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# REPRESENTATIONS OF EGYPTIAN WOMEN IN MAHFOUZ'S CAIRO TRILOGY: A CORPUS-BASED APPRAISAL APPROACH

**BY**

***Rehab Hassan Mahmoud***

*Lecturer, Languages Department, College of Language and Communication  
Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport  
Alexandria, Egypt*

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## Abstract

The present study analyzes not only the language used in the three novels of Mahfouz's Cairo Trilogy, but also the manifestations of the various attitudinal meanings. It presents a linguistic analysis based on Appraisal theory which was developed by Martin and White (2005), and rooted from Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (2014). The main objective of the study is to investigate the linguistic manifestations of the Attitude system of the Appraisal theory, which provides three types of attitudes; that is, affect, judgement, and appreciation. This approach highlights the interpersonal meanings conveyed by not only the author, but also the narrator of the selected novels. It also focuses on their feelings and attitudes about Egyptian women as depicted in the texts. A mixed quantitative and qualitative method is employed for the analysis. The three categories of the Attitude system, which are realized by means of a number lexical items, are manually annotated and investigated by using a software programme; that is, UAM (2023) which helps identify the different types of attitudes which are frequently used and distributed in the texts. Results show that the three kinds of attitudes were distributed with varying frequencies. Positive, rather than negative attitudes, are used by the author, which leads to a better understanding of the different meanings created in the selected texts.

**Keywords :** Appraisal Theory, Corpus Linguistics, Egyptian Women, Mahfouz, Systemic Functional Linguistics

## ملخص البحث:

لا تحلل الدراسة الحالية اللغة المستخدمة في روايات محفوظ الثلاث في ثلاثية القاهرة فحسب، بل تحلل أيضًا مظاهر المعاني الموقفية المختلفة. كما تقدم تحليلًا لغويًا يعتمد على نظرية التقييم التي طورها مارتن ووايت (٢٠٠٥)، والمستمدة من علم اللغة الوظيفي النظامي لهالداي (SFL). الهدف الرئيسي من الدراسة هو دراسة المظاهر اللغوية لنظام المواقف الخاص بنظرية التقييم، والذي يقدم ثلاثة أنواع من المواقف؛ أي التأثير والحكم والتقدير. يسلط هذا النهج الضوء على المعاني الشخصية التي ينقلها ليس فقط المؤلف، ولكن أيضًا راوي الروايات المختارة. كما يركز على مشاعرهم ومواقفهم تجاه المرأة المصرية كما تصورها النصوص. تم استخدام طريقة كمية ونوعية مختلطة للتحليل. تم شرح الفئات الثلاث لنظام الموقف والتي يتم تحقيقها عن طريق عدد من العناصر المعجمية يدويًا والتحقق فيها باستخدام برنامج حاسوبي؛ يدعى UAM (٢٠٢٣) الذي يساعد في تحديد أنواع المواقف المختلفة التي يتم استخدامها وتوزيعها بشكل متكرر في النصوص. وأظهرت النتائج أن الأنواع الثلاثة من الاتجاهات تم توزيعها بتكرارات متفاوتة. وقد استخدم المؤلف المواقف الإيجابية بدلًا من السلبية، مما يؤدي إلى فهم أفضل للمعاني المختلفة التي تم إنشاؤها في النصوص المختارة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية :** نظرية التقييم، لغويات الجسد، المرأة المصرية، نجيب محفوظ، اللغويات الوظيفية النظامية

## Introduction:

Naguib Mahfouz, as an Egyptian novelist, wrote about multiple issues of life in his works of art, which touched most of the essential corners of the Egyptian life. He almost focused on the man-woman relationships in the Egyptian society. Naem and Janoory (2019) state that Ghosh (2005) argues that Mahfouz is regarded as “the most skillful practitioner of the craft”. (p. 268) Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy* (1952) is considered his masterpiece which added to his national and international fame because it was translated into many languages. He was eventually awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1988. *Cairo Trilogy*, consisting of three novels or volumes, is a saga of a typical Egyptian family dominated by the father Al Sayyid Ahmad Abdel Jawad, who led every member of the family in a tyrannical manner. The story stretches over three generations of that family after World War I between 1917 to 1944. At that time, Egyptian women had a voiceless life which not only did not enable them to play any significant role, but also made them victims of oppression and tyranny. It is argued that Mahfouz's female characters are “docile, inactive, subjugated, and inferior to man considering these elements normative and naturalized within the Cairene society”

