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Pragmatics and Satire: Language, Culture, and Irony in Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels

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Abstract: This paper explores Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) through the lens of pragmatics, a field of linguistics that studies meaning in context and the ways in which speech acts perform social functions. Although the novel has long been recognized for its satirical brilliance, this essay contends that Swift's satire is sustained by a series of pragmatic strategies that shape both character interaction and narrative design. By focusing on speech acts, irony, deixis, politeness, and metapragmatic awareness, the discussion shows how Swift employs language not only to entertain but also to critique politics, scientific inquiry, and human behavior. Gulliver's promises, apologies, and formal reports frequently turn into failed or reinterpreted speech acts, revealing the fragility of communication across cultural boundaries. Irony and satire operate through implicature, inviting readers to perceive the distance between Gulliver's literal statements and Swift's critical intent. Deictic expressions emphasize the relativity of perspective, while politeness strategies dramatize shifting hierarchies of power. The novel also reflects on language itself, exposing how ideas of truth and deception are embedded in communicative practices. Taken together, these elements highlight Swift's skepticism toward Enlightenment rationality, imperial ambition, and human pride. The essay ultimately suggests that *Gulliver's Travels* endures not only because of its imaginative allegories but also because of its pragmatic sophistication, which continues to illuminate debates about communication, politics, and culture.

Keywords: Jonathan Swift; *Gulliver's Travels*; Pragmatics; Speech Acts; Irony and Satire; Politeness Theory; Metapragmatics

I. Introduction

- **Definition of Pragmatics in literature**

Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics that deals with the study of language in context, with an emphasis on how language is used to achieve different goals. In literature, pragmatics refers to the study of how language is used by characters in a particular context, with an emphasis on how the context shapes the meaning of language. This includes studying how the use of language changes based on the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which it is used, as well as how language is used to achieve specific goals, such as persuasion, politeness, or humor. Pragmatics is an important tool for analyzing literature because it helps readers to understand the ways in which language is used to convey meaning beyond its literal definition, and how it is used to reflect the values, beliefs, and attitudes of the characters and the society in which they live.

- **Overview of Gulliver's Travels and its place in English literature**



Gulliver's Travels is a satirical novel by Irish writer Jonathan Swift, first published in 1726. It is considered one of the greatest works of English literature and a classic of satirical writing. The novel tells the story of Lemuel Gulliver, a ship's surgeon who embarks on four extraordinary journeys, each to a different fantastical land. Through his travels, Gulliver encounters societies with strange customs, bizarre creatures, and extraordinary cultures. The novel is a critique of human nature and society, using allegory and irony to expose the flaws and follies of humanity.

Gulliver's Travels is a landmark work in English literature, and Swift's use of satire and parody influenced many later writers. The novel's wit, humor, and subversive elements continue to captivate readers today, and its influence can be seen in works ranging from George Orwell's *Animal Farm* to Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Swift's writing style, which combines detailed description with ironic detachment, is a hallmark of the novel and has had a lasting impact on the development of English prose.

II. Contextual background

- **Overview of Jonathan Swift and his writing style**

Jonathan Swift was an Irish satirist, essayist, poet, and clergyman who lived from 1667 to 1745. He is best known for his satirical works, including "A Modest Proposal" and "Gulliver's Travels." Swift's writing style is characterized by his use of irony, satire, and wit to criticize social and political issues of his time. He often employed a sarcastic tone and used humor to make his points, often highlighting the absurdity of the society and culture he was criticizing. His works were known for their sharp social commentary and their willingness to challenge conventional ideas and beliefs. Swift's writing style has had a lasting influence on English literature, and he is still widely read and studied today.

- **Overview of the 18th century English society and culture**

The 18th century was a significant period in English history, marked by a number of social, cultural, and political changes. During this time, England emerged as a major global power, with the growth of its empire and overseas trade. It was a period of enlightenment, where reason and logic were valued over blind faith and superstition. Science, art, and literature flourished, and the idea of progress was embraced.

