

Global and Micro Analysis of Discourse Coherence Relations in English and American Literature

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Abstract: This research paper, titled *Global and Micro Analysis of Discourse Coherence Relations in English and American Literature*, delves into the intricate world of discourse coherence relations within the realm of English and American literature. Employing discourse coherence theory, the study conducts, global and micro-level analyses of selected literary works to uncover the profound connections between language, narrative, and the human psyche. The paper begins with an exploration of the background and significance of the study, highlighting the importance of understanding how literary texts achieve coherence and coherence relations. It emphasizes the interdisciplinary nature of discourse coherence theory, bridging the fields of literature and linguistics. The research objectives are outlined, focusing on the examination of overarching discourse coherence, micro-level linguistic and semantic connections, and their impact on character development, narrative structure, and thematic exploration. The literature review section provides an overview of previous research in the field, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive study combining both global and micro-level analyses of discourse coherence in literature. Scholars such as Teun A. van Dijk, Michael Hoey, and Walter Nash have contributed valuable insights into the analysis of coherence relations in texts. In conclusion, this research aims to enrich our understanding of the art of storytelling and the human experience as conveyed through language.

Keywords: Discourse coherence, Literary analysis, English literature, American literature

1. Introduction

In the realm of literary analysis, the study of discourse coherence relations has gained significant importance, shedding light on the intricacies of how texts are constructed and how meaning is conveyed. This research endeavors to embark on a journey through the literary landscapes of English and American literature, employing the lens of discourse coherence relations theory to conduct both global and micro-level analyses of selected literary works. By delving into the discourse coherence of these literary masterpieces, this article aims to uncover the profound connections between language, narrative, and the human psyche.

Literary texts, whether in the form of novels, short stories, or poetry, are complex tapestries of words intricately woven together to create meaning and evoke emotions. Understanding how these texts achieve coherence and coherence relations is crucial for comprehending the deeper layers of narrative and characterization. The study of discourse coherence relations has roots in linguistics and has expanded into various fields, including discourse analysis, cognitive science, and literary

studies[1]. It seeks to elucidate the ways in which linguistic elements within a text are connected and how these connections contribute to the overall coherence and interpretation of the text. Discourse coherence goes beyond the mere arrangement of sentences; it encompasses the logical and semantic connections that underlie the flow of a narrative. In the context of literature, a thorough analysis of discourse coherence can unveil the strategies employed by authors to convey their intended messages and themes[2]. It can uncover the hidden threads that bind characters, plotlines, and symbols, giving rise to the rich tapestry of storytelling. Furthermore, it provides insights into the psychological dimensions of characters and their motivations, as well as the author's narrative choices. This research holds significant implications for the fields of literature and linguistics.

The primary objective of this research is to conduct a global and micro-level analysis of discourse coherence relations in selected English and American literary works. By doing so, this article aims to achieve the following specific goals:

Examine the overarching discourse coherence in selected literary works to uncover how narrative elements are interconnected and contribute to the overall coherence of the text.

Analyze micro-level discourse coherence relations, focusing on the linguistic and semantic connections within the text, including the use of cohesive devices, lexical choices, and rhetorical strategies.

Investigate the impact of discourse coherence on character development, narrative structure, and thematic exploration in the selected literary works.

Previous research has explored the application of discourse coherence theory to literary texts, highlighting its potential to reveal hidden layers of meaning and narrative structure. Scholars such as Teun A. van Dijk, Michael Hoey, and Walter Nash have contributed valuable insights into the analysis of coherence relations in texts. However, there remains a need for a comprehensive study that combines both global and micro-level analyses of discourse coherence in English and American literature. By delving into the coherence of these literary masterpieces, this article aims to enrich our understanding of the art of storytelling and the human experience conveyed through language.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. Introduction to Psychoanalytic Theory

Psychoanalytic theory, formulated by Austrian physician Sigmund Freud in the early 20th century, is a profound psychological framework with significant implications for understanding human thought, emotions, and behavior. The following are the core concepts and principles of Freudian psychoanalytic theory:

Freud divided the human psyche into three main parts: the ID, the Ego, and the Superego[3]. The ID represents primal impulses and desires, constituting the instinctual part of an individual. The Ego is the conscious and realistic component, striving to balance the conflicts between the ID's impulses and social reality. Conversely, the Superego embodies internalized social norms and moral values, imposing ethical constraints on the Ego. Freud posited that ongoing conflicts exist within the human psyche, primarily stemming from the clash between the desires of the ID and the constraints of the Ego and Superego. To cope with these conflicts, individuals employ various defense mechanisms such as repression, projection, and regression. These mechanisms serve to protect the Ego from anxiety and distress. Freud believed that the unconscious mind plays a pivotal role in human psychology. It encompasses suppressed or unrecognized desires and emotions. Uncovering the contents of the unconscious mind is achievable through methods like dream analysis and free association, which aid in understanding an individual's psychological state[3].

