

**OPEN ACCESS**

SUBMITTED 28 February 2025

ACCEPTED 29 March 2025

PUBLISHED 30 April 2025

VOLUME Vol.05 Issue 04 2025

COPYRIGHT

© 2025 Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 License.

Dialectical Tensions and Symbolic Representations of Phytonyms in Marcel Pagnol's "Le Château De Ma Mère"

 Bobokalonov Odilshoh Ostonovich

Associate Professor (PhD), French Philology Department, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

Qosimova Umeda Qurbon qizi

Student of French Philology Department, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

Rahimova Markhabo Rahmon qizi

Student of French Philology Department, Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan

Abstract: This study examines the symbolic representations of phytonyms (plant names) in Marcel Pagnol's autobiographical novel, *Le Château de ma mère*, focusing on the dialectical tensions they embody. Through a qualitative literary analysis, the research identifies how Pagnol's use of plant symbolism reflects contradictions between nature and culture, permanence and transience, and personal memory versus collective identity. The findings reveal that phytonyms serve not merely as descriptive elements but as profound symbols that encapsulate complex human experiences, enriching the narrative's thematic depth. This analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of how natural elements are intricately woven into literature to reflect and shape personal and collective narratives.

Keywords: Phytonyms, symbolic representation, dialectical tensions, Marcel Pagnol, *Le Château de ma mère*, nature and culture, permanence and transience, personal memory, collective identity.

Introduction: Marcel Pagnol's autobiographical novel *Le Château de ma mère* offers a vivid portrayal of his childhood in early 20th-century Provence, where the

natural landscape plays a pivotal role in shaping his experiences and memories. Within this narrative, phytonyms, the specific names of plants serve not merely as botanical references but as rich symbols that encapsulate the essence of Pagnol's formative years. These plant names evoke the sensory pleasures of the countryside, symbolizing both the innocence of youth and the inevitable passage of time.

This study aims to explore the symbolic representations of phytonyms in "Le Château de ma mère", focusing on the dialectical tensions they reveal between nature and culture, permanence and transience, and personal memory versus collective identity. By analyzing how Pagnol intertwines plant symbolism with his narrative, we can gain deeper insights into the complex interplay between the protagonist's internal world and the external environment. This approach not only enriches our understanding of Pagnol's literary techniques but also sheds light on the broader human experience of finding meaning in the natural world.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative methodology rooted in literary analysis to examine the symbolic representations of phytonyms and the dialectical tensions they embody in Marcel Pagnol's autobiographical novel, "Le Château de ma mère". The analysis integrates formalist and thematic approaches, focusing on the text's language, structure, and recurring themes.

The primary data source is the text of "Le Château de ma mère". Phytonyms are identified and cataloged, noting their frequency, context, and narrative significance. Supplementary data includes scholarly articles and critical analyses related to Pagnol's work and the broader context of symbolic language in literature.

The analysis consists of close reading and interpretation of passages containing phytonyms, examining their symbolic roles and the dialectical tensions they reflect. This involves identifying oppositional themes such as nature versus culture and permanence versus transience, and exploring how these tensions contribute to the narrative's depth and the protagonist's development. The study also considers the cultural and historical context of Pagnol's Provence to understand how regional flora contributes to the symbolic framework.

As this research involves textual analysis of published material, ethical considerations are minimal. Proper attribution of all sources is ensured, and interpretations are presented objectively, acknowledging potential biases.

By employing this methodology, the study aims to provide a nuanced understanding of how Pagnol's use of phytonyms encapsulates complex dialectical tensions, enriching the autobiographical narrative and offering insights into the interplay between human experience and the natural environment.

In "Le Château de ma mère", Marcel Pagnol intricately weaves the natural landscape of Provence into his autobiographical narrative, utilizing plant names (phytonyms) as potent symbols that reflect his childhood experiences and the cultural milieu of the time. This literature review examines existing research on the symbolic representation of phytonyms in literature and explores the concept of dialectical tensions within Pagnol's work.

