

A Critical Sociolinguistic Study of Conservatism in Selected British Novels

Ibtihal Jasim Abbas*

English Department, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon, Iraq

Sadiq Mahdi Kadhim Al Shamiri

English Department, College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon, Iraq

Abstract—The main point of this study is to examine the ideology of conservatism in the selected British novels *The Blessing* by Nancy Mitford and *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith through the application of a critical sociolinguistic model. These two novels were chosen for having conservatism as the main theme. In this study, conservatism was analyzed according to four phases: the first phase (initiation) shows context and conservatism types. The second phase (description) highlights the text analysis, which involves analyzing vocabulary, grammar, cohesion, and text structure. The third phase represents social analysis, which involves some social factors like age, gender, status, and style. The last phase is evaluation, in which ideology is evaluated according to some selected functions. In both novels, it seems that cultural conservatism is the most commonly used type. Further, it is shown that conservatives tend to use simple words that are easily understood by others. Additionally, declaratives, second and third person pronouns, and modality of necessity and probability are the most followed grammatical categories by conservatives. In relation to social analysis, it is proven that old people are more conservative than young ones, women are more conservative than men, uneducated people are more conservative than educated ones, and informal style is more used than formal style. With regard to evaluating conservatism, it seems that explaining, evaluating, orienting, and prescribing functions are all used in both novels.

Index Terms—conservatism, critical sociolinguistics, Fairclough's socio-cultural approach, ideology, social factors

I. INTRODUCTION

As the title suggests, this paper discusses conservatism from a critical sociolinguistic perspective. To do this, a general review must first be introduced.

It is not surprising that, until now, there is no comprehensive theory for sociolinguistics that accounts for the relation between language and society. Most of the previous theories try to shed light on certain aspects of this relationship, neglecting others. As such, there is a need for an approach that accounts for problems in this relation that other approaches have overlooked.

Accordingly, critical sociolinguistics is suggested, as it is one of the approaches that deal with sociolinguistics. In terms of sociolinguistics, language is defined as “more than just a means of interaction or communication among members of society” (Heller et al., 2018, p. 119). Additionally, critical sociolinguistics has a function beyond that function of language in relation to scopes like social stratification, feelings, culture, and the human mind.

One of the most important concerns of critical sociolinguistics is exposing the way language produces, sustains, and replicates fundamental inequalities and conflicts in social groups. Inequalities and conflicts are everywhere: in education, economy, communication, and politics (Heller et al., 2018). Nonetheless, when it comes to conservatism, it is found that critical sociolinguistics deals with such issues. In other words, conflict is the area where critical sociolinguistics and conservatism meet. In conservatism, there is conflict and inequality between old and new norms, traditions, and conventions. Thus, it can be defined as an aesthetic, cultural, social, and political philosophy that seeks to promote and preserve traditional social institutions (McLean & McMillan, 2009).

Recently, a study by Frimer (2020) was presented to test the moral language of both liberals and conservatives. It showed that the moral average word differs according to the moral foundations and ideologies that each party carries. Since then, none of the previous studies had dealt with conservatism from a critical sociolinguistic perspective; hence, the current study is presented.

Having a gap that Critical Discourse Analysis fails to close, the current study tries to find answers to the following questions:

1. What are the common types of conservatism that are used in the selected novels?
2. Textually, how can conservatism be analyzed?
3. What are the social factors that may affect conservatism?

* Corresponding Author. Email: hum195.abthal.jasem@student.uobabylon.edu.iq

4. How is the ideology of conservatism evaluated?

According to the above-mentioned questions, the following aims are put forth:

1. Investigating the common types of conservatism that are used in the selected novels.
2. Showing out how conservatism can be analyzed textually.
3. Shedding light on the social factors that may affect conservatism.
4. Examining how the ideology of conservatism can be evaluated.

Based on the previous aims, the current study hypothesizes the following:

1. There are some common types of conservatism that can be used in the selected novels, like social, cultural, political, and religious.
2. Textually, conservatism can be analyzed according to semantic, syntactic, cohesion, and textual structure categories.
3. Age, gender, status, and style are the selected social factors that may affect conservatism.
4. The ideology of conservatism can be evaluated according to its functions in the selected texts.

Lastly, the study is hoped to be valuable for those who have interests in linguistic, sociolinguistic, and critical domains. It is also supposed to be of value to those who have interests in literature or those who feel oppressed by social traditions.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. *Conservatism as a Concept*

To begin, Cecil (1912) defined conservatism as “the instinctive human fear of sudden change and tendency to habitual action” (p. 8). In this sense, one can say that conservatism initially started as a social attitude rather than a political one.

According to Huntington (1957), there are four definitions for “conservatism”, and these definitions connect to and overlap with each other. First, conservatism has been regarded as “an aristocratic ideology.” In other words, it is historically related to aristocratic societies that see their values as worth keeping. Second, it has been treated as “a distinct ideology” protected by a political party or a conservative family. A pragmatic political approach that works as opposed to ideological politics is the third definition. Finally, conservatism has been defined as the “psychological habit” of rejecting change.

Thus, the definition of conservatism can be summed up as an ideology with positive or negative attitudes towards social change. It is positive when a conservative intends to adapt that which is positive, neglecting aspects that do not fit modernity. It is negative when a conservative is totally blinded by traditions.

