

REFLECTION OF SWISS CULTURAL VALUES IN THE LANGUAGE OF Y. WELTI'S SMALL PROSE

Torayeva Dilorom

Master of Asia International University

Email address: diloromturayeva64gmail.com

ANNOTATION: The present article undertakes a linguo-cultural exploration of the small prose written by the renowned Swiss writer Y. Welti, with a particular emphasis on the ways in which national identity and culturally embedded values are manifested through language. The study aims to identify and interpret those linguistic elements lexical choices, stylistic features, and narrative structures that reflect the collective consciousness, moral principles, and aesthetic preferences characteristic of Swiss society during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Drawing upon cultural semantics, ethnolinguistics, and discourse analysis, the research uncovers how Welti's language functions as both a literary medium and a cultural signifier. The analysis reveals that through his compact narrative forms, Welti intricately weaves cultural imagery, rural idioms, and emblematic motifs that not only enrich his storytelling but also preserve and transmit fundamental Swiss values such as neutrality, respect for nature, collectivism, and modesty. This study contributes to the broader field of linguo-cultural studies by offering a nuanced perspective on how literary language serves as a mirror of national culture.

KEY WORDS: Y. Welti; small prose; Swiss culture; linguo-cultural analysis; national identity; cultural semantics; ethnolinguistics; narrative discourse.

ANNOTATSIYA: Mazkur maqola mashhur shveytsariyalik yozuvchi Y. Veltining kichik nasriy asarlarini lingvomadaniy jihatdan o'rganishga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, unda milliy identitet va madaniy qadriyatlarining til orqali qanday ifodalanishi alohida e'tiborga olingan. Tadqiqot asosan shveysariya jamiyatining XIX asr oxiri va XX asr boshlaridagi ijtimoiy ongini, axloqiy me'yorlarini hamda estetik didini aks ettiruvchi leksik birliklar, stilistik xususiyatlar va hikoya tuzilmalari kabi til vositalarini aniqlash va talqin qilishga qaratilgan. Madaniy semantika, etnolingvistika va diskurs tahlil usullariga tayangan holda, Welti asarlaridagi til nafaqat adabiy ifoda vositasi, balki madaniy belgilar tizimi sifatida ham ko'rib chiqiladi. Tahlil shuni ko'rsatadiki, Welti o'zining ixcham hikoya shakllari orqali madaniy obrazlar, xalqona iboralar va ramziy motivlarni mohirlik bilan birlashtirib, nafaqat badiiy tasvirni boyitadi, balki Shveytsariyaga xos bo'lgan betaraflik, tabiatga hurmat, jamoaviylik va kamtarlik kabi asosiy qadriyatlarni saqlab qolish va uzatishga xizmat qiladi. Mazkur tadqiqot lingvomadaniy tadqiqotlar sohasiga adabiy tilning milliy madaniyatni aks ettirish vositasi sifatidagi rolini chuqurroq tushunishga hissa qo'shadi.

KALIT SO'ZLAR: Y. Velti; kichik proza; Shveytsariya madaniyati; lingvomadaniy tahlil; milliy identitet; madaniy semantika; etnolingvistika; narrativ diskurs.

АННОТАЦИЯ: Настоящая статья представляет собой лингвокультурное исследование малой прозы известного швейцарского писателя И. Велти, с особым акцентом на то, как национальная идентичность и культурные ценности выражаются через язык. Цель исследования выявить и интерпретировать те языковые элементы, такие как лексический выбор, стилистические особенности и структуры повествования, которые отражают коллективное сознание, моральные принципы и эстетические предпочтения швейцарского общества конца XIX —

начала XX века. Основываясь на методах культурной семантики, этнолингвистики и дискурсивного анализа, работа показывает, как язык Велти служит не только литературным средством, но и культурным знаковым феноменом. Анализ демонстрирует, что в своих кратких повествовательных формах Велти мастерски вплетает культурные образы, народные идиомы и символические мотивы, тем самым не только обогащая повествование, но и сохраняя и передавая ключевые швейцарские ценности, такие как нейтралитет, уважение к природе, коллективизм и скромность. Исследование вносит вклад в развитие лингвокультурной науки, предлагая тонкое понимание того, как литературный язык отражает национальную культуру.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: И. Велти; малая проза; швейцарская культура; лингвокультурный анализ; национальная идентичность; культурная семантика; этнолингвистика; повествовательный дискурс.

