SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF DEPRIVATION IN SOME IRAQI FAMILIES

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Abstract

The current study deals with the phenomenon of deprivation that so many Iraqi families face in the last few years. It tackles the severe and harsh conditions that result in many Iraqis suffer from the great lack of even the most basic necessities of their daily life. Some photos are used to be analyzed semioticallyso as to clarify the great disaster presented by the deprivation and poverty that Iraqis are obliged to face and resist.

Keywords: semiotics, deprivation, services.

Introduction

Sitindoan (1984) states that language is regarded as a symbol of sounds shaped by means of what humans say, and that language system has means that are clearly arbitrary used by users of language in their life as a means to have communication between each other in order to form, express, and communicate their thoughts and feelings ,cultural social issues. Many other linguists defined language as a system of signs that incorporated gestures, written symbols, or vocal sounds. This system is primarily to encode information. Humans, are to have both verbal and nonverbal means that they useto communicate throughout signs or even sounds .

The Aim of The Study

The aim that the current study is to investigate the deprivation problem that many Iraqi families suffer from.To accomplish the aim of this study, there are some questions to be answered**:**

1. Are Iraqis from all ages (old, adults and children) whether men or womenface the problem of deprivation?
2. How do they facetheproblem of deprivation to get their poor basicneeds of life?

3.Semiotics

Communicative and meaning messages that take place between human beings are made by various combinations of semiotic means, like, written and spoken forms of language. These meanings and messages can also be conveyed by other semiotic tools such as the visual imagery and symbols of mathematics. Meaningful messages between human being can be transferred by using other semiotic means such as the use of architectures, gestures as well as the psychological indications or frameworks. It is important to state the fact that the modern model of semiotically fundamental analyses are established by two well-known scientists who are viewed as a leading figures in this field , namely, Ferdinand De Saussure and the American philosopher Charles

Sanders Peirce. Pierce system of semiotic analysis is considered as a dominant one to deal with the science of sign. This term has been clear-cut with the De Saussure terminology, semiology. Though the two analyses show differences in some aspects, they are basically concerned with the 'study of sign' (Chandler, 2007).

Semiotic study is a widely established field of study that is related with the study of many kinds of signs and the firework of sign messages in relation to the means and channel of their conveys . The origin of the study of sign can be dated back to the time of Greek where the symptoms of medicine and philosophical branches. Semiotics is considered the origin of the branch of semantics and it helps semantics to come to the surface. The unit of the study of semiotic is the sign. The definition of this unit, namely, 'sign' is that 'something stands for something'. This definition is a traditional perceptive to the unit of 'sign'. The study of semiotics has come to cover a range of application such as the application in the domain of cultural studies, language and literacy studies, psychological studies, philosophy and biology (Paul, 2014).

It is importantly noticed that the general focus of semiotics is "study of signs". However, the scope of semiotics can expose as subject of debate between semioticians. One of the attempts that are made to map out the borders of semiotics is made by Umberto Eco (1976) who states that "semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign". This interpretation of semiotics has extended the lines of semiotics to cover the study of anything that comes to represent or stand for something else

Charles Morris (2006) makes a declaration for defining signs as he divided them into three parts. First one is the study of relationship that holds between one sign and other signs, a concept similar to the study of syntactical analysis. The second part is the communication one which refers to the sign in relation to its users and this can have some correspondence to the pragmatic study. The third part is representation of signs as they refer to things and this part is considered to be related to semantics.

According to Van Leeuwen and Jewitt (2001), who suggest that the orientation of social semiotics serves exclusively in relation to visual communication that encompasses the description of things via manipulating images and words? Various visualized instruments and tools of communication can fall within the umbrella of social semiotics. The utter explanation of this concept is that people do and say what is connected to the images that can influence their interpreting views and considerations.

