BRIDGERTON BY JULIA QUINN AS AN INTER-TEXT OF FEMALE UNIVERSAL VOICE: A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Abstract
The present study investigated Bridgerton (Series 1), a Netflix drama based on Julia Quinn's novel series 'The Duke and I', from the perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis. The purpose of the study was to explore female voices, marginalization and anti-female voices. Drawing on Van Dijk's (1998) concept of Macro-structure of Critical Discourse Analysis, suppression, female voices, and point of views were investigated. The sample text from the series was collected after careful reading. The selected text was analyzed from the perspective of the model. The model contained four stages named Deletion, Generalization, Construction, and Integration. The data was organized into eight macro-propositions. The assessment of the macro-propositions was carried out using Macro-Model devised by Van Dijk. The results of the study revealed that the writer portrayed women as submissive and uninformed. On contrary to the representation of women, men were represented as valuable, informed, and dominant. The study has implications for the academicians as well as for the consumers of ideologically driven discourses.
Keywords: Female Voices, Marginalization, Critical Discourse Analysis

1.   INTRODUCTION

Literature reflects the experiences of the people living in the society. Regardless of how fictional it may be; reality is reflected in all literary works. Literature captures everyday occurrences from society, transforms them into fiction, and displays them to the public as a mirror through which individuals can examine their actions and correct themselves as needed (Keerthika, 2018). Literature is about the inspiration and inventiveness of the authors. In order to pique the readers' interest, it delivers the imagery, concepts, and expressions. Literature is often regarded as the artistic representations of ideas about human life and interest (Ryan, 2011). As a result, literature presents point of view of authors aiming to convince readers to identify with the authors. The ideas and storylines determine the language used by the authors, and are reflected in the linguistic choices made by the authors.

The same view has been advocated by Gaskin (2013) as he articulates that the influence of words and phrases in poetry can create pictures. Further, it is believed that to make the story more beautiful, the linguistic choices made in the text need to be appealing. Literature, according to Richter (2018), is a sort of art that is viewed from the perspective of the story's linguistic and visual presentation to the audience.

The media has transformed over the time, and the people have now easy access to electronic video based representations of literature in the form of movies and dramas. The programs aired on TV significantly influence the processes of shaping and re-shaping patriarchal views. These programs affect the way individuals learn about social values and hierarchies.

Netflix original romantic historical drama series Bridgerton premiered on December 25, 2020 is one the shows of this kind. Chris Van Dusen was the creator and executive producer of the show. The

bestselling books by Julia Quinn served as the foundation for this series. This drama series centered on an eight-member family looking for love and happiness among the Regency era's social strata. Every child aspired to find their true love despite obstacles and criticism from society. Bridgerton advertised and promoted the fact that it brought a diverse cast to the Regency era and assured viewers that the show contained significant discussions about race, gender, and sexual orientation into the story.

The series is considered as the Regency Romance genre (Rodriguez & Khal, 2022), and Regency Era is regarded as the transitional period between the Georgian era and the Victorian era by literary critics and social historians. It was known for its refinement and accomplishments across all fields in general and in fields of fine arts and architecture in particular. Regency social customs and manners promoted presenting oneself in public as courteous and gentile. The social hierarchy was the foundation of society throughout this time, and both sexes were aware of their place in it. Women were typically viewed as meek, independent, and submissive. The only way a young lady could guarantee a pleasant future, in the eyes of society, was through marriage. A lady of the Regency period had no other occupation but to locate a husband. Any marriage proposal was first evaluated on the basis of income. The most crucial element was a woman's dowry, and wealthy young men sought out brides who had big dowries. Many young girls were eager to wed rich, upper-class men who would guarantee them a happy life with money and a cozy home. Although many women maintained in their personal circles that marriage for money was bad, in reality, many knew that marriage for money was foolish.