However, English society was still deeply divided along class lines, with the aristocracy and gentry wielding considerable power and influence. The vast majority of the population were peasants or workers, who were often exploited and oppressed by the ruling classes. The Industrial Revolution began in the mid-18th century, leading to rapid economic growth and urbanization, but also to widespread poverty, inequality, and social unrest.

In terms of culture, the 18th century was marked by the emergence of new forms of literature, such as the novel, which became a popular form of entertainment and a means of social commentary. The rise of newspapers, coffeehouses, and other public spaces also contributed to the growth of a new urban culture, with a greater emphasis on social interaction, entertainment, and leisure. However, cultural life was still largely dominated by the upper classes, who had the means and leisure to pursue intellectual and artistic pursuits.

Overall, the 18th century was a complex and dynamic period in English history, marked by both progress and inequality, enlightenment and oppression, and cultural innovation and conservatism.



- **Historical context of Gulliver's Travels**

Gulliver's Travels, written by Jonathan Swift, was published in 1726 during the early 18th century in England. The 18th century was marked by the Enlightenment, which was a period of intellectual and cultural growth. It was a time of scientific progress, new ideas, and exploration, as well as the rise of industrialization and the growth of the British Empire. England was also experiencing political turmoil during this time, including the Glorious Revolution and the Jacobite uprisings.

In addition, there were several other significant events and movements that impacted the historical context of Gulliver's Travels. These include the rise of the novel as a literary genre, the influence of the Royal Society and other scientific organizations, the development of satire as a literary form, and the increasing importance of trade and commerce in British society. All of these factors contributed to the cultural and intellectual climate in which Swift was writing, and they helped shape the themes and content of his work.

III. Pragmatic elements in Gulliver's Travels

- **Speech acts and their functions in the novel**

In Gulliver's Travels, speech acts are used to convey the intended meaning of a character's speech, which often differs from their literal meaning. The speech acts used in the novel serve various functions, including expressing politeness, deception, and irony.

One of the most notable examples of speech acts in the novel is the way the Lilliputians use politeness and euphemisms to convey their true intentions. For instance, when they want to express disapproval, they say "it would not be proper" or "it would not be convenient," rather than directly expressing their objection. This is a form of indirectness, which is used to maintain social harmony and avoid conflict.

Another example of speech acts is the use of deception by the Brobdingnagians, who trick Gulliver into believing that they are simple and innocent. In reality, they are a highly sophisticated society that is far more advanced than Gulliver's own society. By using deception, the Brobdingnagians are able to control Gulliver and gain an advantage over him.

Finally, the novel makes extensive use of irony in its speech acts. For example, when Gulliver is in the land of the Houyhnhnms, the horses use a form of speech that is highly rational and logical, but lacks any emotional content. This is an ironic commentary on the limitations of human communication, and the failure of language to capture the full complexity of human experience.

Overall, the use of speech acts in Gulliver's Travels serves to highlight the importance of communication in shaping social relationships and power dynamics, and the limitations of language in conveying the full range of human experience.

- **Use of irony and satire in the novel**

Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels is a work of literary satire that makes use of irony to criticize society and human nature. Irony is a rhetorical device in which the intended meaning is opposite to the literal or surface meaning of the words used. Swift employs verbal irony throughout the novel to ridicule various aspects of society. For example, in Part I, when Gulliver is discussing the virtues of his own country, he uses verbal irony to mock the petty and absurd nature of the government and the ruling class. Another example can be seen in Part IV, where the Houyhnhnms' rational and emotionless way of life is presented in a way that is supposed to be superior to that of



human beings. However, this depiction is ironic because the Houyhnhnms are shown to be incapable of experiencing love or any other type of emotion, which is a significant aspect of what it means to be human.

