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### **A Survey on Application of Quotations: A Stylistic Study of the Travelogues of Sir John Chardin**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

One of the cultural contributions of France to Iran in Safavid dynasty was writing the book of travel. Sir John Chardin's the book of travel is the most reliable books of travel in this period. This book is not only a vast and valuable resource of historical and geographical information, its style of writing is so notable that the book has subsisted and read till now. It can also be a great outline for book of travel writers. One of the most important stylistic features in this book is frequent use of quotations and references that are used in various ways. The frequent use of quotations is considered as a Chardin's personal or stylistic method of writing. This paper aims at classifying and interpreting the content and rhetoric of the text. To do so, the first volume of the book was selected for this study. Since the stylistic features of an author is recurrently repeated in his text, the other volumes of the book would have the same stylistic feature for sure and the results and findings can be generalized to other volumes of this book. In almost all parts of the book, Chardin has used quotations deliberately to document and authenticate of information, events and observations. This study proves that Chardin's deliberate use of quotation and references is a mean to introduce the characters and narrators of the quotes, provide a reliable sources of his account, reflect the general opinion of people, to name a few. This paper has tried to analyze and study the content and structure of Chardin's book of travel to determine the methods and techniques of stating his account.

**Keyword:** Chardin's book of travel, Stylistic features, Quotation, Documentation.

#### **Introduction**

Jean Chardin, also known as Sir John Chardin, was born in 1643 in Paris and journeyed to Asia for the purchase of jewels. Visiting Middle East, he has been living in Iran for twelve years in two different periods. Mohammad Moin in his cultural section of his encyclopedia, wrote: "Chardin, the French traveler, traveled to Iran twice between 1664 to 1677 and stayed in Iran in two six year period. He wrote ten-volume book The Travels of Sir John Chardin- Journey to the East India and Iran- containing worthy and generally trusted account regarding Safavid dynasty" (Moin, 2000: 859). His travel to Iran was in the Safavid era during the Shah Abbas II kingdom when he was endowed with the peerage "The Merchant ". Also, his stay in Iran was partly during Shah Soleiman's realm. Chardin's travel to Iran two times resulted in writing a valuable book which is one of the reliable sources of Persian studies in Safavid dynasty. His account was published in ten volumes which he comments on it as follows:

The first three volumes of my trip chronicle consist of events, daily notes and my observations from Paris to Isfahan. The fourth volume and three other volumes are general explanations and accounts of Iran... The next five volumes devoted to describing the general situation in Iran (Volume IV), Iranian free science and technology (V), the structure of

government and political affairs, military and civil systems (VI), religion (VII) and finally, describing Iran's capital, Isfahan (VIII). (Derrik Vander Chris, 216).

Chardin's work contains not only useful information regarding culture and history of Iran in the Safavid era, but also the style of composing can be studied. Accordingly, the majority of the book of travel writers followed his style of writing. One of the most significant features of Chardin travels is frequent employing the quotations and citations of other people's speech which is the main cause of this study. This study is aimed at investigating quotations in Chardin's *The Travels of Sir John Chardin*.

### **Review of the Related Literature**

Chardin's book of the travel has been translated into various languages several times. Also, it has been translated into Persian various times. The most complete translation belongs to Mohammad Abbasi that was published in (1956) by Amir Kabir publication. Another translator named Iqbal Yaghmaei translated and published five volumes of Chardin's work in (1996) at Tus Publications. A part of the book belonging to describing Isfahan city has been translated by Hussein Arizi which has been reviewed and rewritten by Morteza Taimuir. Negah Publication published this translation in (2000). Some parts of the book which was later selected and commented by Fraier Ronald translated by Hussein Haziran and Hassan Assadi in (2005) and published by Farzan Publications.

Although Chardin's book of travel has been the subject of various studies and researches, most of the studies have been investigating the geographical, historical and cultural values of the work. A survey done by Ajorloo and Hamed Mohammad Pour entitled "Familiarity with the ancient culture of Iran from the viewpoint of French great traveler" classified the musical instruments in Chardin's book of travel. "Palaces of the Safavid period in Isfahan mentioned in Chardin's book of travel" is a title for another survey, similar to the previous one, by Attieh Sadat Saberi. A book by Jean Rose Shibani titled "Travel of Europeans to Iran", translated by Seyed Zia-O-din Dehshiri is another example of geographical, cultural and historical study of Chardin's book of travel. None of these works and studies have gone through studying the structure and style of Chardin's book. Furthermore, a few studies have been conducted on methods of documenting the accounts by quotations. The only related paper found in this field of investigation is a study by Abbas Horie titled "citation analysis: a review on the collection of data and information."