1.1.   Research Objectives

The study intended investigate the Gender representation in the famous Netflix drama '*The Bridgerton*' using Van Dijk's (1998) Macro-structure. The purpose of the study was to identify the suppression of female voice, marginalization in the text and in-grouping. The objectives of the study are provided below:

1.   To investigate the strategies used for the suppression of female voices in Birdgerton
2.   To explore and highlight the construal of marriage as significant event in the life of females
3.   To investigate the use of the strategy of deletion in Bridegerton
4.   To highlight the way deletion served as a tactic to hide meanings behind converstaions
5.   Which linguistic strategies are used to suppress female voices in the novel 'Bridgerton'

1.2.   Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions

1.   Which linguistic strategies are used to suppress female voices in the novel 'Bridgerton'?
2.   Does the writer use particular construction to present marriage as the most important act in the novel 'Bridgerton'?
3.   How does writer used deletion strategy in the novel 'Bridgerton' to hide actual meaning behind conversations?

1.3.   Significance of the Study

The significance of the study lies in the fact that it critically examines the issues of gender, female voices, and marginalization the popular Netflix series Bridegerton that is based on a novel written by Julia Quinn. The use of CDA as the lens uncovers the underlying dynamic of power that formulate the interactions of the characters and their representations. The study not only helps in understanding the series deeply but also highlight the complex connection between media narratives and gender stereotypes. In this way, the study has implications for the audiences or consumers of such discourses. Further, the study is significant for both teachers and students interested in Critical Discourse Analysis as it helps in understanding the application of Van Dijk's model for critical discourse analysis. Moreover, the study has implications for policy making regarding regulating the content having significance for the shaping and re-shaping of gender roles. Besides, the study can be useful for the future researchers interested in the area.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

A wide number of studies have explored gender based difference in the discourse of various types. The studies have analyzed discourses from newspapers, materials for English Language Teaching,

literary works and Programs. Various methodologies were employed in these studies. For instance, Dragas (2012) investigated gender related discourses in famous newspaper. The study findings of the study showed the dominance of men was evident in the print media even in countries like USA. The researcher acknowledged that society had undergone many changes during past 50 years regarding achieving equality for women, but the equality still seemed far from the achievement in its true sense.

Gender-biased language in textbooks can have a negative impact on students as it creates an oppressive reality for them (Cameron, 1990). Students undoubtedly deal with textbooks regularly, therefore, a careful approach is required for material selection and development. The material taught to the students must not represent any type of discrimination. Textbooks are not only a tool for education but also a factor that subtly influences people's behavior in other areas. A number of studies explored gender-biased language in textbooks.

In a study carried out by Baghdadi and Rezaei (2015), the depiction of gender roles in textbooks of English as Foreign Language and Arabic as Foreign Language was comparatively examined. The findings of the study revealed that men were the depicted as central and strong figures in textbooks of Arabic as Foreign Language. Further, it was revealed that the textbooks or English as Foreign Language also had the similar presentation of men, though less frequent as compared to the textbooks of Arabic as Foreign Language.

In another study, Esmaili and Amerian (2014) explored the depiction of gender in English Language teaching textbooks in context of Iran. In order to examine the ideology underlying the development of the three textbooks regarding depiction of gender, Fairclough's three dimensional model was applied. The results of analysis showed that these textbooks had a 'sexist attitude' towards gender that favored men over women with men having more representation as compared to women. The findings of the study suggested that the portrayal of gender was influenced by the Iranian culture that provided foundation for the imbalanced representation of gender.

Further, Tabatabaei (2016) used Fairclough's three dimensional model for the evaluation of ELT materials and to study how males and females were portrayed in the 'Prospect' series. The work analyzed the gender related issues in the series. This English language teaching (ELT) program for high school in Iran placed a strong emphasis on prospects, which are essential to both the teaching and learning of the foreign language. They serve as the primary teaching medium in every high school in the nation. As a result, choosing and evaluating them appears to be quite important. The findings showed that the series did not portray men and women in equally. Further, in Prospect 2, sexism was evident.

As mentioned earlier, studies have examined gender roles in literary works and program aired on digital media. For instance, Akogbeto and Koukpossi (2015) explicated gender issues in Soyinka's The Lion and Jewl, the gender issues were examined using Halliday's model of transitivity. The results of the study depicted that Soyinka portrayed men as strong and powerful loke a lion.

Besides, Sarani and Kord (2018) studied social actors in Touch Stone Series using Socio-semantic Framework by Van Leeuwen's (2008). The results of this study showed that the representation of male and female participants was done in a different manner through both visual and linguistics modes of representation. Visual representation showed that males were represented as more prominent and admirable characters.

