs' really mean, then visit the park in Harare on Saturday or Sunday, where dozens of wedding groups arrive, the brides in flouncy white, and veils, with bridesmaids and pages (131).

Here, the writer argues that the idea of "our customs" is rather controversial and problematic given the cultural differences between the white and black citizens of the country. Yet, there seems to be an agreement between the two sides on how inspiring are the black weddings organized in the parks of Harare on Saturdays or Sundays. Even though Lessing is white, she takes pride in a black custom and identifies herself as part of it through the use of 'our'. The Conditional is used not to reduce the ideological gap between "ours" versus 'theirs', but to bridge that gap altogether, hypothetically resolving the ideological conflict.

4.4.3 Temporal Relation

Temporal Relations have the lowest frequency of occurrence among the relations with no more than 23 instances or (20.535%). They are represented by two kinds of relations:

4.4.3.1 Temporal Overlap

The analysis according to SRS identifies (13) examples of **temporal overlap** (11.60%) marking temporally important activities relevant to each other and occurring at the same time and carrying reflections on related political issues. Doris Lessing opens her essay with a temporal overlap relation, in which two activities occur at the same time:

13. 'You have the jewel of Africa in your hands,' said President Samora Machel of Mozambique, and President Julius Nyere of Tanzania, to Robert Mugabe, at **the moment** of Independence, in 1980 (126).

The speech of the presidents of Mozambique and Tanzania with Robert Mugabe (the president of Zimbabwe) is timed with the independence of Zimbabwe which the other presidents describe as "*the jewel of Africa*" to emphasize its importance and value. The two presidents must have realized the Mugabe did not give his country the credit it deserved and wanted to remind him in case he was unaware. Therefore, they dropped their reminder at the moment of the Independence.

Another example of temporal overlap that combines with contrast reflects negatively on Mugabe again:

14. At a certain conference at lunchtime Mandela queued with everyone else, at the buffet, **while** Mugabe sat at a table rearranged to be prominent, and had followers bring dishes to him where he sat (128).

This temporal overlap is intended by the writer to show Mugabe as an arrogant person who liked to present himself as the top "black leader in southern Africa". Having established himself as the most important president in the region, Mugabe chose to remain seated while everybody else including Mandela, the very well-known South African president, who "became the world's sweetheart" fetched their food themselves. Inflated by his ego, Mugabe thought himself superior to others and hence was keen on being treated as such.

4.4.3.2 Temporal Succession

The analysis shows that Lessing uses this semantic relation **(10)** times **(8.94%)** in the article under study. The temporal successions indicate racial ideologies:

15. When the blacks rebelled and won their war they looked forward to plenty and competence that existed nowhere else in Africa, not even in South Africa which was bedevilled by its many mutually hostile tribes and its vast shanty towns (126).

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Here, the temporal succession relation lists events that follow one another and happen to be crucial to the entire continent. The blacks won the war and now they are aspired to have a competent governing system that existed nowhere else in Africa. Lessing combines Temporal Succession with Contrast as she emphasizes Zimbabwe's superiority to the rest of Africa. Zimbabwe was going to set an example for other African states to follow if not for Mugabe's erratic strategies.

5. Conclusion

Throughout the practical investigation, it is clear that the theoretical framework of the study, namely, SRS is applicable to the essay and semantic structuring relationships used by the writer expose ideological conflicts, controversial beliefs and political and social dialectics.

Lessing used the various semantic relational structuring to bring to the front the tragedy of a country which was torn by racism, social injustice and political corruption. Through the use of associative relations and mainly contrast and comparison, the author creates arguments that comment on the political and ideological status quo under a Marxist government. She uses the same relations to promote her own views concerning the reasons why the Marxist experience in Zimbabwe did not bear the hoped for fruits.

Likewise, Lessing's use of logico-deductive relation is directed towards discussing reasons, results, conclusions and hypotheses relevant to the failure of a black government in an African country. With reason-result, Lessing drives home her rationales and logical justification of why the situation worsened and racism intensified in the country. The frequent use of conditionals portrays the author's interest in hypothetical and alternative realities based on choices other than the ones made by Mugabe's government. In all, the diverse semantic relational structuring creates a heated argument that Lessing intended to be caustic, satirical as well as didactic.

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