## 2. Significance of the Study

Most of the studies on Mahfouz's novels are based on a literary analysis, focusing on the various themes tackled in his works of art. The present study aims at investigating the linguistic choices used by not only the narrators, but also the female characters in order to highlight the representations of the female characters in *Cairo Trilogy*. Its major contribution lies in the corpus-based approach implemented in the selected three novels. As a result, it is an attempt to find answers to the following questions:

1. How are attitudes represented in the selected novels of *Cairo Trilogy*?
2. What are the language choices Mahfouz made to depict the female characters in the selected novels?

## 3. Theoretical Frameworks

The present study is based on the Appraisal theory, which was developed by Martin and White (2005) from the Systemic Functional Linguistics, pioneered by Halliday and Matthiessen (2014). As a system of interpersonal relationships and meanings, the Appraisal framework (2005) is "concerned with evaluation: the kinds of attitudes that are negotiated in a text, the strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are sources and readers / listeners aligned" (2005, p.25). The Appraisal framework is selected as an analytical tool for two reasons. First, the present study aims to conduct a linguistic analysis of the selected three novels, by focusing on both the narrators' and female characters' feelings, thoughts, and opinions. Second, the study also aims to explore the different interpersonal relationships of the narrators and the female characters, by highlighting their stances and evaluative language.

## 4. LITERATURE REVIEW

Language is not only considered a means of communication, but also a system of creating meanings. Alhuthali (2018) argues that Halliday (1978) pioneered Systemic Functional Linguistics, the theory of which is regarded a useful tool in understanding and interpreting meanings. Accordingly, it helps in exploring how meaning is not only constructed, but also interpreted. Berger (1994) argues that like the linguistic structure of the text, the social context plays an essential role in the process of meaning-making.

According to Hutiu (2019), Halliday regards language as "a system of meanings while grammatical categories and items of the lexicon are resources through which speakers and writers choose to convey their messages in a manner that suits their communicative intentions and the social contexts in which these discursive products are created". That is, the systemic theory of language is based on the social nature of language, in which the social context as well as the speaker's intentions and views determine the linguistic choices made in the text. According to that theory, there are three systems of meaning; i.e. the propositional content of a clause can represent the ideational meaning of the speaker's experience, the interpersonal meaning of the speaker's attitudes, and the textual meaning by the structure of the text. Halliday (1978) defines the interpersonal function of language as "all use of language to express social and personal relations" (p.41).

According to Halliday (2014), there are three meta-functions of language "embedded in the lexico-grammatical level of language, in which each meta-function represents one aspect of the world and is concerned with one mode of meaning within clauses". Mazeikiene (2022) highlights the interpersonal meta-function by arguing that evaluation is an integral part of it. He defines the language of evaluation as "the expression of authorial opinion concerning the depiction of various phenomena, events, individuals, and societies". He also cites what Thompson and Hunston (2000) state about the language of evaluation which "encompasses the expression of the speaker or writer's attitude or stance towards, viewpoint on, or feelings about the entities or propositions that he or she is talking about" (p.5).