In another study, Shaheen, Mumtaz & Khalid (2019) explored gender ideology and gender representation in Fairy Tales. These fairy tales were analyzed by using three Dimensional model of Critical Discourse Analysis presented by Fairclough. Exploration and Critical evaluation depicted that genders were represented in stereotypical manner. The males were violent, aggressive and dominant, whereas females were represented as submissive.

Furthermore, Alsaraireh and Hajimia (2020) investigated gender disparities in the movie 'Mulan'. The structural narrative analysis proposed by Nick Lacey (2000) was used to analyze the story as part of the descriptive qualitative research methodology used in the study. The entire film was analyzed in terms of its content. The analysis revealed that there four instances that represented fight for gender equality: participating in combat, rising to positions of leadership, joining the imperial guard, and

going through military training. Second, Mulan portrays the fight for gender equality in a way that is relevant today. In Mulan (2020), the struggle for gender equality is portrayed using a variety of devices, including narratives or events, characters, places, symbols, and styles. Third, Niki Caro's Mulan (2020) raises the issue of the fight for gender equality for three reasons: she is a female filmmaker and a woman's rights activist; she mainstreams gender equality in movies; and she calls attention to the gender gap in the film business.

The present study differs from the previous based on the fact that the Series taken for the analysis has not been explored earlier from this perspective. Further, the model used for the analysis is also different from the previous studies conducted to analyze gander roles in literary works and digital programs.

3.   METHODOLOGY

The descriptive qualitative design was employed in the study. The data for this study was collected from the Netflix show 'Bridgerton' named as *'The Duke and I,* and the videos of the show 'The Bridegerton' available on Netflix were used for more clarity and in-depth study. After collecting the sample for analysis in the form of text, the data was read carefully multiple times. After careful reading the data for this research was separated for the purpose of analysis. For clarity, season 1 of Bridgerton, which is available on Netflix, was also watched a couple of times in addition to careful reading.

The Research Instrument used for the analysis of data in this research was Van Dijk's macro model. This model actsed as the basic instrument for analyzing the gathered data from the novel *"The Bridgerton"*. For the analysis, the significant dialogues from the novel were grouped in tabular form based on similarities and differences. In the second step, the dialogues were analyzed to uncover the hidden ideologies. The macro-model proposed by Van Dijk (1998) was used for the analysis of text.

4.   DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Using Macro-structure model of CDA proposed by Van Dijk (1998), various propositions were identified in the series. The first macro proposition is provided in table 4.1.

Table 4.1.

Macro-proposition 1 (M1)

Page	Statement	
12	"How am I supposed to find you a husband while that woman is slandering your name?" "Daphne forced herself to exhale. After nearly two seasons in London, the mere mention of the word husband was enough to set her temples pounding. She wanted to marry, truly she did, and she wasn't even holding out for a true love match. But was it really too much to hope for a husband for whom one had at least some affection?"	In macro-proposition 1, the writer used construction stage and romanticized the concept of marriage. She tries to show that the only purpose of women in Regency period was getting married to a wealthy man to secure a happy life.
13	"I'm sure Lady Whistledown's little column is not going to hurt my chances for a husband." "Daphne, it's been two years!"	
1	"Violet just sighed. "I hope that someday you have children—"	
17	"I'm happy to follow in your footsteps when it comes to marriage and children, Mother, just so long as I don't have to have eight."	
23	"Yes, but she wasn't gripped by this matrimonial fervor until you came along."	
58	"Simon glanced from brother to brother and it became perfectly clear why Daphne must still be unmarried. This belligerent trio would scare off all but the most determined—or stupid—of suitors." "Which would probably explain Nigel Berbrooke"	
59	"She doesn't have that many suitors, actually."	
83	"Your plan is a brilliant success. At least for me. Did you notice how many suitors came to call this morning?"	