Phytonyms frequently carry metaphorical and symbolic meanings across various cultures and literary traditions [18, 11-15]. Studies have shown that plant names often embody cultural values, historical experiences, and collective wisdom [5, 90-91]. For instance, research comparing English and Uzbek phytonyms reveals that both languages use plant names metaphorically in literature, proverbs, and idioms to convey deeper meanings. Similarly, an analysis of English and Romanian idiomatic expressions containing phytonyms highlights how these expressions encapsulate cultural symbolism and shared human experiences [19]. These studies underscore the role of phytonyms as linguistic tools that bridge the natural world and human expression, enriching literary texts with layers of meaning.

In Pagnol's autobiographical series, particularly in "Le Château de ma mère", the Provençal countryside is more than a mere backdrop; it becomes a dynamic entity that interacts with the characters' inner lives [3,75]. This interaction creates dialectical tensions between nature and culture, tradition and modernity, and personal desires versus societal expectations. The natural environment, replete with its flora, embodies a timeless, unchanging realm that contrasts with the evolving human experiences and societal changes depicted in the narrative. Pagnol's portrayal of his family's excursions through the Provençal landscape reflects these tensions, as they navigate both physical terrains and the complexities of their social environment.

While specific scholarly analyses focusing solely on the symbolic use of phytonyms in Pagnol's work are limited, the broader themes identified in the aforementioned studies provide a framework for understanding how Pagnol employs plant symbolism. The phytonyms in his narrative serve as more than descriptive elements; they encapsulate the essence of Provençal identity and the protagonist's emotional landscape. For example, the

family's interactions with the natural environment during their weekend retreats highlight a yearning for simplicity and a connection to the land, juxtaposed against the encroaching pressures of urban life and modernity.

The existing body of literature on phytonyms' symbolic representations and the exploration of dialectical tensions in narrative structures offer valuable insights into Marcel Pagnol's use of plant symbolism in "Le Château de ma mère". By situating Pagnol's work within this scholarly context, we can better appreciate how his nuanced use of phytonyms contributes to the thematic depth and cultural resonance of his autobiographical narrative.

RESULTS

The analysis of phytonyms in Marcel Pagnol's "Le Château de ma mère" reveals significant dialectical tensions that enrich the narrative and deepen the portrayal of the protagonist's experiences. These tensions manifest through the symbolic use of plant names, reflecting contradictions between nature and culture, permanence and transience, and personal memory versus collective identity.

Pagnol's detailed descriptions of the Provençal flora highlight the interplay between the natural environment and human influence [20]. For instance, the protagonist's journey along the canal, lined with wild thym (thyme) and romarin (rosemary), juxtaposes the untamed beauty of nature with the engineered structure of the canal, symbolizing the coexistence and conflict between natural landscapes and human-made constructs. This reflects the broader dialectical tension where nature represents authenticity and freedom, while cultural interventions embody order and control.

The recurring mention of cyprès (cypress trees) serves as a metaphor for enduring familial bonds and the fleeting nature of childhood. Cypressess, often associated with mourning and eternal life in Provençal culture, stand tall and unchanging amidst the evolving life of the protagonist. This contrast underscores the tension between the desire for permanence in relationships and the inevitable passage of time leading to change and loss.

Phytonyms in the narrative also bridge personal recollections and collective cultural identity. The protagonist's personal memories of fleurs d'amandier (almond blossoms) are intertwined with regional traditions celebrating the almond harvest. This duality reflects the dialectical tension between individual experiences and the shared practices of the community, highlighting how personal identities are shaped within the framework of collective cultural narratives.

The use of phytonyms resonates with the cognitive processes involved in memory and emotion. As suggested in studies on linguistic symbolism, plant names carry cultural and emotional connotations that trigger specific cognitive responses. In Pagnol's work, the mention of specific plants evokes sensory memories and emotions, facilitating a deeper connection between the reader and the protagonist's experiences.

The strategic use of phytonyms in "Le Château de ma mère" encapsulates complex dialectical tensions that enhance the narrative's depth. Through the symbolic representation of plants, Pagnol effectively explores contradictions inherent in human experience, such as the interplay between nature and culture, the balance between permanence and change, and the relationship between personal memories and collective identity.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of phytonyms in Marcel Pagnol's "Le Château de ma mère" reveals profound dialectical tensions that enrich the narrative's exploration of human experience. These plant names serve as more than mere descriptors of the Provençal landscape; they embody complex interplays between nature and culture, permanence and transience, and personal memory versus collective identity [16].