Satire is another device used in Gulliver's Travels to critique and ridicule various aspects of society. Satire is a form of writing that uses humor, irony, and exaggeration to expose or criticize the flaws or weaknesses of a particular person, society, or institution. Swift uses satire to target a wide range of societal issues, such as politics, religion, education, and human nature. For example, in Part III, Swift satirizes the greed and corruption of politicians and the government. In Part IV, Swift satirizes the arrogance and conceit of the human race, as well as the shortcomings of Enlightenment thinking.

Overall, Swift's use of irony and satire in Gulliver's Travels serves to highlight the flaws and shortcomings of society and human nature. Through these literary devices, he is able to provide a critique of society and offer a commentary on the human condition.

- **Deixis and its role in the novel**

Deixis is a linguistic term used to describe the way in which language relies on contextual information to convey meaning. In Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift makes extensive use of deixis to underscore the novel's themes of perspective and understanding. One of the most striking examples of this is the way in which Swift uses the location of Gulliver's travels to highlight the differences in cultural norms and expectations. For example, when Gulliver is in Lilliput, he is a giant and has to adjust his behavior to conform to the cultural expectations of the small Lilliputians. Conversely, when he travels to Brobdingnag, he is a tiny speck in a world of giants, and he must adapt to their way of life. Through the use of deixis, Swift emphasizes the idea that our understanding of the world is fundamentally shaped by our cultural context and the perspectives we bring to it. By highlighting the differences in cultural norms and expectations, he encourages readers to be more open-minded and empathetic towards those who see the world differently than they do.

- **Politeness and impoliteness strategies used by characters**

In Gulliver's Travels, there are several instances where characters use politeness and impoliteness strategies to achieve their goals. For example, in Lilliput, the Lilliputians use impoliteness strategies towards Gulliver by accusing him of treason when he urinates to extinguish a fire. They do this to show their power and to keep Gulliver under their control. On the other hand, Gulliver uses politeness strategies towards the Brobdingnagians, such as showing respect and admiration towards their king and country. He does this to gain their trust and to ensure his safety in a foreign land. Additionally, Gulliver's encounters with the Houyhnhnms and the Yahoos demonstrate the use of politeness and impoliteness strategies in the context of different cultures and species. The Houyhnhnms, who value reason and intelligence, communicate with politeness and respect towards each other, while the Yahoos, who represent the animalistic and irrational side of humanity, communicate with aggression and impoliteness towards each other. The use of politeness and impoliteness strategies in Gulliver's Travels highlights the power dynamics between characters and the importance of understanding cultural differences in communication.

- **Metapragmatic awareness and its portrayal in the novel**

Metapragmatic awareness refers to the ability to reflect on language use and understand the social and cultural contexts that shape it. In Gulliver's Travels, metapragmatic



awareness is reflected in the way characters use language to manipulate and assert power over one another.

For example, in the first part of the novel, Gulliver finds himself in Lilliput, where he is subjected to a complex system of social hierarchy and political intrigue. The Lilliputians use language as a means of asserting their status and reinforcing their power over others. Gulliver observes how the use of language is tied to social status, with those who use more complex and ornate language being seen as more educated and cultured.

Similarly, in the second part of the novel, Gulliver finds himself in Brobdingnag, where he is confronted with a society that is both more rational and more brutal than his own. Here, the characters use language to reflect on the nature of human society and to critique their own culture. Gulliver is forced to confront the limitations of his own worldview and to reevaluate his assumptions about language and communication.

Overall, the use of metapragmatic awareness in Gulliver's Travels serves to highlight the ways in which language use is shaped by social and cultural contexts, and how it can be used to exert power and control over others. Through his portrayal of language and communication, Swift challenges readers to reflect on the role of language in shaping our understanding of the world around us, and the ways in which it can both empower and oppress us.

