

AN INTERTWINED READER IN MEANING INTERPRETATION: USAGE OF TEXTUAL ANALYSIS AS A RESEARCH METHOD

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Abstract

Textual Analysis as a research method helps the reader to understand the meaning of the text. The text becomes helpful to the reader to gather new knowledge. While conducting the research, the research methods provide new ideas for the researchers to conduct their research. Having studied different research methods, a researcher becomes aware of the analysis in their research. Through the understanding of the research method 'Textual analysis', a researcher can understand how to analyze the text. The biological interpretation of sexuality and the analysis of the poem "Red Wheelbarrow", provides more scope for understanding how to use textual analysis as a research method.

INTRODUCTION

Research Methods are the systematic tools to solve the research problem. It helps the researcher to collect new information out of known information. It improves the understanding of the researcher regarding the topic. The success that researchers get in the process of research depends on what method they employ. There are various kinds of research methods, like Discourse Analysis as a research method, Visual Methodology as a research method, and Textual Analysis is a kind of research method.

What is Text?

According to the dictionary of *Literary Terms and Literary Theory*, text is "A number of meanings may be distinguished: (a) the actual words of a book in their original form or any form they have been transmitted in or transmuted to (717)

In this way, text is something through which one can make meaning. In a way, text is such an object through which a subject gives meaning and the meaning is whatever context the subject gets out of the text.

What Does Textual Analysis Mean?

Textual Analysis is a kind of methodology that involves understanding language, symbols or pictures present in text to gain information regarding how people make sense of and communicate life and life experiences. Visual, written or spoken messages provide cues to ways through which communication can be understood. Often the messages are understood as influenced by and reflective of large social context, i.e. Messages reflect and pray challenge the historical, cultural, political, and ethical content for which they exist. So the analyst must understand the broader social structures that influence the messages present in the text under investigation. Textual analysis is a kind of method of communication researchers use to describe and interpret the characteristics of visual or recorded messages.

The purpose of the textual analysis is to describe the content, structure, and functions of the messages contained in the text.

The important considerations in textual analysis include selecting the types of texts to be studied, acquiring appropriate texts, and determining which particular approach to be employed in analyzing them.

Textual Analysis of Tarquin and Lucretia

Textual Analysis as a Research Method is paper written by Catherine Belsey, in which she talks about textual Analysis as a research method. She has analyzed Titian's painting of Tarquin and Lucretia. It is a kind of oil painting by Titian which was completed in 1571. Catherine Belsey has started her paper with

My contention will be that textual Analysis is indispensable to research in cultural criticism, where cultural criticism includes English cultural history and cultural studies as well as any other discipline that focuses on text or seeks to understand the inscription of culture in its artifacts (Belsey 160)

This kind of statement of Belsey symbolizes that textual analysis is very much necessary for research and the painting that Catherine has selected for textual Analysis a researcher has to peep into very deep in order to do its Analysis. Because for researchers, a picture is a kind of text and, as text, a picture needs a kind of close analysis of every aspect.

When one does the textual analysis of the painting, the very first question arises in the mind that "What is it about? What kind of prior knowledge might illuminate it? What difference does it make if we locate the work textually and historically? What position or range of position does the text offers its reader?" (Belsey 160-161) The first and the most immediate answer is rape. If the viewer peeked into history, he would be aware that this was the rape of Lucretia. Tarquin's raised dagger, his knee between Lucretia's legs, his dominance over her body and the only white beeline which is there on her thighs over her naked body as protection against violence and her helplessness symbolizes that it is a kind of sexual assault: rape. The term rape has its origin in the Latin 'rapere', which means "to snatch, to grab, to carry off". Rape is a kind of ongoing action, and it is very difficult to capture a sense of it in just an image. But this comes very near to the eye of the viewer when he sees the painting, as Andrea Dworkin in her book, *Intercourse* said, that "Rape was an insurrectionary act" (226) This raises some questions like female nudity and masculine dominance over female body. The nude body of Lucretia, the breasts which draws the attention of a viewer and shows the erotic gaze. It shows the helplessness of Lucretia and masculine dominance for sexuality.

