

STYLISTICAL ANALYSIS OF POEM, “A PLAGUED JOURNEY”

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ABSTRACT

First of all it gives an overview of stylistics and the features being analyzed, and then the actual purpose behind the stylistic analysis is explained. The analysis is made under the aspects of graph logical, syntactical, semantically and phonological patterns. The poem is about the journey of *Pakistani women*. Analysis is helpful in understanding the concepts in poem.

KEYWORDS: Stylistically Analysis, Graph Logical, Phonological, Lexical, Deviation, Pakistani Women

INTRODUCTION

Style

It has many definitions as Chapman (1973) says “style is the product of social situation”. We can say that “style is the dress of thought”. According to Leech (1969) “Style is the way in which something is spoken, written or performed”. He believes that style refers to the way in a given context, a give person for a given person and so on.” According to Fowler “style is property of all texts, not yet just literary”.

Stylistics

“Stylistics is the systematic study of style”. Stylistics is the discipline that studies the way in which language is used. To Leech and Short (1981, p.13) “Stylistics is simply defined as the (linguistic) study of style, is rarely undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language”. According to Freeman (1971, p.1) —stylistics, is a sub-discipline which started in the second half of the 20th century.

Principles of Stylistics

In order to analyze a text we need certain yard sticks they are called stylistics tools or principles. There are three main principles of stylistics.

Foregrounding

It refers to a prominent portion of text that contributes to the total meaning. Halliday characterized foregrounding as ‘motivated prominence’. It is a technique for making strange or a method of defamiliarization in textual composition. It is further divided into two parts. The deviation of a similar pattern and norms is called deautomatization. In the automatization we highlight or manipulate certain thematic position of a paragraph.

Norms

“Set of accepted, settled and established rules and regulations of a society are called norms”. Norms has three kinds general, authorial and lexical norms. General norms are already settled and accepted from everyone. Authorial are the individual specific norms oriented by an author.

Deviation

It is derived from word 'deviated' who means 'to violate' or to go against the rules that are established.

Levels of Stylistics Analysis

- Graphology
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Lexical

Graphology

This is the type of deviation. In this we study about the physical appearance of the text i.e. from where and how it starts, paragraph style etc

Phonology

The study of the distribution and patterning of speech sounds in a language and of the tacit rules governing pronunciation.

Morphology

The study of patterns of word information in a particular language, including inflection, derivation and composition

Lexical

The study of pertaining to the words or vocabulary of a language

A Plagued Journey

There is no warning rattle at the door (1)

nor heavy feet to stomp the foyer boards. (2)

Safe in the dark prison, I know that (3)

light slides over (4)

the fingered work of a toothless (5)

woman in Pakistan. (6)

Happy prints of (7)

an invisible time are illumined. (8)

My mouth agape (9)

rejects the solid air and (10)

lungs hold. The invader takes (11)

direction and (12)

seeps through the plaster walls. (13)

It is at my chamber, entering (14)
the keyhole, pushing (15)
through the padding of the door. (16)
I cannot scream. A bone (17)
of fear clogs my throat. (18)
It is upon me. It is (19)
sunrise, with Hope (20)
its arrogant rider. (21)
My mind, formerly quiescent (22)
in its snug encasement, is strained (23)
to look upon their rapturous visages, (24)
to let them enter even into me. (25)
I am forced (26)
outside myself to (27)
mount the light and ride joined with Hope. (28)
Through all the bright hours (29)
I cling to expectation, until (30)
darkness comes to reclaim me (31)
as its own. Hope fades, day is gone (32)
into its irredeemable place (33)
and I am thrown back into the familiar (34)
bonds of disconsolation. (35)
Gloom crawls around (36)
lapping lasciviously (37)
between my toes, at my ankles, (38)
and it sucks the strands of my (39)
hair. It forgives my heady (40)
fling with Hope. I am (41)
joined again into its (42)
greedy arms. (43)
Maya Angelou (44)

Introduction to Poetess

Dr. Maya Angelou is a remarkable woman who is hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature. As a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil-rights activist, producer and director, she continues to travel the world, spreading her legendary wisdom. Maya Angelou has a unique power to help readers of every orientation span the lines of race and Angelou captivates audiences through the vigor and sheer beauty of her words and lyrics. She was born on April 4, 1928. She is African-American and she is considered as a spokesperson of black people and women. Her work is considered as defense of black culture. Themes of her books are racism, identity, family and travel.

Main Theme of the Poem

A plagued Journey is a poem about two contrasted images mood and expression of life. These contrasted images presented through dark and light. The poem is also about the journey to which a man passes through when he is in despair or gloom. But ever green hope gives a man new life and light. Hope gives a man a new direction and new way of living. This is a journey from the hopeless to the Hope.