In relation to the different types of conservatism, there are many; however, the current study focuses on the most common ones (see Figure 1). First, it refers politically to a set of beliefs that politicians follow in ruling a nation. Most of these beliefs are inherited from traditions of previous governments (Muller, 1997). Next, conservatism refers socially to a society that is built upon a delicate network of relationships that need to be supported through duty, traditional values, and conventions. Members of both society and government have a role in encouraging these traditional values. Examples of social conservatism are marriage, the family as a foundational unit, child adoption, same-gender relationships, prohibition of drug use, and so on (Heywood, 2017). Culturally, conservatism supports keeping the heritage of one nation or of a shared culture that is not defined by national boundaries. In other words, there are some values that could be shared among nations, for example, meritocracy in British and American societies. Cultural conservatives believe little in traditional values and traditional politics and often have an urgent sense of nationalism (Seaton, 1996). Finally, religiously, conservatism essentially focuses on teaching religious values to young generations. The process of teaching takes two forms: preaching to people or applying these values by law (Andersen et al., 2005).

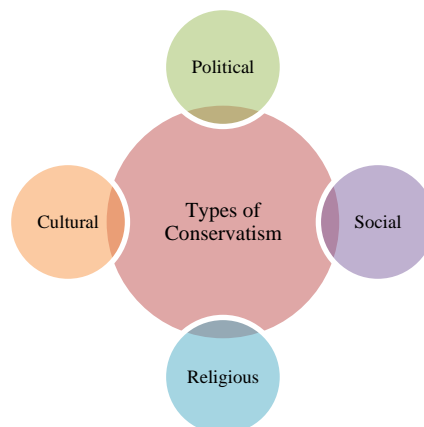


Figure 1. Types of Conservatism

B. *Critical Sociolinguistics*

Originally, the roots of critical sociolinguistics (CSL) go back to the field of critical theory as it relates to society in general. This brings attention to what Marx referred to as the marginalized and the social inequalities and how he sought to free people from the circumstances that enslaved them (Horkheimer, 1982).

For Hymes (1996), criticality on language in society has been shown to be clear since initiating work in sociolinguistics in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1990s. Language is not only limited to a cognitive property held by Chomsky. Yet, it lends itself an eye on the social phenomenon and regulation. The speech community is proof of such a claim. Therefore, linguistic resources are socialized to achieve communicative aims. This shows how language works in society.

Additionally, notions like power, conventions, inequalities, and conflicts become subject to different debates and critiques. Critical implications arise about such notions of language when speakers and language are marginalized. Consequently, CSL sheds light on and gives a voice to the marginalized (Hymes, 1977). However, methods like critical discourse analysis (CDA) can be used as a tool for CSL. It takes on the role of both reflector and reproducer of certain beliefs, ideas, worldviews, and power relations. Moreover, it examines the text from linguistic, social, political, psychological, and historical perspectives, giving CDA a valuable methodological tool for managing societal inequalities (Weiss & Wodak, 2007).

In addition to inequalities, CSL deals with discrimination, which is analyzed via critical conversation analysis (CA). It examines two aspects: the first is social interactions, and the second regards the linguistic structure, including the linguistic choices, semiotics, pragmatics, and so on (Sidnell & Stivers, 2012). Therefore, one can say that critical theory in relation to language and society can create and sustain power relations within a community. This is exactly the core idea of CSL.

C. *CSL and Ideology*

Broadly speaking, the term “ideology” refers to systems of ideas, beliefs, practices, and representations that operate in the interests of an identifiable social class or cultural group. Common usages generally fall into two categories: a critical definition allied with Marxist theory and a relativist definition used in liberal social theory and popular neoliberal discourse.

Furthermore, the concept of ideology has been developed to include the “ideological environment” in relation to the concrete social theory. Referring to it as an ideological environment is an excellent expression because ideology is not fixed to mind possession only but has a material social existence in language, text, and discourse (as cited in Voloshinov, 1973).

The relation of ideology to language is central in the social theory over the degrees of power that can be assigned to social structure and human agency. That is, ideology can construct and position the human subject through language. Thus, language is the means via which ideology is expressed. This indicates a marked shift from social structure to text structure (Bakhtin & Medvedev, 1985).

Critically, ideologies can operate on two social levels. First, there is the overall societal level, such as conflict, struggle, inequality, and so on, and at the local level of the situated social practices of everyday interactions. CSL meets ideology at the first level. It tries to investigate ideologies of those social groups who have power that cause conflict, struggle, and inequality (Van Dijk, 1998).

D. *Fairclough's Socio-Cultural Approach (2001)*

Fairclough, one of the most significant scholars in the realm of CDA, created the “socio-cultural approach”, which focuses on social problems using linguistic devices as a means to examine ideology in relation to social and cultural aspects (Meyer, 2001). The overall approach focuses on the progression from description to interpretation to explanation.

