

How to Cite This Article: Khalid., Gul, S., Ullah, I. (2023). Exploration of Language Functions as an Ideological State Apparatus in the Novel Lord of the Flies. *Journal of Social Sciences Review*, 3(2), 427–434. <https://doi.org/10.54183/jssr.v3i2.279>



Exploration of Language Functions as an Ideological State Apparatus in the Novel *Lord of the Flies*

Khalid	M.Phil. Scholar, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, & Lecturer University of Swabi, Swabi, KP, Pakistan.
Sania Gul	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Swabi, Swabi, KP, Pakistan.
Irfan Ullah	PhD Scholar, Islamic International University Islamabad & Assistant Professor, Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan, KP, Pakistan.

Vol. 3, No. 2 (Spring 2023)

Pages: 427 – 434

ISSN (Print): 2789-441X

ISSN (Online): 2789-4428

Key Words

Language, Characters, Lord of the Flies, Social Ideology

Corresponding Author:

Khalid

Email: khalidqazi5999@gmail.com

Abstract: William Golding's novel "Lord of the Flies" explores the role of language in shaping societal norms, values, and power structures. The language used by the characters reflects their respective ideologies and contributes to the development of their positions. Language also reveals power dynamics and social hierarchies within the group, with characters who speak Standard English portrayed as more intelligent and civilised. The use of language perpetuates the dominant ideology of the group, with Jack using aggressive language to exert control over others while Ralph employs more collaborative and inclusive language. This paper demonstrates how language is not merely a means of communication but a tool for shaping and reinforcing societal norms, values, and power structures. Using language as an ideological state apparatus plays a significant role in shaping the characters' ideological positions and the dynamics within the group.

Introduction

Communication is primarily accomplished through language, allowing people to express their feelings, emotions and thoughts to one another. Language is integral to our identity, and we can easily distinguish individuals based on the language they use in their everyday lives. This paper helps us to understand the diverse backgrounds of people in our society. Language serves various purposes, such as teachers using it to impart knowledge, parents sometimes using it firmly to discipline their children, and politicians using it to connect with the emotions of their audience.

In society, language serves as the primary means of communication whereby individuals combine words and sentences to express their thoughts and emotions to one another. This

process involves exchanging information through a standard system of signs or articulations, with each language having a designated sender and receiver for messages. The sender expresses their ideas or thoughts, which are then received by the receiver.

However, language is not solely a means of communication. It also serves other functions, such as being utilised by politicians and leaders to suppress individuals' emotions and thought processes and impose their ideas and emotions upon them. Essentially, language is a tool for controlling the emotions of others. The use of language is a significant factor in the beliefs and principles held by individuals such as politicians. Ideology refers to examining the thoughts and convictions of those within a particular society.

Without language, ideology lacks substance, and separating language and ideology is difficult. The language employed by an individual can reveal their ideology, and the language spoken within a society can indicate her collective ideology. Many writers have explored the idea of using language to exert power and control over others, and this concept is present in the famous novel *Lord of the Flies*, which is the focus of the present study. In this novel, several characters use language to advance their political and social ideologies, seeking to spread their personal beliefs through the words they use.

In the current study, the researcher examined the language's function in William Golding's novel "*Lord of the Flies*" to investigate how characters such as Jack, Ralph, and Piggy employ language as an ideological apparatus to advance their social and political objectives. Within this novel, numerous characters utilise language as a primary mechanism to pursue their political goals.

Research Objectives

- To investigate how language can expose the distinct personalities of different characters.
- The aim is to demonstrate how different characters in the novel use their language to attain their political and social goals.

Research Questions

- How does the language employed by various characters such as Piggy, Ralph, and Jack contribute to their respective roles in the *Lord of the Flies* novel?
- What is the meaning of ideology, and how does the language used by various characters in *Lord of the Flies* promote their respective ideologies?