In Macro-proposition 1, the writer constructed the concept of marriage, and represented finding the perfect match as the utmost important thing in the world. So, in the macro-proposition 1, *Construction* takes place as it is evident throughout the novel that the focus of the writer is to show how in regency period people take marriage proposals so seriously and are obsessed with the concept of marriage. It can be seen that Violet Bridgerton (daphne's mother) and other mama's are worried about their daughter's securing perfect matches not love matches but their kind of perfect matches. Here in this sentence *"How am I supposed to find you a husband while that woman is slandering your name?"* We can clearly see how worried Daphne's mother is about finding suitable love match for Daphne unlike other mama's. Moreover, Anthony's sentence *"but she wasn't gripped by this matrimonial fervor until you came along"* showed that he knew that how passionate and worried his mother is because of Daphne's marriage. Not just her mother but other brothers as well are worried about her as depicted in this sentence *"She doesn't have that many suitors, actually."*

"Your plan is a brilliant success. At least for me. Did you notice how many suitors came to call this morning?" as mentioned having many suitors coming in the morning is considered very important for a girl. The protagonist Daphne on the other hand wanted to be desirable and wanted a true love match not just the traditional convenience marriage. The writer showed that Daphne wanted to be desirable and for this purpose the Duke of Hastings helped her.

It can be interpreted by these statements in *Macro-proposition 1* that the writer tried to create an influence on the reader by showing that these people's lives revolve around the concept of marriages and marriage as the only important purpose of one's life. Writer tried to build up this ideology by showing them as Ultra-modern, fashionable and bold but at the end their minds are still stuck there. Everything revolves around marriages and finding perfect matches is the ultimate goal.

Table 4.2.

Macro-proposition 2 (M2)

Page	Statement	
18	I might finally get some peace next time I escort my sister to a ball.	In Macro-proposition 2, the writer used contruction stage. Moreover, she represented men as Dominant, Powering and Valuable characters.
20	"A few." Anthony kicked back the rest of his brandy, then let out a satisfied exhale. "I've allowed her to refuse them all." "That's rather indulgent of you." Anthony shrugged. "Love is probably too much to hope for in a marriage these days, but I don't see why she shouldn't be happy with her husband. We've had offers from one man old enough to be her father, another old enough to be her father's younger brother, one who was rather too high in the instep for our often boisterous clan, and then this week, dear God, that was the worst!"	
74	"Protecting my sister!" "From the duke? He can't be that wicked.	
84	"I did not give you leave to court my sister," he bellowed.	
87	Bridgerton House was, after all, technically Anthony's house, not his mother's "I am the head of the family."	
118	"I just don't trust him around women. Around you in particular."	
128	He nodded. "You stay. Anthony will have my head if I take you out onto the terrace." "Anthony can hang for all I care." Daphne's mouth tightened with irritation. "I'm sick of his constant hovering, anyway."	

Macro-proposition 2 represents the *Construction stage* as we can see through all these dialogues that the writer develops a construct by showing that women should obey the men as Daphne has to obey her Eldest brother because after her father's death her brother is *"the man of the house"*. So for that reason, she can't dance with anyone of her choice and she must leave men "wanting" her otherwise she would be a shameless woman as he always thinks less of women and gives less value

to them. Not just Daphne but all the women out there follow the same rule. Presenting that woman is inferior to men.

The writer created a mindset by the dialogue construction as well using such words as *escort, trust, protect* to show that how caring and loving her brother is towards her sister but instead her actual agenda is to manipulate minds. This shows that she intends to present men as powerful, dominated and valuable than other women. She presented that women were less powerful and their opinions holds no value. Daphne's will or opinion holds no value and she was tired of her brother's involvement in every aspect of her life as Daphne said *"Do you think because I'm a woman I'm incapable of making my own choices?, Do you even care that Simon has dishonored me as you say it is it your male pride that you seek to satisfy?.*

Table 4.3.

Macro-proposition 3 (M3)

Page no.	Statement	
3	"this shockingly handsome and almost disturbingly poised stranger"—	In Macro-proposition 3, the writer used construction stage. Attraction was somehow developed between Daphne and the Duke.
37	"Simon felt a strange sort of admiration for this girl. Most women of his acquaintance would have been in hysterics at this point, but she—whoever she was—had taken the situation firmly in hand, and was now displaying a generosity of spirit that was astounding. That she could even think to defend this Nigel person was quite beyond him".	
42	"But even as he knew it was time to stop this flirtation and get back to the business of hauling Daphne's idiotic suitor out of the building, he couldn't resist one last comment"	
43	"Simon let out a loud laugh, then was startled to realize how foreign the sound was to his ears. He was a man who frequently smiled, occasionally chuckled, but it had been a very long time since he'd felt such a spontaneous burst of joy."	
	"The desperation in Simon's voice told her everything she needed to know. He wanted her. He desired her. He was mad for her"	
	"She tried to say something witty; she tried to say something seductive. But her bravado failed her at the last moment. She'd never been kissed before, and now that she had all but invited him to be the first, she didn't know what to do."	

