

A Pragmatic Analysis of Symbolic Language in Omar Al-Mukhtar's Movie – English Version

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ABSTRACT:

This study conducts a pragmatic analysis of symbolism in the English version of the film "The Lion of the Desert" by Omar Al-Mukhtar, investigating the use of symbols as a means of communicating meaning beyond their literal definition. Grice's theory of implicature is utilized to examine how symbols are used to communicate effectively and efficiently. The study focuses on fifteen major symbols used in the film, exploring their use in conveying themes and messages related to Libya's struggle for independence. The findings demonstrate that the use of symbolism is an effective technique for communicating complex themes and ideas to the audience. The research highlights the significance of pragmatic analysis in understanding language use in context and provides insights into the role of implicature in conveying meaning beyond explicit statements.

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1. Introduction:

Movie language is storytelling texts that aids in the development of the plot and narrative. Movie languages are essential filmmaking strategies that, when used successfully, help a movie succeed. It supports the filmmaker's narrative development. A key method in the making of a movie is the use of movie languages, Monaco (2000). This is due to the fact that the ideas and intentions beyond making the movie can best be conveyed through the language used. In this sense, language can convey these ideas and intentions explicitly or implicitly. This indicates the significance and role of pragmatics, as a field of linguistics which studies how language is used in any act of communication, in interpreting the language of movies.

In this respect, it can be said that pragmatics focuses on how the components of interaction govern face-to-face communication, or how 'people make sense of each other verbally' during a contextualized interaction, Yule (1996). The underlying problem with a movie is that a movie "transaction" lacks the essential components of face-to-face communication, Orimaye, S. O., Alhashmi, S. M., & Eu-gene, S. (2012).

Using symbolism is a technique employed by authors to connect several repeating themes in their works and to visually convey complicated ideas. On his part, Alhaj (2015) states that symbolism as "a kind of figures of speech used for increasing the beauty of the text and has figurative meaning besides its literal meaning". Pragmatically, symbolism is one of the linguistic figures of speech that forces the reader to make an imaginative leap to comprehend the writer's point. It performs an important function in literary discourse. The majority of symbols are concealed within the text, which forces the reader to employ critical thinking. The reader is prompted to consider whether one, both, or neither of the objects were utilized metaphorically or symbolically Markovic (1984). When a book's or essay's theme can be sensitive to some readers, symbolism can be helpful. It might help an author express a concept he/she wishes to address through the prism of a symbol instead of debating divisive subjects publicly, Neginsky (2010).

However, despite many studies (Andimara, S., Haryanto, S., & Haryati, D. (2020); Jabur & Al-Hilu, 2022; Oreo & Okon, 2021; Salsabila, A., Saputra, I. G., & Goteji, W. (2021); Thwala (2017) have investigated the use of symbolism from different literal symbolic perspectives, little is said on the pragmatic use of symbolism in movies, namely *Lion of the Desert*. This movie is filled with symbolic elements that communicate both explicit and implicit messages. The film may have not received sufficient attention from scholars, who have mostly

concentrated on translation-related concerns within the movie without analyzing the literary strategies employed. Thus, the current study attempts to address this gap by examining the use of symbolism pragmatically. The Grice maxims were used to examine how different inferred meanings, intents, and problems are communicated when they are flouted. However, the literary analysis of symbols was not included.

Moreover, the present study seeks to explore how the English version of the film may differ from the original in terms of symbolism and implicature due to linguistic and cultural differences. As researchers like Katan (2004) and House (2006) have noted, the process of translation often entails cultural adaptation, which can result in changes to the original meaning and intention. By examining the film's symbolic language in the English version, this study will shed light on the nuances of meaning and interpretation that may arise from cultural and linguistic differences.

Furthermore, this study contribute to the broader understanding of the role of symbolism in storytelling and narrative construction. As several scholars have noted, symbolism is a powerful tool for creating meaning, evoking emotions, and engaging audiences in various forms of artistic expression (Abrams, 1999; Langer, 1951). By examining the use of symbolism in *Lion of the Desert*, this study will not only shed light on the specific ways in which symbolism is employed in the film but also contribute to the broader theoretical discussions on the role of symbolism in narrative construction.