Literature Reviews

The 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, which won the Nobel Prize in 1983, is a masterpiece of English literature. The

protagonists of the novel, Jack, Ralph, and Piggy, rely heavily on language to forward their idea and goals; one of the key themes in the novel is the symbolism of power, with images standing in for two different forms of government: a democratic one with Ralph as the leader and an authoritarian one with Jack. The island's social power relations are the novel's main focus, reflecting Golding's personal experiences with the conflict. The two systems in the novel are the totalitarian system led by Jack and the democratic one led by Ralph. The novel's primary symbol of power is the conch shell, which Piggy discovers and uses to make a loud sound. The construction of shelters on the island offers protection from the elements like rain and harsh weather, and the conch also stands for laws and regulations there. Ralph uses Piggy's glasses to start a fire on the island to save them, making them a significant symbol of power. The boys sacrifice the head of the pig to the beast to gain the goodwill of the animal because Jack planted the head of the pig on top of the mountain as a symbolic representation of brutality and primitiveness. Each symbol in the book represents social power relations. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding is a crucial representation of democracy. Another significant indication of democracy is the shelters and the uninhabited island. The boys on the island divide themselves into two groups, one belonging to Jack and the other to Ralph, one of the novel's most significant themes is power. Jack wants to use illegal means to take over as the group's leader, while Ralph wants to lead the other boys morally. According to Bjorn Burns' analysis of the symbolism in the novel, each and every symbol stands for either democratic power or dictatorial power. In the novel, Simon stands in for inner virtue, while Piggy represents science and intellect.

According to Jennifer Basil's studies (2006, 2007), humans have an innate thirst for power and destruction. The novel's two power systems are significantly dissimilar from one another. Ralph adheres to a democratic system in which the populace has a significant role in choosing

the leader. In Jack's totalitarian society, each person has a community to which they can practice their beliefs, and the leader is a one-person show. Both leaders aim to establish their systems of authority and exhibit distinctive personalities. Ralph's actions on the island paint a great impression of himself among the other lads, while Jack is a completely different person. Ralph's shortcomings are exploited by Jack, a crafty leader, to take control of the other guys. He likes to go by Merridew as opposed to his childhood name. Jack Ms Ana Paula Witt The major issue of "brutalisation" in the absence of civilisation is examined in Mosen's 2009 essay *Reluctant Animals and Their Flight from Fear to Reign of Terror*. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, published in 2013, examines how society degrades without laws or restrictions. The three lads begin a pig hunt, but things quickly turn bad when they kill each other. Although the guys react differently, they all share one bad habit: "aggression." Piggy queries, "What are we?" Animals or people? Or brutes? Due to the boys' lack of identity on the island, distinguishing between humans, animals, and savages becomes challenging. After the essay, the author claims that Golding shows us a hard reality about humanity, showing us that the worst and best sides are within each individual. Jack is the live example who begins to disobey all of the regulations on the island.

William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* begins on an empty island and splits the lads into two groups. In the book, each boy behaves differently, and Golding utilises morality to separate the action into good and evil to highlight the darker aspects of human nature. In order to generate an impression of the other, physical characteristics such as dress, cleanliness, and physical appearance can all be exploited. Aspects of the novel that various critics have studied include symbolism, social power, democratic power, and totalitarian power. Golding does not imply that one system is superior to all others; rather, he asserts that some systems are more hazardous than others. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding,

an anti-romantic work of English literature, is discussed in the essay "Surajit Sen." The author contends that the novel is a simulation of human behaviour free from the constraints of civilisation and that he has demonstrated through his own experience that if you take away all the norms of civilised society, people will descend into savagery and that evils are inherent in human nature. Golding's Island is a paradise on earth, and the novel's descriptions of the island fascinate the reader. Additionally, the author contends that individual viewpoints are irrelevant and that most people steer the boat's oars in any direction they see fit.