### **Discussion**

Quoting is one of the common methods of documenting the speeches and sayings which are frequently seen in scientific and methodical texts. Horie believes that "quoting incorporates the most significant and creative part of a scientific text. The lack of quoting in a text would fail considering it as scientific script" (Horie, 1993). Chardin's book of travel comprises the frequent use of quotations and anecdotes. Studying these quotations reveals that they have been used intentionally and the author has quoted others deliberately. Quoting others can be motivated by several factors. Davarpanah, in an article titled "Status of citations in scientific activities: authors' incentive to cite and quote from other works" has classified citation and quotation in fifteen categories as follows:

- Respecting the pioneers
- Accrediting the related works and respecting colleagues
- Identify the methods, tools and so on
- Preparing literature review
- Revising and organizing the works of other authors
- Consolidating the studies of the author

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Reviewing the previous works and studies  
Proving the claims  
Awareness of future publications and those works that are ready to print  
Hint to the unpublished works or those works which are not distributed in mass  
(mentioning the resources remained hidden or unseen)  
Verification of the authenticity or validity of the data and facts  
The recognition of original works containing original and first hand thought and ideas  
Identification of the innovative and novel works containing a novel term or idea  
Refusing some other ideas  
Prioritizing the claims of others (discussing and questioning the previous statements  
and claims (Davarpanah, 2005)

Almost all of the above factors can be found in Chardin's work which is aimed to be investigated and studied in this paper. Quotes expressed and documented in the first volume of Chardin's travel book consist of the following contributors:

Researchers in general  
Researchers by mentioning names  
Historians in general  
Historians by mentioning names  
Geographers in general  
Geographers by mentioning names  
Astronomers  
Books  
People of Persia or Iran (people in general)  
Moses the prophet  
Gabers (Zoroastrians)  
The ancient Armenians

### **Comment and Explanation on Raconteurs and Narrators of the Events**

Among the most considerable advantages of Chardin's work, informing the reader from various fields and subjects is at the top of the all. He has tried to offer such explanations and descriptions about narrators that the reader can discern them. This is among the most valuable characteristics of his works, giving it a scientific value and credit. A good example of this is describing the Zoroastrians who are being introduced in brief and their ideas and beliefs are presented. Gabrs are the descendants of Zoroastrians who respect the fire effusively. They believe that the fire temple was in an area that is two days away from Shamakhi (24)

He describes the people in a special way that his words can be trusted by the reader. He indemnifies that the narrator knows what he says and his account can be trusted amply. The following example is a good illustration:

Eratosthenes, the famous geographer of the ancient time wrote that Niece was in the Medes regions (52).

Sometimes, his explanations are nothing but mentioning the old and new names of somewhere indicating multiplicity of the meanings and it can help consolidate the verdict and documenting the narrator's views

According to the new scholars .... is the same mountain that was named Evernt or Baronet by Poliet, Diodore and Ptolemy (27).

Or

.... an old geographer named it Troy instead of Tory, so distorting of one or two letters resulted in change; although, his idea is rejected (34).

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The brevity in his description and style of writing that are employed deliberately revises the travel book from a scientific text to a literary one. The following example shows how Chardin has used a rhetorical method for introducing characters of his book in which he mentions specific details and descriptions after presenting general idea. This technique, known as redundancy, is common in his book. Shamisa defines this rhetorical style in this way: "After noting a general idea, evidence or examples are presented to elucidate the story and to retain it in the mind of the reader. In this case, concepts similar to likesuch and such as... are appreciated before expressing the additional explanation."

The following verse by Sadii is a good example to show the way poet and authors use this technique:

Obedient of his order are all people and stuffs Adam and chicken, archie and flies Sadii (Shamisa2000:218). Introducing Ptolemy, Chardin writes: "a group of authors and essayists and translator of Ptolemy's works believes that it was located in Persia while others consider its place somewhere in Armenia (55). As it is clear, Ptolemy is special name comes after the general names of authors and essayists. Moreover, the term translator comes in the form of an appositive clause which clarifies the vagueness and ambiguity of the sentence. I think the idea of Mole, translator and interpreter of Ptolemy's work, is a more reasonable theory (55).

### Comments on Narrator's Opinions

One of the stylistic features of Chardin's work is to comment on narrator's opinions indicating to refuse or support their ideas. He sometimes briefly expresses the cause of belief or incredulity of their narration in a sentence. For instance, he quotes from astronomers and additionally adds that their speech has no reason, but arousing the attention of the King (Shah).

Astronomers, to draw attention of the King, said that creating such a calendar needsnoteworthy feature of another kind (20).

In such cases, as above, it is obviously clear that some narrator's claim is not reliable. Chardin also writes about astronomers' citation in brief:

Astronomers said this is the result of divine providence that the king (Sultan)has his coronation ceremony in the first day of the New Year, according to the ancient calendar. Thus, they could convince or force people to follow an ancient tradition of their country, which is a relic of ancient customs (20).