The significance of this study lies in its contribution to the literature on the analysis of symbolic elements in film using a pragmatic analysis approach. Symbolism is an essential component of literature and film, and analyzing its use can offer insights into the deeper meanings of a work. Furthermore, this study aims to apply Grice's theory of implicature to examine the flouting of conversational maxims in the movie, which can provide a fresh perspective on the use of language in film. Ultimately, this study contributes to the understanding of the historical and literary importance of Omar Al-Mukhtar's movie, as well as the translation-related issues present within the film. Based on this introduction the following objectives are formulated:

- 1- To find out the types of symbols used in *Lion of the Desert* movie (Omar Al-Mukhtar) to create conversational implicature.
- 2- Investigating how the use of these symbols violates Grice's Maxims in *Lion of the Desert* movie (Omar Al-Mukhtar) to create conversational implicature.

2. Literature Review:

This section discusses how the focused of the present paper is related to and different from previous studies. In this regard, various studies have been reviewed to indicate how they dealt with pragmatics and symbolism so far. In this regard, an important study has been done by Mubenga (2009), which aimed to demonstrate the significance of multimodal pragmatic analysis in analyzing cinema speech in audiovisual translation (AVT), particularly interlingual subtitling. The study utilized semiotics of visual imaging by Kress and Van Leeuwen (2006) and semiotics of sound design by Van Leeuwen (1999) to characterize image and sound in various AVT formats and movie subtitles. The findings highlighted the importance of analyzing the pragmatics of multimodal interaction in understanding how verbal, visual, and aural elements are combined in film subtitles.

Strukov (2010) analyzed the symbolism in Filipp Iankovskii's film "The Sword Bearer" (2006) to understand the role of the nemesis in cinematic texts and its relation to representational strategies. The study aimed to explore how emotional states are depicted in films in connection with national cultural traditions. By offering various interpretations of the film, including philosophical and psychoanalytical perspectives, the study provided a comprehensive understanding of the symbolic elements in the film. The research also compared "The Sword Bearer" to its American and Russian counterparts, shedding light on both general and specific aspects of the conflict and its visual representation. The study concluded by proposing a hypothesis regarding the connection between contemporary Russian film and the philosophical, literary, and aesthetic legacy of the Russian fin de siècle.

Galița and Bonta (2012) examined methods for translating English-to-Romanian movie titles from a pragmatic perspective. The study aimed to understand the factors influencing the translation process and the implications of domestication and foreignization strategies. By focusing on either the target or source language elements in translation, the research provided valuable insights into the complexities of translating movie titles while maintaining their symbolic meaning and cultural relevance.

Lu (2014) investigated the multisensory learning of literacy abilities using movies, aiming to enhance the learning of a second language for social function and academic achievement. The study explored the potential benefits of using audio-visual strategies in movies to accelerate second language learning for students from diverse backgrounds. The findings suggested that incorporating symbolism and other linguistic features in movies could lead to more effective language learning outcomes.

Thwala (2017) explored the importance of symbolism as a literary device for communication, recurrent imagery, and meaning bearer in poetry. The study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of symbolism in various forms of discourse. Utilizing analytical and evaluative approaches, the study showed that word choice in a poem significantly impacts its meaning, sound, and emotive aspects. The research highlighted the versatility of symbolism and its importance in conveying complex ideas and emotions in poetry.

Widayanti and Kustinah (2018) aimed to classify various speech acts in the film "Frozen" using a pragmatic approach. The study utilized a descriptive qualitative analysis of the film's voice transcript to provide insights into speech act classifications. The findings revealed four primary types of speech acts present in the film. By demonstrating the potential educational value of these speech acts, this study suggests that the analysis of symbolism in films could contribute to young children's language

Andimara et al. (2020) sought to categorize figurative language used in the film "Guardians of the Galaxy" and to explain its significance. They aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the figurative language employed in the movie and its implications. The study utilized Grice's theories of figurative language and implicature (1983) to analyze the film's script. The results showed 10 types of figurative language and two types of implicature present in the film. These findings contribute to the understanding of how figurative language and symbolism function in the context of popular films.

Oreo and Okon (2021) examined the work of Joe Ushie, focusing on his use of human-animal transformation and animal symbolism to address environmental and societal concerns. The

study aimed to analyze the representation of animals in Ushie's poetry and assess their impact on the themes of his work. The findings revealed that Ushie employed animal imagery to criticize political leaders and advocate for ecological preservation and balance, highlighting the power of symbolism in conveying complex ideas and promoting social change.

Salsabila et al. (2021) investigated speech acts in the film "Doctor Strange," with the study's goal being to describe the various forms, purposes, consequences, contexts, and classifications of speech acts. Using qualitative descriptive analysis, the findings demonstrated a wide range of speech acts in the film. This research contributes to the understanding of how speech acts are utilized in film dialogues and can provide a basis for further analysis of symbolism in movies.