The mostly admitted fact that the visual semiotics set up concentration of what is known as 'lexis' instead of the mission of shedding light on grammar of vocabularies. The main concern of visually semiotic study is to put emphasis on the process of delineating the use of the images in relation to individuals' perception. This visualized semiotics includes various formulas of videos, printing materials, internet inscription and so on. The use of colour and symbols of different means can show plentiful messages and meanings. The visualized communicative format can convey various messages by signs with connection to colours and symbols (Kressand Van Leeuwen,2006).

The use of images can help to promote certain interpretative messages without the use of any spoken of written forms. These images and visualizing formats play an effective and influential role in directing and motivating individual's reactions. Sadness or melancholic conditions are spread by the use of images or visual means. The uses of images promote the nostalgic feeling inside individuals. There are many examples where the determination of a general context is made by implementing specific codes,colours or visualizing stuffs (Van Leeuwen and Jewitt 2001).

4.Signs and Modes

There are many signs that are repeatedly used by people in everyday life such as those signs that are found in goods, roads and maps and these signs help to reflect certain meaning in people's mind. However, Swiss scientist Ferdinand De Saussure, (1915-1966), made a dyadic model where he viewed that each sign has two levels of combinations which are concept and image. Saussure declared that these two parts are connected and they are inseparable. For the sake of clarity, he modified his description as he replaced the concept with the sound image and he made this model to be based on 'signified' 'and 'signifier'. This model has dyadic manifestation of signifier and signified. For him, a sign refers to anything that can generate meaning. According to this model, a sign can be a kind of material object with certain meaning (Fiske , 1990).

 On another hand, Charles S. Peirce, pragmatic and logical philosopher, presentthis model of sign classification. Unlike, De Saussure, his model was basically triadic model. This model deals with three parts of sign. The first one is 'representamen'. This can explain the sign that doesn't take the materialized form. In addition, the part is viewed as the 'sign vehicle'. The other part is the 'interpretant' that manifests the sense by which a sign is being made up. The third level is the 'object' which is basically the referent. Anyway, Pierce formulated three mode-folds which are icon, symbol and index as an analyzing instrument for the study of sign(Peirce, 1985).

 The three modes of signs are manifested in Fiske (1982) as they are summarized below;

1-The symbol is a mode of interpreting of sign that shows the fact the signifier is not similar to the signified in anyway. This type of mode explained that the sing have no link with the object it denotes. The connection is often described as being arbitrary or conventional. The connection of this mode has to be learned and it can be found in traffic light and national flags.

2-Icon is the second mode of the triadic model of Pierce in which a sign exposes similarity with its object. The signifier in this model is a reflection of the signified. The similarity between the signifier and the signified can be found in various aspects such as appearance or sound or it can have similarity on feeling, taste, smelling.   The visual sign is viewed as being a typical example of iconic mode where images and cartoon are similarly iconic. One of the best iconically manifested example is the onomatopoeic features of verbal language and the imitation of realistic sound representation

3-Index is the third mode of the interpretation of signs in which the signifier is directly associated to something.   The mode can show that that the signifier can be 'causally or physically' lined to the signified. The connection is either 'inferred or observed'. Examples of this mode are natural sign of smoke, footprints, echoes and odors. The mode can include the

condition of 'medical sign' such as pulsing rate. Another example of index is found with measuring tool such as thermometer and weathercock. The index can further include signs of knocking a door or telephone ringing. It can also include the process of direction or pointing via finger. In addition, recording video or taking photographs and voice tracks are examples of indexical mode.

5.The Concept Deprivation

Deprivation can generally be divided into material deprivation and social deprivation .The material deprivation refers to the situation of lacking good, services, condition of living, such as housing or living with dignity and respect. On another hand, the social deprivation is concerned with the inability of individual to fully inculcated into their community and as result; they appear to be socially deprived from the interactive surroundings. Consequently, regardless of the type of deprivation, the negative outcomes can be harmful and devastating on the deprived individual (Townsend, 1987).

It is generally described as a social phenomenon where there are problems with the people condition of living. The concept of deprivation can have connection with a set of social, economic and other problems such as housing problems. It is often identified with a particular people in comparison to others. In addition, deprivation can be viewed a situation where the access of obtaining the sources and opportunities are lacked. It can be manifested in the situation as there are particular group of people being deprived as lacking their basic needs (Smętkowski 2015).