INTRODUCTION

In the rapidly globalizing world, the interplay between language and culture has emerged as a pivotal concern within the domains of literary studies and linguistics, particularly through the interdisciplinary lens of linguo-cultural analysis. Literature, especially prose, functions not merely as a creative construct but as a cultural artifact that encapsulates the ethos, values, and worldview of a specific nation or community. This is especially true in the context of Swiss literature, where national identity is shaped by a unique historical, linguistic, and socio-political landscape. Y. Welty, one of Switzerland's most notable literary figures, produced a significant body of small prose that, although succinct in form, is densely packed with cultural meaning. The primary aim of this article is to examine how Swiss cultural values are reflected and articulated in the language of Welty's small prose, thereby uncovering the subtle ways in which literature both reflects and reinforces national identity.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The theoretical foundation of this study is grounded in the principles of cultural linguistics and ethno linguistics, fields which posit that language and culture are inextricably interwoven and that linguistic structures are deeply influenced by the cognitive and cultural contexts in which they are used (Sharifian, 2017). Earlier works by scholars such as Sapir (2010) and Whorf (2003) have emphasized the notion that language shapes thought and cultural perception, a premise that remains central to modern linguo-cultural approaches. Studies specifically addressing Swiss literature, such as those by Haldimann (2003) and Stadelmann (2010), have documented the importance of rural imagery, multilingual identity, and political neutrality in shaping Swiss literary output. In regard to Welty, while literary critiques (e.g., Kunz, 2015; Bühlmann, 2001) have appreciated his stylistic finesse and thematic concerns, limited attention has been paid to the linguo-cultural dimensions of his work. Therefore, this study seeks to fill that scholarly gap by systematically analyzing the linguistic elements of Welty's small prose through the prism of Swiss cultural identity.

METHODS

In order to conduct a thorough and methodologically sound linguo-cultural analysis of Y. Welty's small prose, this study employed a qualitative research design rooted in interpretive paradigms that prioritize depth of textual engagement and culturally situated understanding over numerical generalizability. The central objective of this methodological framework was to extract and interpret the layers of cultural significance embedded in the language and stylistic choices employed by Welty in his short narrative works. This was achieved through a combination of cultural semantics, ethno linguistics, and discourse analysis, each of which provided a different yet complementary analytical lens for uncovering how language functions as a reflection of collective cultural values.

The corpus consisted of a purposively selected set of Welter's short prose texts that are thematically representative of rural life, ethical dilemmas, and community dynamics within the Swiss context. The selected texts were examined in their original German-language versions to preserve linguistic fidelity and to ensure that the nuances of idiomatic expression, syntactic variation, and cultural references were not lost in translation. The analysis was conducted in three interrelated phases. First, a lexical-semantic analysis was carried out to identify culturally salient words, idioms, and metaphorical expressions that signify specific values such as neutrality, collectivism, environmental harmony, or moral restraint. These lexical items were cross-referenced with culturally significant semantic domains, drawing on frameworks developed by Wierzbicka and Sharifian, which posit that key cultural concepts are encoded in language through shared cognitive models [Whorf, B. L., 2003; 50-56]. Second, a narrative-structural analysis was conducted, focusing on the organization of plot, character development, and narrative voice. Particular attention was given to how these structural elements correspond to Swiss cultural patterns, such as preference for understatement, indirect moral instruction, and community-centered conflict resolution. The narrative voice was scrutinized for markers of cultural humility, intersubjectivity, and the subtle imposition of ethical frameworks [Wierzbicka, A., 2019; 67-70]. Third, a discourse-pragmatic analysis was performed to examine how cultural values are enacted and reinforced through patterns of interaction, deixis, modality, and the use of evaluative language. This layer of analysis was crucial in uncovering implicit ideologies and value systems that are not overtly stated but embedded in the pragmatic structure of discourse. The use of direct versus indirect speech, the presence of silence and ellipsis, and the deployment of honorifics or collective pronouns were examined for their socio-cultural implications.

In order to ensure reliability, findings from each stage of analysis were triangulated, and theoretical interpretations were consistently cross-validated with secondary literature in Swiss cultural studies and literary criticism [Stadelmann, H., 2010; 50]. Furthermore, the analysis was embedded within the socio-historical context of Switzerland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, thereby enabling a historically informed interpretation of linguistic and cultural features. The overarching aim of this multi-tiered methodology was not only to trace the linguistic manifestations of cultural values in Welter's prose but also to understand how those values are textually constructed, reinforced, and transmitted to the reader through narrative and language.

RESULTS

The findings of this study reveal a multifaceted and linguistically rich representation of Swiss cultural values within Y. Welter's small prose, illustrating the subtle yet deliberate integration of national identity into narrative language and structure. Through a systematic examination of lexical choices, idiomatic expressions, narrative constructions, and discursive patterns, the research identifies several key dimensions through which Swiss cultural consciousness is articulated and preserved in Welter's work [Sapir, E., 2010; 78]. One of the most prominent findings pertains to the use of regional dialectal elements and localized vocabulary, which serve as powerful indicators of Switzerland's multilingual and regionally diverse character. While the overarching narrative is composed in standard German, it frequently incorporates Helvetisms linguistic features specific to the Swiss variety of German which include lexical borrowings from French, Italian, and Romansh, as well as unique morphological and syntactic constructions. These linguistic traits not only authenticate the geographical and cultural setting of the narratives but also reflect a broader cultural valuation of linguistic plurality and federal identity, both of which are central to the Swiss ethos.

