

Genetic Structuration According to Lucien Goldman: Concepts and Procedural Mechanisms in the Context of Systematic Critique

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ABSTRACT: *This study is embedded within the domain of interdisciplinary critical studies, offering both a historical and descriptive exploration of genetic structuration as conceptualized by Lucien Goldman. We delve into the terminological intricacies and delineate the procedural mechanisms foundational to this contemporary critical methodology. By engaging with literary texts, this approach equips readers with the tools to analyze literary works through the lens of genetic structuration, assimilate its underlying concepts, apply its guiding principles, and discern the symbiotic relationship between the social context and literary visions embedded within the text.*

Keywords: *Structuration, Genetic, Lucien Goldman, Worldview, Semantic Structure, Comprehension and Interpretation, Current and Potential Consciousness, Assembly and Disassembly of Structure.*

Résumé: *Ce travail s'inscrit dans le domaine des études critiques interdisciplinaires, offrant une analyse historique et descriptive sur la fondation de la structuration génétique par "Lucien Goldman". Nous explorons les définitions terminologiques et exposons les mécanismes procéduraux sur lesquels repose cette approche critique moderne. En abordant le texte littéraire, le lecteur, à l'issue de sa lecture, sera capable d'analyser des œuvres littéraires en utilisant l'approche de la structuration génétique, en assimilant ses concepts et en appliquant ses principes, et ainsi de déduire la relation interconnectée entre la vision sociale et littéraire du texte.*

Mots-clés: *Structuration, Génétique, Lucien Goldman, Vision du monde, Structure sémantique, Compréhension et interprétation, Conscience actuelle et possible, Assemblage et désassemblage de la structure.*

Introduction:

Systematic critique, augmented by its interdisciplinary nature, has catalyzed a transformative shift in the realm of modern critical theory, particularly through its nuanced engagement with literary texts and an intensified focus on linguistic elements. Critics have advanced the analysis of human phenomena by mapping their genesis and idiosyncrasies through a structured methodology, complemented by an integrative approach.

This dual-method strategy aims to bridge the critical voids arising from the monolithic perspectives that traditionally dominated systematic critique, thereby fostering a more comprehensive understanding of human creativity within a unified critical framework.

Lucien Goldman, a pioneer of genetic structuration, embodies this critical evolution. In his innovative approach, Goldman melds structuration with a robust social vision, which, within the context of modernity, signifies a critical pivot in literary critique. This method not only reorients critical perspectives concerning literary analysis but also unveils the linguistic subtleties and transformations within texts. Additionally, Goldman's incorporation of a social vision into his critique addresses and mitigates the limitations inherent in structuration alone.

Problem Statement:

Despite the innovative strides made by structuration in literary studies, its propensity to abstract texts from their external contexts has invited criticism. Such critiques often highlight the resultant gaps in understanding, which are attributed to an oversight of the influence that external contexts exert on text interpretation.

This critique has spurred the development of integrative critical methods that amalgamate structuration with contextual analysis, as exemplified by Lucien Goldman's creation of genetic structuration. This method synergizes the analytical strengths of structural and sociological approaches to literature.

Questions:

- What distinct critical innovations has Lucien Goldman introduced with his method of genetic structuration?
- In what ways has Lucien Goldman's genetic structuration addressed and ameliorated the inherent limitations of traditional structuration?
- What are the specific procedural mechanisms that genetic structuration utilizes in its analytical approach to texts?

Method:

To tackle the identified problem, our methodology combines historical and descriptive research approaches. The historical aspect was instrumental in tracing the origins and conceptual foundations of genetic structuration, while the descriptive approach facilitated the elucidation of terminologies, clarifying the essence of terms and explicating the procedural mechanisms foundational to Lucien Goldman's genetic structuration approach to textual analysis.