One of the applicationsof the transitive verb force is to convenience someone to do something or impose an idea to someone.

Chardin usually comments on the quotations or citations which are hard to believe and refuse it to avoid expressing something illogical or irrational. A good example of this is quoting from Zoroastrians about holy fire. He uses appositive clauseto insert his opinion about the subject when he says: "that is more similar to fun and humor."

They [Zoroastrians] attribute another consecrated feature for their holy fire, which is more similar to fun and humor. They believe that if someone digs a hole in the ground of the fire temple and puts a big pot full of water in the hole. The water in the pot boils by holy fire and foodstuffs inside the pot will be cooked (24).

The significant and subtle element in Chardin's sentence syntax is to use the term "their holy fire". He wants to elaborate on the idea that the fire is holy only for Zoroastrians and it has nothing to do with the idea of the author. Chardin usually provides his readers with affirmativeor refusal interpretations of accounts or narrations in general. He comments on the narrations, quotations or accounts if they find them illogical or if he thinks that the reader would attribute the idea to the author. For example, in his reference to Moses the prophet says:

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Moses says: Sami's sons whose one of them was Assyrian left there after Nimrod seized what has left over from their father's as an inheritance (24).

He affirms Moses' account and states that:

Accordingly, Assyrian was named so because he left ...." (24). It is clear that Chardin has followed his own stylistic technique to uphold an account by brief statements of his own. Chardin uses another method when there are various narrations or quotations about identical issue or subject. Thus, he quotes different narrations, but finally prefers one of them and his preference is a sign of confirmation:

Thus, one can believe what historian stated in their books about Median region. They say that is a place for rearing large herds of original horses. They have stated that Median rulers had herds comprises of fifty thousand horses... (52).

Evaluating the authors and scholar's opinion is another model of interpreting the narration in Chardin's book. This model is a comparative one which compares different narrations in order to select the most logical and reasonable impression. A collection of authors and scholars like Ptolemy and translator of his works believe that it is located in Assyria and others believe that it is placed in Armenia.... The most notable of scholars in this collection are Nicherer, Sedren, Ayton .... On the other hand, Marco Polo from Venice believes that this city is located in Parta. Although, Karcondiel has another idea....in my book, ideas of Mule, translator and interpreter of Ptolemy's works, Annai, Artulus, Gelntis, Dolavaleh, Doatelasel ... are more acceptable than other ideas (55).

Explanatory or critical sentences by which Chardin affirms the narrations and accounts reveal that he has aimed to use brevity as a stylistic method to express his idea in a brief but comprehensive account:

As The book of Genesis chapter 11 states the same reality (24). Although Chardin has been very cautious and careful in composing the book and he has always respected narrator's ideas, he sometimes rejects some of the ideas outspokenly:

Leolavious, Zhevo and Ayton believe that Tabriz is the same city of Troy. An old geographer named it Troy instead of Tory, so, distorting of one or two letters resulted in change; although, his idea is not satisfactory at all (34). As it is clear from the above example, to reject an idea is another method of evaluating an account used by Chardin to verdict his statements:

Since I would like to express almost all ideas and I try to avoid forgetting any opening, I refer to Armenian scholars' views. They state that Tabriz is one of the oldest cities of Asia.... (40).

### Factors Lead to Expressing Quotations

Studying Chardin's book, it was revealed that in some parts of the book devoted to stating some special issues, quoting and referring to others statements is more frequent because of some reasons. First, Chardin prefers to avoid explaining about subjects and issues that he has little knowledge himself. Thus, he prefers to quote others and express their ideas. In the following example the reader is informed about Median and Kalustian time:

Iranian indicated that these stones remained from wars fought between Median and Kalustian (52). When the information belongs to the ancient time, the narrators' ideas are expressed in passive voice and also in common and general rather than in details, for example: People of Iran say that, some believe, they state that, or in general belief ..... Chardin quotes a lot and refers to the views of other people when talking about geographical subjects. Of course, almost all the views and quotes are taken from geographers, historians and authors whose ideas and texts can be considered as a reliable document:

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Strien has divided this land into two small and big areas stated in chapter 11 of his book; although, Ptolemy and other prominent geographers did not determine any division for this region (25).

The most frequently used quotations and citations belong to the names of special locations, among them geographical subjects has the most frequency. The narrator's name usually is not stated because the sentences are in passive form but sometimes his name is evidently stated.

### A. Quote in a Passive Form

Some believe that Tabriz is the city which is mentioned in Asdera- Aktema or Amata book (55).

Ancient authors believe that Kalde or country of Oriawas called the region of fire (25).