Fairclough (2001) distinguishes between three stages of CDA: description, interpretation, and explanation. In his first stage, he focuses on analyzing the speaker's and writer's beliefs in a text. In other words, he tries to highlight the linguistic properties of the given text. Such properties include word choice, grammatical structures, cohesion, and textual structure. In the second stage, the meaning of discourse is reached by looking for participants, their ideologies, cognition, and social resources (Blommaert, 2005). Finally, the third stage of explanation investigates the ideological effects of social practices in discourse. The main purpose of this is to show how social structure could affect discourse (Pesic, 2022).

E. *Social Factors*

Social factors are aspects that refer to the speaker's social identity and include social class, gender, status, age, ethnicity, and so on. They are influenced by the three components of language: setting, participants, and topic. Generally, they form fruitful ground for sociolinguistics (Swann et al., 2004). More specifically, age, gender, status, and style are the most related to conservatism.

Age is a core factor in sociolinguistics. It creates change in two senses: (a) change in the speech community over time and (b) change in an individual's speech over age. It cannot be separated from the social environment, yet it is interacted with by several factors like social class, ethnicity, culture, and so on (Ammon, 2005, p. 2334).

Additionally, studies on language and gender show that differences in speech resulting from gender are the main issue in sociolinguistics. Male and female language has been studied since the 1970s and has highlighted the fact that men and women see the world differently, which is reflected in the language they use (Putz & Verspoor, 2000).

In relation to style, a question can be asked, “Which style can be used by a conservative?” To answer this question, one has to know the social context of the conservative's speech. It has been shown that conservatism has a relationship to

the “defensive style”—the habitual way of defending an individual's thoughts and ideas when she/he feels that they are in danger. Usually, a defensive style is full of emotional words that help the speaker gain the agreement of others. This defensive style can be formal or casual. It depends on several factors like age, social distance, gender, and so on. (Horowitz, 2016).

While “status” can be a fuzzy concept, it is still an intuitive reality. To examine the function of status as a conditioning factor that influences linguistic variation, one needs to come up with ways of “diagnosing” or measuring it. Sometimes, an individual’s occupation, their education, their income, or their residence is used as a sign of their social class (Labov, 1966).

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Research Design

In the current study, the qualitative method is followed and focuses on linguistically analyzing chosen extracts in relation to a variety of social factors. That is, it focuses on words, situations, or contexts rather than numbers. Also, it follows a quantitative method concerning descriptive results, or the statistical part in which the frequency of occurrences and percentages are provided. Accordingly, the followed method is a mixed method since both are used.

B. Data Collection

Two British novels from different eras were selected. The first novel is *The Blessing* by Nancy Mitford, published in 1951, and the second novel is *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith, published in 2000. Two extracts were chosen to be analyzed from each novel. Conservatism is investigated in these two novels, highlighting the procession of conservatism over time.

C. The Developed Model of the Analysis

The model of the study consisted of four phases: initiation, description, explanation, and evaluation. Basically, Phases 1 and 3 were developed by the researcher. For Phase 2, Fairclough's (2001) model was adapted for its social nature since the current study focuses on sociolinguistic aspects of conservatism and their critical study. Regarding phase 4, Ball and Dagger's (2002) functions of ideology were adopted (see Figure 2).

(a). Phase 1: Initiation

The first phase consisted of two steps: context and types of conservatism. Through context, a few general questions were answered: “Who is talking to whom?”, “What is the topic of speaking?”, and “What is the time and place of speaking?” Moreover, the types of conservatism were investigated to show whether political, social, cultural, or religious conservatism were dominant.

(b). Phase 2: Description

In this phase, selected extracts were analyzed linguistically. In other words, vocabulary, grammar, cohesion, and text structure are examined according to Fairclough's (2001) model. In vocabulary, word choice, word meaning, and word metaphor were tested. In its grammatical categories, modes of sentences, pronouns, and modality were investigated. In its cohesive categories, connectives and argumentation (critical or logical) were clarified. Concerning textual structure, interactional control and complexity are highlighted.

(c). Phase 3: Explanation

In this phase, four social factors are inspected: age, gender, status, and style. More clearly, it is important in studying conservatism to know the age of conservatives, their gender, their educational status, and whether their style was formal, causal, or defensive.

(d). Phase 4: Evaluation

In this phase, the ideology of conservatism is evaluated according to its functions. Ball and Dagger (2002) posit that ideology has four functions: explanation, evaluation, orientation, and prescription. It is an explanation if there are two existing ideologies within the same texts. It is an evaluation if the conservative tries to evaluate others' ideologies according to the surrounding events. It is an orientation if the conservative tries to orient others to follow his ideology. Finally, it is prescription if the conservative tries to oblige people to follow his ideology by using “should” or “must”.