Jabur and Al-Hilu (2022) conducted an in-depth study focused on the use of symbolism in the Pope's speech. They aimed to better understand the employment of symbolism and its underlying purposes. By analyzing six extracts using the cooperative principle and Grice's theory of implicature (1975), the study provided insights into the way language can convey social significance through symbolism. The findings revealed that the Pope's speech was rich in symbolism, which served to implicitly convey meaning and elicit strong emotional responses from listeners. This study highlighted the importance of symbolism in achieving various communication goals.

In summary, numerous studies have explored symbolism from various perspectives, such as its role as a literary device for communication, recurrent imagery, and bearer of meaning in poetry. Other studies have investigated the use of animal symbolism in the sociocultural context of Africa and human-animal transitions in oral traditions. Additionally, some research has focused on analyzing symbolism in literary works from a linguistic point of view. However, despite this extensive body of research, little attention has been given to the pragmatic use of symbolism in English version movies, specifically Omar Al-Mukhtar movies. This study aims to address this gap in the literature by examining how symbols are analyzed pragmatically in the context of films.

3. Methodology:

The current study used a qualitative research design. Qualitative research, according to Wahyuni (2019), is a type of social inquiry that focuses on how people perceive their experiences and the world around them. the study is qualitative in nature as it used descriptive qualitative method. It is defined by Wallen (1993, p.380) as "a research study that investigates the quality of relationships, activities, situations or materials." In fact, qualitative research is assumed to be "explanatory research" as it is considered a type of scientific research that seeks to address questions inquiring about set of procedures related to the problem statement of a research study DeFranzo (2011).

In this research the researcher takes the source of data from Lion of the Desert movie by watching the movie and reading the scripts. The gathering of data serves the objective of obtaining information that is pertinent to the topics. Documentation data collection was used to select symbols from Lion of the Desert movie (Omar Al-Mukhtar). Documentation is a record of the events that took place in the past. Writing, drawings, or gigantic works created by a person can all be considered to be forms of documentation. Documents can be presented in the form of works of art, including photographs, films, and other types of

media. This indicates that documentation refers to the process of recording the occurrences in the form of a document, a note, or a file that has been stored, and it is about something that has occurred in the past.

The researcher chooses to collect the data for this study by employing the technique of documentation since, as was mentioned previously, it might take the shape of a text, an image, or a piece of written work. The information for this piece of writing comes from a movie directed by Mustapha Akkad, and it is one of the literary works that makes up part of the document. The data were collected by the researcher through seeing the film and reading the screenplay.

The current study used content analysis to analyze the qualitative data collected via document instrument. Content analysis is the study of documents and communication artifacts, which might be texts of various formats, pictures, audio or video. Social scientists use content analysis to examine patterns in communication in a replicable and systematic manner, Bryman (2011). One of the key advantages of using content analysis to analyze social phenomena is its non-invasive nature, in contrast to simulating social experiences or collecting survey answers.

As for the procedures followed in data analysis, Two-stage analysis was followed to address the issues raised in the research questions of the study. Based on the theoretical and conceptual frameworks adopted in this study and research question one, the first stage focuses on the types of symbols used in the movie under investigation. The second stage, on the other hand, concerns the pragmatic interpretation of the data collected in terms of the investigation of the Grice's Maxims flouted in this movie. The model of analysis used in the current study is Grice's (1975, 1978) theory of implicature and cooperative principle.

In order to make this research more particular, the author went through various procedures in assessing and explaining the data. Analyzing, describing, and explaining: The author analyzes, describes, and provides explanation based on the question using an archetypal-mythological and symbolic theory approach to finish the replie The methodology used in this research on maxim flouting involved both qualitative and quantitative techniques, with a greater focus on the qualitative approach. The research used a qualitative descriptive approach to achieve its objectives. Descriptive analysis was used to summarize and explain the data, and the proper use of statistics and graphs was emphasized to ensure effective communication.

The data for this study was collected using the documentation method, which involved watching a film directed by Omar Al-Mukhtar and reading the screenplay. The researcher used descriptive analysis to evaluate the data, with methods such as identification, categorization, analysis, description, explanation, and conclusion.

To identify the symbols contained in the film, the author first identified the data that was correlated to the picture. The data were then categorized into appropriate groups based on the researcher's judgment, which made it easier to locate ideas in each piece of data and understand how notions might make the research more challenging. The author analyzed, described, and explained the data using an archetypal-mythological and symbolic theory approach to answer the research question.

