

Grammatical Deviations in O'Neill's Hairy Ape

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Abstract:

The greatest American writer Eugene O'Neill (1888- 1953) achieved a recognizable place among the English and American dramatists through the stylistic features of his dramatic language .

This study investigates O'Neill's way of handling dramatic language, in Hairy Ape ,(the use of grammar from the settled norms in play writing) . It endeavors to show how O'Neill manipulates his character's dialogue and the effects of this manipulation .The problem is related to what extent O'Neill's use of language deviates from the linguistic norm , and the levels of linguistic deviation in his style.

The study aims to analyze the types of grammatical deviation in O'Neill's 'Hairy Ape'. Moreover, it attempts to justify the reasons behind these deviations (and to support some critical points of view concerning O'Neill's and style in using grammatical deviations).

Deviation as a linguistic phenomenon has an important effect on the readers (and hearers), if a part of a poem is deviant it becomes especially , noticeable , or perceptually prominent (Short, 1969 : 11) .

Out of the stylistic analysis ,it has been found out that the writer uses a language deviated from the literary convention or everyday speech(norm). He uses different types of linguistic deviations to achieve his purposes .

I-Introduction

When a writer wants to make his language creative or inventive, she/he uses a language different from the conventional and everyday language of his day . Using unconventional or unusual language, he can give his readers unexpected surprise and make a strong impression on their mind . This kind of the creative use of language is technically called a linguistic deviation, by which he creates a language deviated from the norms of literary convention (Leech, 1969:50).

The present study will concentrate on O'Neill's unique style; concentration will be on the grammatical deviation [as used by O'Neill,] to see a clear evidence of class distinction between people,.

2-Deviation and Foregrounding

Deviation is a term used to describe spelling and pronunciation of a word or a sentence structure which does not conform to a norm (Richards and Platt, 1985 : 79) .

Deviation which is a linguistic phenomenon has an important psychological effect on the readers (or hearers). If a part of a poem is deviant, it becomes especially noticeable , or perceptually prominent . This is called "foregrounding"(Short , 1969 : 11) .

There are many ways in which poets or writers can produce deviation and hence foregrounding . The term foregrounding is borrowed from literary criticism . Literary critics usually distinguish the foreground of a painting from its background . The foreground is that part of a painting which is in the center and towards the bottom of the canvas . It is supposed that the items which occur in the foreground of a painting will

usually be thought of as constituting the subject matter of the painting . Of course , the background of the picture also contributes to the whole . Nothing in a work of arts is insignificant . But the matter in the foreground is more important than the rest . It is often said of poetry that if one changes something as small as a comma , one can change the meaning of the poem as a whole . But even some elements remain important than others , and foreground parts can be regarded as the most important of all (ibid.).

2.I Kinds of Linguistic Deviation

2.I.I Lexical Deviation :

The most obvious examples of lexical deviation are these where a poet makes up a word which did not previously exist . This is called neologism (Short,1969 :45) .

An example of neologism or the invention of new words is nonce-formation .A word is considered to be a nonce-formation if it is made up for the nonce, i.e. for a single occasion (Leech,1969: 42).Bauer (1983:45) defines a nonce-formation as a new complex word coined by a speaker or a writer on the spur of the moment to cover some immediate need .Whereas Crystal (1987:260) defines nonce-formation as a linguistic form which a speaker consciously invents or accidentally uses on a single occasion, many factors account for their uses. A speaker, for instance, can not remember a particular word , so he coins an alternative approximation (e.g., linguistified, heard recently from a student who felt he was getting with linguistics), or is constrained by circumstances to produce a new form (as in newspaper headlines). Nonce-formations have occasionally come to be adopted by the community in which case they cease by definition to be nonce and become neologism.

A second example of lexical deviation is the process of converting a word from one grammatical class to another. This process is called functional conversion. Functional conversion is common in literary language ,as in the following example :

My heart in hiding

Stirred for a bird-the achieve of, the mastery of the thing

(Hopkins ,The Windhove)

(Short, 1969 : 46)

Here, Hopkins takes the verb (achieve) and uses it as a noun, in spite of the fact that English already has a noun, achievement derived from that verb. It is obvious that the word is a noun here because of (1) the preceding definite article, (2) the (of) apparently beginning a post-modifying prepositional phrase, and (3) the grammatical parallel with mastery.