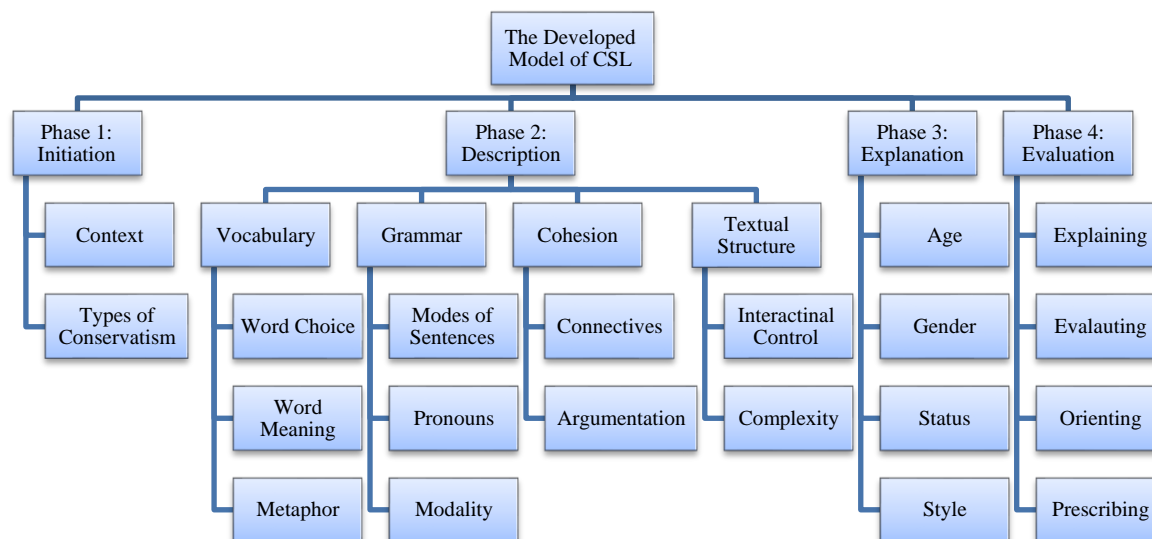


Figure 2. The Developed Model of CSL

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

A. Nancy Mitford's "The Blessing" (1951)

(a). Extract 1

Grace said:

"So tell me more, now I've seen them. Who is the old man?"

"M. de la Bourlie? He is my grandmother's lover."

"Her lover?" Grace was very much startled. "Isn't she rather old to have a lover?"

"Has age to do with love?" Charles-Edouard looked so much surprised that Grace said:

"Oh well – I only thought. Anyway, perhaps there's nothing in it."

He roared with laughter, saying, "How English you are. But M. de la Bourlie has visited my grandmother every single day for forty-six years, and in such a case you may be sure that there is always love". (Mitford, 1951, p. 32)

1. Phase 1: Initiation

Contextually, Grace is talking to her husband, Charles-Edouard, about family issues regarding his grandmother. The time of speaking is in the early 1950s in France, after the two traveled to see his family. With regard to the type of conservatism, it is closest to being cultural. In other words, it is cultural in the sense that the differences exist between two different cultures (the British and the French).

2. Phase 2: Description

Word choice was carefully examined. That is, words were intentionally chosen by the characters and examined by the researchers. For example, Grace's choice of the word "anyway" gives a hint that her marriage may not continue for long. That is, she chooses to end discussion with her husband because she knows whatever she says, she will get the same results. Second, Charles-Edouard chooses to use "English" when describing Grace as conservative, meaning that whoever is English is conservative.

Considering grammar, Grace and Charles-Edouard use declarative and interrogative modes of sentences. Grace, as a conservative, uses the interrogative mode more than her husband to inquire about things that she ignores in her husband's family, whereas Charles-Edouard uses the declarative mode to answer Grace's inquiries. In this extract, clearly, the conservative ideology is exhibited through inquiries rather than statements. Accordingly, it is important for Grace to inquire.

Investigating pronouns, it is found that first, second, and third personal pronouns are used. Each pronoun is used in its structure and context. Yet, what has gained attention is Charles-Edouard's use of the second pronoun "you" in "and in such a case you may be sure that there is always love." He uses the pronoun "you" more than any other pronoun to state that Grace lacks love when dealing with him.

As for modality, Grace often uses probability when talking to her husband. This is due to the cultural gap between them. She has not a full image about culture, traditions, or even the language of her husband. Thus, she consistently uses probability.

The third grammatical category is cohesion. Starting with connectives, it is obvious that both pronouns and demonstratives, or “references,” are used in the current extract. The pronouns and demonstratives used include “I”, “she”, “you”, “my”, “he”, “me”, “them”, “that”, and “there”. Furthermore, substitution is used when Charles-Edouard alternates “M. de la Bourlie” with the pronoun “he” and “grandmother” with “she”. Also, “anyway”, “but”, and “and” are used as conjunctions to connect sentences together. The last cohesive device is lexical cohesion. It is clear with the repetition of the words “lover” and “grandmother” to show how English is conservative regarding love relationships out of marriage in an advanced stage of age. Having the four categories of cohesion makes the selected extract more cohesive.

Additionally, argumentation is highlighted through Grace and Charles-Edouard's speech. The conservative Grace uses critical argumentation for asking about love relationships. It is critical because Grace focuses on age rather than marriage. Consequently, she feels that it is strange since it goes against what she used to see in England, her home country.

Within text structure and in specific interactional control, it was found that Charles-Edouard has more turns when speaking to Grace. This lacks Grace's chance to control the situation. Further, both Grace and Charles-Edouard keep to the central idea of love at an advanced age. In relation to complexity, Grace uses simple sentences, unlike her husband, who uses complex ones. This may be due to his controlling personality. As such, this may weaken Grace's conservative personality as a controller.

