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A Corpus-driven Stylistic Analysis of Hardy's Novels

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Abstract

Stylistics is the study of impressions that a writer wants to produce. It has been critical for the interpretation and understanding of literary texts. Corpus-driven stylistics analysis employs a variety of computer-run techniques to analyze texts on a scientific basis. It studies a large number of corpora to find out the style of the writers and the way they inject themes through their styles. Thomas Hardy is well known throughout the world for his peculiar style of injecting themes in the keywords and collocations of the text. The current research study has analyzed the text of the novel *The Return of the Native* by Hardy to find out how he uses words and collocation patterns to support his themes using two software namely AntConc and Wmatrix. The results have been interpreted in accordance with the model presented by Mahlberg (2013) This study has found that Hardy is very much deliberate in the selection and placement of lexical items.



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He masterfully supports his themes with the help of the selection and placement of lexical items. The research will help teachers and students in understanding writers' styles. Future researchers are suggested to work on novels by Hardy or other writers for the production of more comprehensive results.

Keywords: Collocations, Corpus Driven Stylistics Analysis, Hardy, Novel

1. Introduction

Analysis of the literature needs to be conducted from various angles and aspects for a complete understanding of the text and themes of the text. There are many schools of thought that have been trying to find out various covert and overt themes of literary texts. All of them have tried their best to use all possible sources and means to explore the aesthetic and moral aspects of literary writings. Some of the schools used to form and others used content to reach the theme that was flowing in the mind of the author (Egbert,2012).

Formalists were the first to stress the need for analysis of form and not the content only. They explored the form of the literary text both mechanically and chemically saying all that a literary text contains can be found out with the help of analysis of the form of the text. They shifted the focus from content to form. Stylistics since its very start has been trying to explore the unexplored aspects of literature to find out the unrevealed themes and support the already explored themes. It is the study of the impression that an author wants to produce in his text with the help of various literary tools and methods. It takes into account all the angles and aspects of the literary text that has been produced by the writer by moulding the language according to his thought and the need of the themes of the text. It executes all the aspects of the text to find out what was there in the mind of the author at the time of the composition of the text. It also explores the thoughts of the writer about the readers. This way it has been playing a vital role in the interpretation and then understanding of literary texts. For this purpose, stylistics took into account various aspects of the form and content of the text with the help of its various branches that were developed with the ever-changing needs of the era (Dutton,1984).

Stylistics started using psychology in the analysis of literary text to study the attitude of the reader and the writer. Cognitive stylistics came forward to explore the mind of the characters of the story and the thoughts that were present in the mind of the writer at the time of the creation of these characters. It also takes into account the text of the story to find out the views of the author about the readers of the text. This way stylistics with its brain-related branches has tried to reach even those themes and thoughts that were kept in mind at the time of the composition of the text. Functionalism came forward to execute the functions performed by the linguistic choices used in the text instead of a

form of the text. It processes the functions of language like expression (mood), cognition (relating information), and conation (influence) (Egbert,2012; Wu ,2021).

Halliday (1973) instead of focusing on these functions put stress on the analysis of functions like Ideational, Interpersonal, and Textual which are called meta functions of language. The missing connections between the Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and stylistics that were a hurdle in the way of stylistics were overcome with the help of critical stylistics. Stylistics through pedagogical stylistics managed to reach the hidden ideologies that lie behind the texts.

Stylistics in its struggle to reach all the hidden facets of literary texts used all possible ways and methods and managed to produce fact-based scientific explorations as it got computers involved in the analysis of the literary texts. This branch of stylistics i.e., Corpus Stylistics opened new horizons in the field of literary analysis by using a computer and computer-based software for sound-based explorations and scientific footings for the already explored themes. Corpus Stylistics which is a combination of Corpus linguistics and stylistics uses the most advanced techniques of the era to study the language patterns of the texts. This makes the stylistics and all relevant linguistics research stand in the line of modern sciences. It claims that even the findings of literary research studies are verifiable. This way Corpus Stylistics has made it possible to study and analyze the patterns of language on scientific bases to find out the hidden ideologies behind the specifically built patterns (Leech,2016; Ihrmark & Nilsson,2021). Mahlberg (2013) is of the view that Corpus stylistics can execute a large amount of data making the sample selection process easier for people who were always in search of methods to select the appropriate sample for the research studies.