A third way in which writers can produce foregrounding through lexical deviation is by the use of affixation (the addition of a prefix or suffix to an item already in the language) and compounding (the joining together of two or more items to make a single compound one) (Leech 1969:43).

Sometime some "slips of the tongue " or "speech errors " in which one deviates in some way from the intended utterance to form a new word are called malapropism . The term malapropism refers to the misuse of words which comes from the name of Mrs. Malaprop in Sheridans the Rivals. She would say (reprehend) for (apprehend), (derangement) for (arrangement) and (epitaphs) for (epithets). This process is used by the writers or poets to form a new word (Clark and Clark, 1977: 287).

2.1.2 Semantic Deviation

It is reasonable to translate "semantic deviation" mentally into non-sense or absurdity (Leech, 1969:48). In semantic deviation it is important to deal with what Leech calls tropes

(foregrounding or irregularities of content) According to him, they are classified largely into three sections:

1. Semantic Oddity

Semantic oddity means semantic bizarreness of expression. There are five types of semantic oddity: pleonasm, periphrasis, and tautology have semantic redundancy, and oxymoron and paradox have semantic absurdity, which entail irreconcilable of meaning or reference (ibid.) .

2. Transference of Meaning

According to Leech's classification, transference of meaning is classified into four types of figurative language: synecdoche, metonymy, metaphor and simile (ibid.) .

3. Honest Deception

Also Leech's classifies the term honest deception into three tropes :

- 1) Hyperbole(Exaggeration)
- 2) Litotes(understatement)
- 3) Irony.

Leech (ibid: 171) defines these tropes as follows: they are all connected in that in a sense they misrepresent the truth : hyperbole distorts by saying too much, litotes by saying too little and irony often takes the form of saying or implying the opposite of what one feels to be the case. Honest deception means these three tropes misrepresent the truth for the sake not of deception, but of literary purpose.

2.1.3 Grammatical Deviation

The number of grammatical rules in English is large ,and therefore the foregrounding possibilities via grammatical deviation is also large (Short, 1969:47).

To distinguish between the many different types of deviation is to start with the line traditionally drawn between morphology(the grammar of the words) and syntax (the grammar of how words pattern within sentences).One important feature of grammatical deviation is the case of ungrammaticality such as "I does not like him" (Leech,1969:45).

It is worth mentioning that grammatical deviation indicates the social classes of speakers. The existence of differences in language between social classes can be illustrated by the following sentences:

Speaker(1)	Speaker(2)
I aint done nothing.	I haven't done anything.
I don't it yesterday.	I did it yesterday.
I were me that done it.	I didn't do it .

(Trudgill, 2000:65).

Any native speaker of English would immediately be able to guess that speaker (1) was of a different social class than speaker (2). The difference in grammar between the two examples of speech indicates that speaker ⁽¹⁾ is from lower social class (ibid.).

The most obvious examples of grammatical deviations are where a poet or a writer uses the double negative, the double comparative and the double superlative. In Old and Middle English the idea of negation was often expressed several times a single sentence, as in the following example :

" I will never do nothing no more " (Brook, 1977:146).

Similarly, writers or poets deviate from grammatical rules by combining two ways of expressing comparison: the addition of suffixes and the use of the separate words (more) and (most). Thus Shakespeare, for example, could combine "unkindest" and "mostunkind" such as:

(This was the most unkindest cut of all.) (Brook, 1977: 146).

Another way of foregrounding through the use of grammatical deviation is re-sequencing of phrases inside the clause away from the normal subject-verb-adverbial order . For example :

"Then spake king Arthur to Sir Bedivere ".

(Tennyson "Morte d' Arther)(ibid.).

The subject-verb inversion (spake king Arthur) is allied to the archaic pronunciation(spake) (Short, 1969:50) .

Grammatical deviation, sometimes, is a result of 'faults analogy'. Analogy is a term used in historical and comparative linguistics, and in language acquisition, referring to a process of regularization which affects the exceptional forms in the grammar of a language. The influence of the regular pattern of plural formation in English, for example, can be heard in the treatment of irregular forms in the early utterances of children, e.g mens, mans, mouses, etc; the children are producing these forms on the analogy with the regular patterns (Crystal,1987:18).

