

Review Article

## **Elif Shafak's 'Forty Rules of Love' Contextual Variation in Adjectives**

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### **ABSTRACT**

An adjective is a word, naming an attribute of a noun which is used in different language variation to make meaning and be explicit about qualities of a noun in social in counter. Adjectives and their different degrees have their own meaning, identity which creates different relationships with the context in which it is used. An adjective in grammar is a word whose major objective is to modify a noun giving more facts overall. Distinguishing characteristics of noun and adjectives is a bit decisive. Its sometimes get difficult to identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Even the research says that some languages do not have adjectives class. Rumi and his spiritual teachings are well known in the world, and the entire world is in love with its mysticism and love for God. "*The Forty Rules of Love*" are being proposed by shams of Tabriz, Rumi's famous friend and beloved. Elif Shafak has presented this story in a very unique way which has a rich context within it. This study will explore the different context and grammatical deviation of adjectives used in the novel. This will give clear understanding of the novel's context linguistically.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Research:**

Rumi and his spiritual teachings are well known in the world, and the entire world is in love with its mysticism and love for God. "*The Forty Rules of Love*" are being proposed by shams of Tabriz, Rumi's famous friend and beloved. Elif Shafak has presented this story in a very unique way which has a rich context within it.

An adjective is a word, naming an attribute of a noun which is used in different language variation to make meaning and be explicit about qualities of a noun in social in counter. Adjectives and their different degrees have their own meaning, identity which creates different relationships with the context in which it is used. The adjectives that are used the way they vary in a context either in meaning or their grammatical composition. This study will find that how adjectives are playing an important role in the formation of the text and making the story context bound.

### **1.2 Thesis Statement:**

This study will explore the different context and grammatical deviation of adjectives used in the novel. This will give clear understanding of the novel's context linguistically; a lot of work has been done so far on spirituality and mysticism portrayed in the novel. This novel is being examined in so many ways. But the way language has been used in this novel is quite exclusive; the selection of words is exceptional which makes the context extraordinary too. Adjectives will be find out through a corpus of the novel, which will done by adding into a software 'LANCSBOX' the concordance and frequency will checked via software and how they are variant in different way in formation of context within context will be done through interpretation of concordances of adjectives. By scrutiny of adjectives will help us attaining the intents of the study.

### **1.3 Delimitations:**

This study is delimited to Elif Shafak's novel, '*The Forty Rules of Love*' and it is further delimited to the study for 100 adjectives rather all the Parts of Speech in the novel.

### **1.4 Research Objectives:**

This study intends to explore the frequency of 100 most repeated adjectives by concordance. Furthermore this study will find out the variations in adjectives, whether they deviate into some other part of speech or remain the same by changing the context or by usage of same word in different context.

### **1.5 Research Questions:**

This study will find,

- How the adjectives will perform their actions outside its traditional context?
- How adjectives have aptitude to signify characters other than one's particular connotation?

### **1.6 Significance of Research:**

This study will provide a new and comprehensive pragmatic interpretation of the novel's context, by analyzing the adjectives of the novel. In this way the more clear reflection of the novel can be seen but through a different dimensions of the language which will helps recounting the contextual depiction more evocative due to some contextual differences.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Reviews on the Novel:**

In "The guardian" book review by 'Afzii'. He states that Elif Shafak is the Most admired and celebrated author of Turkey. The forty rules of love is one of her master pieces. There are two parallel stories in the novel taking place at once. The present story is about an unsatisfied housewife, who is Jewish and lives in Northampton. She works for a literary agency, from where she gets a books "Sweet Blasphemy" by Aziz A Zahra. This book is a second story in the novel about the speculating dervish Shams of Tabriz. Who was a Sufi and looking for a companion whom he can transfer his knowledge and wisdom before leaving to the eternal world. The story was about Shams and Rumi's companionship and how Ella meets a man like Shams in this real world and fallen in love with him. According to 'Afzii' the story was on fire when Elif is narrating about the times of Rumi and Shams bond but the character of Ella was making the story weak.