The *Lord of the Flies* characters' symbolic meaning is the most crucial information in this literature (March 2009). Piggy stands for atonalism, Jack's character for savagery and despotism, Simon for kindness or inner goodness, and Ralph for a prosperous middle-class family. These characters represent civilisation and democracy. The novel's protagonist, Ralph, rules the other boys on the island as customary in England. Piggy teaches Ralph how to blow the conch and embodies reason and intelligence. The antagonist Jack leads an unnamed band of homicidal savages, becoming increasingly brutal and savage as the story progresses. The book serves as a simulation of human behaviour free from the constraints of civilisation. William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies* tells the tale of a guy who has lost the ability to distinguish between good and bad and between animals and humans. Simon is a boy who practices religion and is morally upright. In Golding's novel, he represents the moral part of human nature and is superior to all the other characters. The children stand for the common people, the naval officer represents infidelity, and Roger is a figure of cruelty and violence to an extreme degree. Each of these individuals serves a symbolic purpose, adding weight and success to the novel *Lord of the Flies*. This study will concentrate on the language employed by the novel's various characters, such as Jack, Ralph, and Piggy, to accomplish their social and political

ambitions, showing how each uses language to gain dominance over the other boys living on the island.

Research Methodology

Methodology and Context of the Study

The nature of the research is qualitative, focusing more on information obtained from books and libraries rather than statistical data. The researcher intends to analyse how language is used as a tool by characters such as Jack, Ralph, and Piggy in the novel to achieve their ideological goals or express their thoughts.

Research Design

The researcher conducts a qualitative design to identify the unique speech patterns (ISA) in the languages Jack, Ralph, and Piggy used in *Lord of the Flies*. Additionally, the researcher aims to investigate how various characters in the novel utilise language to achieve their political and social objectives.

Research Method

This study is qualitative, and the researcher's goal is to explore the ideological language used in the novel "*Lord of the Flies*." To achieve this objective, the researcher will examine multiple viewpoints from researchers and critics.

Procedure and Tools

The researcher intends to examine various critiques and utilise those writers' perspectives and written materials to uncover the ideological language employed in the book to accomplish its societal and political objectives. The scholarly investigation will collect data/information from sources like the

- Library
- Internet
- Articles

There exist two categories of sources that can be used for gathering data, which are outlined below:

- The main source of reliable information is primary data. Researchers will typically gather primary data from sources such as books, surveys, and past research when conducting their studies.
- While primary data is essential, more is needed to produce a high-quality research paper. Therefore, researchers also rely on secondary data sources, including the internet and library books, to supplement their research.

Once the researcher has gathered enough data, they can approach their research topic from various perspectives. In doing so, the researcher remains objective and impartial, without personal biases or preferences.

Data Analysis and Discussion

The concept of ideology involves examining ideas and beliefs. Additionally, ideology encompasses how individuals perceive the world and their ideal approach to accomplishing goals within it. The ideology posited by German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels states that the ruling class has historically determined the prevailing ideas of society because the class in power controls not only the physical means of production but also the intellectual means of creating and disseminating ideas.

Louis Althusser, a French critic, describes two types of systems that those in power use to maintain control over the population. These are known as the "repressive state apparatus" (RSAs), which includes the military, police, and other governmental organisations, and the "ideological state apparatus" (ISAs), which consists of institutions such as the media, education, and family.

The dominant and ruling class people possess two primary instruments: language and ideology. These two factors are integral to society, and it is challenging to identify a social setting with little significance. The use of language is intertwined with the underlying ideologies held by individuals. There is a strong interdependence

between language and ideology, and it is challenging to manipulate them separately.

According to J.B Thompson (1984), it can be argued that language and ideology are tools used by a ruling class or group to deceive and manipulate the general population. Language and ideology are widely discussed in the literature, as they are believed to impact all aspects of human life significantly.

This chapter will explore William Golding's novel, *Lord of the Flies*. The researcher's chosen research topic is the role of language as an ideological state apparatus within the novel. The researcher has extensively read the novel to ensure a thorough analysis and explanation. To conduct the research, the researcher utilised a variety of sources, such as books, the internet, and opinions from other researchers, to gather resources and analyse the chosen topic. The main focus of the study is to investigate how the three main characters, Jack, Ralph, and Piggy, employ language as a primary tool for their respective ideologies. The researcher will first explore how these characters, notably Jack, use language to achieve their political and social goals. This examination will help shed light on the characters' linguistic strategies and impact on the story's themes.