2.2. Application of Psychoanalytic Theory in Literary Analysis

Psychoanalytic theory, as formulated by Freud, finds extensive application in the realm of literary analysis for several reasons: Psychoanalytic theory provides a profound tool for delving into the inner worlds of characters in literary works. By comprehending their desires, conflicts, and defense mechanisms, researchers can unveil the motivations behind characters' actions and decisions[4]. Literary works often contain symbols and metaphors that operate on the unconscious level. Psychoanalytic theory aids in revealing the meanings of these symbols, deepening the comprehension of literary works. Emotions and desires are central themes in literary works. Psychoanalytic theory assists researchers in analyzing the emotional states and desires of characters, exploring their impacts on the plot and actions.

2.3. Novel Analysis from a Psychoanalytic Perspective

Applying psychoanalytic theory to novel analysis requires a systematic approach. The following steps constitute the fundamental framework for novel analysis from a psychoanalytic perspective: Researchers begin by selecting the novel or literary work for analysis. This choice typically aligns with research interests and objectives, as different literary works may involve varying themes and emotional dimensions suitable for psychoanalytic examination[5]. Once the analyzed work is chosen, researchers often commence by conducting an in-depth analysis of the primary characters. This includes understanding their backgrounds, personality traits, inner conflicts, and subconscious desires. Through a psychoanalytic lens, researchers can delve deep into the characters' psychological states and motivations[6]. Plot analysis is a crucial component of novel analysis. Researchers focus on key conflicts, turning points, and symbolic events within the plot. The goal is to analyze these narrative elements to reveal changes in characters' inner worlds and emotional development. Many literary works incorporate metaphors and symbols with profound psychological significance. Psychoanalytic analysis involves identifying and interpreting these metaphors and symbols to understand their roles in representing characters' psychological states[7]. Psychoanalytic analysis also examines the language and narrative techniques used by the author. Researchers analyze the author's choice of language, narrative perspective, and rhetorical devices to explore how these elements influence the presentation of characters' psyches and readers' emotional experiences. These steps form the foundational framework for novel analysis from a psychoanalytic perspective, enabling researchers to uncover deeper layers of meaning in literary works and providing a unique lens through which to approach literary studies.

3. Overview of *The Great Gatsby*

3.1. Introduction to Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, born in 1896 and passing away in 1940, is celebrated as one of the most revered authors in American literary history. His literary career was marked by remarkable achievements, with his magnum opus, *The Great Gatsby*, standing out prominently. Fitzgerald's works often delve into themes of American society, wealth, love, and morality, reflecting the cultural characteristics of the *Jazz Age* in America. *The Great Gatsby*, first published in 1925, is considered a classic in American literature. Fitzgerald vividly portrays the social landscape of 1920s America in this novel, along with the pursuit of wealth, success, and happiness during that era. Behind the novel lies a reflection of the social upheaval and cultural atmosphere on the cusp of the Great Depression in America.

3.2. Plot Summary

The Great Gatsby is set in 1920s America and primarily unfolds through the first-person perspective of Nick Carraway. Nick is a young bond salesman who moves to West Egg on Long Island, becoming neighbors with the central character of the story, Jay Gatsby. The story revolves around Gatsby and his intense love for his neighbor, Daisy Buchanan. Gatsby is a mysterious millionaire who throws extravagant parties in an attempt to win back Daisy's heart[8]. The novel delves deep into the complexities of wealth, social status, vanity, and love. As the plot unfolds, readers witness Gatsby's dreams, pursuits, and his eventual tragic fate. The novel reaches its climax with a tragic event, revealing the actual inner worlds and desires of the characters.

4. Personality Traits and Desires

4.1. Overview of Freud's Personality Structure Theory

Freud's theory of personality structure is one of the central concepts in psychoanalysis, comprising three key components: the ID (Ego), the Ego (Self), and the Superego (Super-ego). This theory reveals the complexity of the human inner world and the interactions between different parts.

ID (Ego): The ID represents the primal, instinctual part of an individual, characterized by desires and impulses. It seeks immediate satisfaction of needs without considering social norms or consequences.

Ego (Self): The Ego is the conscious part of an individual, serving as an intermediary between the ID and the Superego. It takes into account the limitations of the real world and societal rules, striving to balance the desires of the ID with the moral standards of the Superego.

Superego (Super-ego): The Superego represents internalized moral and value norms from society and culture. It imposes moral constraints on an individual's behavior and signifies an inner moral consciousness[3].