Objectives:

The primary aim of this scholarly article is to impart procedural critical knowledge. This endeavor is designed to equip university students specializing in modern literary critique with the analytical tools necessary to dissect literary texts including prose, poetry, and drama, and to master this integrative critical approach. Consequently, students will be adept at unveiling both textual and contextual structures, thereby enhancing their comprehension of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of texts.

First- Conceptual Foundation of Structuralism:

Before delving into Lucien Goldman's contributions to modern literary critique, it is essential to revisit the critical phase that defined the trajectory of post-contextual critique with the advent of structuralism. Emerging as a significant milestone in systematic critique, structuralism introduced critical innovations that were previously nonexistent.

Structuralism marked a seminal point and a transformative event in literary critique. Our research delves into the developmental stages of structuralism, its core concepts, and its procedural characteristics as they

pertain to the analysis of literary texts. Our focus is to underscore the 'literariness' of texts, posited as inherently constituted independent of contextual influences.

1. Language:

From a linguistic viewpoint, the term 'structuralism' is derived from the trilateral Arabic verb "بنى" (bana)^(Ibn Mandur. 2010. P 235) which means to build, the antithesis of demolition. This etymology is highlighted in "Lisan al-Arab," signifying the term's migration from civil construction to critical discourse, embodying an architectural nuance that underscores its foundational nature^(Rafi' Abu al-Hayja. 2011. P 4)

2. Terminology:

Regarding conceptual theorization, research indicates that the term 'structure' in various languages (e.g., English, French) stems from the Latin verb 'struere,' which means to build or erect. This linguistic root aligns with definitions found in Arabic dictionaries, where 'structure' is synonymous with construction^{(Rahim. 2014. P 473).}

Structuralism, therefore, is characterized as a contemporary critical approach that relies on the objective description and analysis of the constitutive elements of literary texts, grounded in scientific rigor^{(Ibid. p 4).}

3. Foundation:

The establishment of structuralism is credited to linguist Roman Jakobson (1896-1982), with its introduction in the Western critical arena traced back to the late 1950s. However, it was not until the 1960s that the structuralist movement gained significant traction in France^(Waghli. 2010. P 69)

Initially emerging from the philosophical and linguistic underpinnings of preceding critical schools, notably Russian formalism, structuralism represents a culmination of formalist theorization^(Viktor. 2000. P 66)

In this sense, structuralism is a tributary of Russian formalism, and of critical circles that followed, contributing with their systematic principles to the emergence of structuralism, among which we can mention:

3.1 The Prague Circle (1926-1948):

This critical school, also known as Czech structuralism, was founded by Vilém Mathesius in 1926. It continued the tradition of Russian formalism and approached literary texts with a contemporary lens, emphasizing language and form as central to its analytical framework^(Waghli. 2021. P 68)

3.2 The Tel Quel Group (1960):

This critical group, marking the onset of structuralism's emergence, was established by Philippe Sollers in 1960 and included eminent figures such as Julia Kristeva, Roland Barthes, and Michel Foucault^(Ibid. p 69)

The group dedicated its focus to the integration of psychoanalytic, Marxist, and linguistic studies in its approach to literary texts. This critical divergence from the traditional bodies of critical schools showcases two contradictory facets, reflecting the fracture borne by systematic critique: on one hand, it serves as a testament to the preservation of accumulated knowledge within the field of systematic critique; on the other, despite its critical departure introducing novelty, it inherently carried the seeds of its own potential invalidity.

Each new critical school thus revealed gaps in the preceding ones, with critics often disagreeing on visions and applications.

4. Critical Principles:

Structuralism, in its approach to literary texts, aligns with the systematic critical trends observed in modern critique under the influence of Roman Jakobson. It adheres to the following foundational principles:

4.1 The Whole Rather Than the Part:

This fundamental principle of structuralism emphasizes the primacy of the whole over its constituent parts. An element gains meaning and substance primarily through the strength of the relationships that constitute it, illustrating the interconnectedness and interdependence within the structural whole^(Garaudy. 1987. P 13)

4.2 Transformations and Self-Organization:

The structure of a text is in a state of constant dynamic transformation, organizing its elements from the particular to the general without disrupting the overall order. Critical to understanding structuralism is the notion that what is crucial within structures is the unity of their distinct changes, this unity forms the law governing these changes.