3. Phase 3: Explanation

Starting with age, both Grace and her husband Charles-Edouard are in their twenties; Grace is 23 and her husband is 28. Thus, in this extract, the conservative is younger than the anti-conservative. Concerning gender, the conservative is a woman, and the anti-conservative is a man and her husband. As for status, Grace is a country girl who does not work, unlike Charles-Edouard, who has a high position in the French Air Force. Finally, there is style. Being a husband and a wife, the couple use the informal style. No formalities are used by either.

4. Phase 4: Evaluation

According to what has been mentioned, one can say that the existing ideology is an ideology of explanation. More clearly, there are two ideologies: a conservative ideology regarding love and a modern ideology in relation to love. Somehow, Grace's conservative ideology is weaker than her husband's ideology. This may be due to the social factor of gender and male dominance.

(b). Extract 2

“But they're not in politics, Heck – hardly any, at least,” said Hughie.

“Not openly, no. That's their cunning. They work behind the scenes,” replied Hector.

“If you can call it work.”

“For the cause of Communism. The point I am trying to make is that they are dangerous because they are politically contaminated, a political contamination that can, in every traceable case, be traced to Moscow,” explained Hector.

“I say, hold on, Heck,” said Hughie. “All the old queens I know are terrific old Tories”. (Mitford, 1951, p. 104)

1. Phase 1: Initiation

To start with context, Grace's friend, Hector, is talking to Grace's former fiancé, Hughie, about the political system in Britain and how politics works. The situation takes place in London in the early 1950s. Concerning the type of conservatism, both Hector and Hughie are talking about a political issue. Consequently, one can say that the given extract represents political conservatism.

2. Phase 2: Description

Starting with vocabulary, it was found that there are some expressions like “behind the scenes”, “work”, “politically contaminated”, and “old queens” that were deliberately chosen. For instance, Hector chooses the expression “behind the scenes” to declare that most political systems have hidden scenarios that are different from how they publicly look. In turn, Hughie says, “If you can call it work,” to imply that what the government calls “work” is not actually work since work requires effort, which the government does not put forward for their people. By “politically contaminated”, Hector tries to emphasize that this type of pollution is the most dangerous one since it influences people directly. “Old queens” is another word that is chosen intentionally by Hughie to criticize the policy of the Monarchy for its dictatorial rules. As for word meaning, there are two expressions that need to be explained. They are “Communism” and “old Tories”. Communism is a political movement whose main ideology is centered on common ownership as the means of production. Old Tories is an expression that refers to those who are conservative.

In grammar, it looks that both Hector and Hughie use declarative modes when discussing an issue. As for pronouns, two types of pronouns are used: the first singular pronoun “I” and the third plural pronoun “they”. This shows that both Hector and Hughie talk about anti-conservatives who are absent at the moment of talking. Though both criticize

communism directly, they use the modality of probability when criticizing it through modals like “can”. In “If you can call it work”, Hughie uses the modal “can” to minimize the strength of communism, accusing it of having no real work to do.

As for cohesion, connectives are used through the given pronouns and demonstratives, like “they”, “I”, and “that”. Furthermore, Hector uses ellipsis when describing the policy of communism as playing behind the scenes. In other words, instead of saying, “It is not open about its politics,” he says, “Not openly. No.” to avoid redundancy. “But”, “if”, and “for” are used as conjunctions to connect sentences to each other. The last cohesive device that is used is lexical cohesion. In other words, they repeat the two words “work” and “political”. This emphasizes Hector and Hughie's point of view, which is that what communism presents is not work.

In relation to argumentation, it seems that Hector and Hughie follow a critical argumentation rather than a logical one. They criticize communism since it goes against their capitalist orientations.

Within text structure, it was found that the category of interactional control is presented through Hector's turns since he has most of the turn-takings in the given extract. Moreover, Hector, as a conservative, uses complex sentences when talking about communism. This belongs to the nature of the topic and to the hearer's status (Hughie), who is educated.

3. Phase 3: Explanation

Regarding age, it seems that Hector is older than Hughie. In relation to gender, the conservative Hector is a man. Additionally, he has worked in policy for several years, taking it as his status. Highlighting style, it is shown that Hughie calls Hector “Heck”. Accordingly, this can be an indication that the informal style is used.

4. Phase 4: Evaluation

Through the extract and the above-mentioned analysis, it is concluded that Hector's ideology functions as an ideology of evaluation since he tries to evaluate the situation according to the surrounding events.

B. *Zadie Smith's White Teeth (2000)*

(a). Extract 1

I say, isn't dat right, Darcus?’

‘Hmph.’

‘An’ it not,’ exclaimed Hortense, returning to Clara, having received Darcus’s grunt of approval, ‘dat young man’s soul you boddrin’ yourself wid! How many times must I tell you – you got no time for bwoys! (Smith, 2000, p. 25)

1. Phase 1: Initiation

Contextually, this extract is different because of its Jamaican dialect. Here, the speaker is Hortense, who is speaking to her daughter Clara because of her relationship with Ryan. The place of the event is England in January 1975. Regarding the conservatism type, it is cultural since Jamaican people are culturally different from British people.