Pagnol's depiction of the Provençal flora underscores the intricate relationship between the natural environment and human influence. The protagonist's journey along the canal, bordered by wild thyme (thym) and rosemary (romarin), juxtaposes the untamed beauty of nature with human-engineered structures. This interplay reflects a broader dialectical tension where nature symbolizes authenticity and freedom, while cultural interventions represent order and control. Such representations align with Pagnol's broader themes, where the acute observation of social rituals and the use of recurring symbols illuminate provincial life.

The recurring mention of cypress trees (cyprès) serves as a metaphor for enduring familial bonds amidst the fleeting nature of childhood. In Provençal culture, cypresses are often associated with mourning and eternal life, standing as unchanging sentinels in the evolving landscape of the protagonist's youth. This contrast underscores the tension between the human desire for permanence in relationships and the inevitable passage of time leading to change and loss. Pagnol's narrative captures this bittersweet experience, highlighting the universal challenge of reconciling enduring attachments with life's inherent transience.

Phytonyms in the narrative bridge personal recollections and collective cultural identity. The protagonist's memories of almond blossoms (fleurs

d'amandier) are intertwined with regional traditions celebrating the almond harvest, reflecting the dialectical tension between individual experiences and communal practices. This interplay illustrates how personal identities are shaped within the framework of collective cultural narratives, emphasizing the role of shared traditions in personal memory formation. Pagnol's work exemplifies this connection, portraying the Provençal landscape as a repository of both personal and communal histories.

The use of phytonyms resonates with cognitive processes involved in memory and emotion. Plant names carry cultural and emotional connotations that trigger specific cognitive responses, evoking sensory memories and emotions. In Pagnol's work, the mention of specific plants facilitates a deeper connection between the reader and the protagonist's experiences, illustrating the power of language in evoking the essence of a place and time. This aligns with studies on linguistic symbolism, suggesting that phytonyms serve as linguistic tools bridging the natural world and human expression, enriching literary texts with layers of meaning.

The symbolic representation of phytonyms in "Le Château de ma mère" offers insights into the broader field of literary studies. It demonstrates how natural elements can be imbued with cultural and emotional significance, contributing to thematic depth and character development. This approach encourages a reevaluation of the role of environmental elements in literature, recognizing them as active components that reflect and shape human experiences and societal values.

Pagnol's strategic use of phytonyms encapsulates complex dialectical tensions that enhance the narrative's depth. Through the symbolic representation of plants, he effectively explores contradictions inherent in human experience, such as the interplay between nature and culture, the balance between permanence and change, and the relationship between personal memories and collective identity. This analysis underscores the significance of phytonyms as more than botanical references, highlighting their role as vital symbols that enrich the literary tapestry of Pagnol's work.

CONCLUSION

The exploration of phytonyms in Marcel Pagnol's "Le Château de ma mère" reveals their pivotal role in enriching the narrative's thematic depth. These plant names serve not merely as descriptive elements but as profound symbols that encapsulate the dialectical tensions between nature and culture, permanence and transience, and personal memory versus collective

identity.

Pagnol's nuanced use of plant symbolism underscores the intricate relationship between the protagonist's internal experiences and the external environment of Provence. The recurring references to specific flora, such as cypress trees and almond blossoms, function as metaphors that reflect the complexities of human emotions and societal connections. This aligns with broader literary practices where plants are employed to symbolize abstract concepts and virtues, thereby enhancing the narrative's emotional resonance.

Furthermore, the study of phytonyms within this work highlights the significance of plant names as cultural artifacts that convey stories and traditions. This perspective is supported by research indicating that folk names of plants act as vehicles to convey various messages about life experiences and philosophical reflections within a community.

In conclusion, Pagnol's deliberate incorporation of phytonyms in "Le Château de ma mère" not only enhances the authenticity of the setting but also serves as a conduit for exploring complex human experiences. This analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of how natural elements can be intricately woven into literature to reflect and shape personal and collective narratives.

