Grammatical Metaphor in Writing Tasks of Narrative and Fiction in Advanced EFL Learners

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ABSTRACT: This study undertakes to see if advanced learners deploy Grammatical Metaphor in their writing of narrative or fiction. A previous study of Grammatical Metaphor in this genre (Farahani & Hadidi, 2008) argued that GM manifests itself in six categories, with Prepositional GM being the pivotal mainstay, underpinning most GM in the genre. The current study seeks to see if advanced learners employ such pervasive patterns of GM or are aware of them, when producing narrative or fictional writing. Analyzing the writings of advanced students of English, the study finds support for the initial hypothesis that even overachievers don't come close to using GM in line with the well-entrenched indicators of the corpus as to how GM is deployed in native speaker discourse. Of interest also is their resorting to the congruent mode to express an ideational meaning which would have found realization along metaphorical lines in native speaker corpus. These findings, apart from fleshing out the cognitive distinction between the metaphorical and congruent, promise to broaden the understanding of GM and a need to incorporate consciousness-raising of GM in the EFL curriculum.

Key Words: Congruent domain, metaphorical domain, Grammatical Metaphor (GM), Modern Prose Fiction (MPF), narrative discourse, Prepositional GM

1. Introduction
The concept of Grammatical Metaphor (GM) in Prose Fiction and the English novel, as well as similar genres that would evidence similar deployment of GM, has received inadequate treatment. In a similar vein, its potentials for and contributions to a better understanding of such discourse has not been dealt with as deserved and required. This provided lasting food for thought and fuel for a PhD project that fed, in turn, into a paper (Farahani & Hadidi, 2008) which was, in fact, a condensed synopsis of the findings and insights accrued in the more comprehensive PhD project. In spite of being a step in the right direction and something of a breakthrough, neither the thesis nor the paper based upon it claimed at all to have exhausted the possibilities or yielded an exhaustive picture for that matter, recognizing the all-too-patent need to pursue numerous