Here in Macro-proposition 3, we can clearly see the *Construction stage,* as writer displayed attraction between them but with time it turns into affection and true love which Daphne always dreamt of. The relationship between Simon Basset and Daphne Bridgerton was elegantly portrayed. Their love story started with friendship but they always had an unexpressed feeling within their heart which they themselves never knew. The passion between two became too much to hold. Daphne was the only girl that made Simon laugh and full of life as we can see in the Macro-proposition 3 *"Simon let out a loud laugh, then was startled to realize how foreign the sound was to his ears. He was a man who frequently smiled, occasionally chuckled, but it had been a very long time since he'd felt such a spontaneous burst of joy."* That how much he enjoys Daphne's company and she melts his heart. The writer showed that Simon irrespective of his thoughts about marriage as he said *"I will never marry."* fell in love with Daphne. Although the circumstances in which they got married were rather unfortunate because they were caught kissing. But they were truly in love.

From the start it can be seen that writer's aim was to create a bond between them which can be felt and seen by a true reader. She constructed the whole scenario to attract readers towards their love story and forget about everything that is happening around them. Their love life was attractive yet has so many complications. Moreover, the reason why Daphne fake dated the Duke was problematic. She was a Bridgerton and she doesn't have to act in such a desperate manner. Although her fake dating led both of them to fall in love but it was toxic and disturbing.

Table 4.4
Macro-proposition 4 (M4)

Page	Statement	
69	"They were both trapped, Simon realized. Trapped by their society's conventions and expectations"	In macro-proposition 4 , it can be seen that how Societal pressure has ruined the mental peace and lives of people.
71	"We shall pretend to have developed a tendre for each other. I won't have quite so many debutantes thrown in my direction because it will be perceived that I am no longer available."	
71	"No," she said, "I'm unmarried because everyone sees me as a friend. No one ever has any romantic interest in me." She grimaced."	
73	"But I certainly shan't mind seeing the look on her face when she realizes that Daphne will make the season's greatest match."	
80	"You shouldn't even know about them," he grunted. "Four brothers," she said by way of an explanation. "	
83	"Your plan is a brilliant success. At least for me. Did you notice how many suitors came to call this morning?"	
154	"If you don't marry me," she said in a low voice, "I will be ruined."	

In macro-proposition 4, *the stage of Construction* was used. It represents how societal pressure has influenced the life of people of Regency period in the novel Bridgerton. People are under the influence of society and follow the old traditions. They act as the puppets of society without even knowing that. The writer has developed a construction through the writing. Through the above dialogues, we can perceive that everyone at that time was under the societal pressure irrespective of their gender. Men and Women both face same pressure in different manners. The society pressurizes women to secure a perfect match for marriage in the same way it pressurizes men to marry within their class because they hold responsibilities. But the women hold less power than men. We tend to see that these norms and conventions of society not only influenced or affected few people within the society but most people within the society especially women. Everyone is affected by these norms because no one can speak up for themselves. Daphne took courting process too seriously because of the pressure she has on her mind. She criticizes the system yet she has to follow it. As we can see, this dialogue of her was quite intriguing *"Your plan is a brilliant success. At least for me. Did you notice how many suitors came to call this morning?"* She was so much influenced by the pressure of society that she agrees to fake his relation with the Duke. She couldn't decide for herself that what she wanted because the women in Bridgerton were shown as marginalized characters. They were influenced by the society and the men.

Table 4.5. *Macro-proposition 5 (M5)*

Page	Statement	
4	"Simon groaned, "Do young ladies still need permission to waltz?" Daphne found herself smiling at his discomfort. "How long have you been away?" "Five years. Do they?" "Yes."	In macro-proposition 5, the construction stage is used. The presented women as dependent, submissive and has no opinion of her own
87	"It's my house, too," Daphne said hotly, "and I want him to stay."	
128	"He nodded. "You stay. Anthony will have my head if I take you out onto the terrace." "Anthony can hang for all I care."	

