

EXAMINING THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (CASE STUDY: THE ADVENTURES OF TWO CAPTAINS TRILOGY)

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Introduction

In the complex arena of international relations, literature and narratives can, like a transparent mirror, reveal the hidden and emotional aspects of political and diplomatic actions. The trilogy "The Adventures of Two Captains"¹ by Paul Jan Amroud and Elias Aghili Dehnavi is one of these narrative texts that has a high capacity for exploring this arena.

Language and literature have always played a fundamental role in shaping political and international discourses.² In today's world, where concepts such as soft power, public diplomacy, and the dialogue of civilizations³ have become increasingly important, a deep and comprehensive understanding of the role of language in international relations is essential and important. The work of The Adventures of Two Captains, with its dynamic narrative and rich characterization, can provide a suitable platform for examining these concepts.

The aim of this study is to explore how fundamental concepts of political science are represented in the narrative format of this work. The main question is how the discourse used in the dialogues and narrative of the story reflects concepts such as sovereignty, international cooperation, identity, and cultural confrontation? Also, this study seeks to explain how the metaphors and symbols used in the work under study can enrich our understanding of international relations.

This report seeks to examine the role of language and literature in reflecting the concepts of political science and international relations, using an analytical-descriptive approach and focusing on the three-volume text of the book "The Adventures of Two Captains." In this regard, by extracting objective evidence from the text of the work, how political concepts are reflected in a literary and narrative form will be analyzed, and finally, the capacities of literature as a tool for better understanding international relations will be explained.

Introducing the book "The Adventures of Two Captains"

¹ Dehnavi, E. A., & Amord, P. J. (2019). Adventures of Two Captains: an epic science fiction poem. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379565767_Adventures_of_Two_Captains_An_Epic_Science_Fiction_Poem.

² Chigasheva, M. A., Yelizaryeva, M. A., Nagumanova, V. A., & Makushkina, E. A. (2023). Language, politics, and identity: An interdisciplinary investigation of modern political discourse. *Professional Discourse & Communication*, 5(2), 31-45.

³ Baryshnikov, D. N. (2024). Cultural diplomacy in the dialogue of civilizations. *International Scientific Publications*, 74.

The Adventures of Two Captains, by Paul John Amroud and Elias Aghili Dehnavi, is a stunning trilogy that straddles the conventional boundaries of science fiction and epic poetry. It seeks to revive the Age of Enlightenment and spread true democracy for all mankind. This science fiction epic is not intended as a purely literary work, but as an artistic statement to depict an ideal future for humanity.⁴

The structure of this work is innovative. The story is told in a flowing, poetic form, free from conventional complexities, which opens the door to the world of science fiction for a wider audience. The heroes' journey begins at the edge of the galaxy and takes the reader to legendary lands full of light and mystery. This journey is a call to reflect on the great global concepts, including methods of governance, the nature of power, and the role of communication in shaping the fate of civilizations.

This work is not just an adventure story about two captains; it is a profound artistic exploration. It shows how literature and language can provide a platform for intercultural dialogue and explore the complexities of international relations. The combination of science fiction adventure and epic poetry in this trilogy creates a powerful tool for reinterpreting prevailing political narratives and presenting poetic alternatives to global relations.

Analytical framework

To examine the role of language and literature in international relations in the book "The Adventures of Two Captains", a qualitative approach and qualitative content analysis method are used because this method allows for the depth of meanings, metaphors, and discourses used in the text. The analysis is carried out in three main layers, which are explained below:

- 1) Discourse Analysis: This step examines how political and international realities are constructed in the story through language.⁵ The goal of this section is to answer the question of what dominant discourses can be identified in the dialogues and narrative of the book?
- 2) Metaphorical Analysis: Metaphors are not just literary devices, but also powerful cognitive tools for understanding complex concepts.⁶ In this report, key metaphors from the work under review will be extracted and analyzed to show how these poetic images shape our understanding of international relations.
- 3) Narrative Analysis: Narrative and storytelling are political acts. This section focuses on how the work is narrated.⁷ Does this narrative challenge the dominant Western narrative? Can it be interpreted as propaganda or, conversely, as a critical discourse?

Finally, all findings are presented in the form of an integrated analysis to clearly demonstrate the inextricable link between literature and the world of politics.

Content analysis and political themes of the trilogy "The Adventures of Two Captains"

This trilogy narrates a complete cycle of acquiring knowledge, the struggle to disseminate it, and ultimately the transformation of society.