The Appraisal theory, pioneered by Martin and White (2005), and rooted from Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday, 1978, 1985; Halliday and Matthiessen, 2014), is considered an effective analytical tool for analyzing the language of evaluation in texts. Alba-Juez and Mackenzie (2019) state that the Appraisal theory is “the most complete and articulate theory of evaluation to date” (p.6) and is concerned with “the construction of communities of shared feelings and values in texts, and with the linguistic mechanisms for the sharing of emotions, tastes, and normative assessments”. (p.6)

According to Martin and White (2005), the appraisal system, which is based on the interpersonal function of language, is comprised of three systems; namely, attitude, engagement, and graduation. Lin et al. (2019) define attitude as “the judgement and appreciation of human behaviours, text / procedure, and phenomena by a person, after his/her psychology is influenced”. The attitudinal system is classified into three subsystems or categories; namely, affect, judgement, and appreciation. They define the three subsystems of attitude as quoted below:

The affect system is the centre of the attitudinal system; it explains the language user’s sentimental response toward behaviours, text / procedure, and phenomena. The judgement system belongs to the domain of ethics; it explains the language user’s ethical judgements of certain behaviours based on ethics / morals (as well as regulations). The appreciation system belongs to the aesthetics domain; it explains the language user’s appreciation of the text, procedures and phenomena of the aesthetic characters.

Lin et al. (2019) cite what Thompson and Hunston (2000) argue about the appraisal system which can be seen as “the author’s or the opinion holder’s interpersonal tool to establish unity with the audience”. Castro et al. (2019) argue that emotion “lies at the core of human behaviour, as our experience and understanding always seem to be filtered through emotion” (p.326). As cited in Mazeikiene (2022), Ochs and Schieffelin (1989) state that affect, broader than emotion, includes “feelings, moods, dispositions, and attitudes associated with persons and/or situations” (p.7). Lin et al. (2019) also refer to the language which expresses attitude or emotion as attitudinal resources, which can be defined as “the words that express the meaning of attitude in the text”.

Alhuthali (2018) argues that, Roseman and Smith (2001) argue that in order to attribute a given emotion there has to be a degree of consistency. That is, if a particular emotion is ascribed to a particular event, this has to be consistent, “assuming no change in external circumstances”. They also state that the act of appraisal, “even if not really articulated as an active cognitive process, is a precondition for the subsequent emotional description”. Lazarus (1991) similarly argues that the Appraisal theory presents a method of linking “how emotions are experienced to the underlying cognitive process”. Martin and White (2005) argue that the patterns of language according to the Appraisal theory “reflect both the writer’s understanding of an emotion or emotional state, and how the reader might interpret such propositions” (p.23). As a result, whereas Lazarus (1993) state that the Appraisal theory comes from classic Behavioural Psychology, since it focuses on the observed emotion, Smith et al. (2014) add that emotions are “described and perceived being derived from the situation, background of the individual(s) and the varying linguistic and non-verbal grammars available” (p.23). According to Martin and White (2005), attitude is concerned with feelings of thoughts, and emotional states and responses; judgement with people’s character traits; and appreciation with evaluation of products and processes. Attitudinal meanings can be explicitly or implicitly stated, and can also be positive or negative feelings of the speaker or writer. The second domain is called *engagement*, which deals with the resources characterizing the speaker’s or writer’s voice when it positions itself in relation to other voices. As for graduation, it is related to the process of grading the feeling of someone or something.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Corpus

*Cairo Trilogy*, which is made up of three novels, is the subject of the study. Published in 1952, Naguib Mahfouz wrote it in three volumes or parts in Arabic which were translated by William Maynard and Olive Kenny. The first part of the *Trilogy*; namely, *Bein el Kasrein*, or *Palace Walk*, presents the story of the family of Al Sayyid Ahmad Abdel Jawad. The second part of the *Trilogy*; namely, *Qasr Al Shoaq*, or *Palace of Desire*, continues the story with the second generation. The third part of the *Trilogy*; namely, *Al Sukkariya*, or *Sugar Street*, Mahfouz continues his portrayal of the family, including the female characters in the texts. The three selected novels are considered the primary data for the present study. In order to analyze all attitudinal meanings in the selected novels, the present study attempts to manually annotate then analyze the corpus which is made up of 693,140 words. Table 1 shows more detailed information about the selected novels which are the corpus of the study.