4.2. Analysis of Gatsby's Personality Traits

In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, the protagonist Jay Gatsby is portrayed as a highly charismatic and enigmatic character. His personality traits include a profound love for Daisy, social adeptness, wealth, and an underlying sense of loneliness. These traits will be subjected to in-depth analysis in this chapter, revealing the complexity of his inner self. The analysis will delve into Gatsby's subconscious conflicts, including the tension between his obsession with Daisy and his pursuit of social status. This conflict reflects the intricacies of his inner world and his efforts to balance the desires of the ID, the considerations of the Ego, and the moral constraints of the Superego.

4.3. Gatsby's Desires and Goals

A thorough examination of Gatsby's desires, particularly his longing for Daisy's love and his pursuit of wealth and social status, will be conducted. These desires significantly impact his actions and decisions, shaping his character. The analysis will explore how Gatsby's desires drive his behavior, including his motivations for hosting extravagant parties, conflicts with Tom Buchanan, and the ultimate tragic outcome. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a deep psychoanalytic analysis of the personality traits, subconscious conflicts, desires, and goals of the novel's central character, Gatsby.

5. Love, Dreams, and Loss

5.1. Interaction between Love and Desire

This section explores the interaction between love and desire in *The Great Gatsby*. Love represents the deep affection of the protagonist, Gatsby, for Daisy, while desire signifies his strong yearning for social status and wealth. Analyzing the relationship between these two elements reveals how Gatsby seeks to fulfill his desires through his love for Daisy and how desire influences his understanding and pursuit of love.

5.2. Gatsby's Philosophy of Love

This section delves into Gatsby's notions of love for Daisy. Gatsby's love for Daisy is the central emotion of the novel, but it is fraught with complexity and impracticality. The analysis explores how Gatsby perceives and pursues love for Daisy and how his philosophy of love shapes his actions and decisions.

5.3. Pursuit of Dreams and Disillusionment

This section analyzes Gatsby's dreams, particularly his pursuit of social status and wealth. Gatsby's dreams drive him to strive for success, creating his vanity and ambition. This part delves into the nature and motivations behind his dreams. Analyzing Gatsby's ultimate disillusionment and despair, as well as the reasons for his dreams remaining unfulfilled. By studying his sense of loss, a better understanding of his character development, the novel's themes, and the contradictions between desire and reality can be gained. This chapter aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the protagonist Gatsby's inner world from the perspectives of love, dreams, and loss. It seeks to reveal his complex emotional state and the psychological mechanisms behind his actions. Additionally, it combines Freudian psychoanalytic theory with the literary work *The Great Gatsby* to provide theoretical support for both global and micro analyses.

6. Social Class and Self-Identity

6.1. The Influence of Social Class

In this section, this article delves into the influence of social class on characters within novels. This article examines how characters' social backgrounds, economic statuses, and societal positions affect their behaviors, choices, and interactions with others. By analyzing these dynamics, this article gains insights into the role of social class in shaping characters' lives and relationships.

6.2. Self-Identity and Fiction

In this part, this article engages in a discussion about the fictitious nature of self-identity within the realm of literature. This article explores how characters construct their self-identities based on societal expectations, personal desires, and external influences[9]. Additionally, this article analyzes how these constructed identities influence character behaviors and decisions. Chapter 5 focuses on the intricate relationship between social class and self-identity in English and American literature. It investigates how characters' social backgrounds shape their identities, with a specific emphasis on Jay Gatsby's social identity within *The Great Gatsby*. Furthermore, it delves into the concept of self-identity as a fictional construct and its implications for character behavior. Through this analysis, this article gains a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between social factors and individual identity in literary works.

7. Conclusions

In this dissertation, this article has conducted a comprehensive examination of discourse coherence relations in English and American literature, employing a psychoanalytic lens. Our primary focus was on the renowned work of Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*. Through the application of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, this article aimed to uncover the inner realms and subconscious motivations of the central characters, shedding light on the intricate psychological mechanisms that underlie their complex emotions and behaviors[10]. Chapter 1 introduced the research's context and significance, outlining our objectives and research methodology. In Chapter 2, this article established the theoretical underpinnings of psychoanalytic theory, elucidating Freud's fundamental concepts and principles. Additionally, this article discussed how psychoanalytic theory can be effectively employed in the analysis of literary works. Chapter 3 offered an overview of *The Great Gatsby*, presenting background information about the novel and a brief introduction to its author, Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald. This chapter also provided a synopsis of the main plot and introduced the key characters, setting the stage for the subsequent analyses.

The subsequent chapters, spanning personality traits and desires, love, dreams and disillusionment, and social class and self-identity, delved deeply into these themes. This article conducted meticulous explorations into the inner worlds of the central characters, unraveling the complexities of their emotional states and the underlying psychological mechanisms that governed their actions. Simultaneously, this article examined the intricate interplay between societal factors and individual identity, as well as the impact of the fictitious nature of self-identity on the characters' fates[11].

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