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On critical linguistics

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Abstract

Here two models were relevant. It has to be said (and I hope that this will not be regarded as a damaging admission) that our education and working context made us familiar with the hermeneutic side to literary criticism, and we, like the literary critics, were working on the interpretation of discourse-though equipped with a better tool-kit! Contemporary Marxist, post-structuralist and deconstructionist criticism is actually of more use to us (see Belsey, 1980; Eagleton, 1976; Harari, 1979; Norris, 1982) and more in line with the important influence of what was the sense of critique established in the social sciences under the influence of the Frankfurt School: Critiquedenotes reflection on a system of constraints which are humanly produced: distorting pressures to which individuals, or a group of individuals, or the human race as a whole, succumb in their process of self-formation.

Keywords: critical linguistics, discourse analysis, Marxist critique, poststructuralism, deconstruction, Frank

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