4. Data Analysis:

This section provides a detailed analysis of selected scenes from the film *Lion of the Desert*, aimed at exploring the symbolism used in the film to convey a message of resistance, struggle, and hope. The scenes under analysis are: The Fall of Mukhtar's Spectacles, Omar Mukhtar Giving a Speech to his Followers, The Flag, The Desert, The Lion, The Weapons, The School, The Cross and Rosary, The Horses, and The Hills.

In the scene "The Fall of Mukhtar's Spectacles," the filmmakers use dialogue, music, and visuals to create a powerful and impactful moment. The scene revolves around the fall of Mukhtar's spectacles, which symbolize his vision, clarity of thought, and wisdom. The fall of Mukhtar's spectacles represents the loss of his clarity of thought and his ability to see the future, symbolizing the impact of his imprisonment and the toll it is taking on him. This scene serves to highlight the struggles and sacrifices made by Omar Al-Mukhtar, the Libyan resistance leader, in his fight for freedom and independence.

In "Omar Mukhtar Giving a Speech to his Followers," the scene aims to persuade, inspire, and motivate the listeners. Omar Mukhtar symbolizes leadership, strength, and courage, while his followers symbolize the Libyan people who are oppressed and in need of guidance and hope. The surroundings symbolize the harsh and challenging environment that the Libyan people are living in. The words he speaks symbolize hope, inspiration, and a call to action. This scene conveys a message of resilience and determination in the face of adversity, highlighting the struggles and sacrifices of the Libyan people as they fight for their rights and independence.

"The Flag" scene is a representative symbol that serves as a visual representation of the Libyan resistance movement and their struggle for independence. The flag symbolizes the ideals and values that the Libyan people are fighting for, representing a broader idea of resistance and struggle for independence and freedom.

"The Desert" scene is a symbolic representation of the struggle and isolation of the Libyan resistance, as well as their strength and determination. It represents the difficulties and challenges faced by the Libyan people in their fight for independence and freedom.

In "The Lion" scene, the lion represents Omar Mukhtar's bravery, leadership, and strength as a resistance fighter. The lion embodies the courage, determination, and strength that Omar Mukhtar embodies as a resistance fighter. Additionally, the scene in which the weapons appear is symbolic of the violence and destruction inherent in war, symbolizing the toll that war takes on individuals and societies.

The symbol of the school represents hope and education. Omar Mukhtar sets up the school to educate the children and provide them with the tools and knowledge they need to shape a better future. The school symbolizes the importance of education and the hope for a brighter future for the Libyan people. It also represents Omar Mukhtar's belief in the power of education to shape the future. The school can be considered a global symbol, as it represents a concept that is universal and can be understood beyond the specific context of the movie.

The cross and the rosary represent the deep spiritual convictions and commitment of the Libyan people in their resistance against Italian colonization. The cross symbolizes the religious beliefs of the Libyan people and their spiritual resistance against colonization. The rosary represents the faith and devotion of the Libyan people, as well as their reliance on religion as a source of strength during their struggle. Both symbols represent the idea of

spiritual strength and resilience. They can be classified as global or universal symbols, as they represent religious beliefs and practices that are recognized by a wide audience.

The horses symbolize the cultural heritage and resilience of the Libyan people. They represent the nomadic and traditional lifestyle of the Libyan people, as well as their mobility and flexibility in their resistance. The horses also symbolize the ability of the Libyan people to adapt to changing circumstances and respond to challenges with flexibility and resilience. They can be considered global symbols, as they represent a larger concept or idea, not limited to a specific time or place.

In "The Hills" scene, the rugged and difficult terrain symbolizes the challenges faced by the Libyan resistance movement, but also their strengths and advantages. The hills represent the difficult and often perilous path that the resistance had to navigate in their struggle against Italian colonization. However, the hills also symbolize the resourcefulness and strategic advantage of the Libyan resistance, who used the terrain to their advantage in their guerrilla tactics against the Italians. They can be considered local symbols, as they represent the specific geographic features of the region where the conflict took place.

Overall, the use of symbolism in *Lion of the Desert* effectively conveys the struggles and sacrifices of the Libyan people in their fight for freedom and independence. The filmmakers employ a range of symbols, including objects, animals, and geographic features, to represent broader concepts such as resistance, resilience, and hope. These symbols serve to amplify the emotional and psychological impact of the film, resonating with audiences beyond the specific context of the Libyan resistance. The analysis of these scenes contributes to a deeper understanding of the film's themes and message and highlights the power of visual storytelling in conveying complex ideas and emotions.