Foreign learners also make faults analogy by applying regular forms for irregular forms such as: goed, seed, knowed, etc. processes of analogical creation are one of the main tendencies in the history of languages, as when verbs which had an irregular past tense form in old English came to be produced with regular –ed ending, e.g.: help becoming helped (ibid.).

2.1.4 Phonological Deviation

Short (1969:55) stresses that the sound dimension of language belongs to speech. Since most of our literature is written, there would be a relatively little scope for phonological deviation. In the evocation of a character's style of speech in dialogue, O'Neill has rich phonological choices form a distinct level of style in oral as well as written literature. The implicit sound pattern can always be made explicit in reading a loud. To a large extent, this implicit phonology is determined by choice of words and structure at the syntactic level, where it can be regarded as an important ingredient of stylistic value (Leech and Short, 1981:132).

However , since the writing system is in many respects a system for representing the sound pattern of speech, a further source of phonological effect is graphology (ibid.).

It is worth mentioning that phonological deviation as phonetic behavior is determined by individual and a reasonable conformity to a serviceable norm and will function as a sort of standard in all speech communities[educated speakers of English all over the world form such a speech community]. Educated speakers, then show a wide rage of permissible variation in pronunciation and usage. It is controlled partly by a literary norm and partly by social sanction though the half educated often abandon good local speech for something which is difficult to refer to a norm (Firth,1972:198).

Trudgill(2000:35) stresses that grammatical deviation is associated with phonetic and phonological differences, although this is not indicated on the printed page, that is to say, there are social-class accents .

Sometimes deviation is from the normal use of sound or mispronunciation which have never been corrected or they arise from physical defect (Jones, 1918:12) .

2.1.5 Graphological Deviation

Graphological deviation is a relatively minor and superficial part of style, concerning such matters as spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, italization and paragraphing. Such matters are, to great extent, determined conventionally by syntax and become noticeable only when a writer makes graphological choice which is to some degree marked or unconventional, such as a deliberate misspelling (Leech and Short, 1981:131).

Graphological convention is still evolving as can be seen in the various ways that people currently express emphasis using capital, spacing and special symbols. Sometimes, capitalization of various sizes is used for emphasis, irony, satire, and other literary purposes. Hyphen marks two kinds of word division: a break at the end of a line, and the parts of a compound word (green-eyed)(it is sometimes used to give contrast in meaning Which is conveyed) (Crystal, 2003.238).

Dash is used singly to show a comment or an after thought at the end of a sentence, or simply an incomplete utterance. Sometimes it is used to signal a missing word or letter (ibid.).

2.1.6 Morphological Deviation

The lowest unit of syntactic organization is the word or morpheme. Phrases consist of words. Morphemes are the building blocks for words (Bookshelf), for example, consists of two morphemes (book) and (shelf). These two morphemes can also stand freely by their own as words, and so are usually called free morphemes. But not all morphemes are free: for example, the word (unclean) has two units of meaning (clean) and the negation marker (un). Here, (un) is a bound morpheme. (Unfortunately) has four morphemes (un)(fortune)(ate)(ly) (one free and three bound). One way of producing deviation at a

morphological level is by adding an ending to a word not normally be added to for example:

Perhapless mystery of paradise

(Cumming, from Spralling Ecstatically this)

Here, Cumming is playing on our knowledge that there is an easily extendable morphological series by which we can produce a list of words by adding the suffix-(less) to a noun (e.g. hopeless, hateless, sunless). But (perhaps) is not normally a noun, but an adverb. By comparing (perhapless) with normal paradigm, we can see that Cumming is pointing to an apparently contradictory of heaven, namely that it is a mystery with no uncertainty (Short, 1969:51).

Another way of producing foregrounding through the use of lexical deviation is by the use of an invented morpheme. For example (museryroom) from James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake*. There is no such word as a (museyroom), but an analogy with (bathroom), (bedroom), etc.; it is presumably a room where one museys or put museys (ibid.).

2.2 Deviance Versus Norm

The problem of variants of the norm, or deviation from the norm has received a considerable attention among linguists and stylisticians and is central to some of the major current controversies in stylistics. It is essential here to lay out the main viewpoints concerning this phenomenon in an attempt to grasp the basic principle underlying a literary work and the significance of "norm and deviation" in literature.

Leech (1969) remarks that any deviation from the established norms of the language is impermissible in ordering everyday life speech, as for the poets' deviation becomes a matter of choice.

