

CATEGORIZATION OF PROVERBS IN ACHEBE'S A MAN OF THE PEOPLE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to categorize all proverbs in Achebe's A Man of the People in terms of forms of proverbs and examine their contributions to the development and meaning of the text. The study is anchored on theories of classical categorization and Systemic Functional Grammar. Identified types include synonymous, antithesis, metaphor, integral, if-then statement, single statement of fact, comparative and parabolic. Integral proverbs are greater in number giving the impression of completeness in meaning and structure. 'Synonymous and antithesis' as parallel structures are used by Achebe to draw attention of readers to certain significant aspects of the novel, makes his book attractive for linguistic analysis and increase the readability of his writing. 'Metaphor' makes Achebe's message interesting. 'If – then statement' is used to instill discipline to readers and the general public and 'Single statement of fact' to create punch, make points, summarize and clarify issues raised in the text. All these show that proverbs used in the book are essential to the development and meaning of the book.

KEYWORDS: Proverbs, Systemic Functional Grammar, Synonymous, Antithesis, Metaphor, Integral

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