**Table 1.** The Corpus

| Novel                            | No. of Pages | No. of Words |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Palace Walk (Text A)</i>      | 172          | 202,984      |
| <i>Palace of Desire (Text B)</i> | 150          | 337,584      |
| <i>Sugar Street (Text C)</i>     | 61           | 113,103      |
| Total                            | 383          | 693,140      |

**Sampling procedure.** The present study employs a purposeful sampling for data collection because selecting three of Mahfouz's novels enables the researcher to analyze a limited and manageable corpus for the sake of manually annotating then analyzing the occurrences of the linguistic choices related to the attitudinal meanings under investigation. This helps determine the particular scope of the present study for doing a more comprehensive and enlightening analysis of the selected novels. The selected novels are converted to a plain text format so as to be easily read by the software programme employed in the present study. Moreover, as long as the three selected novels belong to the same literary genre, they are therefore considered a representative of all Mahfouz's novels.

Using a free software programme; namely UAM, the corpus is uploaded as a text document in order to manually annotate it in terms of the attitudinal resources used in the selected novels. This free software programme is used for two reasons. First, by means of its main feature 'Manual Annotation', the researcher can manually annotate the uploaded in relation to the domain of attitude, which is categorized into affect, judgement, and appreciation. Accordingly, it helps provide frequencies of such attitudinal resources and, therefore, build up a linguistic profile of the most frequent words in the corpus which reveal the attitudinal meanings. Besides, doing a computer-aided analysis helps focus the attention on the interpretation of the linguistic data.

Therefore, using the Appraisal framework, which was developed by Martin and White (2005), enables the researcher to focus on the various linguistic or lexico-grammatical elements that deal with the attitudinal meanings. Since the present study is based on analyzing the author's as well as the narrator's feelings and thoughts about the female characters in the selected novels, the first domain of the Appraisal framework; namely attitude, is employed, whereas the other two domains; namely, engagement and graduation, are not employed.

**Data Analysis.** On the macro-level of the linguistic analysis of the selected novels, they are told in the first person and from the viewing position of Kamal who is a participating character whose account of actions and events is the one which readers depend on in their understanding and interpretation of the novels. According to his first-person point of view,

Kamal narrates his relationships with the female characters, events, and actions of the selected novels. With an adult-like, and patriarchal-oriented tone of narration, he depicts all characters and events. Table 2 presents the occurrences and frequencies of the personal pronouns, including subject, object, and possessive, in the selected novels.

Table 2. All person subjects used in the selected novels

| Type                                   | Example | Subject |       |       | Object |       |     | Possessive |       |       | Total Freq. | Percentage |
|--|---------|---------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----|------------|-------|-------|-------------|------------|
|  |         | A       | B     | C     | A      | B     | C   | A          | B     | C     |             |            |
| First person singular pronouns         | I       | 1,315   | 4,336 | 1,375 |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Me      |         |       |       | 488    | 1,432 | 377 |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | My      |         |       |       |        |       |     | 500        | 1,606 | 511   |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 11,940      | 13.51%     |
| Second person singular/plural pronouns | You     | 1,651   | 5,972 | 1,510 |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Your    |         |       |       |        |       |     | 458        | 1,900 | 451   |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 11,942      | 13.52%     |
| Third person singular pronouns         | He      | 5,297   | 7,376 | 2,152 |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Him     |         |       |       | 1,858  | 2,122 | 738 |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | His     |         |       |       |        |       |     | 4,081      | 5,646 | 1,661 |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 30,931      | 35.02%     |
| Third person singular pronouns         | She     | 2,827   | 3,320 | 876   |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Her     |         |       |       |        |       |     | 3,568      | 4,166 | 1,075 |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 15,832      | 17.92%     |
| Third person singular pronouns         | It      | 2,015   | 3,518 | 1,039 |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Its     |         |       |       |        |       |     | 276        | 448   | 144   |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 7,440       | 8.42%      |
| First person plural pronouns           | We      | 292     | 744   | 446   |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Us      |         |       |       | 191    | 414   | 186 |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Our     |         |       |       |        |       |     | 255        | 456   | 270   |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 4,481       | 5.06%      |
| Third person plural pronouns           | They    | 992     | 1,036 | 464   |        |       |     |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Them    |         |       |       | 617    | 736   | 254 |            |       |       |             |            |
|  | Their   |         |       |       |        |       |     | 665        | 718   | 275   |             |            |
|  |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 5,757       | 6.51       |
| <b>Total</b>                           |         |         |       |       |        |       |     |            |       |       | 88,323      | 100%       |

