

**CONTRASTING TABOOS AND EUPHEMISMS IN LAWRENCE'S
LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER AND BEN JELLOUN'S LAYLET EL
QADR**

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ABSTRACT

Euphemisms and taboos are employed not only in daily speech, but form also the basis of erotic and pornographic literatures, which reflect the socio-cultural background of a society in a given time. The use of euphemisms and taboos in novels in particular, has a function. They are also driven by some social and psychological factors. Thus, the purpose of this research work is to explore the use of sexual discourse in the field of literary texts. In this account, a contrastive study in two novels; Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and Ben Jelloun's *Laylet el Qadr* was made, when a thorough examination of euphemistic strategies and taboo words was held with the help of a number of theoretical approaches in sociolinguistics, literature, and pragmatics. To this end, characters in *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *Laylet el Qadr* have been put in spotlight. Hence, the findings reveal that the frequency of taboos is high in both works, although their authors resort towards the use of euphemistic strategies to overcome the overuse of sexual scenes. They also prove that both writers employ female sexuality as a tool to question gender inequality. The results also show that characters employ polite forms of address and dialect as a strategy of face saving and threatening. Said differently, the euphemistic and tabooed features in the novels spring from the same theme and differ in their formation since they represent distinct cultures.

Keywords: Euphemisms, taboos, novel, culture, society, English and Arabic literature.