The sense of deprivation is often socially analyzed in the condition of the feeling inside the individual as being deprived in certain condition from those who are around him. The deprivation can have various promoters that can make an individual feel deprived and being unequal to other people .It can be viewed in the condition of income where an individual can be regarded as being deprived of his suitable income. The condition of unemployment is anther types of promoter that can have an individual to encompass deprivation. The other type can be related the condition of living where an individual is often described to have bad living condition than those which he always has desired to have. Another issue of deprivation is the education one where individual are deprived of having the right and important education program and thus they appear in a state of deprivation in comparison to their counterparts. In addition, possibility of having bad access to decent living, corrupted goods and lacking of necessary services can help promote the depriving condition. Moreover, social deprivation can be anther image of deprivation in society (Kitchen, 2001).

6.Methodology

6.1-   The Model

In this paper, Ronald Barthes (1968) is used as a model for analyzing the data. As a semiotic study, this model is used as a tool to analyze the different meanings involved in the photos. It involves two different kind or levels of meanings termed as 'Denotational level' and 'Connotational meaning'. Denotational level is referred to as the basic of the fundamental

meaning that is settled to all users of a language. The **Denotational** level is regarded as a traditional categorization which can support the comprehension process.

6.2- Data Collection

The data of the present study is collected from media. It involves 9 photos three of them for children, three for adults, and three for old peopleto be analyzed semiotically. The selected data include people from different age and sex that are equally treated. The data is collected from the media.

7. Data Analysis

Figure (1)

<div align="center">(1)   (2)   (3)</div>

The Denotational Level of Analysis

In the above three photos, many signs indicate the low economic level or the harsh condition that Iraqi children live on all aspect of life. In photo (1), four children with very bad clothes standing near their house, the house is very badly constructed. It is made of made. Their house is surrounded by bad areas such as the polluted pools and the polluted old field. It seems that there are not school not heath establishment or basic service as if they are living in a polluted desert. In photo (2) two girls looking for food within the rubbish tank, tore and dirty clothes, one girl is standing on the back of her sister in order to reach or search well throughout the rubbish. The rubbish is thrown beside the street a passed by woman seem to carry something on her head and that also indicates that she is working something difficult or tiring. In photo (3), some pupils appear in their school. They are standing in their muddy playground; there is a moveable classroom surround by mud. Some of the pupils are completely muddy .There are no clean playgrounds , no place that saves the pupils form the rain, no place for playing and even no sign

to suitable place to be regarded as a school in comparison toschools in country even economically lower that Iraq economy

The Connotation Level Analysis

In the above three photos different situations in which children are facing harsh and difficult condition. Iraqi children are facing difficult living condition particularly in the last ten years. The problem of the poverty is very obvious throughout the conditions that live under. Poverty is reflected in all aspect of their life. They are even deprived form he basic of the personal living states. Childhood is really in danger since large number of children are in real economic and social dangers.

In the photos in figure (1) , the chosen photos show the level of poverty that Iraqi children practically face in spite of the their rich country. In photo (1) children live in a wrecked house made of mud and some simple materialthat is not even suitable to animal and it could damage at any minute. The house is without windows or doors even the place in which that house is built is not at all suitable since there are no any service, no way, no electricity , no dirking water , Beside , such houses are built near the oil fields that much more rich are that supposes. The country with much more money that surely can change the bad life of such Iraqi families. The fire flying from the oil field indicates richness of those areas that people live harshly and deprived from the very simple services that the Iraqi government must have supported them to live fit status that fits their high economic level of the country.

In photo (2) children are seen in bad situation that they are searching for anything that they can make use of and searching even for food within the rubbish. They search for anything that they can sell, use, eat because they are in a very low economic status. In the place, there are two girls that are searching in very bad and polluted place. And can cause very dangerous disease. It is also obvious that those children suffer from the problem of poverty for the clothes they wear the carelessness of the families that its seem that they are familiar with searching in such places.