Volume One: An Odyssey-like Journey for Knowledge

The narrative begins with a pure exploratory mission. The two captains, symbols of experience and apprenticeship, work together to overcome physical and moral challenges to reach "Yasa,"

⁴ Dehnavi, E. A., & Fiedler, R. (2024). Adventures of Two Captains' Trilogy and US Exceptionalism in their Foreign Policy: Manifestation of Think Tanks in a literary work. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences*, 9(3), 277-281.

⁵ Johnstone, B., & Andrus, J. (2024). *Discourse analysis*. John Wiley & Sons.

⁶ Bratianu¹, C., & Andriessen, D. (2008). Knowledge as energy: a metaphorical analysis.

⁷ De Fina, A. (2015). Narrative analysis. *Research methods in intercultural communication: A practical guide*, 327-342.

a utopia of enlightenment. This section establishes the philosophical foundations of the entire story and introduces the characters as seekers of truth.⁸

Volume Two: Mission Turns into Movement

Returning to Earth, the nature of the story changes from one of exploration to one of awakening. The direct confrontation with Dorsey, the representative of fear and resistance to change, reinforces the overtly political aspects of the story. The character of Yemina, using modern tools like YouTube, transforms from a spiritual guide to a media activist.⁹

Volume Three: The Final Battle for Hearts and Minds

In this volume, the narrative reaches its climax, where the conflict is resolved not with weapons, but with dialogue, art, and telepathy. The use of holography and mind travel to persuade the rebels marks the transition from hard power to soft power. The characters at this point are no longer warriors, but architects of a new society.¹⁰

Using classical themes of political science, this trilogy presents a new narrative of power relations, which will be explained below.

1) Power and Its legitimacy

This work examines the sources of legitimacy of power. The power of "Dorsey" and the oppressive governments of Earth is based on fear and ignorance, while the power of the captains and their allies comes from knowledge, compassion, and the ability to persuade.

2) Cooperation versus competition

The theme of cross-border cooperation is the intellectual pillar of this work. The collaboration between two captains with different backgrounds, the alliance with extraterrestrial civilizations such as the Pleiadians, and the use of communication networks to spread the message all outline a model of multilateral and networked governance that contrasts with competitive and monopolistic patterns of power.

3) Identity and "othering"

The work cleverly breaks down and reconstructs the process of "othering." At the beginning, "Dorsey" is portrayed as the evil other. However, the climax comes in the third volume, when the rebels are understood rather than destroyed. As their mental journey into space, the boundaries of identity are redefined.

Two captains as diplomatic symbols

The characters of the two captains, beyond the heroes of the story, represent ideal models of leadership in the international arena. Captain Orion can symbolize an approach that emphasizes structures, expertise, and hierarchical leadership. His loyalty to his mission and experience represent official and state diplomacy that tries to maintain order through designated channels. Similarly, Captain "A", with his energy and thirst for adventure, more represents non-state actors and public diplomacy. His flexibility and eagerness to learn from other cultures make him a symbol of cultural and humanitarian diplomacy based on direct communication and the exchange of ideas. The relationship between the two is not a simple confrontation between tradition and modernity, but rather a demonstration of the necessary synergy between these

⁸ Dehnavi, E. A., & Amord, P. J. (2019). Adventures of Two Captains: an epic science fiction poem. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379565767_Adventures_of_Two_Captains_An_Epic_Science_Fiction_Poem.

⁹ Dehnavi, E. A., & Amrod, P. J. (2020). Adventures of Two Captains Volume II: A modern epic poem. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379566296_Adventures_of_Two_Captains_Volume_II_A_Modern_Epic_Poem.

¹⁰ Dehnavi, E. A., & Amrod, P. J. (2021). Adventures of Two Captains Volume III: Home, Sweet Home! ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379566625_Adventures_of_Two_Captains_Volume_III_Home_Sweet_Home.

two perspectives. The success of their mission depends on the combination of Orion's intelligence and Captain A's innovation. This relationship is a metaphor for how effective global governance requires both traditional and modern forms of diplomacy. This analysis shows how *The Adventures of Two Captains* can be used as a rich text for exploring the complexities of language, literature, and international relations.

Linguistic and discourse analysis

In the field of international relations, language, in addition to being a means of communication, is also a strategic asset and one of the primary factors in creating and expanding soft power.¹¹ The literary work *"The Adventures of Two Captains"* can act as a major and effective channel for transmitting the culture, values, and messages of a civilization to other nations. For example, a language that is rich in religious and revolutionary knowledge can be the best medium and carrier for transmitting an ideological message to the world. Therefore, literature at this level is not just entertainment, but a tool for restoring a country's historical influence on the world stage and shaping public diplomacy.

The characters in a story, through their actions and words, can be indirect propagators of a worldview and create a favorable image of a civilization in the international mind.