2. Phase 2: Description

Concerning vocabulary, it seems that the conservative Hortense is careful in choosing her words when talking to Clara. For example, she uses the expression “young man's soul” when she wants to express her rejection towards him. Using “man's soul” indicates that she does not refuse him for his identity or ethnicity; rather, she refuses his soul, which may not serve her daughter's ambition. As for word meaning, it is found that Hortense uses the slang word “boddrin” for “bothering” to describe how her daughter is troubling herself over her boyfriend. Being direct, Clara's mother does not use any sort of metaphor.

Grammatically, Hortense uses both declarative and interrogative modes when talking to her daughter. She focuses on interrogative mode in order to blame Clara for such a behavior. With regard to pronouns, it is found that Hortense uses first singular and second person pronouns. She uses the first singular pronoun to indicate that her speech represents her own point of view. Clara's mother talks sternly in most of her speech. Thus, she uses the modality of obligation when she blames her daughter for her relationship with Ryan, as in “How many times must I tell you – you got no time for bwoys?”.

Moreover, cohesion is clearly employed in this extract. Reference, as a connective device, is clear through pronouns (“you”, “I”, “it”, and “yourself”) and the demonstrative “that” (“dat”). Substitution, ellipsis, and conjunctions are not used by Hortense. This is because of her simplicity, which makes her use short, simple sentences. In relation to lexical cohesion, it is obvious that Hortense keeps repeating the pronoun “you” and the word “time”, like “how many times” and “no time”. This may indicate that she is a practical woman who devotes most of her time to work.

As for argumentation, it seems that Hortense uses logical argumentation when she is talking to Clara about having relationships with boys. Logically, Clara has no time for such relations.

Within text structure, it is found that Hortense controls the text according to the category of interactional control. In other words, most of the turn-takings in this extract are attributed to Hortense. This gives her the chance to control the context.

Investigating complexity, Hortense uses complex sentences when talking to her daughter or her husband, Darcus. This may be due to her low educational level, which makes her hardly arrange her thoughts. This is clear through the above extract.

3. Phase 3: Explanation (Social Analysis)

Starting with age, Hortense is older than her husband, Darcus, and her daughter, Clara. This hints at most conservatives being older than liberals. Regarding gender, it is clear that the conservative Hortense is a woman. Furthermore, Hortense's status is that of a Black Jamaican servant who becomes a devout Jehovah's Witness. In the style category, Hortense uses an informal or causal style since she is talking to her daughter.

4. Phase 4: Evaluation

According to the above-mentioned analysis, Hortense's ideology of conservatism clearly functions as an ideology of prescription since she tries to force Clara to follow a certain behavior.

(b). Extract 2

"Only 144,000 of the Witnesses of Jehovah would sit in the court of the Lord on Judgement Day," said Hortense. "But what if we saved," replied Clara. "Some people," Hortense asserted with a snort, "have done such a hol' heap of sinning, it late for dem to be making eyes at Jehovah. It take effort to be close to Jehovah. It take devotion and dedication. Blessed are the pure in heart for they alone shall see God. Matthew 5:8. Isn't dat right, Darcus?" (Smith, 2000, p. 24)

1. Phase 1: Initiation

The context of Extract 2 is similar to the context of Extract 1 in that Hortense is talking to her daughter Clara, who has abandoned her religion because of her boyfriend Ryan. The dialogue takes place in the 1970s in Queens Park, London, England. As for the conservatism type, it is apparent that Hortense uses religious conservatism when talking to Clara, who has rejected Christianity. This is clear through the borrowed quotation from the Old Testament: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they alone shall see God".

2. Phase 2: Description

In vocabulary, Hortense chooses some words for an intention like "144,000", "court", and "effort". She uses "144,000" to hint that those people chosen by Jehovah to enter Heaven are very few compared to other religious groups. Furthermore, she uses the word "court" to intimidate Clara, stating that there will be a day when those who abandon Jehovah's religion will be judged. Also, the word "effort" is used to indicate that only the most faithful of believers can continue with such a religion. Accordingly, it is not an easy task to be one of Jehovah's followers. Furthermore, word meaning is exemplified with words like "Jehovah," "Witnesses of Jehovah," and "making eyes." More clearly, Jehovah is the name of God in the Old Testament. "Witnesses of Jehovah" refers to the religious branch of Christianity whose followers call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" because they try to be like Jesus, who they believe was the greatest of all God's witnesses. The last expression is "making eyes". It comes to mean "repent." Metaphorically, the word "court" is used to compare between a court in the real world and a court in Heaven, reflecting God's justice.

Grammatically, Hortense uses both declarative and interrogative modes of sentences. Moreover, she focuses on the declarative since she tries to explain an important religious issue to her daughter. She avoids using interrogative since using it means that she is not sure of what she is talking about. In fact, she uses it only once, seeking her husband's support. As for pronouns, Hortense focuses on third-person pronouns like "they," "them," and "it." This may indicate that Hortense tries to say that what she is talking about represents the whole nation rather than a personal goal. Shedding light on modality, Hortense uses the modality of necessity since she is talking about religious things related to Heaven and Judgment Day. This is clear through her use of modals like "would" and "shall," as in "Only 144,000 of the Witnesses of Jehovah would sit in the court of the Lord on Judgment Day" or "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they alone shall see God".