IV. Speech acts and their functions in Gulliver's Travels

- **Definition of speech acts**

Speech acts refer to the actions performed through the use of language. These actions may be statements, promises, orders, questions, or any other communicative act that has an intended effect on the listener or reader. The concept of speech acts was introduced by philosopher J.L. Austin in his book "How to Do Things with Words" (1962), where he argued that language is not just a means of describing the world, but also a means of performing actions within it. Speech acts are performed through the use of performative verbs, such as "I promise," "I apologize," or "I congratulate." The success of a speech act depends on the context in which it is performed, as well as the speaker's intention and the listener's interpretation of the act.

- **Examples of speech acts in the novel**

There are several examples of speech acts in Gulliver's Travels. One of the most notable ones is Gulliver's interaction with the Lilliputians, where he performs a speech act of apology after accidentally trespassing on their land. Another example is the King of Luggnagg's speech act of invitation to Gulliver to come and live in his country. Gulliver himself performs a speech act of promise when he swears to the King of Luggnagg that he will never reveal the secret of immortality to anyone. The Houyhnhnms also perform speech acts of categorization and identification when they use language to distinguish between different creatures and objects in their world.

- **Functions of speech acts in the novel**

In Gulliver's Travels, speech acts serve various functions. One of the primary functions is to provide social commentary and critique. Swift uses various speech acts, such as directives, assertions, and requests, to criticize the social, political, and religious institutions of his time. For example, when Gulliver is in Luggnagg, the King asks him about the political system in England. Gulliver tries to explain the system, but the King is puzzled by the concept of political parties, which shows Swift's criticism of the English political system. Another function of speech acts in the novel is to create humor



and satire. Swift uses irony and sarcasm in many of the speech acts to mock the characters' behaviors and attitudes. For instance, when Gulliver meets the Houyhnhnms, the horses that are rational and civilized, he realizes that the human beings in his world are irrational and uncivilized. Swift uses the speech acts of comparison and contrast to highlight the ridiculousness of human behavior. Finally, speech acts also play a role in character development. The way characters speak and the speech acts they use reveal their personalities, social status, and cultural background. For example, the way the Lilliputians use flattery and exaggerated politeness towards Gulliver shows their subservience and desire to gain his favor.

V. Use of irony and satire in the novel

- **Definition of irony and satire**

Irony is a literary device that involves the use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning or to convey a meaning that is opposite to what is expected. It can be used to create humor, express satire, or to make a point.

Satire, on the other hand, is a literary technique that uses humor, irony, or exaggeration to criticize or expose the follies and shortcomings of society, politics, or individuals. Satire is often used to ridicule human vices or weaknesses with the aim of bringing about change or improvement. It can be found in various forms of literature, including novels, plays, poems, and essays.

- **Examples of irony and satire in the novel**

There are numerous examples of irony and satire in Gulliver's Travels. One of the most famous examples is the way Swift uses Gulliver's travels to satirize English society and government. For example, in the first part of the novel, Gulliver visits the land of Lilliput, where he encounters a society in which people are judged by their ability to jump over a stick, and where the Emperor requires his subjects to engage in absurd and pointless rituals to gain his favor. This is a clear satire on the way that Swift saw English society, which he felt was obsessed with pointless rituals and social hierarchies.

Another example of satire in the novel can be seen in the way Swift uses the character of Gulliver to mock the English government and its policies. For instance, in the third part of the novel, Gulliver travels to Laputa, a land ruled by absurd and impractical intellectuals who are completely out of touch with the needs of the common people. This is a clear satire on the way that Swift saw the English government, which he felt was dominated by corrupt and ineffective officials who were more concerned with their own interests than with those of the people they were supposed to serve.

Swift also uses irony in the novel to highlight the absurdity of certain situations. For example, in the second part of the novel, Gulliver visits Brobdingnag, a land inhabited by giants who are much more moral and virtuous than the people of his own country. This is ironic, as Gulliver had previously been to a land where people were judged by their physical size, whereas in Brobdingnag, it is the moral character of the individuals that is most important.