Figure 1

Explanations



Figure 2

Foregrounding

In this poem the main theme is fore grounded through personification. The idea of gloom and darkness is personified through the images of "darkness reclaims me" "gloom crawl". We all know that darkness cannot claim or reclaim a person but Maya makes us to believe that darkness reclaims her.

Deviation

In the start of the poem we see gloom and darkness. But then in the middle we see light. But again we see at the end we again see darkness this is contrary to the norm. A single break in the poem is also the deviation from general rules. This single break from the lines 28 -29 is the break between night and day.

Mount the light and ride joined with Hope. (28)

Through all the bright hours (29)

Graph Logical Level

The poem is consists of 44 lines. Sentences are simple but end not on same words. Just two words in the whole poem are capitalized "Hope and Pakistan". But the start the start of each line is not with the capital words. This makes an unusual effect on reader. The single break between line 28 and 29 is also graph logical deviation. Her reconciliation with hope (day) is the climax of the poem, and is preceded with darkness once again.

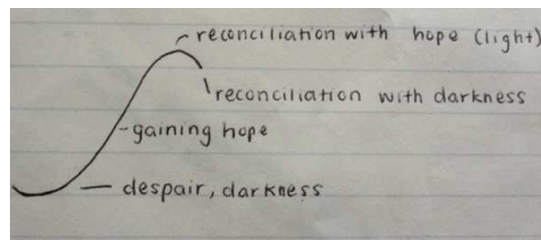


Figure 3

Grammatical Level

Syntactic Level

The poem a plagued journey is simple poem. Its sentence structure is simple. Punctuation is not very bold. But we have lot of full stops at least 16 they are. A single break is there which unusual that is between lines 28 - 29 seems.

Geographic Reference

In line no 6 we have a direct reference of Pakistan.

Imagery

It has reference of the country of Pakistan. It indicates that the poem is offered to the Pakistani women. Imagery is used in lines 7 to 16. We can relate the imagery of these lines to the context of our own lives. This imagery also helps to understand the poem more clearly and strongly.

Personification

In the whole poem personification is used. This personification also gives human characteristics to the objects and emotion. That can see in lines 36 -43. Personification is also used when she writes "gloom crawls around" (line 36). Gloom cannot crawl, but again, it is used to show how gloom seems to the speaker. Mood is also used. The mood of this poem is dark and mysterious. Personification also makes the movement of the poem dramatic. It's also making the poem descriptive. Also in lines 30 – 31 we can see the use of personification to convey to the reader how the speaker feels toward the darkness.

I cling to expectation, until (30)

darkness comes to reclaim me(31)

Lexical Level

The mood is conveyed through word choice. Words and phrases such as “dark prison” “rapturous visages” “gloom” and “irredeemable place” causes the audience to understand mood, theme and main idea. Parts of body are also mentions in the poem:

Feet	Finger	Toothless	Mouth	Lungs	Chamber	Bone	Throat	Toes	Ankles
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These words show her deep description about the Pakistani women.

Phonological Level

Rhyme elements, alliteration, and consonance and assonance phonological devices. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem. There is a single line of consonant in poem “mount the light and ride joined with Hope. (28) And for assonance there is single also, “There is no warning rattle at the door.”(1)

Morphological Level

In morphological devices prefixes and suffixes are included. There are almost 7 suffixes in the poem and 4 prefixes.

Suffixes

Warning	toothless	entering	padding	darkness	pushing	Encasement
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Prefixes

Invisible	illuminated	Disconsolation	keyhole	Rejects
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One word is important has both features of being a suffix and of prefix and that word is ‘irredeemable’ in line 33.

CONCLUSIONS OF ANALYSIS

Stylistics basically is an aspect of literary studies that emphasis on the analysis of various elements of style such as metaphor diction and etc. So in stylistics analysis we see the prominent characteristics of a text which may distinguish a writer or a poet from other conventional writers and their style. Stylistics analysis basically deals with the identification of certain specific patterns in a speech or some piece of writings. It focuses on the meanings and quality of a text. Stylistics analysis manipulates these main aspects

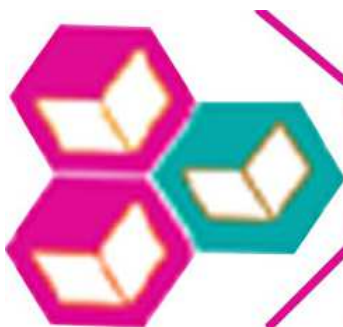
- Either the play or a poem is written in blank verse or in a regular form which means we look at the graph logical features of a poem.
- We look at the phonological and lexical of play or a poem.
- We also check the syntactic and grammatical position of a poem. So we can say that stylistics mainly concerned with a. With the idea of “style”
- The analysis of a literary text which may also be call “stylistics analysis”

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