Thus, in its broader sense, structuralism opposes atomism, which seeks to isolate individual components of a whole through mere accumulation. Instead, structuralism aims to uncover the relationships that imbue elements with value and to discern the comprehensive wholes that lend meaning to their boundaries^(Rafi' Abu al-Hayja. 2011. P 14)

4.3 The Death of the Author:

Aligning with Russian formalism, structuralism diminishes the author's presence in the analysis of texts, focusing instead on the structures within the text itself.

4.4 Focus on Text Structure and Rejection of Historical Context:

Structuralism prioritizes the analysis of text structure over historical phenomena and their progression, emphasizing the inherent structure of texts over external historical events"^(Rahim. 2014. P 469)

Secondly - Conceptual Context of Genetic Structuralism in "Lucien Goldman":

The term 'genetic structuralism' translates from the French 'le structuralismegénétique', a concept borrowed by Lucien Goldman from the French psychologist and structuralist, Jean Piaget^(Mokran. 2022. P 4)

1. Definition:

Upon examining 'genetic structuralism', it becomes evident that it represents a relatively recent critical approach. Semantically, it combines 'structuralism' and 'genetic', each term bringing its own critical depth.

'Structure' refers to the linguistic and textual framework that organizes elements through a systematic grammatical and morphological structure, serving as the cohesive backbone of language. It denotes a coherent

system where all components are interconnected, forming a regular ensemble of units and relationships that define each other reciprocally.

Genetic structuralism is characterized as a comprehensive system that intricately connects its elements to form a cohesive whole, allowing for autonomous transformations within the confines of the relationships that bind its components. This critical approach is grounded on two foundational concepts: 'structure' and 'formation' (Chehaid. 1986. P 6)

The initial phase focuses on analyzing the construction and comprehension of the text, while the subsequent phase explores the connections between the artistic work and the external intellectual structures, aiming to understand its role within the cultural life of the society (Asa'idi. 2019. P 500)

This methodological framework renders genetic structuralism an integrative approach, merging the formal tenets of structuralism with sociological insights. In its essence, it is defined as a functional sociological method dedicated to the examination of literary, artistic, and cultural phenomena.

Its objective is to interpret and understand these phenomena by tracking worldviews through an implicit correspondence between literature and society, while also considering the dialectical conditions that shape the internal structure of texts (Hamida. 2023. P 4)

2. Origin of Genetic Structuralism:

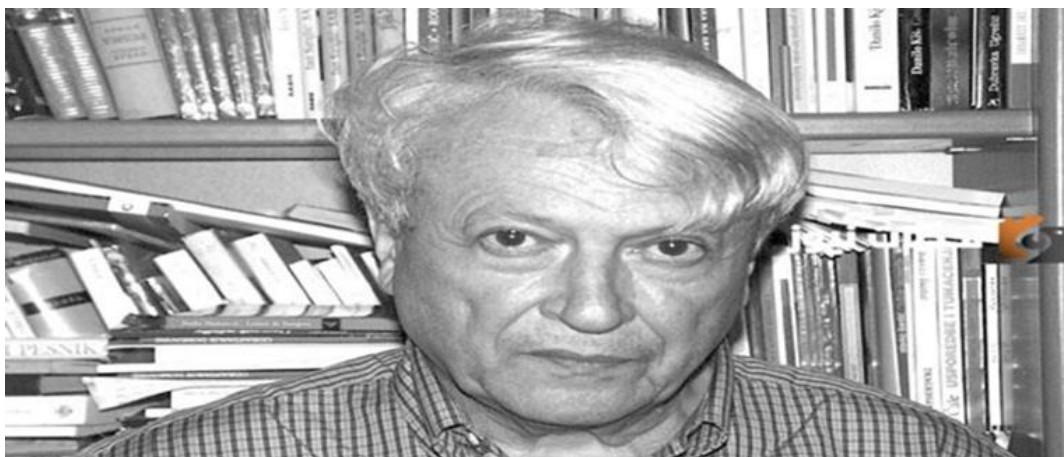
Genetic structuralism was pioneered by the critic Lucien Goldman (1913-1970), with its inception dating back to the early 20th century, profoundly influenced by Marxist ideology. Its foundational principles were developed amid the decline of the formalist and structuralist schools, which encountered internal fractures within their human framework due to criticisms of their one-dimensional approach to text analysis, relying solely on contemporary critique.