Corpus Stylistics seems to be an amalgam of literary criticism and linguistic description but actually, it is a step forward as it not only deciphers the messages encoded in the lexical items and structure of the language patterns but also provides factual bases to the already explored themes of the literature. Corpus stylistics has been accepted as a science in the field of modern sciences for its objective behavior and scientific approach and logical conclusions (Lindquist,2009).

Here in the current research study, this Corpus Stylistics has been used to explore the themes of Thomas Hardy's novels. Hardy has been prominent throughout the history of literature for his peculiar style. His selection of lexical items and then placement of them following the need of the event and flow of the story is peculiar to him and second to none. He seems to find out the words first before going to describe some specific event in the story. He goes to every possible source in the search of unique lexical choices to enrich his language and infill the desired themes in the structure of these words. He does not feel embarrassed at all to break the well-recognized set patterns for the achievement of his desired aims. What stands Hardy prominent in the company of great writers is his

infusion of themes in the functional, grammatical and structural patterns of language. He selects the words carefully analyses them chemically and places the mechanically to infill the themes deliberately. This is the reason he is sometimes regarded as a mathematical writer of literature. His words are well-calculated and manipulated. He spends more time on the selection of words than on their placement in phrases and sentences. This is the reason he comes out to be realistic without leaving the aesthetic aspect of the literature. Some readers who are unable to reach the deep thoughts infilled by the readers are equally considered by Hardy and are provided with aesthetic beauty with the help of the structure of the language. His themes are reflected not only through the story but also through the placement of words and the structure of the lexical and grammatical patterns. This is why he needs to be analyzed and explored with the help of some scientific approach. Based on Ejaz (2019) this research study is an effort to explore the various aspects of linguistic choices in Hardy's novels.

Statement of the Problem

Hardy has been analyzed by many researchers but with the help of literary criticism. There is not even a single work in which the researcher has taken into consideration the linguistic aspects of Hardy's novels. Here in the current research, the focus has been only on the linguistic patterns and structures to explore the themes of his novels and to provide sound footings to the previously explored themes.

Research Objectives

- To explore the linguistic structures of Hardy's novels to study the peculiar style of Hardy.
- To explore the style of Hardy to find out the hidden themes behind his style.

Research Questions

- How do various linguistic domains help the writers convey themes?
- How do the selection and then placement of words carry themes of the text?

Significance of the research study

This study is going to set new ideals in the field of linguistic research studies. This is the first-ever research that has analyzed the text finding frequencies of the words that support the themes of the novel. This may set new trends in the field of stylistic analysis making it easy and understandable that is otherwise considered a bit difficult by the students. The results of the study will help the students and teachers in understanding

how writers develop themes and characterization through the selection and arrangement of lexical items. This will also help common readers to understand various techniques through which writers build the events of the story. Moreover, it will work as a platform for future researchers in the area of corpus stylistics. They would be able to explore other literary texts using the model and methodology applied in this study.

Delimitations of the Research Study

The current research study has been delimited to A novel namely *The Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy (1878). Here in this research study, the researcher has applied the AntConc and Wmatrix for the analysis of the text.

2. Literature Review

Style is the physiognomy of the mind. Style is the mark of the character. Style is the way an author uses linguistic patterns, Literary devices, and moulds the structures of the language to create mood and expression in the text. Various very common literary devices include imagery, rhyme, rhythm, diction, metaphor, repetition, jargon, colloquialisms, assonance, alliteration, tone, symbolism, structure, foreshadowing, Character, pacing, dialogue, mood, juxtaposition, irony, etc. Stylistics, the study of these literary devices tries to explore the themes of the texts that are deliberately infused in the text by the writer with the help of these literary devices. It is the only field in linguistics that explores the text to find not only the themes but also the aestheticism presented in the text. It is the field that even explores the way writers communicate with the readers and readers interact with the text. It is the explication and scrutiny of literary texts from a linguistic perspective that analyses the techniques applied in the language of the text.

Fischer-Strake (2010) is of the view that Stylistics endeavors to explore and then explain how the texts insinuate themes and meaning, how the readers produce meanings, and why the reader reacts to the texts in the way that they do. stylistics is the interdisciplinary analysis of textual interpretations that use both understandings of social dynamics and language comprehension. The textual analysis of the stylisticians is influenced by history and rhetorical reasoning.

Pope (2012) says that a stylisticians is a person who has detailed knowledge of working of phonology morphology, syntax, semantics, lexis, and different pragmatic and discourse models. He with this knowledge goes deep in search of the linguistic evidence to support or challenge subjective natured evaluations and interpretations of different cultural commentators and literary critics. Is of the view that stylisticians have expertise in rhetoric and grammar and the way these operate in the text and then textual analysis.