### B. Quote in an Active Form

Tikser and Olearious and some other scholars believe that Tabriz is the same city that Ptolemy called Gabris in his fifth book ..... (34). Chardin tries to be careful and respectful in restating the religious beliefs and national creeds of the Iranian people and usually uses the quotes and avoids personal opinions. He usually relies on what he has heard. Armenians believe that it is the court of Khosrow Parviz [Iranian King before the Arab invasion] where he kept the real cross of Jesus Christ and other holy possessions of Christ appropriated in a war fought at Jerusalem (31).

Iranian believes that Ali, the son in law of Mohammad Islam prophet, is the most handsome man ever been in the world and ..... (30).

### The Rhetorical and Literary Values of the Book the Travel

An academic or scientific text needs to be documented to be reliable and it should be written based on logical and reasonable basis. Chardin's book doesn't contain lots of imageries and oratories but Rhetoric of speech has enriched it as a valuable text. Chardin is master of his speech and uses his words and diction inventively. Using redundancies and brevity in his text shows that he is a master of his text and language. He uses brevity as a technique in writing quotations and explaining them. For instance, in the following sentence he uses "the prophet" after "Noah" that is a short and brief description of the term and saves language and words to explain more:

According to the ancient Armenian anecdotes, Noah, the prophet, has been buried in Marand city and the name of the city indicates a place for entombing in Armenian language (27).

There is another rhetorical technique in the above example called "Elucidate the ambiguity". Chardin usually uses this technique when stating the appellations. Taftazani describes this technique as follows: "that is when a term is used in two different states, first ambiguous and next clear and vivid. Elucidate the ambiguity help the reader to understand both sides of the idea simultaneously, once imprecise and then detailed and accurate. Undoubtedly, two times understanding is better than one" (Taftazani, 2008:493).

In general, it is obvious that in almost all quotations and citations, as well as interpretations, there is an explanation by Chardin himself, in the other words, he expresses his own argumentative viewpoint. Elucidating the ambiguity aims at clearing the vagueness. The following quotation is the best example to prove this:

Thus, one can say that Assuyrian named because either he refused to follow the creed of fire worshipers, or he was thrown out of Kalde..... (24).

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Another instance of redundancy in quotations and interpretations is "complaint". According to Homaie objection is defined as follows: "that is an explanation inside the verse in the form of additional explanation or redundancy." (Homaie, 1375: 231).

Chardin often uses "objection" to affirm or reject a quotation or statement:

Since I would like to express almost all ideas and I try to avoid forgetting any opinion, I refer to Armenian scholars' views. They state that Tabriz is one of the oldest cities of Asia....(40).

Another technique used to clarify the ambiguity is to use synonyms that are used frequently to affirming and enlightening narrators' ideas, as well as his own expressions. In this way, he proves that he is able to use the wide range of vocabularies:

Median region is a place for rearing large herds of the original horses... (52)

Another type of redundancy technique in Chardin's style of writing is to mention general information after specific names. The following sentence is a good illustration:

Ptolemy and other prominent geographers did not determine any division for this region" (25).

There are some other instances of using the brevity technique in Chardin's book; though, using quotation and indirect speech is to avoid more explanation. Moreover, there is another rhetorical technique named derivation or semi-derivation used frequently in quotations and narrations related to the geographical names of locations. The following extracts are instances of the above rhetoric:

According to some of authors Sufis are ancient Median Sufis, while others believe that Sufis are derived from Sufi.... (27)

Some believe that Tabriz is the city which is mentioned in Asdera- Aktema or Amata book (55)

### Conclusion

There are a lot of quotations and citations in Chardin's the book of travel. The frequent use of quotations indicates that he has deliberately used quoting as a stylistic technique. Since the book is rich with lots of geographical, historical, political and cultural information, it can be called a scientific text and it needs recurrent references to narrations of other people, as well as quotations. As quotations seem insufficient to convey the information, Chardin not only quotes others directly, but also interpret them. Interpreting quotations and narrations elevates the value of the text. He also uses logic and common sense to affirm or reject the claims and quotations; although, in some cases, especially when mentioning religious and national credos and believes, he prefers to avoid interpreting the account and leaves the interpretation to the reader.

Moreover, Chardin usually introduces the narrator's name or the person whom he quotes from. This would help the readers to understand quotations better. The most frequent quotations are those that belong to the ancient geographical names and subjects, especially those related to the connotation of names. Also, he quotes a lot when denoting national and religious principles. It is difficult to name Chardin's book a literary work because it lacks fantasy, imagery and figurative language. Though, it has a scientific language written based on logical and sensible thoughts and judgments. There are a lot of subtle rhetorical techniques in this text ranging from brevity to redundancy.

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