

A Corpus-Based Critical Discourse Analysis of 'Madam' and 'Madame' In Selected Novels and Short Stories Reflecting Power and Social Status

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the representation of power and social status through the use of the terms 'madam' and 'madame' in selected literary works. The research examines three short stories—*A Cup of Tea*, *The Necklace*, and *The Lady's Maid*—and three novels: *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë, and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy. Utilizing Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and a corpus-based approach, this study employs AntConc software to analyze collocation patterns and interpret findings using Fairclough's three-dimensional model. The corpus consists of 406,559 tokens, with 87 occurrences of 'madam' and 95 of 'madame'. The findings indicate that 'madam' is predominantly used in personal interactions, often reflecting deference, politeness, and hierarchical relationships, whereas 'madame' is more frequently linked to aristocracy and social class distinctions. The collocation analysis shows that 'madam' commonly appears alongside direct speech markers, while 'madame' is associated with formal titles and wealth-related terms. These patterns illustrate how language constructs and reinforces social stratification, aligning with Fairclough's notion of discourse as a medium of power negotiation. This research contributes to corpus-assisted discourse studies by demonstrating how lexical choices in literature reflect underlying social ideologies. The study enhances our understanding of how linguistic elements encode power dynamics and status hierarchies, offering valuable insights into the intersection of language, society, and identity.

Keywords: Corpus linguistics, critical discourse analysis, social status, power

INTRODUCTION

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is a study that critically analyzes socio-historical contexts, interpersonal relationships, and cultural and political influences. The term 'discourse' is applied to various aspects of discourse analysis in general (Fairclough, 1995). There are two main paradigms in the term 'discourse' which are structural and functional. Structurally, discourse is considered as a unit of language larger than just a sentence, whereas functionally, discourse focuses on how language is used (Schiffrin, 1994). This emphasis on both paradigms allows for a better understanding of how language shapes, maintains, or even challenges existing social structures and power. Stubbs (1997) states that the use of a corpus in research can assist analysis with the tools necessary to manage large text data. The texts in the corpus represent various varieties of language, the principle of the approach in selecting variations such as context, genre, or language style to make the resulting corpus representative (Leech, 1992). So, CDA can reveal language in corpus analysis that reveals language patterns in finding power structures and social status in the text that is reflected in the text.

There are three short stories and three novels that are analyzed through the use of 'madam' and 'madame' in relation to corpus-based critical discourse analysis. First, the short story 'A Cup of Tea' by Katherine Mansfield can be analyzed to find out the depiction of power and social status

that underlies the story (Nasilloyevna, 2022). Thus, social tensions arise that can be analyzed through the use of language. So, the short story 'A cup of Tea' can be analyzed in this study through the CDA approach, how verbal interactions can reinforce or challenge social norms (Mansfield, 1922). Then, the short story 'The Necklace' by Guy de Maupassant can be analyzed to find out how power and social status are reflected in the story. Mathilde Loisel, is described as a person who is dissatisfied with her life due to her desire to live in luxury and glamor (Yadav, 2019). Therefore, the CDA approach can reveal how the use of power and social status functions through the use of 'madam' in the short story 'The Necklace' (De Maupassant, 1884). In addition, the short story 'The Lady's Maid' by Katherine Mansfield relates the relationship between the main character, a maid, and her employer, who is usually called 'madam' or 'madame' Therefore, the use of 'madam' can reveal how language shows a difference in social status (Mansfield, 1920).

Furthermore, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (1813) tells the story of the Bennet family, especially Elizabeth Bennet, under strong social pressure to marry well in order to maintain her family's power and social status (Austen, 1813). The second novel is *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (1847). The term 'madam' is often used in *Jane Eyre* when a person from the lower class addresses or refers to a woman of higher status. This address shows the social inequality between servants and their masters (Bronte, 1847). Finally, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Baroness Orczy (1905) the use of 'madam' is used as a greeting to Marguerite, who is a noblewoman (Orczy, 1905).

This study examines the short stories 'A Cup of Tea', 'The Necklace' and 'The Lady's Maid' and the novels 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen, 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Brontë 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' by Baroness Orczy using Norman Fairclough's critical discourse analysis (CDA) approach as a source to build a linguistic corpus related to language use in the texts. The corpus becomes a tool for further analysis of collocations in the use of 'madam' and 'madame' that reflect issues of power and social status. This study uses feature analysis through Antcont to find collocations in the use of the word 'madam' or 'madame', to find out the context in the use of related phrases. Thus, the use of CDA theory by Norman Fairclough is very possible to represent power and social status.