"Genetic structuralism was established upon the ruins of classical structuralism, imbued with the principles of Russian formalism, particularly in its contemporary study aspect, while also leveraging the social context within its Marxist material framework. Consequently, this

method has successfully reconciled the structuralist approach with Marxist theory"(Bakri. 2021.p 161)

Lucien Goldman's approach to genetic structuralism employs a hybrid method, combining critical analysis of the text's construction in both form and language with the application of sociological perspectives. This approach necessitates a cognitive link enabling the critic to become acutely aware of societal realities and historical transformations.

Genetic structuralism "interconnects the social perspective with literary development in its content and forms, and mirrors the relationship between consciousness and the world, the self and the object, within the context of modern bourgeois society"(Asa'idi. 2019. P 502)



Personal photo of the French sociologist Lucien Goldman (1913-1970).

Lucien Goldman - Definition and Contributions:

Lucien Goldman, a French philosopher, critic, and sociologist born on July 28, 1913, is renowned for his seminal contributions to critique, philosophy, and sociology. As the progenitor of genetic structuralism, he extended the reach of structuralist and sociological methodologies. Goldman's intellectual legacy, following his demise on October 8, 1970,

includes pivotal works such as "The Hidden God"(Lucien. 2010), "Genetic Structuralism and Literary Criticism"(Ibid. 1984), "The Human Sciences and Philosophy"(Ibid. 1996), and "Introduction to the Sociology of the Novel"(Ibid. 1993), among others.

His scholarship has left a lasting impact on the fields of literary and cultural studies, continuing to influence contemporary critical discourse^(Al-Bazghi. 2023)

3. Critical Principles of Genetic Structuralism:

Lucien Goldman's genetic structuralism is built upon several critical pillars during its constructivist and social approach to the text, which can be summarized as follows:

3.1 Opening Structuralist Critique to Social Perspectives:

Genetic structuralism, under the guidance of "Lucien Goldman" (1913-1970), influenced by the Marxist thought with which he was imbued, carries a contradictory critical specificity, being both an extension of structuralism and its opposite.

It recognizes that the constructivist critical study is incapable of deciphering the code of the literary text by itself, as the literary work is not merely an individual or linguistic product but rather an achievement that reflects the consciousness of social perspectives, where the author's self dissolves in favor of society, embodying its doctrines and transformations.

With this vision, genetic structuralism has succeeded in restoring the place of the author in critical studies, after having been excluded and obscured by contemporary constructivist studies with formalism and structuralism.

It came to "fill the gaps of structuralism, by combining the social dimension of the literary text and the linguistic dimension, thereby restoring the author's dignity, being an objective scientific method, which emphasizes the existing relationship between the product, the social group, and the literary creation, on the basis that mental structures are social phenomena and not individual"^(Asa'idi.2019. p 503)

3.2 Overcoming the Shortcomings of Structuralism:

Several critiques have been directed at structuralism, criticizing its excess in the contemporary approach to the literary text, which has made the critical process obscure and complicated the full application of its approach, making it difficult to understand the text.