Regarding cohesion, it was found that reference is represented through the existing pronouns and demonstratives like "we", "it", "dem", "they", and "dat". This helps the text be more connected. Additionally, Hortense substitutes the expression "some people" with the objective pronoun "dem" and the expression "pure in the heart" with the third-person pronoun "they." Conjunctions are not used by Hortense. Rather, they are used by Clara once when she tries to interrupt her mother's opinion, as in "But what if we saved?" Further examining the extract, Hortense keeps repeating "Jehovah" and "Lord" or "God," that is, she uses lexical cohesion. Actually, this indicates that the speaker has a religious personality who tries to affect those people surrounding her, like Clara and her husband Darcus.

As for argumentation, Hortense uses critical argumentation when talking to her daughter. It is critical since what she supposes is not necessarily right. There might be another religion that most people follow.

Within text structure and interactional control in particular, it is obvious that Hortense has the greatest opportunity for turn-taking. She explains, clarifies, gives evidence, and asks others for agreement. All of these make her control the context. Furthermore, the topic is kept throughout the text by both Hortense and Clara.

Concerning complexity, Hortense uses complex sentences when talking to Clara. This may be due to psychological reasons, as her mind becomes confused when she knows that her daughter may turn to another religion. Accordingly, her sentences are not well arranged.

3. Phase 3: Explanation

Looking at age, obviously the conservative Hortense is older than her anti-conservative daughter Clara. Also, the gender of the conservative is a woman. Her job as a servant reveals her status, and regarding style, Hortense uses an informal style since she is talking to her daughter.

4. Phase 4: Evaluation

According to what has been analyzed above, one can conclude that Hortense's ideology functions as an ideology of orientation since she directly tries to orient Clara to continue with her own religion.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To test the validity of the hypotheses, this section presents the results as shown through the following descriptive statistical tables:

TABLE 1
STATISTICS OF THE MOST FOLLOWED TYPES OF CONSERVATISM

No.	Types of Conservatism	Fr.	%
1	Political	1	25
2	Social	0	0
3	Cultural	2	50
4	Religious	1	25
5	Total	4	100

According to Table 1, cultural conservatism is the most followed type with about 50% of the total percentages. This may be due to the nature of the selected novels. Next, religious conservatism and political conservatism come in second at 25% each of the total percentages. As for social conservatism, it was not used by the conservatives because the events that occur take place with people from different cultures. As such, it is absent in the given novels.

TABLE 2
STATISTICS OF CATEGORIES OF VOCABULARY FOLLOWED BY CONSERVATIVES

No.	Vocabulary		
1	Semantic Categories	Fr.	%
2	Word Choice	11	57.89
3	Word Meaning	6	31.57
4	Metaphor	2	10.52
5	Total	19	100

Table 2 shows that conservatives usually choose certain words for a purpose. This is shown through the above percentages, with 57.89% of the words chosen deliberately. This may indicate that conservatives carefully choose their words simply because they have a message to deliver. As for word meaning, 31.57% of the words needed to be interpreted because of the differences in mentality among conservatives and anti-conservatives. Concerning metaphor, it has the lesser percentage of the total words used by conservatives at 10.52%. This reflects the fact that conservatives are often direct in dealing with issues related to conservatism. However, the percentages of word meaning and metaphor are less in range than word choice. This indicates that conservatives tend to use clear, simple words rather than difficult, playful words.

TABLE 3
STATISTICS OF CATEGORIES OF GRAMMAR FOLLOWED BY CONSERVATIVES

No.	Modes of Sentences	Fr.	%	Pronouns	Fr.	%	Modality	Fr.	%
1	Declaratives	4	66.66	1st	3	33.33	Probability	2	50
2	Imperatives	0	0	2nd	3	33.33	Necessity	2	50
3	Interrogatives	2	33.33	3rd	3	33.33	Total	4	100
4	Total	6	99.99	Total	9	99.99			

Table 3 shows 66.66% of the conservatives in this study used declarative modes when talking about their ideas and beliefs. Actually, conservatives' use of declaratives indicates that what matters is explaining their beliefs in a simple, direct way. Moreover, about 33.33% of conservatives' sentences are in the interrogative mode because of contextual factors like willingness to be polite, being hesitant, being the weakest, and so on. Imperative mode is not used by any conservative for its impolite indication. Further, being a conservative requires having a persuasive technique to make others believe in his/her beliefs. As such, using the imperative mode is not suitable here.

Nearly all types of personal pronouns are used with a focus on second and third pronouns. This is obvious, as each type was at 33.33%. The main reason behind using second and third person pronouns is that most conservatives address others in an attempt to prove how others are false in their beliefs, and they rarely talk about themselves.

Regarding modality, conservatives use the modality of necessity and the modality of probability equally. Using necessity or probability depends on several factors, like the nature of the topic, the addressee, and so on.

TABLE 4
STATISTICS OF COHESION FOLLOWED BY CONSERVATIVES

No.	Categories of Cohesion	Fr.	%
1	Connectives	4	100
	Total	4	100
2	Argumentation	Critical	3
		Logical	1
	Total	4	100

Table 4 shows that all conservatives use connectives like references, substitutions, conjunctions, or lexical cohesion. This helps their speech be more connected and more understandable. Thus, it gets about 100%. In relation to argumentation, both critical and logical argumentation are used. Yet the highest percentage goes with critical argumentation at 75%. This indicates that most conservatives defend their views without proving them.