Mahlberg (2013) says that stylistics is the study of the language used by writers in various contexts either situational or linguistic. It is the study of the language used in the literature on an advanced level. There are various branches of stylistics that study the text from various aspects.

Literary stylistics studies the forms of literature such as prose, drama, and poetry. Interpretive stylistics is the study of How linguistic choices play their role in the creation of meanings and aesthetic beauty. Evaluative stylistics studies the extent to which the style adopted by the author works for the themes of the text. Corpus stylistics studies the text and provides authenticity to the manuscript by finding frequencies of different linguistic elements. Discourse stylistics finds out How linguistic choices create themes and meanings by studying assonance, parallelism, rhyme, and alliteration. Feminist stylistics studies how texts are engendered. It also studies why men's texts are read in a different way than men's. Computational stylistics studies the text of the writers with the help of computers and computer-based software to determine the themes and style of the writer. Cognitive stylistics studies the effects that are created in the minds of the readers and what was there in the mind of the writer at the time of the composition of the text. Style in literature means the use of all possible deviations in the placement of lexical items. Style is unique in the set patterns with the help of various literary devices.

Aquilina (2014) says that any deviation or innovation present in the structure of the text is called a style marker. Many style markers are applied by the writers to create beauty and themes in the text. These allow the writers to inject themes and meanings even in simple sentences of the text.

Baker (2006) says that the style markers possess layers of themes and meanings even with a very small number of words. These not only convey meanings through the words but also the structure of the text. These are regarded as the soul of the literary text. These give the writers chance to inject themes and meanings into the text. The readers take advantage of these style markers to get sublimity in the field of literature. Stubbs (2005) argues that the value of keywords in the field of stylistics is like the value of numbers in the field of mathematics. Mathematics cannot survive even without numbers. Same way Corpus stylistics analysis is nothing without the analysis of keywords. These provide scientific and figurative footings to the results of the analysis.

Chen and Baker (2010) conducted a research study using collocations as the basis of their research study. They are of the view that Collocations are the theme generators. These provide a starting point for the researchers. Through the collocations, the writers can refer to something that is outside the text and context without referring to it. Carter (2012) is of the view that lexical bundles constructed by the writers deliberately are key elements in the analysis of the text. These are clusters of lexical items. These are

repeated more than chance. These are not idioms. These make coherence in the text. These help the writers infill themes in the text.

Sinclair and Carter (2004) are of the view that Hardy made use of stylistic deviations very bravely on a large scale to create themes in his texts. Egbert (2012). is of the view that Hardy has portrayed the true picture of society. He stands prominent in the field of literature because of his peculiar style. His sublimity of thoughts is depicted through the structure of his text and the selection of words. He made use of ordinary language but moulded the structures of the sentences in a way that created both meanings and aesthetic beauty in the text. He created meanings not only through the selection of words but also through the arrangement of words. This is why it is necessary to analyze the text of his novels to find out the sublimity of thoughts that lie in his language and language structures.

3. Methodology

This research study has applied the model of Mahlberg (2013) for the stylistic analysis of literary texts. This model makes use of keywords, collocations, and clusters of words. Moreover, the software AntConc has been used to find out the frequencies of words and collocations in the novel. The software Wmatrix has been used to find out the major semantic domains of the novel. The research study has analyzed the text of the novel *The Return of the Natives* by Thomas Hardy. This novel has been selected because this is being studied in Pakistani institutes at a large scale. COCA (Corpus of contemporary American English) has been used as a reference text to produce keywords for the novel.

4. Analysis and Discussion

AntConc has generated a list of 550 keywords from the whole novel. Here below is the discussion on the frequencies and effects and meanings of these frequencies of these words. The very first word that has got the highest frequency in the novel is the word, Eustacia.

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
1	528	+2689.35	0.0073	Eustacia

As Eustachian is the heroine of the novel, the writer has employed various techniques to show her prominence in the novel. The frequency of the word Eustachian is greater than all the other keywords of the novel. This technique has been used by the writer to make the readers well familiar with the heroine of the novel. Moreover, she is the center of the novel and works as an excel around which all the other characters and the story revolve. She is the like hub that keeps the other parts of the system in movement. Any

problem with the hub causes the whole system destroyed. The same is happening here in the story of the novel. All the characters of the story are connected to the heroine of the novel. Any problem for the heroine causes problems for all the other characters of the novel. Hardy has been at his sublime while creating the system of the story both technically and mechanically. He has interwoven the events of the story in a way that all the events are in a cause-and-effect relationship with one another. This is why Word Eustachian has been highlighted by the writer in many ways and with various techniques. This word has got a frequency of 528.

