ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928

ISSN NO. 2320-5407

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-59320

Title: Stylistic and Ideological Differences in the Portrayal of Two Mothers in Amma Darko's Faceless.

Recommendation

Major Revisions Required

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		Good		
Techn. Quality		Good		
Clarity			Fair	
Significance		Good		

Reviewer's ID: JPR- 212

Detailed Reviewer's Report

1. Summary

The paper applies stylistics (Fowler; Leech & Short; Simpson; Halliday) to two purposively selected passages from Amma Darko's *Faceless* (2003) in order to compare the linguistic portrayal of two mothers, MaaTsuru and Kabria. Using an eclectic grammatical framework (Text Grammar, TGG, SFG), the author quantifies transitivity patterns, clause types, theme choices, and passivisation, then interprets these qualitatively to argue that the narrator encodes contrasting ideological perspectives on motherhood, gender, and social reality.

2. Originality

Strengths: The paper fills a genuine gap. Existing literary-critical studies of *Faceless* focus on gender themes but neglect the linguistic mechanics of characterisation; this study addresses that omission with a systematic stylistic

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

method. The comparison of two mothers through quantified transitivity analysis is a novel angle.

Weaknesses: The theoretical framework is largely derivative of established stylistic scholarship; the innovation lies in application rather than conceptual development. The claim that Darko's "polarised, binary" representation recurs across her novels is asserted through self-citation (Author, 2015; 2015a; 2015b; 2016) without independent demonstration.

3. Technical Quality

Strengths: The quantitative analysis is meticulous—clause counts, process-type percentages, theme types, and passivisation patterns are tabulated and interpreted. The eclectic grammatical approach is clearly set out, and the coding key is helpful.

Weaknesses: Several concerns:
- The sample is extremely small (two passages), which limits generalisability. The author does not acknowledge this limitation.
- The eclectic framework (TG + TGG + SFG) is potentially incoherent; these are competing theories, and the paper does not justify how they are reconciled.
- Some claims are over-interpreted. For example, attributing intentionality to the implied author ("she has deliberately transformed the structure... to conceal from the reader the sociological forces") exceeds what stylistic evidence alone can support.
- The counting of "ranking clauses" excludes embedded clauses without clear justification.
- Inter-coder reliability is not addressed despite the coding scheme.
- The "Author" self-citations are anonymised, which prevents verification and weakens the scholarly apparatus.

4. Clarity and Structure

Strengths: The paper follows a logical structure (Introduction → Theoretical Framework → Methodology → Analysis → Conclusion). The findings are presented comparatively, and the conclusion synthesises the argument well.

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Weaknesses: The writing requires substantial proofreading. Numerous typographical and grammatical errors impede readability:
- "aerportrayed" (Introduction), "enodestlylistic" (Introduction), "postulates then" (Introduction), "unveiled this linguistic feature in her threother prose works" (Introduction)
- "let unsownutline" (Theoretical Framework)
- "readistributed" (Analysis), "suggestons" (Analysis), "theseswomen" (Conclusion)
- Inconsistent spacing and punctuation throughout (e.g., "Fowler(1977,p.10)")

The key/coding scheme is poorly formatted and contains redundancies (e.g., "Pm" is defined twice as material and mental). The analysis sections, while detailed, are dense and would benefit from clearer signposting.

5. Significance

Strengths: The paper demonstrates the value of stylistic analysis for understanding ideological representation in African fiction. The finding that MaaTsuru is constructed through relational processes and agentless passives (denoting passivity and backgrounded causation) while Kabria is constructed through material processes and active participants (denoting agency) is a genuine analytical insight. The conclusion that the narrator "shuttles between" sexist/androcentric and feminist/womanist ideological positions is thought-provoking.

Weaknesses: The ideological interpretation is asserted rather than fully argued. The leap from transitivity patterns to "feminism" or "womanism" requires more theoretical scaffolding. The paper does not engage with postcolonial or African feminist theory that would contextualise these ideological claims. The practical significance for stylistics or literary criticism is not clearly articulated.

6. Specific Comments

1. Introduction: The rationale for selecting these two specific passages (first appearances of each mother) should be justified more fully.
2. Theoretical Framework: The three grammatical frameworks are described but not integrated; a clearer account of how they complement each other is needed.

ISSN(O): 2320-5407 | ISSN(P): 3107-4928
International Journal of Advanced Research
Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP
www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

3. Methodology: The coding scheme should be revised for clarity and consistency. A table presenting the raw counts would improve transparency.
4. Analysis: The interpretation of passivisation as "deliberate" concealment attributes intent to the author; consider softening to "has the effect of" rather than "intends to."
5. References: The anonymised "Author" citations are unacceptable for peer review; they should be replaced with full citations or removed.
6.Language: Professional proofreading is essential.

Justification: The paper addresses a worthwhile gap and offers a sound analytical approach, but it requires significant revision before publication. Key issues include: (1) grammatical and typographical errors throughout; (2) an underspecified and potentially incoherent theoretical framework; (3) an over-interpretation of stylistic evidence as authorial intent; (4) anonymised self-citations; (5) insufficient acknowledgment of the small sample size; and (6) weak integration of ideological theory. With careful revision, the paper could make a useful contribution to stylistic and African literary studies.