5. Results and Discussion:

The results of this study demonstrate the use of various types of symbols in the film "Lion of the Desert" to convey a message of resistance, struggle, and hope. The analysis of these symbols shows that they have different types, such as local, global, public, and private symbols, and different implications, which add to their effectiveness and depth. The use of the symbols also aligns with previous studies on the use of symbolism in film, which demonstrates their effectiveness in conveying complex ideas and themes to the audience.

The study highlights the significance of local symbols, such as the hills and sand dunes, which connect the audience to the specific geographic features of the region where the conflict took place, emphasizing the relationship between the natural environment and the struggles of the people who live in it. The use of global symbols, such as the horses and stars, represents a larger concept or idea, in this case, the cultural heritage and resilience of the Libyan people, and it is not limited to a specific time or place. The use of public symbols, such as the guns and camels, is widely recognized and understood as a symbol of violence and power and represents the traditional and nomadic way of life of the Libyan people. On the other hand, the use of private symbols, such as the scars, is intimately tied to the personal experiences of the individual fighters and their sacrifices.

The analysis of the symbols in the film also provides additional interpretations and insights into the themes and messages conveyed in the movie. The use of the symbol of the mountains highlights the strength and resilience of the Libyan people, but it also suggests the daunting

and perilous nature of their struggle. The use of the symbol of the ropes suggests not only the physical and psychological barriers that the Libyan people faced in their struggle for independence but also the intricate and oppressive nature of Italian colonization. Similarly, the use of the symbol of the camels and the sand dunes emphasizes the adaptability and resourcefulness of the Libyan resistance, but it also highlights the harsh and unforgiving nature of the desert environment in which they operated.

The study also demonstrates the use of imagery and symbolism as a powerful tool for communication and storytelling. The use of symbols in the film allows for a more nuanced and complex representation of the Libyan resistance and their struggle against Italian colonization. The symbols convey meaning and emotion that is not necessarily explicit in the dialogue or action of the film, allowing for a deeper and more impactful engagement with the story and the characters. Additionally, the analysis of the symbols in "Lion of the Desert" aligns with broader themes in the study of semiotics and visual communication, demonstrating the fundamental principles of semiotics in action.

In conclusion, the use of symbols in "Lion of the Desert" effectively conveys the struggles and sacrifices of the Libyan people in their fight for freedom and independence. The study shows that the use of different types of symbols, including local, global, public, and private symbols, adds depth and complexity to the message of the film. The analysis of the symbols in the film provides additional interpretations and insights into the themes and messages conveyed, contributing to a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical context of the film. Overall, the study demonstrates the power of symbolism in visual storytelling and its effectiveness in conveying complex ideas and emotions to the audience.

6. Conclusion:

In conclusion, this study highlights the importance and effectiveness of the use of symbols in visual storytelling, specifically in the context of the film "Lion of the Desert". The analysis of the symbols in the film demonstrates how they effectively convey complex ideas and emotions to the audience, contributing to a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural context of the Libyan resistance movement. The study also aligns with previous research on the use of symbolism in film, demonstrating its effectiveness in conveying themes and messages to the audience. Further research in this area could expand upon the findings of this study by exploring the use of symbols in other historical films or in different cultural contexts. Future studies could also examine the impact of cultural differences on the interpretation of symbols and visual communication, providing a better understanding of how symbols function across diverse audiences. Additionally, researchers could explore the role of symbols in non-fictional visual communication, such as in news media or advertising, to provide insights into how symbols function in different contexts.

تحليل عملي للغة الرمزية في فيلم عمر المختار-النسخة الإنجليزية

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ملخص البحث:

تجري هذه الدراسة تحليلاً عملياً للرموز في النسخة الإنجليزية من فيلم "أسد الصحراء" ل عمر المختار، وتقصي استخدام الرموز كوسيلة لتوصيل المعنى بما يتجاوز تعريفها الحرفي. تستخدم نظرية جريس للتضمين لدراسة كيفية استخدام الرموز للتواصل بفعالية وكفاءة. تركز الدراسة على خمسة عشر رمزا رئيسيا مستخدمة في الفيلم، واستكشاف استخدامها في نقل الموضوعات والرسائل المتعلقة بنضال ليبيا من أجل الاستقلال. توضح النتائج أن استخدام الرمزية هو أسلوب فعال لتوصيل الموضوعات والأفكار المعقدة للجمهور. يسلط البحث الضوء على أهمية التحليل البراغماتي في فهم استخدام اللغة في السياق ويقدم نظرة ثاقبة لدور الضمني في نقل المعنى خارج البيانات الصريحة.