This led critics to turn away from it, which pushed genetic structuralism to theorize a new method based on overcoming these critiques, with the aim of overcoming the critical gaps resulting from its systematic internal approach to the text. Genetic structuralism adopts an approach that follows the following steps in the approach to the text:

- "Integrating the literary work into the personal life of the creator.
- Studying what is essential in the text, by isolating certain partial elements from the context and making them independent totalities.
- Introducing partial elements into the whole, knowing that we cannot achieve a totality, which is not itself an element or a part in the details of the world interconnected and interwoven, so that it seems impossible to know one without knowing the other, that is without knowing the whole.
- Highlighting the social context, by studying the concept of the world of the community to which the author belongs and questioning the social and individual causes that led to this vision, as an intellectual phenomenon expressed by the literary work at a specific time and place, and this phenomenon is a phenomenon of aesthetic consciousness that reaches its peak of clarity in the creator's production"(Miloud Hamida. 2023. P 4)

3.3 Worldview:

Lucien Goldman considers the literary work as a social accomplishment, reflecting the life of the community, and that the themes treated and expressed by literature in different genres "are the themes of social groups, and not of isolated individuals, and express that individual creation is part of the group's creation"(Habila. 2007. P 144)

Lucien Goldman theorizes the principle of the worldview from a philosophical perspective, with a structuralist perspective characterized by its universality and existence, based on the way the self is situated within the collective self, as a self aware of the meaning of conforming to the social situation, so that the self sheds its individuality and consciously interacts with its society, adopts its transformations, lives with its contradictions, and seeks through its literary work to reflect this social cohesion, which he calls the worldview, defining it as: "a set of aspirations, feelings, and ideas that unify the members of a social group, often the members of a social class, and put them in opposition with other groups.

It is undoubtedly a general schema for the historian, but a generalization of a real current among the members of a group who all realize this consciousness in a conscious and quite coherent manner"(Lucien. 2010. P 42)

3.4 Semantic Structure:

Semantic structure is the primary pillar upon which genetic structuralism rests in its analysis and interpretation of the text, necessitating that the critic masters the worldview on which the text's construction and its connection to the social context are based.

On this basis, one can understand the semantic structure contained within the textual construction, as it "provides us with a criterion to measure the effectiveness of this analysis in terms of its philosophical, creative, and aesthetic significance, which this structure has enabled and its authenticity in expressing the worldview" (Mokran. 2022. P 2)

3.5 Understanding and Interpretation:

These are two intertwined stages that complement each other in the genetic structuralist approach, where understanding is tied to the initial stage oriented towards a contemporary reading and the extraction of meanings on which the text is built within its closed framework.

This is followed by the interpretation stage, a subsequent step where the critic addresses the text in an external approach, linking the political, cultural, and social variables that govern the society to the structure of

the text, determining their existence as structures in the textual construction" (Bakri. 2022. P 166-167)

3.6 Existing Consciousness and Possible Consciousness:

This refers to "the recognition by a social category of its current situation, which contents itself with describing without changing, while the possible consciousness is tied to the future time and to what the class aspires to achieve" (Asa'idi. 2019. P 512)

3.7 Synthesis and Decomposition of the Structure:

Lucien Goldman believes that the critic, in their analysis and interpretation of the text, fulfils the function of "synthesizing the structure to reveal a new structure, and decomposing old structures, which were realized in the past and represented the aspirations of the social class, while the synthesis aims to achieve balance and continuity for the individual and society, taking into account the external element" (Habila. 2007. P 155)

4. Conclusion:

Genetic structuralism, under the direction of "Lucien Goldman," represents a new pure achievement, combining the structuralism of "Roman Jakobson" with sociology. It has surpassed in its critical principles what previous structuralist critique had neglected, especially when it approached texts in isolation from the context.

However, genetic structuralism has revived the role of the external context in the understanding, analysis, and interpretation of the text, considering that the literary text reflects a collective vision of society.

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