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
1	528	+2689.35	0.0073	Eustacia

This is very high frequency. Even in stories of other writers protagonists do not get such a high frequency. This is evident by the fact that Hardy has the determination to create the story realistically. The word has got an effect of 0.0073 points in the novel. This is a very high value as compared to the effects of other words. This shows the importance of the role that has been played by the heroine. This effect means that the character is always active in almost all the events of the story. She is connected to all the stories and sub-stories of the novel. She has a direct effect on the lives of the other characters. This also tells that all the main events of the story are directly run by the characters of the Heroine. This depicts that even sub-events influence the character of Eustacia which is created to bring unity to the main events. This value shows that there is a direct proportion between the events of the novel and the character of the heroine. This word has got the Keyness of +2689.35 degrees. The words don't need to get a positive sign (+) with their Keyness value. They may get negative signs depending upon the frequency and effect. This is generated by the software after the execution of the data. The sign of positivity shows that the character is always alive and active in the events of the story. This also shows that the flow of the events of the story is because of this word. Even the environment of the story is affected by the activities of the characters of the heroine. Here in this novel, it is clear that Eustacia is the heroine of the novel. The story is built so that all the events are in direct relation to the character of Eustacia.

There are some events in which Eustacia is not present but one or the other way those events are influenced by the character of Eustacia. She is the hub of triangles of love among Clym, her, and Damon. She is also the Centre of the triangular relationship between Thomasin, her, and Damon. Not only in the love relations but also in the jealousy triangle between Mrs. Yeobright, her, and Clym. She is the heroine of the novel and the writer has supported this fact with facts and figures. This high weightage of this word seems to show that the character is neither naïve nor innocent rather an intelligent one. She has the wisdom and insight to perceive the various aspects of life and the environment. All this is very much evident in the story of the novel.

Hardy (1954) says that Hardy has proved the fact that keywords are theme generators or the analysis has proved that Hardy is well aware of the value and importance of keywords in the text of a story. He always conveys his theme in the keywords of the story and makes the readers able to get the whole story even after reading the keywords only.

4.1 Collocation Patterns of the word Eustacia

The software has created a total of 1408 collocation patterns of the word Eustacia. Different dimensions of the character of Eustacia are presented in the collocated words of the word Eustacia. Hardy has been very conscious while constructing the collocations of the word Eustacia. He seems to have placed the words before and after the word Eustacia after the calculations of the effects of the events and flow of the story. Collocations are said to be a very effective tool for writers. These enable the writers to inject their desired themes into them. The writer can easily mould or change the structures of these collocated words to infill their thoughts in them. These even allow the writers to change the flow of the events and pace of the story. Hardy seems to get full advantage of the use of collocations. He depicted all the aspects of the heroine through wisely built collocated patterns of the word Eustacia. He very wisely made the readers know that she is a very brave hard working but unlucky character in the story.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
3	1	0	1	8.10194	youngster

The above table shows that the word youngster has collocated with the word Eustacia for 1 time. This word has been collocated by the writer deliberately with the word Eustacia at the very start of the novel. This shows the power and strength of the heroine of the story. At the start of the story comes out to be the most beautiful and energetic character of the story always smiling and making people smile.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
305	1	1	0	6.22449	smiled

The beauty in her is described by the writer in just one collocated word at the very start of the opening chapter of the story.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
715	3	2	1	4.20064	girl

A Corpus-driven Stylistic Analysis of Hardy's . . .

The nature of Eustacia is also evident in the collocation patterns developed by the writer at the start of the novel.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
986	2	1	1	3.05456	love

This shows that she is the most loving and most loved character in the novel. She wants love and tries to spread love.

The strength and determination present in her personality are also depicted in the collocations by the writer.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
9	2	1	1	8.10194	visions
11	1	1	0	8.10194	unshaken

As the story moves there start problems and tensions in her life. She at first fights with the problems very bravely and tries to live an energetic life. This fact is shown in the following patterns.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
4	2	1	1	8.54642	ventured
17	1	0	1	8.54642	struggling

As the story moves Hardy goes on changing the collocation patterns of the word Eustacia. She fights with her fate but fate is dominant in all the events of the story. Her decline towards the middle of the story is shown in the collocated words.