Table 2 shows that the most frequently used deictic person expression in the selected novels is the third person singular pronoun *he* which occurs 30,931 times with 35.2% of all pronoun occurrences. The second frequently used deictic pronoun is *I* which occurs 11,940 times with a percentage of 13.51%. This highlights Mahfouz's exact prose which depicts the feelings and thoughts of men who are dominating women in that period of time. By means of a first-person point of view, he provides a tone of intimacy to the story of his male persona in opposition with the female ones. It also demonstrates that in a patriarchal society, women's fate is determined by the outside force of others whether men or family members. Being voiceless and submissive, women are handled as commodities in an oppressive and unfair manner.

Table 3 presents the frequencies and percentages of the proper names of the male and female characters in the selected novels.

**Table 3. All proper names used in the selected novels**

|        | Proper names | Frequency |       |        | Total  | Percentage |
|--------|--------------|-----------|-------|--------|--------|------------|
|        |              | A         | B     | C      |        |            |
| Male   | Yasin        | 590       | 870   | 250    | 1,710  |            |
|        | Fahmy        | 496       | 164   | 18     | 678    |            |
|        | Kamal        | 404       | 1,678 | 530    | 2,612  |            |
|        | Ahmad        | 382       | 774   | 375    | 1,531  |            |
|        | Al-Sayyid    | 366       | 582   | 88     | 1,036  |            |
|        | Husayn       | 76        | 654   | 79     | 809    |            |
|        | Hasan        | 7         | 392   | 20     | 419    |            |
|        | Ibrahim      | 34        | 230   | 138    | 402    |            |
|        | Khalil       | 57        | 134   | 5      | 196    |            |
|        | Fuad         | 7         | 128   | 66     | 201    |            |
|        | Ridwan       | 23        | 92    | 175    | 290    |            |
|        | Shawkat      | 45        | 118   | 82     | 245    |            |
|        | Riyad        | 1         | 0     | 136    | 137    |            |
|        | Hanafi       | 81        | 68    | 47     | 196    |            |
|        | Rahim        | 3         | 100   | 41     | 144    |            |
|        | Izzat        | 0         | 0     | 29     | 29     |            |
|        | Mihran       | 0         | 0     | 29     | 29     |            |
| Total  |              |           |       | 10,664 | 69.76% |            |
| Female | Khadija      | 392       | 424   | 154    | 1786   |            |
|        | Aisha        | 304       | 278   | 152    | 734    |            |
|        | Amina        | 158       | 184   | 65     | 407    |            |
|        | Zaynab       | 73        | 32    | 4      | 109    |            |
|        | Maryam       | 101       | 268   | 0      | 369    |            |
|        | Zanuba       | 44        | 194   | 57     | 295    |            |
|        | Zubayda      | 43        | 194   | 12     | 249    |            |
|        | Jalila       | 35        | 126   | 31     | 192    |            |
|        | Karima       | 0         | 0     | 47     | 47     |            |
|        | Iffat        | 57        | 200   | 40     | 297    |            |
|        | Budur        | 0         | 104   | 32     | 136    |            |
|        | Total        |           |       |        | 4,621  | 30.23%     |

In Table 3, the most frequently used proper names are those of the male characters, which occur 10,664 times with a percentage of 69.76% whereas the proper names of the female characters occur 4,621 times with a percentage of 30,23%. This highlights Mahfouz's focus on the male characters in the selected novels due to their domination in the Egyptian society. That is, man, whether husband, or father, or brother, or son is the master or guardian of women's lives. Table 4 presents the frequencies and percentages of the nouns related to the male and female characters in the selected novels.