Stankiewicz (1960:79) stresses that poetry is not a realm of individual creativity and freedom from binding rules. If

deviations are to be made , they should be justified by the standard of the language and its poetic heritage .

He states that :

poetic language takes full cognizance of the rules of the linguistic system and if it admits "deviation" they themselves are conditioned by the language or by the given poetic tradition (ibid :70).

Chapman(1973:46) sees that literary language is characterized by a great deal of common core (norm) and higher incidence of special or deviant features (deviation). Literary style, shows more careful and consistent use of the regular patterns of language and hence:

Deviation need not be ungrammatical or contrary to any rules . It may result from taking fuller than normal advantage of the possibilities open to every user (ibid.).

Darbyshire (1971:98) thinks that the norm is an obstruction or an idea thought up by linguists, existing only in their mind. For him there is no such thing as a norm to be found in actual usage. Any single use of language is a new creation. Deviation is the result of choice. He asserts that:

The norm is something abstract which does not exist in any language use, except as some sort of idealization in the background (ibid:98).

So far, it is clear that writers can only foreground their literary works by breaking the rules of language. In such a case, it is worth mentioning, to agree with Darbyshire's viewpoint, that norm is an obstruction or an idea thought up by linguists, existing only in their mind. No actual use of language can be said to be normal in the sense that one can go to it and say that all others are deviations from it. This is because every use of language arises in its own situational context; takes on its own sense, medium , tenor and style from the circumstances of its origin(ibid:55) .

2. Grammatical Deviation as Class Distinction Marker in O'Neill's Hairy Ape .

The most important think here is to notice the difference between the speech of uneducated people and educated ones. The concentration will be on the grammatical mistakes which are made by lower class (the types of grammatical deviations).The analysis will show these grammatical deviations and their frequent uses in this play.

3.1 Double Negation

The tradition of double negation usage can be traced back to the time of Old English. At those times, it is commonly used to add emphasis (Brook , 1970:20) .

Text 1

But yuh can bet your shoit no one ain't never lincked me since! (Act I, Scene I :P140).

Text 2

Yuh ain't no good for no one .(Act I, Scene I:P141).

Text 3

Yuh ain't no good for no one. (Act I, Scene I: P146).

In standard English double negatives are not used . This usage goes back to Old English . In O'Neill's drama double negatives , sometimes even triple negatives frequently appear in the speech of lower –class characters . They use them in emphasizing their speech .

Text 4

Dey aint nothin'! (Act I, Scene I :P146).

So the writer used double and triple negatives and this trace back to Old English to emphasize the negation . In these

two scenes the writer wanted to show class-distinction and the everyday of lower class people .

3.2 The Mistaken Use of the Verb

Lower class people are indicated by the use of mistaken verb as a feature of grammatical deviation from standard English . The writer uses this feature to show one of the differences between the speech of different classes and to be as a distinctive feature of his own style .

Text 5

It don't big head gif you .(Act I, Scene I, p140)

Text 6

I ranned away from mine when I was a kid.(Act I, Scene I, p140)

Text 7

You kin bloody well bet it ain't ! But I knows why they done it.

(Act I, Scene 4: p159)

The Analysis:

In text 5 the writer uses "do" instead of "does" and this grammatical mistake refers to the social class characters. With "It" "does" must be used in this place. This indicates the lower class people speech or feature .

Text no. 6:

Text 6 verb "run" is irregular verb and can't be used as regular. So also this is a feature of lower class people .

In text 7 the mistakes are "it" is used with "are"(or ain't), and "I" is used with "knows" (the use of the 'S' of third person

singular). These mistakes are also evidence of class distinction (lower class).

3.3 The Mistaken Use of Pronoun

There are many kinds of pronouns as subjective pronouns (which are used in the subject position), and objective pronouns (which are used in the object position), reflexive pronouns, pronouns are used with nouns (in possessive) and pronouns are used without nouns (also in possessive).

Text 8

He ain't even washed hisself. (Act I, Scene 4: p158).

The analysis:

In this text the mistake is in the use of the pronoun "*hisself*". The pronoun here must be "*himself*". So here a subjective pronoun is used in stead of objective one.

Text 9

But what d' they care for the Bible –them lazy, bloated swine what travels first cabin? (Act I, Scene 1, p141).

In text 9 the mistake is in the use of the pronoun '*them*' instead of the correct one '*their*'. This is another mistake is used by the lower class people.