Therefore, the researcher reveals how the collocation patterns on the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame' in the selected short stories and novels and how power and social status are reflected in the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame'. Thus, this study aims to deeply analyze how the collocation patterns of the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame' in the selected short stories and novels and how the word 'madam' reflects power and social status.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Corpus Linguistics in Critical Discourse Analysis

In critical discourse analysis, corpus linguistics plays a role in analyzing language use in a broader social context (Eriyanto, 2022). Corpus-based critical discourse analysis methods are used to examine language that can influence various social contexts (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). AntConc is a tool designed to manage and analyze large amounts of text data. Researcher can use collocation analysis to review the context of the object of research (Anthony, 2019).

Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Power

Critical discourse analysis as an approach to how language shapes, replicates, and controls power and social hierarchies in society. Language not only reflects social reality, but also shapes and maintains certain social structures, such as power relations (Fairclough, 1995). Likewise, Michel Foucault emphasized that language, through what is referred to as 'discourse' to regulate power

and shape identity (Foucault, 1972). Critical discourse analysis helps analyze how terms such as 'madam' and 'madame' indicate social status and power in selected literary works.

Social Status in Selected Novels and Short Stories

In some literary works the word 'madam' functions as a status symbol that indicates hierarchical relationships between characters and often reflects the class differences between servants and masters. Corpus-based critical discourse analysis helps to understand how language becomes a tool to assert social status and power in society. It also shows how social relations are shaped and maintained in the context of each work (Fairclough, 1995; Wooffitt & Allistone, 2005).

Previous Study

Research-based on Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and corpus has been conducted previously with various focuses and approaches. Waqar & Mehmoud (2024) analyzed the short story *A Cup of Tea* using Fairclough's 3D model to reveal issues of racial feminism and patriarchal dominance. However, this study did not use corpus tools. Meanwhile, Arrosyid et al. (2024) examined translation techniques in the short story *The Necklace*, without focusing on discourse analysis or issues of power and social status, although using the same objects.

Several other studies apply corpus analysis in literature. Mikhalkova et al. (2020) developed a narrative annotation scheme based on Text World Theory to analyze short story elements such as characters and settings. Asif et al. (2021) used the Cirrus Tool to identify themes and main characters in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* through quantitative and qualitative analysis. Tian & Li (2023) used Wordsmith Tools 7.0 to analyze linguistic features and plot representations in the novel *Jane Eyre*, showing how a corpus approach can complement conventional literary analysis.

However, there has been no research that examines the short stories *The Lady's Maid* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel* using corpus-based CDA, especially with a focus on exploring the collocation of the word *madam/madame* as a representation of power and social status. Therefore, this study fills this gap by analyzing three selected short stories and three novels simultaneously, using a corpus-based CDA approach with the help of the AntConc tool. This approach provides new contributions in terms of objects, issues, and analysis methods, which have not been widely explored in previous studies.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a mixed method, qualitative and quantitative approaches are combined to analyze the objects in this study. In addition, corpus linguistic design is certainly used in this study as a tool to review the collocation of the word 'madam' or 'madame' in selected short stories and novels. By utilizing quantitative corpus linguistic features such as collocation analysis extraction. Through the word 'madam' or 'madame' can be related to power and social status in selected short stories and novels and become a quantitative data point (McEnery & Hardie, 2011). A qualitative approach is used to interpret more deeply the language used whether it reflects power and social status which is associated with CDA theory.

Therefore, data collection was carried out by converting the short story text from PDF format to TXT format to be uploaded to Antconc. The short stories '*A Cup of Tea*', '*The Necklace*', and '*The Lady's Maid*' and the Novels '*Pride and Predjudice*', '*Jane Eyre*', '*The Scarlet Pimpernel*' are chosen to use the words 'madam' and 'madame' in their collocations. Of course, Antconc as a tool for analyzing corpus-based objects to find out the collocation in the use of the words 'madam' or 'madame'. Tables are used for frequency and collocation data as evidence of language usage patterns related to power and social status. In addition, using the Critical Discourse Analysis

(CDA) theory with a 3D model by Norman Fairclough, it is used to reveal how the words 'madam' or 'madame' can describe power and social status.

This study applies a three-dimensional approach from the theory of critical discourse analysis (CDA) developed by Fairclough to analyze the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame' in the text. The first dimension, description, focuses on the analysis of linguistic elements in the text, including collocation patterns and the contexts in which they are used (Fairclough, 1995). The second dimension, interpretation, investigates how the text is produced and received, and the ideologies reflected in the use of the term 'madam' or 'madame' by characters and readers (Wodak & Meyer, 2015). The third dimension, explanation, relates the ideologies contained in the text to the social, political and economic contexts that reflect power and social status in the selected short stories and novels. This approach allows for an in-depth analysis of the role of language as a means of representing social hierarchy and power.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data in this study include the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame' along with their collocations taken from three selected short stories and three novels. The data were obtained through corpus analysis using computer-based software, namely AntConc, which facilitates efficient collocation analysis. In the analyzed texts, 87 uses of the word 'madam' and 95 uses of the word 'madame' were found. From the 3 selected short stories and 3 novels, the total number of tokens is 406,559, for the frequency of use of the word 'Madam' often appears in *The Lady's Maid*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Jane-Eyre*, *A Cup of Tea* and *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, while the frequency of the word 'madame' is only in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Necklace* and *Jane-Eyre*.