**Table 4. All nouns related to male and female characters used in the selected novels**

|               | Male- and Female-based Nouns | Frequency |     |     | Total | Percentage |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-------|------------|
|               |                              | A         | B   | C   |       |            |
| <b>Male</b>   | Man                          | 406       | 804 | 406 | 1,616 |            |
|               | Father                       | 568       | 804 | 208 | 1,580 |            |
|               | Husband                      | 127       | 92  | 54  | 273   |            |
|               | Boy                          | 134       | 64  | 42  | 240   |            |
|               | Son                          | 227       | 362 | 121 | 710   |            |
|               | Brother                      | 153       | 216 | 99  | 468   |            |
| <b>Total</b>  |                              |           |     |     | 4,887 | 58.97%     |
| <b>Female</b> | Woman                        | 382       | 462 | 115 | 959   |            |
|               | Mother                       | 586       | 216 | 159 | 961   |            |
|               | Wife                         | 105       | 182 | 46  | 333   |            |
|               | Girl                         | 101       | 154 | 104 | 359   |            |
|               | Daughter                     | 112       | 138 | 55  | 305   |            |
|               | Sister                       | 81        | 114 | 45  | 240   |            |
|               | Lady                         | 95        | 122 | 26  | 243   |            |
| <b>Total</b>  |                              |           |     |     | 3,400 | 41.02%     |

In Table 4, the most frequently used nouns are those related to male characters which occur 4,887 times with a percentage of 58.97%, whereas the nouns related to female characters occur 3,400 times with a percentage of 41.02%. This highlights Mahfouz's style of revolving the three parts of the Trilogy around the family of his male persona, Al-Sayyed Ahmed Abd-el-Jawad, through the viewpoint of his son Kamal. All actions, feelings, and thoughts reflect those of the struggle of a middle-class family. Accordingly, Mahfouz was concerned about presenting the social problems of women from the perspective of men in Egypt at that time. Table 5 presents the frequencies and percentages of the proper names and nouns of the male and female characters in the selected novels.

**Table 5. All proper names and nouns related to male and female characters used in the selected novels**

|                                   | Types of nouns     | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Male</b>                       | Proper names       | 10,664    |            |
|                                   | Male-based nouns   | 4,887     |            |
| <b>Total</b>                      |                    | 15,551    | 65.97%     |
| <b>Female</b>                     | Proper names       | 4,621     |            |
|                                   | Female-based nouns | 3,400     |            |
| <b>Total</b>                      |                    | 8,021     | 34.02%     |
| <b>Total of Males and Females</b> |                    | 23,572    | 100%       |

Table 5 demonstrates the most frequently used proper names and nouns related to male characters which occur approximately 15,551 times with a percentage of 65.97% whereas the proper names and nouns related to female characters occur 8,021 times with a percentage of 34.02%. These percentages are significant in indicating the frequency rates of the male proper nouns in comparison with female ones. Table 6 presents the frequencies and percentages of the three subsystems of the Attitude category in the selected novels.