3.4 Other mistakes(Adverb Ending in-s ,and Comparison of adjective)

Those two types are not found in this play (Hairy Ape) . It is not necessary to find all types of mistake in one text (play, novel, etc.) and in the work of one writer and one place . This depends on many factors which affect the appearance of certain mistake (Writer's style, Dialects, Culture , etc.).

Types of Deviations	Frequency occurrence	Purposes	Percentage
Adverb Ending in-s	0	-----	
Comparison of Adjective	0	-----	
Multiple Negation	17	To indicate emphasis and, sometimes to indicate people's lower class	22.973%
The Mistaken Use of Verb	53	To indicate people's social lower class	71.622%
Mistaken use of the pronoun	4	To indicate people lower class	5.405%
Total Grammmatical Deviations	74		100%

Table(1) Grammmatical Deviations in selected Texts in *Hairy Ape*

It is clear from table (1) that the most type of mistake committed is the mistaken use of the verb, and then the multiple negation. The mistake in the use the pronoun is the lesser one and there are no mistake types here of 'Adverbs ending in –s' and 'comparison of adjectives'. This is either because of the style of the writer or it is because of the dialect of those people. Sometimes it is enough to find any type of deviation to decide of the abnormality use of grammar. Sometimes the presence or absence due to regional area that people live on.

4. Conclusions

It is clear that the main theme of this play is the clash between some of the opposite things like white and black , lower and higher classes, to live free and to live like a slave and so on.

One of the those themes is class distinction .The writer uses the most important feature which is the distinct feature of speech of lower class. This is the grammatical deviation. Within the grammatical deviation there are different types :

- 1) The mistaken use of the verb which is the most type used by the writer (53 or 71.62%). Also it is the distinctive feature in the speech of lower class.
- 2) The second type is the multiple negation(17 or 22.97%). This type is used less than the first one. In the past people used the multiple negation to emphasize their idea about negation. Both features (the first and the second) reflect the people being uneducated .
- 3) Mistaken use of pronoun is less than the two previous types (4 or 5.4%). There is no abnormality in the use of adverbs or and adjective. This is either due to the writer's style or due to the dialect or regional reasons.

All those types of grammatical deviation reflect not only the uneducated status of lower classes but also the social status of those people; not only does the regional factor affect the way of behaving and speaking of people but also being educated or not is important for reflecting the status and culture of the speakers . Moreover, this will show their ability in using grammar of their language correctly. A child acquires his language from his parents and his society and both are uneducated people. So the child will use the same mistakes. For this the uneducated people will keep using the same mistakes.

المستخلص:

لقد حقق الكاتب الأمريكي ايوجي أونيل (١٨٨٨-١٩٥٣) مكانة مميزة بين كتاب المسرح الانكليزي والامريكي من خلال اساليبه الادبية للغة المسرح. تتقصى هذه الدراسة الطريقة التي استعمل أونيل لغته في مسرحيته "القرود كثر الشعر" (استخدام قواعد اللغة ومقارنته بالقواعد القياسية لكتابة المسرحية). وهي محاولة لمعرفة ما قام به أونيل من معالجة في حوار شخصيات مسرحياته وتأثيرات هذه المعالجة على قراءه. اما مشكلة هذا البحث فتتعلق بالكيفية التي قيام أونيل باستخدام الانزياح في لغته عن النماذج القياسية ومستوى هذا الانزياح اللغوي في اسلوب كتابته.

ان اهداف هذه الدراسة هو تحديد انواع الانزياح اللغوي في مسرحية أونيل "القرود الكثيف الشعر". علاوة على ذلك لتحديد الاسباب وراء هذه الانزياحات (لدعم بعض الآراء النقدية والمتعلقة بفلسفة وأسلوب أونيل).

أن الانزياح كظاهرة لغوية لها تأثير نفسي على القراء (والمستمعين) أذ لو أن جزئ من قصيدة انزاح لأصبح هذا بشكل خاص ملاحظ وشعور مدرك بشكل دائم. ومن خلال تحليل الأسلوبية فإن في هذا البحث قد وجد بأن الكاتب قد استخدم انزياح لغوي من النماذج الأدبية والكلام اليومي المعروفين. فقد استخدم هذا الكاتب عدة أنواع من هذه الانزياحات اللغوية ليحقق غرضه المنشود.

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