Collocation Patterns in the Use of the Words 'Madam' or 'Madame'

In this analysis, the collocation patterns for the words 'madam' and 'madame' were obtained through data collection from a corpus that included three short stories and three novels. The collocation analysis of these words with other elements was conducted using AntConc. The table below presents the results of the collocation analysis of the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame', including words that frequently appear together with both terms in the context of selected short stories and novels.

Table 1 Collocations of the Word "Madam"

Collocation	Left Frequency	Right Frequency	Total Frequency
you	38	23	61
t	9	5	14
i	9	5	14
said	6	5	11
interrupting	2	1	3
m	4	2	6
guineas	2	1	3
consistency	2	0	2
believe	5	3	8
pardon	3	3	6

The word 'madam' is used in formal and interpersonal situations. Words like 'you', 'said', and 'pardon' indicate politeness and direct conversation, while words like 'believe' and 'interrupting' indicate a different conversation or narrative. These patterns illustrate the respectful term 'madam', which is often used in personal interactions to show respect or politeness.

Table 2 Collocations of the Word "Madame"

Collocation	Left Frequency	Right Frequency	Total Frequency
la	1	11	12
comtesse	1	11	12
loisel	1	8	9
forestier	1	7	8
faith	0	1	1
pierrot	0	5	5
nay	0	7	7
de	0	1	1
rejoined	1	4	5
coldly	0	4	4
said	1	17	18
tournay	1	4	5
necklace	2	2	4
ceremoniously	1	2	3
guillotine	1	3	4
is	2	9	11
joubert	0	2	2
frigidly	0	2	2
pray	3	1	4
ceremonious	1	1	2
frederic	1	1	2
bowing	0	1	1

The collocations of the word 'madame' show its association with French society, especially those reflecting status and formality. Words like 'la', 'comtesse', and 'loisel' indicate a connection to the French high social class and elements of the story. Terms such as 'guillotine' and 'tournay' evoke historical or symbolic sentiments, while combinations such as "necklace" and "ceremonious" suggest elegance and formality. Thus, 'madame' conveys formality, status, and cultural specificity.

Table 3 Word Class Analysis Collocation of the Word "Madam"

Collocation	Word Class	Information
you	Pronoun	Referring to the interlocutor or as a subject
I	Pronoun	As a subject
said	Verb	Demonstrates the act of speaking.
interrupting	Verb	The act of interrupting the conversation.
guineas	Noun	Currency unit (indicates material value)

consistency	Noun	Abstract concept, referring to stability
believe	Verb	Shows the act of thinking or believing.
pardon	Noun/Verb	Used an apology (an act of politeness)

Table 4 Word Class Analysis Collocation of the Word "Madame"

Collocation	Word Class	Information
comtesse	Noun	A title of nobility, indicating social status.
loisel	Proper Noun	Character name, specific identity.
forestier	Proper Noun	Character name, specific identity.
faith	Noun	Abstract concept, referring to beliefs.
pierrot	Proper Noun	Name of a specific character or entity.
nay	Adverb	Indicates denial or negative affirmation.
rejoined	Verb	Shows the action of responding or answering.
coldly	Adverb	Shows a cold way of speaking.
said	Verb	Demonstrate speaking actions
tourney	Proper Noun	Name of character or place.
necklace	Noun	Material objects, indicating wealth/status.
ceremoniously	Adverb	Describes actions in a formal way.
guillotine	Noun	Symbol of power or punishment.
is	Verb (Auxiliary)	Copula verb, indicating existence.
joubert	Proper Noun	Character name or specific identity.
frigidly	Adverb	Shows a cold way of speaking.
pray	Verb	Indicates the act of supplication or prayer.
ceremonious	Adjective	Describes formal or official nature.
frederic	Proper Noun	Character name or specific identity..
bowing	Verb	Demonstrates the act of saluting.

In tables 3 and 4, it is known that the word classes show a visual representation of the position of the use of the word 'madam' or 'madame'. Most of the collocations of the word 'madam' or 'madame' are positioned on the right. So, the data from Antconc shows that the collocations that are often found with verbs such as 'said' or pronouns such as 'I' and 'you' indicate their role in dialogue or direct interaction. Overall, the collocations of the words 'madam' and 'madame' found in tables 3 and 4 show a pattern of use that describes the interaction between power and social status through various word classes. From both tables, it can be seen that madam is used more in the context of personal interaction with an emphasis on action (verb) and relationship (pronoun), while madame is more connected to social hierarchy through identity (proper name) and formal title, which strengthens the division of social status in the narrative.