Overall, Swift's use of irony and satire in Gulliver's Travels serves to highlight the flaws and absurdities of English society and government, while also offering a critique of human nature more generally.

- **Functions of irony and satire in the novel**

In Gulliver's Travels, Swift uses irony and satire to criticize various aspects of English society and human nature. One example of irony can be seen in Gulliver's initial admiration of the Lilliputians, who are presented as a peaceful and just society.



However, as the novel progresses, it becomes clear that their society is just as corrupt and flawed as the society Gulliver came from. This irony serves to critique the idea of the "noble savage" and the tendency to romanticize other cultures.

Satire is also used in the novel to critique various aspects of society, such as politics, science, and religion. For example, the absurdity of the Laputan's obsession with science and their inability to apply their knowledge to practical problems is satirized. Similarly, the absurdity of the religious conflicts between the Big-Endians and the Little-Endians is satirized. These examples serve to highlight the dangers of extremism and the importance of reason and moderation. Overall, Swift's use of irony and satire in the novel serves to critique and expose the flaws and follies of English society and human nature.

VI. Deixis and its role in the novel

- **Definition of deixis**

Deixis is a linguistic term that refers to the way in which language uses words and expressions to point to and identify entities and situations in the world around us. Deixis involves using words like "this," "that," "here," and "there," which have meaning only in relation to the context in which they are used. Deixis allows speakers to refer to things in the world around them without having to explicitly name them, and to convey information about spatial and temporal relationships.

- **Examples of deixis in the novel**

Deixis refers to the use of words or phrases to point to specific elements in the context of the discourse. One of the most notable examples of deixis in Gulliver's Travels is the use of personal pronouns. For instance, in the scene where Gulliver is addressing the Luggnaggian king, he uses the personal pronoun "I" to refer to himself, while the king uses the pronoun "you" to address Gulliver. The use of these pronouns is significant because it reinforces the power dynamic between Gulliver and the king, with Gulliver acknowledging the king's authority through his use of deferential language. Additionally, the novel also makes use of demonstratives, such as "this," "that," "here," and "there," to indicate spatial and temporal relationships between the characters and the objects or events in the novel. For example, when Gulliver is describing his journey to Laputa, he uses the demonstrative "there" to indicate the location of the island, which is far away from the place where the conversation is taking place. Overall, the use of deixis in the novel helps to establish the relationships between the characters and the context in which they are situated.

- **Functions of deixis in the novel**

Deixis, a linguistic concept related to context, plays an important role in Gulliver's Travels. One of the key functions of deixis is to help the reader understand the relationships between the various characters and their surroundings. For example, in the early parts of the novel, the use of the first-person point of view and the frequent use of deixis helps to establish Gulliver's position in relation to the Lilliputians. This helps to create a sense of Gulliver's perspective and his relationship with the people and places he encounters.

Deixis is also used in the novel to help create a sense of distance or closeness between the narrator and the reader. For example, in the third part of the novel, the use of deixis helps to create a sense of distance between the reader and the Yahoos, emphasizing the narrator's disgust with them. On the other hand, the use of deixis in the fourth part of



the novel helps to create a sense of closeness between the reader and the Houyhnhnms, highlighting the narrator's admiration for them.

Furthermore, deixis is used to convey the various cultural and historical references in the novel. For example, the use of deixis in the second part of the novel helps to convey the political satire and commentary on contemporary British politics, as well as the broader cultural and social norms of the time. Overall, deixis helps to create a sense of context and understanding for the reader, allowing them to fully engage with the themes and messages of the novel.

VII. Politeness and impoliteness strategies used by characters

- **Definition of politeness and impoliteness**

Politeness and impoliteness are social phenomena that reflect a speaker's attitude towards their addressee. Politeness refers to the use of language to show respect, consideration, and deference to others. In contrast, impoliteness refers to the use of language to show disrespect, rudeness, and indifference towards others. These concepts are relative and vary according to cultural, social, and situational norms.