Rank	Frequency	FrequencyL	FrequencyR	State	Collocate
158	2	0	2	7.11360	declined

Hardy starts making the readers realize the fact that the heroine of the novel is going toward death and destruction. The lady that was most loved at the start of the story gets alone and deprived.

Her loneliness is also presented in words collocating her naming words.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
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A Corpus-driven Stylistic Analysis of Hardy's . . .

697	2	2	0	3.93612	alone
786	1	1	0	3.52108	lonely

Hardy starts using a word that shows the dark side of the picture as she gets alone and sad.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
840	3	2	1	3.26477	night

Similarly

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
1057	1	0	1	2.61568	dark
835	1	1	0	3.73906	darkness

This shows that Hardy has deliberately selected lexical choices and then arranged them in desired ways to infuse themes of the story in them. The theme of unflinching determination inflicted fate, and loneliness are supported by the writer very technically. The readers can very easily guess from the collocations what is going to happen in the coming events of the story.

Kramer (1979). is of the view that the collocation patterns of Hardy in his stories are very much unique and different from the other writers as he keeps in his mind the sensitivity of the ongoing event. He gradually changes the collocated words with some specific words as the events of the story move from one situation to the other. Towards the end of the novel, the positivity in the life of Eustacia finishes, and negativity comes to a peak. This theme of the novel is also supported by the writer with the help of the frequencies of the words. The frequency of the word yes in the collocations of the word Eustacia is as below:

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
815	9	3	6	3.82152	yes

As compared to the frequency of the word Yes, the frequency of the word No is far more high showing the negativity of fate towards Eustacia.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
734	25	12	13	4.12688	no

Eustacia fights bravely but fate is always against her and she is destined to fail in all her struggle for a happy and energetic life. This theme of failure is shown in the following word.

Rank	Frequency	Word
2207	5	failed
2639	4	failure
6926	1	fail
6927	1	failing

Such a high frequency of words in the story of Eustacia very clearly shows that she is destined to fail. The above discussion very clearly shows the way Hardy gradually changed the nature and frequency of words as the events of the story move toward the end. He brought the failure of the heroine slowly and gradually bringing harmony in the words used for the elaboration of the events. Just after the failure, Hardy brought death and destruction towards the end of the novel.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
666	1	1	0	4.80174	darkness
792	2	1	1	4.21678	dark
506	2	2	0	5.55381	death

This way Hardy very beautifully supported the themes of his novels with the help of words and collocations of the words.

4.2 Analysis through Wmatrix

Analysis of the novel conducted using Matrix also supports the results of AntConc matrix uses various semantics domains of the text to find out how the writer has selected and then arranged words to support the themes of his story.

Wmatrix4: Compare frequency lists

You= are= logged= in to= Wmatrix4 as: gpgcsasajid

[[My folders](#) |... [Tag wizard...=](#) | [Switch to= Advanced Interface...](#) | [Help](#) |..... [Feedback](#)]

[...**You are here** >... [My folders](#) >.. [RETURN](#) =OF= [THE](#)= [NATIVE](#)]

Key domain cloud

Alivephysiology Anatomy and Bravery Cause&Effect/Connection; Hiddenng/Hidden Youngster _____ and _____ Colour and patterns : Unusual..Decline: Minimizers Darkness Dead Degree:Death : Boosters _____ Disease Dislike Distance: FarDrama, the _____ and show business Emotional , loveStates And _____ General Ethical: True ; waste Failure Fear/shock Frequent appearanc e and _____ properties Geographical termsGrammatical Hindering _____ Infrequent / energetic Judgement of Light Location and directionDecline Long, _____ and wide Mental actions _____ processes Mental : Conceptual object : Affluence Money: LackMovin g, comingFail _____ going No respect No knowledge Not part of a groupObjects gener ally Open; ; Showing Parts of buildingsPeopleAlone: FemaleLow Peo ple: Male traits Dominant:PlantsFate Actions Dominant: _____ Fate And Processes , pulling, pushing, Quantities: littleRelationship: and _____ sex Religion _____ the supernatural Respected Sad Seem SeenSensory: Sound : Sight S hape Short and narrow Social Actions, States And Processes Sound: Quiet Speech: Communicative Speed: Fast : Slow Stationary

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Here are semantic domains generated by the software W matrix. These semantic domains are also evidence of the themes of the novel. The software creates clouds for various semantic domains present in ant text. Her dominant themes in the text are generated in the form of large clouds. The semantic domains created by Matrix show the overall environment of the novel and the major domains of the story. Here words alive and youngster have been shown in very large clouds by the software.

