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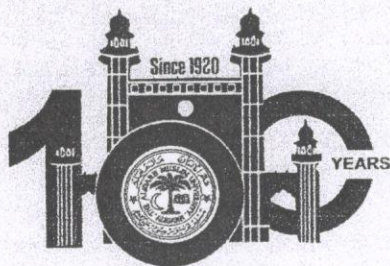
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LINGUISTIC INNOVATION IN KIRAN DESAI'S FICTION: A STUDY OF LEXICAL CATEGORY

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Abstract

The present paper is a linguistic analysis of literary texts. The study attempted to find out linguistic innovation, particularly, the lexical one in the postcolonial Indian English fiction 'Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard' and 'The Inheritance of Loss' of a postcolonial novelist, Kiran Desai. It has been studied that English language is used creatively in the texts of bilingual authors who possess English as a second or as an additional language (Kachru, 1985; Pandharipande, 1987). Therefore, the study tried to identify, categorize and analyze lexical innovation in these literary texts. The findings of the study revealed certain categories of lexical innovation in the texts mainly lexical borrowing, use of onomatopoeic words, use of acronyms and abbreviations, shifts, reduplication, collocation and the process of hybridization. These lexical innovation in these two literary texts do ascertain Desai's creative and innovative use of English language as a bilingual author. Further, the study provides plausible arguments for the use of such lexical innovation in the texts by the author.

Keywords: linguistic innovation, lexical innovation, Postcolonial Indian English fiction, Kiran Desai.

1. Introduction

Linguistic innovation, in literary genre, occurs when English language is used as a medium of literary creativity by the bilingual or multilingual authors who possess English as their second language or as an additional language. The creative use of English language in literary texts involves linguistic innovation. Linguistic innovation, in views of Kachru (1985), is the result of 'bilingual's creativity'. The term 'bilingual's creativity',