In photo(3) it is very clear that even schools that must be largely suitable place in which the children learn , play and spend beneficial and happy time, they are very traditional school and looks much that the schools in other countries. Schools are generally very bad even sometimes lack board and desk. In some areas when raining, children yet all muddy. Schools are made of caravans, mud, and even read. They are never suitable for the children living in such a rich country to the extern that the children have their lesson in the air inspite of the harsh weather state.

Figure (2)

| (1) | (2) | (3) |

The Denotational Level of Analysis

In the above photos, there are many situations in which poverty or deprivation is very clear. Women are seen in bad and polluted places searching for thrown empty cans of cola in order to sell them to buy their basic needs of living.In photo (1) A women appears in the middle of an area of rubbish carrying some cheap metals dressing some veil and gloves which indicate the polluted and bad smell material that she is searching in andafter that women a sign to oil field.

In photos (2) , there is an old man searching for cans of colato sell them in order to buy his basic need of living. The man is carrying many things collected from the rubbish. He appears near the bin of rubbish to look for whether he finds things or food that he can make use of them. He appears with bad dressed status and dirty clothes which indicates that he is not in better condition. In photo (3), car appears full of scrap collected by some, two men and one woman and a child. They also appear in a bad and neglected place of scrap. The woman appears carrying some cartoon and metals collected from the scrap they are surrounded by. They all appear in a bad and exhausting work. The woman seems to work as hard as men in these bad, dirty   places that are considered as unsuitable for a woman to work in.

The Connotational Level of Analysis

In the above three photos, there are many people in different situations all can reflect the disaster that they face. They appear working hard in many place that can cause dangerous diseases but they are obliged to be always in such places searching for something like empty thrown cans of cola in order to help them face their deep deprivation. They are either women or
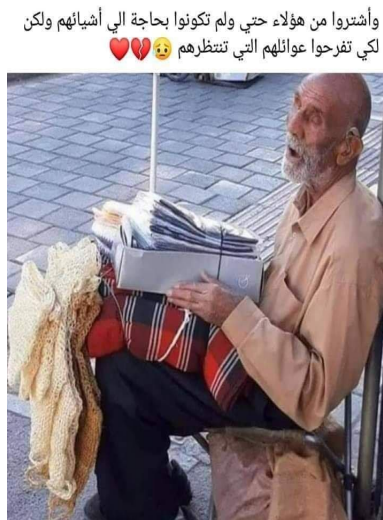
old men. They are searching of a way of living since there are no other ways that can help them to face the difficulties in the supporting their families with at least the simple basic needs.

In the photos in figure (2) , the chosen photos show the level of poverty that Iraqi adults practically face. In photo (1) a women seems as working as hard as men. She looks tired as exhausted because of being working in the field of polluted place that is not a place for women to work. She looks at her 50 looking for something in the rubbish to sell in order to get some money to support her family. The picture indicates something surprising that the woman is in the places surrounded by the oil field that are the source of economy for Iraq. These oil fields are to be the primary support to the poor Iraqi family but the photo indicates that they are facing only difficulties.

In photos(2) a man appears collecting empty can of cola to sell them with very little money that she could spend a complete day searching and that cannot be enough for a simple meal for his family. Seemingly, he is an old man that has no ability to have another work rather than just collecting the metal in the rubbish areas beside he is carrying some food. Collecting also from thefood that other families throw. The photo also indicates that there are very few opportunities to men to have a respectable job to help them to live in a way that fits them as being people living country classified as one of the rich countries.

In photos (3) a family works together in collecting scrap. They are searching for the thrown medals that they can their living by. They may spend very long time searching for such scrap in the polluted areas just to support their families with at least food. Still beside they suffer from poverty or deprivation in other aspect of their life.it seems that they are obliged to work such works since there are no choices. They seem very poor to the extent that that they bring a very small girl with them which means that they are in a situation that they are even somehow neglecting that children are not to be working in such places and they have to get full care in the age of their little girl seemingly all what they are after is to earn what can help them to live.