Alive physiology

similarly

Youngster

This is indicative of the fact that in the beginning, the environment of the novel is very happy and energetic

Colour_

This semantic domain shows the happiness and energy in the environment and lives of the people. Word Colour alone is enough to give glimpses of the whole environment. The results produced by Wmatrix also stamp the findings of AntConc. In the next section of the results there are clouds like:

:_Unusual. Decline: Minimizers Darkness Dead

This also shows the gradual decline of the characters of the story towards the end of the novel. These are major semantic domains. The size of the cloud of the word decline is small as compared to the cloud of the word Darkness. This is to show the gradual move toward death and destruction. The darkness is large indicating the intensity of the sad side of the story. Similarly, the loneliness of the characters in the novel is also indicated in the semantic domains generated by the software.

_buildingsPeopleAlone: _FemaleLow

An interesting to be noted here is that the direction of the cloud of the word Alone is towards the word female which is immediately followed by the cloud of the word Low. Here it seems very clear that the women in the times of Hardy were considered very low and inferior to men. They were used by the men for their personal use and then were thrown like tissue papers. They were treated like animals by the men.

Similarly, the impending fate is also generated in the form of semantic clouds by the Wmatrix.

The cloud generated for fate is interesting in many ways. The cloud of the word fate is towards both sides of the word action. There is action but as soon as there is action there is dominant fate. The intensity of the dominancy of fate is increased by the use of the word Dominant.

Fate_Actions_Dominant: Fate _And_Processes.

Similarly, the sorrows and sufferings of the characters of the novel are also depicted in the semantic domains of Wmatrix

Respected Sad Seem SeenSensory: _Sound : _Sight

:_Minimizers Darkness Dead Degree: Death

People are destined to fail at the hands of destiny. This is also evident in the clouds.

Money:_LackMoving,_comingFail_ _going.

So, the results generated by Wmatrix also show that writers are always deliberate in their lexical choice and support the themes of the story with the help of keywords and collocations.

5. Conclusion

Literature is built with the use of various literary devices. Arrangement and the use of these devices in a specific way is called style. Stylistics is the study of what is hidden in the style. Corpus-driven stylistics analyses the style with the help of computer-based software to find out the figurative bases for the themes of the text giving the analysis scientific footings. Writers are always deliberate in their choice of lexical items. They develop the structure of the text very consciously to inject the themes of the text in the placement and arrangement of linguistic items. They arrange the words and phrases in a way that the readers can find both the aesthetic and moral beauty of the text. Hardy has made use of the above techniques very effectively. He not only selected the words in accordance with the themes of the text but also placed them in a way to inject themes of the story into them. The frequencies of the words are in accordance with the themes of the novel.

Word Eustacia which is the name of the heroine of the novel has got the highest frequency. This shows that Hardy has tried to make her presence everywhere in all the events of the story to prove her the central point of the story. This also shows that she is the lady around whom the whole story revolves.

Rank	Frequency	Keyness	Effect	Keyword
1	528	+2689.35	0.0073	Eustacia

The theme of determination of the heroine is supported by the collocation like;

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
9	2	1	1	8.10194	visions
11	1	1	0	8.10194	unshaken

Similarly, the theme of the struggle of the heroine against fate is also depicted in the collocation patterns of the text of the novel.

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
4	2	1	1	8.54642	ventured
17	1	0	1	8.54642	struggling

The theme of her failure at the hands of destiny and fate is also supported by the collocations.

Rank	Frequency	Word
2207	5	failed
2639	4	failure
6926	1	fail
6927	1	failing

The theme of the tragic fate of the heroine is presented as follows:

Rank	Frequency	Frequency L	Frequency R	State	Collocate
666	1	1	0	4.80174	darkness
792	2	1	1	4.21678	dark
506	2	2	0	5.55381	death

Semantic domains like a youngster and alive in the form of clouds show the energetic nature of the heroine.

Youngster..... Alive

Similarly, the theme of the failure of the characters of the novel is depicted in the clouds of words like:

:_Unusual. Decline: Minimizers

Darkness Dead

Moving,_comingFail_

The theme of tragic fate is also highlighted by the software as follows.

Decline: Minimizers Darkness Dead Degree: Death

So, all these examples very clearly prove that writers are deliberate in their lexical choice. This is also proved that keywords and collocations have the potential to convey the themes of the text. The results of AntConc are also supported by the semantic domains generated by Wmatrix.

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