Alev Adil in the book review "Independent" [2010 July, 19] writes about Elif this she took Sufism to complete new level by relating Ella pursuit of love with shams and Rumi's quest of friendship.

## **2.2 Sufism and Mysticism in the Novel:**

Elif Shafak tried to transmit the two opposite eras altogether in the story, which is not easy to link up. She has drawn a corresponding chronicle through friendship of Rumi and Shams of Tabriz with Ella and Aziz, without being time bound she tried to signify a connection of mysticism, religion, time and space of old age with the latest 21<sup>st</sup> century time (Fatima Anjum, Muhammad Ramzan 2014, *The Sufi Phenomenon*) Human beings are always in need to adhere on to hopes and faiths to move on with the life. Holding an expression of love for the creature of God is itself a kind of treat to God for celebrating a love for him. The love which is beyond any religion, any sect or any caste is way better in which humanity is the prior option. Such kind of teachings of spreading love is required and desired to acknowledge (Sonika Sethi, 2017, spiritualism attained through love for humanity: A study of Elif Shafak's Novel)

## **2.3 Adjectives- An Introduction:**

An adjective in grammar is a word whose major objective is to modify a noun giving more facts overall. Distinguishing characteristics of noun and adjectives is a bit decisive. Its sometimes get difficult to identify nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Even the research says that some languages do not have adjectives class. (Baker, 2003:238-63) and (Dixon, 2004:14-28)

A research is conducted in which the adjectives were gathered in hierarchically in order to check the frequencies of the adjectives and it degrees by using conceptual framework. (Jutharat Jitpranee, 2017, a study of adjectives types and functions in popular science article).

By reviewing the literature so far for this study we have find out the research gap. There is no research work has been done on the Elif Shafak's novel "*The Forty Rules of Love*" in regards of language. So for this research the work on adjective will be gateway of further future researches in perspective of linguistics. It will helpful to distinguish about the contextual variation of the adjectives. To analyse adjectives variation in the novel there is a requirement to tag the corpus for the list of parts of speech with corresponding tag will be quite useful for the analysis (Beatrice Santorini.1991, Part-of-speech-tagging guidelines for the Penn Treebank Project).

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Research Paradigm:**

Research paradigm of, this study is entirely a quantitative in nature, because it includes the numbers, concordance, index, word frequencies, which are all figurative and all being done by corpus of the novel "*The Forty Rules of Love*"

### **3.2 Population:**

The population of the study is novel by Elif Shafak "*The Forty Rules of Love*"

### **3.3 Sample:**

The sample of the study is Elif Shafak's "*The Forty Rules of Love*" 100 adjectives of the novel

### **3.4 Material:**

The study holds a various materials like the corpus of the novel, by Elif Shafak's "*The Forty Rules of Love*" then the adjectives of the novel which are extracted for examining the objectives intended to attain. Furthermore the softwares are being used for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

### **3.5 Research Tools:**

The research tools for this study are two softwares, two softwares in a sense that initially the data was analyzed through, software which is "AntCONC". AntCONC was initially used for the word list of corpus, concordance and word frequencies, then when it comes to tagging a data, this study requires software which can tag a data mechanically, so, for data analysis the study have to switch to another tool which is another concordance software "Lancsbox".

### **3.6 Procedure:**

This study is proceeds with putting a corpus into software, which is initially an AntCONC, first of all the corpus of novel which is in PDF format converted to plain text format. Then the corpus is uploaded on

AntCONC over which the word list been checked. By checking the word list through concordance the word frequency of each word is also appears on a table of concordance.

Now the main issue while analyzing the data was the tagging, because the main aim of the study is to analyze the contextual variation of the adjectives which can only be find after tagging the corpus, so for that the tool is switched to “Lancsbox” instead of “AntCONC”. After putting the corpus into this software, the corpus itself gets tagged, by which the adjectives from the corpus are extracted in moment of seconds. When the adjectives are being gathered the first hundred adjectives are taken out as an initial inquiry. One hundred adjectives were then put on the software manually, to check out the concordance of each adjective whether they deviate to some other Parts of speech or remain same by change in context.