- **Examples of politeness and impoliteness in the novel**

In "Gulliver's Travels," there are many examples of both politeness and impoliteness in the characters' speech acts. For instance, when Gulliver first encounters the Lilliputians, he is initially very polite, introducing himself and bowing to their king. However, as he becomes more familiar with their culture, he begins to see their customs as ridiculous and impolite, such as their way of choosing officials by performing acrobatics. Additionally, when Gulliver visits the land of the Houyhnhnms, the horses are always polite in their interactions with him, using formal language and showing respect for his opinions. However, when Gulliver is later among the Yahoos, who are portrayed as uncivilized and barbaric, he is frequently subject to their impoliteness, including being attacked and having his possessions stolen. Throughout the novel, the use of politeness and impoliteness serves to highlight the differences between different societies and cultures and to comment on the ways in which individuals interact with one another.

- **Functions of politeness and impoliteness in the novel**

In Gulliver's Travels, politeness and impoliteness serve important functions in shaping the social interactions between the characters. The use of polite language is often associated with power, social status, and respectability. For example, when Gulliver meets the King of Luggnagg, he is required to bow low and use formal language in addressing the king. Similarly, in the land of the Houyhnhnms, the horses are polite to Gulliver, using words like "sir" and "honour" to address him.

On the other hand, impoliteness is often used to signal disrespect, contempt, or rebellion. This is seen in Gulliver's interactions with the Yahoos, who are portrayed as a filthy, savage race of creatures. Gulliver describes how the Houyhnhnms treat the Yahoos with contempt and disdain, using rude language and gestures to control them. Additionally, the character of the Brobdingnagian farmer is impolite and hostile towards Gulliver, treating him as a specimen rather than a person.

Overall, the use of politeness and impoliteness in the novel serves to highlight the power dynamics between the characters, as well as their attitudes towards each other. It also reflects the broader social and cultural norms of the time period in which the novel was written.

VIII. Metapragmatic awareness and its portrayal in the novel

- **Definition of metapragmatics**



Metapragmatics refers to the study of the ways in which people use language to talk about language. It involves analyzing the ways in which speakers and listeners use language to communicate not just a message, but also their attitudes and beliefs about language itself. Metapragmatic awareness is the ability to recognize and understand how language is used to accomplish social and communicative goals, and to adjust one's own language use accordingly. In literature, metapragmatics refers to the way that authors use language to comment on language itself, often to draw attention to the ways in which language is used to convey power dynamics, social norms, and cultural values.

- **Examples of metapragmatic awareness in the novel**

One example of metapragmatic awareness in *Gulliver's Travels* is when Gulliver is describing his encounter with the Houyhnhnms to the captain of the ship that rescues him. Gulliver notes that the Houyhnhnms have no concept of lying or deceit, and that their language is structured in a way that discourages such behavior. This reflects an awareness of the role that language and communication play in shaping social behavior and morality. Another example is when Gulliver is describing his experiences in Luggnagg, where he encounters the Struldbrugs, a race of immortals who are cursed with eternal old age. Gulliver notes that the Struldbrugs are often miserable, as they are unable to escape the physical and mental decline that comes with old age. This reflects an awareness of the limitations and consequences of language and communication in addressing fundamental human desires and needs.

- **Functions of metapragmatic awareness in the novel**

Metapragmatic awareness refers to the ability to reflect on and understand how language is used in social interactions. In *Gulliver's Travels*, this concept is demonstrated through the way characters comment on the use of language and its social effects. For example, when Gulliver first arrives in Lilliput, he is asked to sign a document written in a language he cannot read. This highlights the power dynamics of language and how it can be used to control and manipulate others. Similarly, the Brobdingnagians are aware of the limitations of language and the potential for miscommunication, which is why they value clear and precise communication. They also see Gulliver's language as a way to understand his culture and beliefs, leading to discussions about the nature of truth and perception. Overall, metapragmatic awareness in the novel serves to comment on the complex social and cultural functions of language and its ability to shape and reflect our understanding of the world around us.