From a political science perspective, language does not simply reflect political realities, but rather actively plays a role in constructing social and political realities. The discourses that govern a society, as embodied in literary texts, the media, and the speeches of politicians, determine what is considered "real," "possible," or "natural." The evolution of the discourse of power in this book is an example of this constructive role of language. This development shows how changes in dominant discourse create new possibilities for political and social action and pave the way for the formation of new political orders. In this process, literature is a linguistic laboratory in which fundamental concepts such as peace, justice, sovereignty, and coexistence are redefined and recreated.

Literature, as the highest expression of a language, is an unparalleled arena for dialogue between civilizations. When a literary work transcends the borders of its birthplace, it provides a platform for mutual understanding and the creation of love and affection between different peoples. This role of literature is vital, especially in times of tension. A novel or collection of stories can bridge cultural and political divides, showing how universal human concepts can be expressed in local and culturally specific formats, ultimately creating a shared understanding of being human among diverse audiences.

The *"Adventures of Two Captains"* trilogy is undoubtedly a work that stands at the intersection of the science fiction genre and allegorical wisdom. What distinguishes this work from conventional space stories is not simply the description of interplanetary travel, but the use of language as a tool to reconstruct the ancient discourse of the battle of light and darkness in a modern form.

At the narrative level, the language uses a fluid format that moves on the border between scientific reporting and mythmaking. The description of the Black Star ship, with its combination of technological terms and poetic metaphors such as "hidden in the arms of the stars," transports the reader to a dual world, one in which the most advanced achievements of human civilization serve to retell archetypes of ancient wisdom. This duality in sentence structure is also evident with the use of short, concise sentences in action and battle scenes, as opposed to long, complex sentences when dealing with abstract concepts and descriptions of extraterrestrial worlds.

¹¹ Barton, E. (2003). Linguistic discourse analysis: How the language in texts works. In *What writing does and how it does it* (pp. 63-88). Routledge.

Dialogues play a multi-layered role in this trilogy. On the one hand, the technical conversations between the captains, mixed with specialized astronomical vocabulary, emphasize the scientific aspect of the story. On the other hand, the symbolic discourse of Yimina, the wise old man, who uses metaphorical language full of philosophical terms, strengthens the spiritual dimension of the story. This clever linguistic contrast is actually a reflection of the main conflict of the story, namely the conflict between scientific objectivity and spiritual subjectivity.

Another noteworthy point is the transformation of the discourse of power in this trilogy. In the first volume, the dominant discourse is the discourse of scientific exploration and curiosity. In the second volume, this discourse transforms into the discourse of struggle and resistance. However, in the third volume, we witness the emergence of a new discourse called the discourse of reconciliation and mutual understanding. This transformation is clearly visible in the language of the characters, examples of which include Captain Orion's military orders in the first volume, philosophical arguments in the second volume, and finally, the tolerant dialogues in the third volume.

The clever use of contemporary cultural elements alongside ancient philosophical concepts demonstrates a deep understanding of the complexities of modern discourse. With this bold combination, the authors have succeeded in creating a bridge between tradition and modernity, demonstrating that concepts such as peace and awareness can be expressed in thoroughly contemporary formats.

On a metaphorical level, the language of this trilogy has succeeded in transforming abstract philosophical concepts into tangible and immediate images. Light is presented not only as a physical phenomenon, but also as a symbol of collective consciousness. Darkness is also mentioned as a metaphor for organized ignorance. In addition, space travel is presented as a metaphor for the inner journey of man into the depths of his being. This semantic multiplicity has enriched the text, which, despite its apparent simplicity, has considerable philosophical depth.

The Adventures of Two Captains trilogy is ultimately a work about the power of language, how words can not only describe reality but also transform it. Just as the characters in the book use language to convince their enemies, the work itself has also tried to use effective language to call the reader to rethink the fundamental concepts of being human.

Conclusion

The trilogy "The Adventures of Two Captains" is a comprehensive mirror of the complexities of international relations. This work shows well how literature can bring dry political concepts to life in the form of vivid and tangible narratives. What is presented in this work is a map for a better understanding of the mechanisms of power, diplomacy, and dialogue in the real world. This book shows how language can build a bridge between different worlds and recreate deep human concepts in a new form.

This work is a reminder that literature and politics are not two separate realms, but rather interconnected rivers that feed each other. "The Adventures of Two Captains" is a brilliant example of this coexistence, of how a seemingly fictional story can contain the deepest concepts of political science and international relations. This work opens the way for further studies in the field of the relationship between literature and politics and shows how effective fictional narratives can be in reconstructing and rethinking global relations.

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