#### 4. DATA ANALYSIS

##### 4.1 Table and Figurative Data:

Sr#	Words	Occurrences	Frequencies	POS according to TAGSET
1	Mystical	3	0.27	JJ
2	Moral	3	0.27	JJ
3	Grateful	8	0.73	JJ
4	Forbidden	8	0.73	JJ, WN
5	Dead	24	2.18	JJ, NN, RB
6	Coincidental	1	0.09	JJ
7	Prior	3	0.27	JJ, RB
8	Available	4	0.36	JJ
9	Iranian	2	0.18	JJ
10	Solemn	3	0.27	JJ
11	Orangey-red	1	0.09	JJ
12	Tired	15	1.36	JJ, WD, WN
13	Quiet	17	1.54	JJ, VV
14	Bad	25	2.27	JJ, RB
15	Nice	18	1.64	JJ, NP
16	Same	140	12.72	JJ
17	Old	58	5.27	JJ
18	Different	72	6.54	JJ
19	Wrong	38	3.45	JJ, RB, NN
20	Odd	8	0.73	JJ
21	Childish	3	0.27	JJ
22	Wealthy	3	0.27	JJ
23	Harmless	2	0.18	JJ
24	Faraway	3	0.27	JJ
25	Nervous	12	1.09	JJ
26	Inopportune	1	0.09	JJ
27	Necessary	7	0.64	JJ
28	Red	18	1.64	JJ, NN
29	Sleepy	1	0.09	JJ
30	Auspicious	2	0.18	JJ
31	Sensual	2	0.55	JJ
32	Traditional	2	0.18	JJ
33	Daily	6	0.55	JJ, NP

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34	Modern	2	0.18	JJ JJ
35	Confident	11	1.00	JJ, RB
36	Tight	5	0.45	JJ
37	Chilling	2	0.18	JJ
38	Dangerous	7	0.64	JJ
39	High-heeled	1	0.09	JJ
40	Tranquil	8	0.73	RB, JJ, NP, NN
41	Clear	34	3.09	RB, NN
42	Long	131	11.90	JJ, NN
43	Good	92	8.36	JJ, NN
44	Wonderful	10	0.91	JJ, NN
45	Remarkable	8	0.73	JJ
46	Difficult	13	1.18	JJ
47	Powerful	5	0.45	JJ
48	Self-confident	1	0.09	JJ
49	Mysterious	8	0.73	JJ
50	Married	41	3.72	JJ, WN, WD
51	Other	162	14.72	JJ
52	Afraid	26	2.36	JJ
53	Other	162	14.72	JJ
54	Unhappy	13	1.18	JJ
55	Nearby	3	0.27	JJ, RB
56	Safe	7	0.64	JJ, NN
57	Good-bye	7	0.64	JJ
58	Reserved	6	0.55	WN, WD, JJ
59	Metallic	1	0.09	JJ
60	Final	15	1.36	JJ
61	Possible	14	1.27	RB, JJ
62	Yellow	7	0.64	NN, JJ
63	Pistachio	1	0.09	JJ
64	Green	12	1.09	NP, JJ
65	Old	58	5.27	JJ
66	Frail	1	0.09	JJ
67	Brawny	1	0.09	JJ
68	Profitable	4	0.36	JJ
69	Strange	24	2.18	RB, JJ, NP
70	Whole	50	4.54	NN, JJ
71	Ramshackle	2	0.18	JJ
72	Tall	10	0.91	JJ
73	Constant	1	0.09	JJ
74	Real	21	1.91	JJ
75	Pure	18	1.64	JJ
76	Pious	1	0.09	JJ
77	Fond	7	0.64	JJ
78	Unpredictable	6	0.55	JJ, NP
79	Poor	13	1.18	JJ, NP, NN
80	Aggressive	4	0.36	JJ
81	Considerable	3	0.27	JJ