	Daphne's mouth tightened with irritation. "I'm sick of his constant hovering, anyway."	

In this Macro-proposition **5**, we can see *the construction stage*. The writer presented the women to have no opinion. They were dependent, submissive and live on the mercy of men. Daphne was under the control of her brother. She never like that because she has her own choices and opinion of life, having a partner and what else does she want to live a happy life. She was sick of her brother's involvement in her life. It can be seen that how over-protective and nosy her brothers act. She was being controlled by her own brothers because at that time men have so much hold and power over women that they treat them less human.

Table 4.6

Macro-proposition 6 (M6)

Page	Statement	
32	He had no plans to marry. Ever. And there wasn't much point in attending ton parties if one wasn't looking for a wife.	In macro-proposition 6, the integration stage was used to represent clear meanings without any ambiguity. The writer showed men as valuable and powerful characters
59	"If you ever have a daughter, you'll understand." Simon was rather certain he would never have a daughter, but he kept his mouth shut.	
68`	"You think you don't. All men think they don't. But you will." "No," he said emphatically. "I will never marry."	

In Macro-proposition 6, the writer used Integration which shows clear and direct meaning. We can clearly see the intentions of the Duke from the start as he says "I will never marry." Writer clearly doesn't hide Duke's plans or his thoughts because he is the man and he has right to express what he wants. The writer showed him as a powerful, independent and opinionated person. So, he doesn't need to hide his plans and thoughts. He can have his opinion and choices no matter what society expects from him. But, this was not the case for females in the Regency Period. Men in the regency times were always seen as *dominant, powerful and strong characters*. They hold power over women in every means of life. It was writer's main agenda to show men superior to women. So, that is why it can be seen that Duke openly confesses his plans of never marrying.

Table 4.7.

Macro-proposition 7 (M7)

Page	Statement	
32	"Nigel," the girl was saying, "you really shouldn't have followed me out here."	In macro-poposition 7, Integration was used by the writer to display the actual character of Lord berbooke
32	"No one's as nice as you," the man finally said. "You're the only one who ever smiles at me."	
33	"You have to marry me!" Nigel cried out. "You have to! I'll never find anyone else—"	

In macro-proposition 7, the Integration stage was used. It was obvious that the Lord Berbooke was just a desperate man. As he says, *"No one's as nice as you," the man finally said. "You're the only one who ever smiles at me."* Just because she smiles and was nice to him, he thinks she likes him and is interested in him. This gave him right to chase her, harass her and tease her. He has got no regrets and he was a desperate shameless man.

Table 4.8. *Macro-proposition 8 (M8)*

Page no.	Sentences	
171	"I really don't know how to tell this to you. It's highly indelicate." "You see," Violet said haltingly, "there are things you need to know. Things that will occur tomorrow night. Things"—she coughed—"that involve your husband."	*In Macro-proposition 8,* the deletion stage occurred
172	"On your wedding night," she began, "your husband will expect you to do your marital duty."	
173	"Violet dashed for the door. "Er, yes." Her eyes shifted guiltily."Were you expecting something else?" "You can't leave telling me only that!"	
174	"I have told you everything my mother told me. Don't be a nervous ninny, and do it enough so you'll have a baby."	
174	"Daphne blinked in confusion. Her mother's explanations had been impossibly vague,	
175	"But I do have more questions!"	
187	"You're unable to consummate the marriage," she whispered.	
190	"Oh, Daphne," he gasped, "you have a lot to learn." "Well, I never disputed that," she grumbled. Really, if people weren't so intent on keeping young women completely ignorant of the realities of marriage, scenes like this could be avoided."	
213	"The details aren't important, Daphne."	
213	"You took advantage of my stupidity "You must have been so delighted when you realized how little I knew about marital relations."	

In Macro-proposition 8, the deletion stage occurred. The writer gives incomplete information showing that she is trying to hide some major information. At many stages, it can be seen that the sentences are left incomplete or sentences which gives insufficient rather deceiving information were used. By using such tactics, writer meant to show that the women of regency era were shy, unaware and innocent in sensitive matters. As it can be seen later that lack of awareness creates problems in your life. They told Daphne that *"The details aren't important, Daphne."* It can be seen that how least important the writer think of such matters. She tried to eliminate the aspect of awareness but on the other hand it can be seen that men are free. Discrimination is only for women.