The Use of the Words 'Madam' or 'Madame' Reflects Power and Social Status

The word 'madam' or 'madame' in the data found reflects power and social status that can be analyzed using CDA approach by Fairclough. The term 'madam' or 'madame' often appears in the context of formal or hierarchical interactions, where the speaker shows respect or recognition of the social position of the other person.

Data 1

"You - you don't mean it, madam," said the girl, and there was pain in her (A Cup of Tea)

The quote above shows the tension between power and social status through the term 'madam'. Text analysis, the use of 'madam' shows a hierarchy, where speakers who have lower status call the character 'madam', thus creating an impression of subordination. Meanwhile, the analysis of discursive practices, collocations indicate differences in position in the interaction, with the pain experienced by the speaker (Mrs. Smith) indicating powerlessness or emotional tension that arises due to inequality. Thus, the social analysis of the word 'madam' reflects the norms of recognized social class, where the speaker is in a lower or oppressed position compared to the person called 'madam'. So, in this context, collocations emphasize social dominance through class differences indicated by word choice and emotional expression.

Data 2

I hope I haven't disturbed you, madam. You weren't asleep-were you? (The Lady's Maid)

The quote above illustrates the dynamics of power and social status through the word 'madam'. The analysis of the text, 'madam' shows respect where the speaker is in a lower position facing an individual of higher status. In the context of discursive practices, the questions asked reflect dependence on higher authority, with concerns that their actions may disturb the comfort of the person of higher status. Thus, socially affirming the existing power relations, where the speaker acknowledges the status differences and acts carefully to maintain his position in the social structure.

Data 3

"You may depend upon it, Madam," said Miss Bingley, with cold civility (Pride and Prejudice)

From the quote above reflects the existence of a power relationship and social status that is formed. In the text analysis, 'madam' reflects a formal form of respect, this is balanced with 'cold civility' which shows tension in social interaction. Meanwhile, the analysis of discursive practices, this confirms the attitude of bowing to a higher status. While in the social context, it reflects the existence of class differences, marked by polite language but full of distance.

Data 4

"Very good, madam; we will do as you say," (Jane Eyre)

The quote above shows a strong power relationship between the speaker and the recipient of the order. In the text analysis, this reflects respect and obedience to power. However, in discursive practice, it shows a division of status, where the speaker confirms his lower position. In addition, from the social context, it confirms the existence of a hierarchical structure and shows that the woman mentioned has authority over the actions of others.

Data 5

"Go and see Madame Forestier and ask her to lend you some jewels." (The Necklace)

The quote above emphasizes the power and higher social status possessed by Forestier. Text analysis shows an instruction said by someone in a lower position to someone higher. In discursive analysis, it reflects the existence of dependency and subordination. So, in a social context, this reflects the existing hierarchical structure, where Madame Forestier, with her social

status where Madame Forestier has valuable material objects in the form of jewelry, makes her have a higher status.

Data 6

"You desired my presence, Madame," he said frigidly. (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*)

The quote above shows the power and social status between the speaker and 'Madam'. Text analysis shows that 'madam' has the power to request the presence of others, showing dominance in their relationship. In discursive practice, it reflects formal and hierarchical interactions, where the speaker acknowledges the power of 'madam' in the context. Thus, in the analysis of the social context, 'madam' indicates higher power and social status, reflecting the imbalance of power that reinforces the differences in position between them.

The discussion in the study reveals the main problem, namely the collocation pattern of the words "madam" and "madame" and how the two terms reflect power and social status in the selected short stories and novels. Power and social status are implied from the context of the use of collocations where 'madam' is more often used by characters with lower social levels, while 'madame' represents more dominance and authority. The choice of works from various authors but the selected data sources can emphasize the strength of social norms and relations of power and social status. This study brings renewal to the study of critical discourse analysis by highlighting the collocation of the term, which shows the social dynamics in literature in a more in-depth way.

CONCLUSION

This study can identify the use of the words 'madam' and 'madame' in literary works that reflect power and social status. Using collocation analysis and critical discourse analysis by Fairclough, it was found that the term 'madam' is more often used in interpersonal interactions as a way to show the structure of social hierarchy through respect or formality, while 'madame' is more often used in the context of social identity related to titles or names. With a total of 87 uses of 'madam' and 95 uses of 'madame' from a corpus of 406,559 tokens, the use of these two terms reflects various aspects of power and social status in the context of the selected short stories and novels. The mixed method that combines qualitative and quantitative techniques allows researchers to conduct in-depth analysis of the text, and reveal how language reflects complex power and social status in each literary work. The findings of this study provide new discoveries in the study of CDA-based corpus linguistics, especially in understanding the relationship between language, power, and social status.

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