REFERENCES

- Bobokalonov, O. "Linguocultural and linguocognitive terminosystem features of medicinal plants in the french and uzbek languages (Fransuz va o'zbek tillari shifobaxsh o'simliklar terminosistemasining lingvomadaniy va lingvokognitiv xususiyati). Bukhara State University." Bukhara State University (2022).
- Bobokalonov, Odilshoh. "vZiddiyat kontentli leksemalar va antonimlar paradigmasidagi farqli jihatlar." News of the NUUz 1.1.3. 1 (2024): 262-265.
- Corliss, R. Reliving impossible dreams. Time 137.26 (1991): 75-75.
- Juraeva, M., & Bobokalonov, O. (2020). Pragmalinguistical study of french-uzbek medicinal plant terminology. Electronic journal of actual problems of modern science, education and training: Modern problems of philology and linguistics, 6(1).
- Kamoliddinovna, Komila Sayfiyeva. Linguocultural importance of English phytonym proverbs. International Journal Of Literature And Languages 5.03 (2025): 90-91.
- Kuldashova, N. B., Xamidova, M. X., Kuldashova, K. N. B., & Khamidova, M. K. (2020). The importance of terminology in linguistics. Scientific reports of Bukhara state university, 3(3), 106-109. <https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cluster=12389549509788219209&hl=en&oi=scholar>

- N.B.Kuldashova. (2023). Le terme et la terminologie. Innovative development in educational activities, 2(6), 41–52. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7781466>
- Ostonovich Bobokalonov, O. "Units Expressing Names Of Uzbek Medicinal Plants And Their Classification." International Journal of Culture and Modernity 9 (2021): 115-120.
- Ostonovich, B. O. "Lexico-semantic features of medical plants in uzbek and french languages." Interdisciplinary Conference of Young Scholars in Social Sciences. 2021.
- Ostonovich, B. O. (2021, December). Lexico-semantic features of medical plants in Uzbek and French languages. In Interdisciplinary Conference of Young Scholars in Social Sciences (pp. 54-56).
- Ostonovich, B. O., & Khudayberdievich, S. H. (2023). Linguistic Analysis of Knowledge Issues in Psychological Discourse. Journal of Science-Innovative Research in Uzbekistan, 1(5), 355-369.
- Ostonovich, Bobokalonov Odilshoh, and Sanakulov Jahongir Khudayberdievich. "Cross-cultural communication in the agricultural context for effective collaboration in environmental engineering." Web of Scientists and Scholars: Journal of Multidisciplinary Research 3.1 (2025): 169-177.
- Ostonovich, Bobokalonov Odilshoh. "Specificities of shifonemas in a psychological and neuropsychological contexts." European International Journal of Philological Sciences 3.08 (2023): 17-22.
- Ostonovich, O. B. (2020). Specific features of phraseological units. International Journal on Integrated Education, 3(11), 192-195.
- Radjabovich, B. R., Ostionovich, B. O., & Bafoevna, N. D. (2023). Differential, Communicative and Neuropsycholinguistic Problems of Semantic Functionally Formed Speeches in Unrelated Languages. Journal of Survey in Fisheries Sciences, 10(2S), 1363-1375.
- Rameau, Jean-Claude, et al. Flore forestière française tome 3, région méditerranéenne: Guide écologique illustré. Vol. 3. CNPF-IDF, 2008.
- Shavkatovna, S. D., Ostionovich, B. R., & Isroilovna, T. G. (2021). Linguoculturological analysis of images-symbols of literary text. International Engineering Journal For Research & Development, 6, 236-238.
- Shohzodbek Yo'ldosh o'g, Suyunov. Phytonyms in english and uzbek: a comparative analysis. Western European Journal of Historical Events and Social Science 3.02 (2025): 11-15.
- Stan, Alexandra. Phytonyms in Idiomatic Expressions—A Contrastive Approach. Conference on British and American Studies—Investigating Language as Social Inter-action, Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing. 2019.
- Webster, Catherine S. Pagnol, Guitry, and Cocteau: The playwright as filmmaker. New York University, 2005.