At the outset of the *Lord of the Flies* novel, Jack appears decent, as he still holds onto the rules and principles that he learned in school and society. His behaviour initially conforms to the norms of a civilised society that he recently left behind with a group of young boys. Jack maintains positive relations with Ralph and the other boys on the island. However, as the story progresses, he becomes increasingly involved in nefarious activities. Jack's actions are significant in the novel because he engages in various activities, such as hunting, cooking, and issuing orders to the boys. The language employed by the characters in the story is crucial because it helps readers comprehend Jack's true nature and malicious intentions. Overall, the evolution of

Jack's character is a crucial aspect of the *Lord of the Flies* novel.

In the middle of the novel, Jack discusses hunting with the boys and emphasises that those who participate in the hunt will be rewarded with food, while those who do not will be left without. As Piggy did not join in the hunt, Jack refused to let him eat the pig's meat. When Piggy ask for pigs meat, then Jack reply him,

You didn't hunt.....meat in a crab.
(Chapter 4)(p. 80)

Jack aspires to become the leader of the boys on the island, using either ethical or unethical means. He presents multiple speeches in the novel *Lord of the Flies* to impress the boys with his language and communication abilities. He is determined to be the boys' leader residing on the island. In the novel, when he is delivering his speech to the boys, so he says:

I agree with Ralph. We've gotwe've got to do the right things. (Chapter 2) (p. 47)

In the novel, Jack's use of language indicates his desire for power and leadership on the deserted island. He emerges as the leader among the other boys through his effective communication skills. It can be inferred that Jack uses language to gain increasing authority and assert his dominance over the group. Therefore, Jack's language serves as a tool for him to attain power and become the leader among the boys on the island.

Another protagonist in the novel, Ralph, possesses numerous leadership traits similar to Jack. However, Jack envies Ralph and refuses to submit to his authority since he desires to lead the boys stranded on the deserted island. Ralph is a courageous individual who excels in public speaking and is genuinely concerned about the welfare of the boys living on the island as a responsible leader. When he was delivering a speech to the group, so he said to the boys,

We're on an island.....an uninhabited island with no other people on it. (Chapter 2)(p. 35)

After being chosen as the boys' leader on the island, Ralph begins constructing shelters and lavatories to protect the children from harsh weather conditions. Additionally, Ralph chooses to ignite a flame at the mountain's peak to rescue stranded children on the island. At the end of his speech, Ralph gives the instructions to the boys.

"Then there are huts. Shelters.".....Who built the shelters?"

Ralph and Jack are opposites, with Ralph advocating for democracy on the island and using the conch as a symbol of this democratic ideal. Through his speeches and language, Ralph demonstrates a solid commitment to democratic principles. He sees the need for rules and regulations in the society they create on the deserted island. He believes in granting equal rights to all individuals, regardless of their status or position. Ralph employs language as a critical tool to promote and establish a democratic system of governance on the island. Throughout the novel, Ralph's language is a powerful means of advocating for democracy and advancing his vision of a just and fair society.

Piggy is a significant character in the novel, with distinguishable physical traits, such as his obesity and glasses, setting him apart from the other boys on the island. He struggles with asthma, a dangerous disease, and his weak eyesight has required him to wear glasses since he was three years old. Despite his limitations, Piggy is one of the most intelligent boys on the island, although he is considered handicapped among the others. The boys all hope for rescue, and Piggy believes their location is unknown to others. Essentially, Piggy stands alone on one side of the island while the other boys stand on the other.

Piggy believed that the authorities needed to be made aware of their situation, making it impossible to coordinate a rescue operation. Unlike the other boys on the island, his language was a tool for his unique ideology. Piggy valued rules and regulations, which he had learned in

civilised society, and advocated for a democratic system on the island. That is why Piggy initially supported Ralph and his group. He suggested that Ralph use the conch to gather all the boys for assemblies. Piggy was knowledgeable about the conch and knew how to use it.

