

THE DECONSTRUCTION OF LANGUAGE IN LEWIS CARROLL'S *ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND*

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Abstract: *Starting from the premise that postmodernism is a state of mind rather than a precise cultural period, this paper provides a linguistic deconstructive analysis of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. The language used in the most important scenes are analyzed employing not only Wittgenstien's and Sausurre's deconstructive theories but also other postmodern concepts appeared long after Carroll's novel, which makes the inquiry relatively audacious. Language becomes intrumental in costruing aspects of the protagonist's identity, including the way in which the narrator equipped Alice with a certain kind of thinking. The double-coded narrative reflected both at the textual and identitary level are merged into one, thus augmenting the fluid character of the fictional text; Lewis Carroll manipulates both her appearance and musings in a playful and paradoxical manner. The free-floating signifiers and the language puns contribute to the blurring of the various boundaries within the text and to the arbitrariness with which the story unfolds.*

Keywords: *postmodernism; fluidity; language; code; deconstructive; arbitrariness; floating signifiers*