Biological Interpretation of Sexuality

Plants and animals work in the maintenance of homeostasis in physical activities. Hormones are discharged from the glands into the blood and set the behavior. As puberty begins, sexual maturity starts in a part of humans and in females' breasts develops and the 28-day menstruation cycle (period) starts and, in males, the sex organs like testicles and penis get bigger. The idea of sexuality is very much related to the endocrine system of the human body. There are different glands, like Hypothalamus, pituitary, pineal, Thyroid and parathyroid, Pancreas, Adrenal, Placenta, Thymus, ovaries of females and testicles of males. These glands release various hormones which function as chemical messengers that travel in the bloodstream and go to the tissues or organs. In females for sex or sexual excitement, estrogen and progesterone hormones are responsible, which are secreted in female ovaries, whereas as in males for sex or sexual excitement, testosterone hormone is responsible, which is made in the testicles of males.

If a viewer again focuses on the painting, some questions will arise, like, "where the emphasis falls in the image? How the painting invites us to see Lucretia? Is she presented as a victim suffering to resist a brutal assault? Or is she offered as an object of desire spectators as well as Tarquin?" (Belsey 161). Of course, the situation of Lucretia feels a kind of sympathy on the part of the viewer. But if the situation of Lucretia is compared with the character of Lavinia in Shakespeare's *Titus Andronicus*, who has been brutally raped by Chiron and Demetrius and her tongue and hands have been cut off, so that she can't speak and write the names of the attackers and even if a viewer compares Lucretia with Philomela of Ovid's poem "Metamorphosis" even, she has been raped by Tereus and her tongue has been cut off. A viewer might think that Lucretia is in a little better situation than these both. Even stories of rape have been portrayed in Saint Augustine's *The City of God*.

The picture reproduces a new meaning, and it recalls a very well-known tale, in which "Tarquin was the heir to the kingdom in the early days in Rome before it became a republic, Lucretia was the wife of his friend Collatine". (Belsey 170) The historical and cultural differences help to grasp the painting in a better way. Here again the question arises: raises "do people normally sleep in their portable property in this way? and do people keep significant amount of jewelry despite being completely naked"(Belsey 170) Lucretia belonged to the noble class. The wedding ring indicated her marital status. Historically, the rape of a married woman was considered most culpable. The medieval law suggests that the virtues of aristocratic women or wives were such a valuable object and that virtue had been theft by Tarquin the way he had raped Lucretia, who conducted her to cause suicide.

Tarquin's social class indicates that rape is not just related to sex but state as well. It depicts the competition not just between the male and female, but between the class and the oppressor as well. Lucretia's rape just signifies male power.

Barthes Concept of Meaning Generation

Barthes argues in his essay "The Death of the Author", that "the birth of the reader must be ransomed by the death of the author". (Barthes 6) So, there is no existence of a single meaning to a particular text when a reader gets birth, because every reader has their own different understanding. If the text is known by the author, then just a single meaning will be there. So, there is nothing like pure reading or interpretation of a text. It always involves extra textual knowledge. As Barthes argues, "Text is a tissue of citation, resulting from the thousand sources of culture". (4)

The third-party reader plays a vital role. Because in the process of reading there is the interaction between the reader and the text. Meaning comes out of the reading process as per the context that a reader grasps. Because if one will see from post-structuralism, no absolute meaning exists.

Textual Analysis of the Poem "The Red Wheelbarrow"

The text that has been chosen for textual analysis is a poem called "The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carols Williams. This is one of the finest imagist poems. The poem is written without any title, having just numbers it consists of sixteen words.

something depends
Upon a red wheel barrow glazed with rain water
Beside the white
Chickens (William 1)

The poem consists just 8 lines which are so small. The words like red wheel barrow, glazed rain white Chickens are creating the image of farm. The red wheel barrow is wet due to the recent rain. In the very beginning of the line, the word 'depends' creates the image that the first line depends upon the second. The use of the word the red wheel barrow and the upper line even creates the picture. The upper part of the wheel barrow is so much depended upon the wheel. Chickens which are there besides the wheel barrow. It creates the total imagery of farming life.

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CONCLUSION

As per the theory of language which is presented by Belsey for textual Analysis cannot be a final signified. As Barthes said that "We know that a text does not consist of a line of words, releasing a single "theological" meaning (the "message" of the Author God), but is a space of many dimensions, in which are wedded and contested various kinds of writing, no one of which is original: the text is a tissue of citations, resulting from the thousand sources of culture". (4) No one true meaning can ever come to light. A text is a piece of writing which is made up of multiple meanings.

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