82	Sexual	2	0.18	JJ
83	Exhausting	1	0.09	JJ
84	Miserable	3	0.27	JJ
85	Young	58	5.27	JJ
86	Proud	10	0.91	JJ, NP
87	Ghastly	1	0.09	JJ
88	Infatuated	1	0.09	JJ
89	Amber	7	0.64	JJ, NN
90	Strange	24	2.18	NP, RB, JJ
91	Slender	3	0.27	JJ
92	Desperate	5	0.45	JJ
93	Weak	3	0.27	JJ
94	Timid	6	0.55	JJ
95	Despondent	3	0.27	JJ
96	Alive	20	1.82	JJ, RB, NP
97	Literary	12	1.09	JJ
98	Pessimistic	2	0.18	JJ
99	Salty	1	0.09	JJ
100	Puzzling	1	0.09	JJ

#### 4.2 Hypothetical Analysis of the Data:

##### TAGSET Table:

Sr#	Parts Of Speech	Symbol according to TAGSET
1	Adjectives	JJ
2	Proper Noun	NP
3	Adverb	RB
4	Noun	NN
5	Wh- Noun	WN
6	Verb- Base form	VV
7	Wh- Determiner	WD

In table 4.1 as it can be easily be observe the deviations of the adjectives to other parts of speech like

Forbidden	8	0.73	JJ, WN
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Here it is seen that the word **forbidden** occur 8 times in the corpus but by changing the context it fluctuate to WN, which is Wh- Noun.

Dead	24	2.18	JJ, NN, RB
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The word **dead** occurs here in the corpus 24 times but by change in context its POS deviate to adverb and proper noun from adjectives.

Prior	3	0.27	JJ, RB
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**Prior** appears 3 times and it can be seen as an adverb as well rather an adjective

Tired	15	1.36	JJ, WD, WN
Quiet	17	1.54	JJ, VV
Bad	25	2.27	JJ, RB

Nice	18	1.64	JJ, NP
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In the above table we can detect word **tired, quiet bad, nice** appears numbers of time and they deviate from adverb, proper noun, verb, Wh- noun, Wh- determiner from adjectives.

Wrong	38	3.45	JJ, RB, NN
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The word **wrong** is one of the most repeated and appears with different POS in many of the context.

Alive	20	1.82	JJ, RB, NP
Strange	24	2.18	NP, RB, JJ
Amber	7	0.64	JJ, NN
Proud	10	0.91	JJ, NP
Unpredictable	6	0.55	JJ, NP
Poor	13	1.18	JJ, NP, NN
Whole	50	4.54	NN, JJ
Green	12	1.09	NP, JJ
Possible	14	1.27	RB, JJ
Yellow	7	0.64	NN, JJ
Reserved	6	0.55	WN, WD, JJ
Nearby	3	0.27	JJ, RB
Safe	7	0.64	JJ, NN

By analysis the above data it is clearly seen here that adjectives deviate to different parts of speech and they all are the repeating adjectives that deviate to other POS when they occur in other context of their own.

There are numbers of adjective as well in the data that after repeating for more than hundred time they do not fluctuate to any other POS.

Like

Same	140	12.72	JJ
Old	58	5.27	JJ
Different	72	6.54	JJ
Other	162	14.72	JJ
Old	58	5.27	JJ

These are the few examples taken from the table 4.1 by which it can be analyzed that there are variations even in the adjectives which deviate to other POS and few which remains the same in each context.

## 5. CONCLUSION

### 5.1 Findings:

It is clearly noticed that there is a variation in Adjectives, by changing the context.

It shows that an adjective is deviated from its characteristics and fluctuates to proper noun, Adverb, Noun, Wh-Noun, Verb and Wh-Determiner. But many of the adjectives remain same even when the context gets change. The findings are full filling the objectives of this study that adjectives are of mixed characteristics not all but many, so when the situation gets different, the adjectives hold the characteristics of other POS according the conditions of language.

### **5.2 Recommendation for Future Researches:**

For future researches there is a recommendation that over 6449 adjectives this research was delimited only 100 repeated adjectives. Due to the limitation of the study the other aspects of the language was not possible to cover. So there is huge room for analysis various aspects of language within the novel. Even if one POS would be taken the results and findings will be surprising. So there is a lot can be done with the frequencies and POS related to this study.

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