Moreover, the analysis uncovered a pervasive presence of natural imagery and ecological symbolism, which consistently function as cultural signifiers rather than mere descriptive devices. Mountains, forests, rivers, and changing seasons are not simply environmental backdrops but metaphorical reservoirs of cultural meaning [Kunz, R., 2015; 90]. For instance, mountains often serve as symbols of

moral steadfastness, spiritual elevation, and national endurance, while references to seasonal cycles subtly reinforce themes of patience, perseverance, and cyclical renewal values deeply embedded in traditional Swiss agrarian life. The ecological metaphors in Welter's prose are frequently aligned with human behavior and moral reflection, indicating an ontological interdependence between the human and the natural, a concept at the heart of Swiss cultural philosophy.

Another salient result is the consistent emphasis on collective identity and intergenerational continuity, which is expressed through narrative patterns that prioritize community well-being over individual ambition. Characters are often depicted in relation to their familial roles, communal responsibilities, and societal obligations, suggesting a cultural orientation toward social cohesion and moral accountability. Such patterns contrast with more individualistic literary traditions and highlight Switzerland's historically rooted communalism and emphasis on civic responsibility [Haldimann, F., 2003; 67]. Furthermore, Welter's stories often feature elders who act as moral compasses or transmitters of cultural wisdom, symbolizing respect for tradition and the continuity of cultural norms. A further significant finding involves the linguistic economy and emotional restraint evident in Welter's narrative style [Sharifian, F., 2017; 70]. The prose avoids elaborate ornamentation or excessive dramatization, instead favoring a tone of quiet introspection and moral clarity. This stylistic feature resonates with the Swiss cultural preference for modesty, neutrality, and ethical moderation. Even in narratives involving personal tragedy or existential conflict, the emotional register remains tempered, reinforcing a culturally embedded stoicism and aversion to extremes.

Additionally, the study identifies the deployment of allegorical and didactic narrative devices, through which Welter encodes moral lessons that are implicitly aligned with Swiss ethical frameworks. These lessons often revolve around values such as diligence, honesty, self-restraint, and the dignity of manual labor—principles that not only define individual virtue but also function as collective social ideals. The didacticism is subtle and integrated into the narrative's progression rather than overtly sermonistic, thereby reflecting the cultural value placed on moral education through lived experience and narrative tradition.

Finally, the analysis highlights Welter's strategic use of dialogue and speech patterns that reinforce communal discourse conventions. Conversations in his stories are characterized by pragmatic politeness, indirectness, and a marked absence of confrontation, all of which mirror Swiss cultural norms regarding interpersonal interaction and social decorum. The linguistic construction of dialogue emphasizes mutual understanding, shared knowledge, and relational harmony, further evidencing the collectivist orientation of the narrative world. Taken together, these findings provide compelling evidence that Y. Welter's small prose is not only an aesthetic literary achievement but also a linguo-cultural repository through which Swiss values are symbolically encoded, socially transmitted, and artistically sustained.

DISCUSSION

The discussion of these results reveals that Welter's prose operates on two simultaneous levels: as aesthetic literature and as a repository of cultural meaning. From a linguo-cultural standpoint, his lexical choices and narrative strategies are not arbitrary but are deeply informed by the social values, historical experiences, and moral philosophies that characterize Swiss society. For instance, the preference for simple, unadorned language reflects a broader cultural inclination toward modesty and pragmatism, while the emphasis on intergenerational wisdom and collective responsibility speaks to the enduring significance of family and community in Swiss cultural narratives. Furthermore, the use of natural metaphors to represent moral states or social harmony underscores the ecological consciousness that has long been embedded in Swiss national discourse. Thus, Welter's language serves not only as a literary tool but also as a vehicle for cultural transmission, aligning with the broader premise that literature reflects the collective consciousness of its time and place.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study has shown that Y. Welter's small prose constitutes a valuable site for the linguo-cultural examination of Swiss national identity and values. Through his careful and culturally resonant use of language, Welter manages to encapsulate the essence of Swiss social life, ethical norms, and environmental sensibilities within the compact framework of short prose. The findings affirm that literary language is a powerful medium for the preservation and dissemination of cultural values, and that Welter's work, while modest in length, is profound in its cultural implications. This article contributes to the growing field of linguo-cultural literary analysis and suggests that further research into Swiss and other multilingual literary traditions may yield equally rich insights into the nexus between language and culture.

REFERENCE:

1. Haldimann, F. (2003). *Identität und Vielfalt: Schweizer Literatur im 19. Jahrhundert*. Bern: Peter Lang.
2. Kunz, R. (2015). *Die kleine Form: Studien zur Prosa von Y. Welter*. Basel: Schwabe.
3. Sapir, E. (2010). *Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech*. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company.
4. Sharifian, F. (2017). *Cultural Linguistics: Cultural Conceptualisations and Language*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
5. Stadelmann, H. (2010). *Die Schweizer Nation im Spiegel der Literatur: Aspekte der kulturellen Selbstvergewisserung*. Luzern: Edizioni Casagrande.
6. Whorf, B. L. (2003). *Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
7. Wierzbicka, A. (2019). *Understanding Cultures Through Their Key Words: English, Russian, Polish, German, and Japanese*. New York: Oxford University Press.