In all of the three photos, there is a very clear indication that both men and women are in great lack of the necessities of their life. They are obliged to work in places that they find nothing just what is cheap and polluted but they have nothing to do rather than collected food and other metals that they can see. People in such ages must have a source that they depend on in order to help their families to get services such as hospital, schools or jobs that make them live respectably but many families are in real danger of poverty.

Figure (3)

| (1) | (2) | (3) |

وأشتروا من هؤلاء حتى ولم تكونوا بحاجة الى أشيائهم ولكن
لكي تفرحوا عوائلهم التي تنتظرهم 🥺 💔💔

The Denotational Level Analysis

In all of the three photos above, the deprivation is very obvious stated that there are many signs refer to that , it is clear from the situation that all of the old people and the way that they are in concerning what they try to gain in order to resist the lack they suffer from . They are old people and they are in situation that they aren't supposed to be in. People in such ages are facing the harsh health condition.

In photo (1) an old woman searching for food in the rubbish. She is sitting beside the rubbish holding something to keep the food that she gets. She is searching from something to eat. In photo (2) an old man hugging a stock in the street. He is sitting in the public street carrying stockings to buy them to passersby. He is a very old man and he seems blind and unhealthy. He is waiting to people to come and buy. Photo (3) an old woman sleeping in the street, she is holding some money she has gained from people. She begs money from people to live. She is very exhausted and unhealthy. She is in an age that it is difficult to spend a long time on the street that is why she got into sleep in the street.

The Connotational Level Analysis

In the three photos above, all the three old people facing the bad conditions of living. They seem very poor and jobless. They are trying to do their best to find a means to live. They are very old that they cannot even work. They are in a bad health because of their age. They seem to be living very difficult situations. They either search in the rubbish to get food to eat and to and to feed themselves and families or to beg in the street to get some money to buy at least their medicine and food since they seem very old and unhealthy.

In photo (1) the old woman seems to be very hungry and she looks for food that people through in the rubbish. She is very poor to the extent that she has no money to buy some food to eat and may be her family waiting her to feed them. Like other poor people she lack even the

very necessary need in the life of the every woman which is food that is why she doesn't care the source of the food nor the kind nor whether it is healthy or not, she tries to get whatever food, she can get.

In photo (2) , a very old man seems also in a very unhealthy status . He is sitting to sell socks to get some money to help living. He is blind and has no energy even to walk or to stand that is why he is sitting and selling. He is a very poor that a man in such an age and such a healthy status is impossible to sell in the street unless he suffers much to find source to live by. The status he is in indicates that he is very poor and jobless and in a very unhealthy condition. He is trying to work whatever he can work to get some money to support himself or maybe he has a starring family that he is trying to get them some food, clothes or necessities of living.

In photo (3) a very old women is sleeping in street. She seems very old and sick. She begs food from passersby. She is very tired to the extent that she sleeps in the street and people give her some money. Old people don't have an opportunity to be treated as these old people in other countries that they suffer very much and some of them could die because the lack of medicine or the inability to buy the medicine they need. She seems to face very dangerous and unhealthy status. She has the only what to go on living is that she begs and because of the age and the bad condition she lives she gets asleep in the street

Conclusion

It is concluded that depravation and poverty is a widely spread problem in the Iraqi society particularly in the last few years. They suffer from so many problems related directly to their daily ordinary life.Iraqi people in general lack so many necessaries and basic needs to go on living in a way that fit their status as belonging to rich country such as other societies in the Arabic world.

It is also concluded that Iraqis, from different ages and genders, are under the pressure of life difficulties to the extent that they lack their basic needs such as clothes and food that is why they search for food even in the polluted areas of rubbish.It is concluded that very large number of cities and villages lack the services of education, health care or even the suitable source that they depend on that is why they all try to find a job or an opportunity to live on such as the working in the area of scrap or selling simple goods or even begging in particularly those old people who are really neglected by the government establishments.

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