In this section, the results with reference to the research questions highlighted previously in Chapter one have been summarized. The novel Bridgerton was written by Julia Quinn. The novel was analyzed by using Van Dijk's macro model. The macro-model consisted of four components: Deletion, Construction, Generalization and Integration. These components helped in understand the meaning at global level. Through the application of this model on the data collected from the novel Bridgerton, various interpretations were acquired which answered the research questions.

The research questions which were discussed in the chapter 1 can be answered after the deep analysis and results. The first research question was *which linguistic strategies are used by the writer in the novel 'The Bridgerton' to suppress female voice?* The results of analysis showed that the writer used various linguistic strategies in the novel. She used construction, integration and deletion strategies to accomplish her purpose. The most frequently used linguistic strategy used by the writer was Construction. Construction within a writing was used when a writer wants to display something particularly in detail. This was the strategy which was mostly adopted by the writer. The writer used construction from Macro-proposition 1 to Macro-proposition 5. The writer constructed a whole background to establish a story based upon her ideology. The construction was used by writer to achieve her agenda which was to manipulate readers mind.   In novel, we can see that from the

start everything is centered on the marriage aspect. It was her major agenda to wrap everything around the theme of marriage. We can see that she gave so much importance to marriage. Every chapter in this novel revolves directly or indirectly around marriage prospect. Moreover, it can be seen that she presented women as the weakest character not just once but her actual aim was to present women as naïve creatures. She presented women as less valuable in the novel Bridgerton. Another prospect which was constructed by Julia Quinn was she presented a society in which females less opinionated, suppressed and lives life according to expectations of society and men. Societal pressure made the lives of women miserable. Another proposition which was displayed by using construction method was male dominancy and male control over women.

So, it can be concluded that the writer used construction strategy to achieve her aims of showing marriage as an important aspect which affected the lives of women and pressurizes them to follow norms of their society. Moreover, it can be seen that she gave no importance to women and their opinions. Men were considered the head and they take decisions on the behalf of women according to their own will.

The second linguistic strategy that was used by the writer to suppress female voice was Integration. Integration was usually used when a writer wants to convey direct meaning without any ambiguity and fear. The writer usually uses this technique to highlight something. In macro-proposition 6 we can clearly see how writer displayed the Duke as valuable because he is a man. So, he is valuable and he can take his own decisions without any explanations. That's why writer didn't hesitate to express his character. In macro-proposition 7 we can see Nigel Berbooke intentions. It was evident that he was desperate person who gives least value to any women. He tried to harass Daphne many times. Although she had 4 brothers yet it didn't save her from the harassment of Nigel.

The third linguistic strategy that was used by the writer to suppress women was Deletion. This strategy is usually used when someone wants to hide something or give little to no information to someone. It can be seen that in the dialogues selected in Macro-proposition 8, the communication has many incomplete information. Those dialogues were in the form of hints. The women voice was already seen suppressed as they were given no value. But here actual rights of a human were taken away. Women were portrayed as timid, naïve and uninformed. Every type of sensitive as well as important information are kept hidden from them. Just to fulfill the expectations of society. Such misleading and incomplete information can create problems and complicated situations which can be seen in the novel.

The second research question of this research was *Does the writer use particular construction to present marriage as the most important act?* After the deep analysis, we can see from the beginning of the book that the marriage factor is what drives everything. Her main objective was to center everything on the marriage theme. For this purpose, she used Construction stage. Everything from one point to another revolves around marriage. It is clear that she placed a high value on marriage. The writer created the idea of marriage in Macro-proposition 1, and in other words, we can argue that finding the ideal match is the most crucial thing in the universe. Therefore, in the macro-proposition 1, Construction occurs as it does throughout the book to extract the true meaning, which is that the writer's goal is to illustrate how individuals in the Regency period take marriage proposals very seriously and are preoccupied with the idea of marriage. It is evident that daphne's mother Violet Bridgerton and other mothers are concerned about their daughters finding perfect matches— not romantic matches, but the same kind of flawless matches. Here in this sentence *"How am I supposed to find you a husband while that woman is slandering your name?"* We can certainly see how concerned Daphne's mother is about finding a compatible romantic partner for her daughter as opposed to other mothers. *"but she wasn't gripped by this matrimonial fervor until you came along"* demonstrated that he was aware of his mother's intense emotion and concern over Daphne's marriage. This statement demonstrates that other brothers in addition to his mother and himself are concerned about her. *"She doesn't have that many suitors, actually."*
"Your plan is a brilliant success. At least for me. Did you notice how many suitors came to call this morning?" As previously mentioned, it is seen to be quite vital for a girl to have several suitors arrive in the morning. On the other side, the main character Daphne desired attractiveness and desired a