IX. Analysis of the significance of pragmatics in *Gulliver's Travels*

- **Connection between the pragmatics and the novel's themes and message**

The use of pragmatics in *Gulliver's Travels* is closely connected to the novel's themes and message. The novel's use of speech acts, such as Gulliver's promise to the Luggnaggians and the Yahoos' curses, illustrate the idea of the importance of words and their impact on society. The use of irony and satire highlights the hypocrisy and flaws in society, especially in the English government and social norms. Deixis is used to convey the differences between cultures and how language shapes perception. The use of politeness and impoliteness is related to the power dynamics between characters and the societies they represent. Finally, metapragmatic awareness is used to comment on the nature of language and its limitations in conveying truth and meaning. In all of these cases, the use of pragmatics is central to conveying the novel's critique of society and its message about the importance of perspective and the power of language.

- **Examples of how the use of pragmatics in the novel contribute to its overall impact**



The use of pragmatics in Gulliver's Travels contributes to its overall impact by helping to satirize and critique various aspects of society and human behavior. For example, the use of irony and satire in Gulliver's interactions with the Lilliputians and the Brobdingnagians highlights the absurdity and pettiness of human politics and societal norms. The use of politeness and impoliteness strategies in the novel reflects the power dynamics and social hierarchies of the time period, as well as satirizes them. Additionally, the use of deixis and metapragmatic awareness in the novel allows Swift to comment on the power of language and how it can be used to manipulate and control people. Overall, the use of pragmatics in Gulliver's Travels contributes to its lasting impact as a satirical masterpiece that exposes the flaws and follies of human nature and society.

- **Explanation of the novel's enduring relevance and popularity**

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift is an enduring classic that continues to be popular today because of its satirical and critical portrayal of human society and its flaws. Despite being written in the early 18th century, the novel still resonates with readers today because it tackles issues that remain relevant. For instance, the themes of political corruption, social injustice, and human nature are still relevant today. Additionally, the use of humor and irony throughout the novel makes it an entertaining and enjoyable read. Furthermore, the novel's exploration of various cultures and societies still provides insight into human behavior and interactions. Finally, the novel's critical commentary on the Enlightenment and the scientific revolution also continues to be relevant today as society continues to grapple with issues related to science, technology, and progress. Overall, Gulliver's Travels remains relevant and popular due to its enduring themes, engaging storytelling, and insightful commentary on human society.

X. Conclusion

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift is a masterpiece of English literature that has endured the test of time due to its insightful commentary on society and human nature. The novel's use of pragmatics, including speech acts, irony and satire, deixis, and politeness and impoliteness strategies, adds depth and complexity to its themes and message. The novel's enduring relevance and popularity can be attributed to its ability to resonate with readers across generations, as its themes of human folly, corruption, and moral decay remain relevant in contemporary society. Gulliver's Travels is a true literary classic that has influenced countless writers and continues to captivate readers with its wit, humor, and astute observations about the human condition.

The significance of pragmatics in Gulliver's Travels cannot be overstated. Jonathan Swift's masterful use of speech acts, irony, satire, deixis, politeness, impoliteness, and metapragmatic awareness contributes greatly to the novel's overall impact. Through his use of these pragmatic devices, Swift is able to create a world that is both familiar and yet completely foreign, a world that comments on the society and culture of his time and yet transcends it. The novel's enduring relevance and popularity can be attributed, in part, to Swift's use of pragmatics. By drawing attention to the ways in which language is used to shape meaning and understanding, he challenges readers to question their own assumptions about the world and the people in it. In this way, Gulliver's Travels is not simply a work of literature, but a commentary on the human condition itself.

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