Table 6. All subsystems of the Attitude category used in the selected novels

| Domain  | Subsystem    |                     | Frequency |       |       | Percentage |
|---|--------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|-------|------------|
|   |              |                     | A         | B     | C     |            |
| Attitude  | Affect       | Un/happiness        | 900       | 550   | 616   |            |
|   |              | Misery/cheer        | 648       | 480   | 460   |            |
|   |              | In/security         | 396       | 175   | 192   |            |
|   |              | Dis/satisfaction    | 340       | 190   | 116   |            |
|   |              | Antipathy/affection | 252       | 70    | 156   |            |
|   |              | Dis/quiet           | 204       | 30    | 12    |            |
|   |              | Dis/inclination     | 200       | 480   | 104   |            |
|   |              | Dis/trust           | 192       | 145   | 180   |            |
|   |              | Dis/pleasure        | 180       | 100   | 48    |            |
|   |              | Ennui/interest      | 160       | 90    | 68    |            |
|   |              | Positive attitude   | 2,188     | 1,848 | 1,562 |            |
|   |              | Negative attitude   | 1,284     | 462   | 390   |            |
|   |              | Total               |           |       | 3,472 | 2,310      |
| Total of the Affect subsystems in the selected novels       |              |                     | 7,734     |       |       | 84.57%     |
|   | Judgement    | Propriety           | 204       | 10    | 16    |            |
|   |              | Capacity            | 184       | 55    | 16    |            |
|   |              | Veracity            | 56        | 5     | 4     |            |
|   |              | Tenacity            | 12        | 5     | 4     |            |
|   |              | Positive attitude   | 295       | 60    | 32    |            |
|   |              | Negative attitude   | 161       | 15    | 8     |            |
|   |              | Total               |           |       | 456   | 75         |
| Total of the Judgment subsystems in the selected novels     |              |                     | 571       |       |       | 6.24%      |
|   | Appreciation | Reaction            | 180       | 85    | 76    |            |
|   |              | Impact              | 125       | 70    | 72    |            |
|   |              | Quality             | 55        | 15    | 4     |            |
|   |              | Composition         | 55        | 10    | 12    |            |
|   |              | Complexity          | 30        | 5     | 12    |            |
|   |              | Balance             | 25        | 5     | 4     |            |
|   |              | Positive attitude   | 376       | 152   | 144   |            |
|   |              | Negative attitude   | 94        | 38    | 36    |            |
|   |              | Total               |           |       | 470   | 190        |
| Total of the Appreciation subsystems in the selected novels |              |                     | 840       |       |       | 9.18%      |

Table 6 demonstrates that the most frequently used subsystem of the Attitude category is that of the Affect subsystem which occurs 7,734 times with a percentage of 84.57% in comparison with the other two subsystems. This highlights the importance of conveying the characters' feelings and attitudes towards events. With the help of the software programme implemented in the present study, the linguistic elements related to the three subsystems of

the attitude category are annotated and marked with their occurrences and percentages. The linguistic analysis shows that Mahfouz gave much attention to his attitudes towards the societal problems of women who are oppressed by men. Such attitudes are foregrounded in relation to the male dominance and tyranny in the Egyptian society. His representations of the social problems of Egyptian women are realized by means of the linguistic elements used by his male and female characters.

## I. RESULTS

Based on the linguistic analysis of the three parts of *Cairo Trilogy*, results indicate that there are three subsystems of the Attitude category which are realized by a wide range of linguistic elements. Accordingly, in answer to the first research questions, the selected texts are analyzed linguistically in light of the Appraisal framework and results indicate that the three subsystems of the Attitude category are manifested with varying proportions. The most frequently used subsystem is that of Affect, which foregrounds Mahfouz's focus on his attitudes towards the different feelings and thoughts of his male and female characters. Moreover, results indicate that in all subsystems of the Attitude category, the word choices and linguistic elements are focused on the male characters' proper nouns, pronouns, and nouns, which highlight the male dominance in the Egyptian society as well as the women's struggle in such patriarchal community.

## II. CONCLUSION

The study employs a comprehensive approach to describe and interpret meaning in Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy*. By integrating both Systemic Functional Linguistics and Appraisal framework, the study also presents a multi-layered analysis of the various linguistic elements mentioned in the texts as well as the three subsystems of the Attitude category. Results of the present study demonstrate that the linguistic choices used by not only the narrators, but also the female characters were investigated in order to foreground the representations of the female characters in Mahfouz's *Cairo Trilogy*. By means of the corpus linguistic tool, quantitative accuracy was achieved by examining the female characters' attitudes represented in the selected texts. A comprehensive study of the female characters were made by means of their lexical choices.

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