true love match as opposed to a conventional convenience marriage. The author demonstrated Daphne's desire to be attractive and how the Duke of Hastings assisted her in achieving this goal.

These words in Macro-proposition 1 might be regarded as an attempt by the author to persuade the reader by demonstrating how these people's lives revolve around the idea of marriage and how marriage is the sole significant reason for one's existence. The author attempted to support this concept by portraying them as ultra-modern, stylish, and brave, but in the end, their thoughts remained fixed on that idea. Marriages are the center of the universe, and finding the ideal match is the ultimate goal. This book's chapters all deal in some way with the possibility of marriage. Furthermore, it is clear that she did not merely portray women as the weakest characters once; rather, her intention was to portray women as gullible beings. In the book, she devalued women as a whole.

The third research question of this research *was How does the writer used deletion strategy to hide actual meaning behind conversations?* The Macro-Proposition 8 writer exploited the deletion stage to achieve her objectives. The writer's insufficient disclosures suggest that she's trying to keep some important information a secret. Throughout the writing process, it is common to see sentences that give incomplete or false information. The author sought to show how timid, ignorant, and naive the women of the Regency era were in delicate situations by using such tactics. It will eventually become apparent that ignorance causes problems in your life. They told Daphne that the details were unimportant. It is clear how little weight the author gives to such matters.

The writer's inadequate disclosures indicate that she is attempting to conceal some significant information. The usage of sentences that provide insufficient or misleading information can be seen frequently throughout the writing process. By employing such strategies, the author hoped to demonstrate how timid, uninformed, and naïve the women of the Regency era were in delicate situations. Later, it will become clear that ignorance leads to troubles in your life. The facts aren't important, Daphne, they said to Daphne. It is evident how little importance the writer accords to such issues. She made an effort to get rid of awareness, but guys are clearly free despite her efforts. Discrimination is solely for women.

According to Lesley A. Hall, a historian of gender and sexuality, there would not have been any formal sex education provided; mothers might have offered their daughters some premarital advice, though it probably wouldn't have included the advice to "Close your eyes and think of England"

Married sisters or close acquaintances could have revealed some details. Additionally, it is evident that servants' chatter provided kids with knowledge, albeit knowledge that was not always true or helpful. Women who were part in the social purity movement didn't start to make the case "that girls should have some awareness of sexual topics" until the late 19th century, according to Hall

5.   CONCLUSION

This research was based on Julia Quinn's novel "Bridgerton". The study analyzed how females of Regency Period were shown as submissive, less valuable and less opinionated characters. Whereas, males were portrayed as powerful, dominant and valuable characters. The novel was analyzed by using Van Dijk's macro structure. The macro-model consists of four stages which are as follows: Deletion, Construction, Generalization and Integration. The data was collected from the novel after multiple reading of the novel and the collected data was divided into Eight Macro-propositions. These macro-propositions were then analyzed using Van Dijk's macro-model. The analysis of the collected data suggested that the frequently used linguistics strategy by writer was Construction. By using this, writer constructed a mindset that the only purpose of women's life was to get married as was represented in 'Bridgerton'. Another linguistic strategy which was used in the novel was Integration. Writer used this to give clear meaning and to represent men as dominant and powerful characters throughout the novel. The third strategy which was used by writer was deletion. This was used purposefully to hide important information and to mislead people. Women, in the regency period were presented as less aware and naive. The reason of their less awareness was that important issues and information were kept hidden from them. The writer excluded the information which should be included in order to clear meanings and confusions. From the above results, it can be concluded that

in this novel, writer presented female as less valuable, submissive and less aware, whereas males as valued and dominant.

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