In the novel, the conch shell represents power, and anyone who wishes to speak must first possess the conch. Additionally, Piggy is portrayed as a timid and fearful boy, which is evident from his initial conversation with Ralph. It indicates that he lacks bravery, boldness, and self-assurance.

He told Ralph that,

My auntie told me not to run.....Wearing specs since I was three.

He also said to Ralph when he asked for swimming that,

"Aren't you going to swim?"..... My asthma—(chapter 1) (p. 9)

In the novel, despite being shy and having poor eyesight, Piggy demonstrates impressive intelligence. Ralph recognises this when Piggy proposes using the conch as a symbol of authority. Moreover, Piggy cautions Ralph against starting a fire on the mountain and recommends constructing shelters to safeguard the children from the weather.

Furthermore, it can be argued that Piggy utilised his communication skills to advocate for his beliefs among his peers. Specifically, Piggy sought to establish a democratic framework on the uninhabited island, promoting egalitarian principles and uniform regulations. Piggy effectively conveyed these objectives through his use of language and his various conversations depicted in William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*.

Findings and Conclusion

The researcher will conclude their research in the final chapter, focusing on how the three main characters (Jack, Ralph, and Piggy) in the novel

"Lord of the Flies" utilised their language to attain their political and social objectives and gain power. The study was successful in uncovering this information.

Jack is part of a group and possesses qualities that make him a natural leader among the other boys on the island in the novel *Lord of the Flies*. He is brave, inspirational, and communicative and remains loyal to his goals, whether good or evil. From the story's beginning, Jack believes hunting is necessary for the group's survival on the deserted island. He understands the needs of the boys and promises to provide them with food and meat if he becomes the leader. All the boys on the island had an ultimate need for food, including Ralph and Piggy. To obtain food, Ralph devised a solid plan to form a group of children to hunt for pigs on the island. Jack was initially interested in hunting on the island for a short time, solely to provide meat for the boys and win their favour, thus becoming their leader. However, Jack's pursuit of leadership was misguided, as he sought to gain power not through the majority of the boys' support but through force. Jack's language suggested that he considered himself superior to the other boys. Ultimately, Jack's rise to power led to savagery, destruction, bloodshed, and the loss of innocence on the island. The significance of Jack's speeches in the novel lies in their ability to demonstrate how his language helped him emerge as a leader among the other boys. Through careful analysis of his speeches at various points in the story, one can see how his language was instrumental in establishing his power over the others. His speeches were impactful because they addressed the boys' practical needs on the island, such as promising to hunt pigs for food and ensuring their rescue. In this way, his language functioned as a leadership tool.

In the novel "*Lord of the Flies*," the author's use of language demonstrates that the character, Jack, is willing to go to extreme lengths to attain political and social power. Through his language, it becomes clear that Jack is driven by a strong

desire for power, regardless of whether it is gained through virtuous or immoral means. Despite possessing qualities such as bravery, attentiveness to his group, and the ability to give inspiring speeches, Jack's actions, such as hunting and slaughtering pigs, are motivated not by the well-being of the boys but rather by his own ideological goals that were established early on in the story.

In contrast, Ralph and Jack are two distinct characters but share certain qualities. Both possess leadership abilities, such as the power to deliver inspiring speeches to the boys. Additionally, they are both attentive to the needs of the boys on the island, with Ralph providing shelter from the elements and Jack providing food to help them survive. However, Ralph seeks to become a leader through democratic means, relying on votes and the majority of the boys. At the same time, Jack desires to become a leader through illegal methods like a dictatorship or other unlawful means. Although Ralph may not possess the same level of charisma as Jack, he has demonstrated through his speeches in *Lord of the Flies* that he also has the potential to lead the boys on the deserted island. Ralph's speeches to the boys reveal his ideology and thoughts, as reflected in his language. He appears to favour democracy among the boys. He seeks to establish a connection with the civilised world by constructing shelters on the island and lighting a fire atop the mountain to signal for rescue. These decisions showcase his determination to keep the boys safe and secure.