TABLE 5
STATISTICS OF CATEGORIES OF TEXT STRUCTURE FOLLOWED BY CONSERVATIVES

No.	Interactional Control	Fr.	%	Complexity	Fr.	%
1	Conservative	3	60	Simple	1	25
2	Anti-Conservative	2	40	Complex	3	75
3	Total	5	100	Total	4	100

Table 5 shows that most conservatives control the situation. It depends on the amount of turn-taking. The analyzed extracts show that about 60% of conservatives control the situation, though anti-conservatives control the text sometimes. It depends on the conservative's personality in relation to the social factors.

Concerning complexity, about 75% of conservatives use complex sentences when describing their points of view, and about 25% of conservatives use simple sentences. This indicates that missing the ability to arrange their ideas clearly makes them use complex sentences, although sometimes the topic that they are talking about obliges them to use complex sentences.

TABLE 6
STATISTICS OF CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL FACTORS AFFECTING CONSERVATISM

No.	Social Factors	Fr.	%
1	Age	Young	1
		Old	3
2	Gender	Woman	3
		Man	1
3	Status	Educated	1
		Non-Educated	3
4	Style	Formal	1
		Informal	3

In Table 6, it is found that most conservatives are those who are older with 75% of the total percentages. Regarding gender, it is concluded that most conservatives are women. This is due to women's natural fear of new events. As such, they prefer old attitudes to unknown new ones. Concerning status, most conservatives are uneducated. This indicates that conservatism consists of people who have low levels of education. Concerning style, most conservatives use an informal style. This is because of the close relationships of the characters in this study.

TABLE 7
STATISTICS OF CONSERVATISM FUNCTIONS FOLLOWED BY CONSERVATIVES

No.	Conservatism Function	Fr.	%
1	Explaining	1	25
2	Evaluating	1	25
3	Orienting	1	25
4	Prescribing	1	25
5	Total	4	100

According to Table 7, it is obvious that all functions of conservatism exist in the current study. Each function has about a percentage of 25%. Function is affected by the context of conservatism. Thus, one cannot say which function is the most important one.

VI. CONCLUSION

The following conclusions have been reached and are basically associated with the hypotheses of the study:

First, the most noticeable types of conservatism that exist in the selected data are political, cultural, and religious. Because of the differences in norms among cultures, cultural conservatism is the most followed one. This somehow verifies the first hypothesis that there are common types of conservatism that can be used in the selected novels, like social, cultural, political, and religious.

Second, conservatives choose certain vocabulary, grammatical structures, cohesive categories, and textual categories when presenting their ideas. In relation to vocabulary, conservatives are careful in choosing their words, which refer directly to what they want to convey. Further, they avoid words that may convey several meanings since what is important for them is how to deliver a message directly. Regarding grammar, most conservatives use declarative sentences, second and third person pronouns, and the modality of probability and necessity. Also, conservatives effectively use connectives when talking about their ideas and beliefs, with emphasis on critical argumentation. As for text structure, it was found that most conservatives have the controlling role in speaking with using complex language. Thus, this verifies the second hypothesis that, textually, conservatism can be analyzed according to semantic, syntactic, cohesion, and textual structure categories.

Third, age, gender, style, and status are the social factors that play a great role in describing conservatism. This is in line with the third hypothesis that age, gender, status, and style are the selected social factors that may affect conservatism. Furthermore, this conclusion has sub-conclusions: (a). Women are described as the most conservative due to their psychological and emotional nature; (b). Old people are more conservative than young ones; and (c). People with low education levels are more conservative than educated ones. Moreover, the informal style is the most preferable style used by conservatives when describing their ideas and thoughts.

Finally, several functions can evaluate the ideology of conservatism, like explaining, evaluating, orienting, and prescribing. This is realized by the fourth hypothesis that the ideology of conservatism can be evaluated according to its functions in the selected texts.

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Ibtihal Jasim Abbas was born in Babylon, Iraq, in 1992. She received her Bachelor Degree in English Language and Linguistics from the University of Babylon, Iraq, in 2014, and her Master's Degree in English Language and Linguistics from the same university in 2017. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Babylon, Iraq, in English Language and Linguistics. She worked at Al-Imam Al-Kadhim College for Islamic Sciences for three years from 2017 to 2020 and currently works at the Ministry of Education.



Sadiq Mahdi Kadhim Al-Shamiri earned his M.A. and PhD degrees in English and Linguistics in 2011 and 2018, respectively, from the University of Babylon, College of Education for Human Sciences, after already holding a Bachelor of Laws Degree in 1991 from the College of Law, Al-Nahrain University. He has been a staff member in the Department of English since 2011 and gained the academic title of Assistant Professor in 2019. He has taught several linguistic subjects at the undergraduate and postgraduate programs at the departments of English, Arabic, Geography, History, and Educational and Psychological Studies of the College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon. He has supervised several M.A. Theses and Ph.D. Dissertations concerned with different linguistic disciplines. He has published a book and more than 15 research papers. His research interests are mainly concerned with critical discourse analysis, pragma-stylistics and contrastive studies between English and Arabic, particularly those related to the religious language.