THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CONVERASATIONAL IMPLICATURE IN "THE KITE RUNNER" BY KHALED HOSSEINI

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Abstract: This thesis examines the implications of conversational implicature in Khaled Hosseini's novel "The Kite Runner." Through a detailed analysis of the text, the thesis explores how conversational implicature shapes the characters' interactions and relationships. The article delves into the ways in which implied meanings and indirect communication contribute to the development of the novel's themes of betrayal, redemption, and personal turmoil. Additionally, the thesis considers the cultural and historical context of Afghanistan as it relates to conversational implicature, and how this linguistic phenomenon influences the portrayal of friendship, loyalty, and forgiveness in the novel. By exploring these complex implications, this thesis offers a deeper understanding of the novel's exploration of human nature and the complexities of personal and national identity through the lens of conversational implicature.

Key words: conversational implicature, cultural context, historical context, identity, human nature, narrator.

In the realm of communication, it is not just the words we choose to utter that convey meaning. Often, there are underlying messages that are subtly implied or understood through the context of a conversation. These inferred meanings, known as conversational implicatures, play a significant role in understanding the true intent behind what is being said. [3, 1] Conversational implicatures, coined by philosopher H.P. Grice, are the unspoken messages that are conveyed indirectly during a conversation. [2, 124] They go beyond the literal meaning of the words used and heavily rely on the shared knowledge and understanding between the participants. However, capturing conversational implicatures is not always a straightforward task. They often require the participants to possess a certain level of pragmatics, which involves understanding implied meanings and context-driven inferences. Factors such as cultural background, societal norms, and personal experiences can all influence the interpretation of implicatures. Another crucial aspect of conversational implicatures is their cooperative nature. Grice's Cooperative Principle suggests that conversations are based on the shared assumption that participants will contribute and interpret information in a truthful, relevant, and informative manne. [4, 41]

Conversational implicatures function within this framework, where they rely on the cooperation of both parties for accurate interpretation.

The Kite Runner, written by Khaled Hosseini, is a novel that delves into the complexities of human nature, personal turmoil, and the cultural and historical context of Afghanistan. One of the central themes of the novel is betrayal and redemption, which is intricately woven into the narrative through the exploration of friendship, loyalty, and forgiveness. The novel also explores the concept of identity and the impact of personal choices on one's sense of self. Through the use of conversational implicature, Hosseini skillfully conveys deeper meanings and underlying messages within the text. Conversational implicature refers to the implied meaning that is conveyed through language, beyond the literal interpretation of the words. In The Kite Runner, this can be seen in the subtle nuances of dialogue and character interactions, where unspoken emotions and intentions are conveyed through indirect communication. The cultural context of Afghanistan plays a significant role in shaping the characters' beliefs and actions, as well as influencing the unfolding of the plot. The historical backdrop of the novel, including the Soviet invasion and the rise of the Taliban, adds depth and complexity to the story, highlighting the impact of political turmoil on individual lives.

One example of conversational implicature in "The Kite Runner" can be seen in the interactions between the protagonist, Amir, and his friend Hassan. When Hassan repeatedly refers to Amir as "agha," a term of respect in Afghan culture, it conveys not only their social status difference but also the underlying loyalty and affection that Hassan feels towards Amir, despite their unequal relationship. Another example is when Baba, Amir's father, tells him, "There is only one sin, only one. And that is theft. Every other sin is a variation of theft". [1, 13]   This statement carries a deeper meaning beyond the literal interpretation, as it reflects Baba's belief in the importance of personal integrity and the consequences of betrayal. A further example is when Amir's father, Baba, says to him, "A boy who won't stand up for himself becomes a man who can't stand up to anything". [1, 18] which carries the implicit message of the importance of courage and resilience in facing life's challenges. The historical context of Afghanistan is also intricately woven into the narrative, such as when Amir reflects on the impact of the Soviet invasion on his family and the subsequent rise of the Taliban. This not only provides a backdrop for the characters' experiences but also adds layers of complexity to their motivations and actions. Furthermore, the theme of identity is explored through Amir's internal struggles
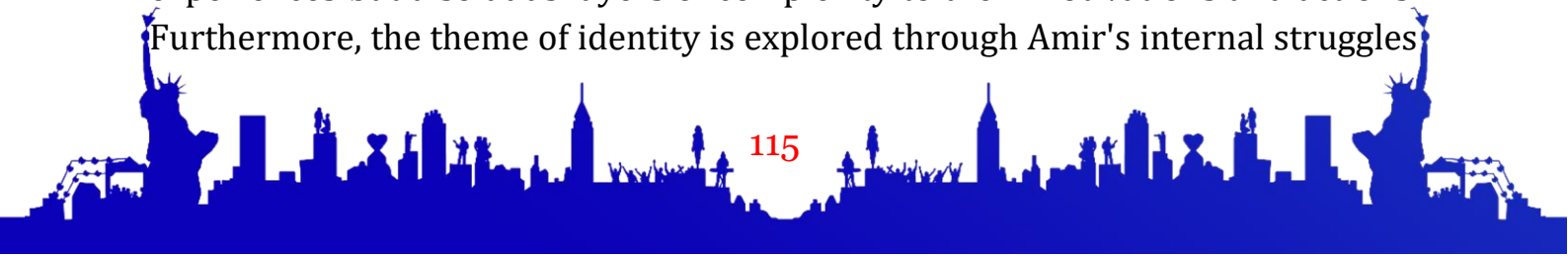
and personal choices, such as when he grapples with his guilt over betraying Hassan and seeks redemption through his actions. This theme is subtly conveyed through the character's introspective thoughts and conversations with others, allowing readers to explore the complexities of self-discovery and personal growth. Overall, The Kite Runner is a powerful exploration of human nature and the universal themes of betrayal, redemption, and forgiveness. Through its use of conversational implicature, the novel invites readers to delve into the layers of meaning beneath the surface, offering a rich and thought-provoking reading experience.

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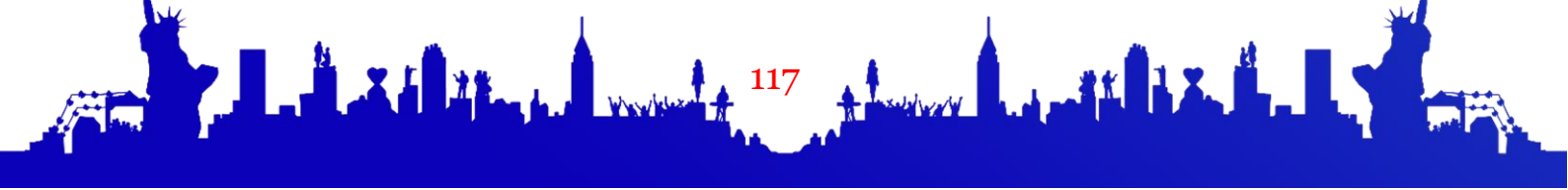
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