Piggy discovered the conch on the island, which later became a symbol of democracy. Throughout the novel *Lord of the Flies*, Piggy is the only character who consistently emphasises the importance of rules and regulations. At the story's beginning, he instructed Ralph on how to use the conch, despite his physical weakness preventing him from blowing it himself. Piggy is intelligent and innovative, making him a significant figure in the novel. Additionally, he

utilised scientific knowledge to defend himself and the other boys on the deserted island.

The novel depicts a strong connection between Piggy and the conch, evident from the moment both are destroyed, resulting in Piggy's death. Upon studying the characters of Jack, Ralph, and Piggy, the researcher concludes that they utilised language as a primary means to advance their political and social objectives. Every character in *Lord of the Flies* employed language strategically to achieve their goals.

In *Lord of the Flies*, every character has distinct objectives and intentions. Consequently, they employed various dialects to express their ideological beliefs. Jack, specifically, used language that revealed his desire to assume leadership of the other boys by any means necessary, whether through lawful or unlawful methods. The speeches he delivered in the novel indicated that he possessed the qualities necessary to become the leader of the boys stranded on the deserted island.

Ralph employs language as a means to achieve his political and social beliefs. His language usage in the book *Lord of the Flies* reflects his ideology of leading the boys on the island in a democratic and pleasing way. Ralph is a compassionate individual who strives to protect the children on the island, as evidenced by his efforts to construct shelters and kindle a fire at the highest point of the island to signal for help.

Piggy's character in *Lord of the Flies* is significant and cannot be overlooked. His innocent nature is portrayed through the language he uses in the novel, as he often discusses rules, regulations, and the conch, a symbol of democracy on the island. Piggy lacks confidence and frequently urges Ralph to speak on his behalf, particularly in the presence of Jack, who mocks him whenever he attempts to speak.

Throughout the novel, Jack consistently disregards Piggy, the only male excluded from his attention. Despite Piggy lacking leadership skills or a unique ideology, he still manages to

influence Ralph's way of thinking indirectly. Ralph frequently heeds Piggy's guidance as he recognises him as a brilliant and astute individual amongst their peers on the island.

It can be inferred that several characters, such as Jack, Ralph, and Piggy, utilise language as a means or instrument to accomplish their political and social objectives in the novel "*Lord of the Flies*."

References

- Alpers, B. L. (2003). *Dictators, Democracy, and American Public Culture: Envisioning the Totalitarian Enemy, 1920s-1950s*. Univ of North Carolina Press.
- Althusser, L. (1970). *Overdetermination and contradiction. For Marx* (Trans. By Ben Brewster). New York: Vintage Books: 87–128.
- Althusser, L. (1976). *Essays in self-criticism*.
- Baker, J. R. (1997). *The Meaning of the Beast*. In Swisher 75–82.
- Braid, C. P. (2002). [Review of *Understanding Lord of the Flies: A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents*, by K. Olsen]. *Utopian Studies*, 13(1), 236–238. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20718449>
- Golding, W. (2003). *Lord of the Flies*. Penguin.
- Hasan, M., & Sharif, D. (2020). William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*: A Reconsideration. *NOBEL: Journal of Literature and Language Teaching*, 11(2), 125–136. <https://doi.org/10.15642/NOBEL.2020.11.2.125-136>
- Laclau, E. (2012). *Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory: Capitalism, Fascism, Populism*. Verso Books.
- Martin, J. (2014). What is ideology? *Sociologia*, 77. <https://doi.org/10.7458/spp2015776220>
- Thompson, J. B. (2022). *Studies in the Theory of Ideology*. Univ of California Press.
- William Golding. (2023, March 7). *Biography*. <http://www.biography.com/people/william-golding-9314523>