



THE APPLICATION OF STYLISTICS DEVICES ON THE SHORT STORY “THE SOUND OF FALLING LEAVES” BY QURAT UL AIN HYDER

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Abstract:

This study aims to explore the stylistic features of the short story “The Sound of Falling Leaves” written by Qurat Ul Ain Hyder. The different formative elements of the story, such as characters and point of view, are discussed briefly as to give a better insight of the story. The story is analyzed stylistically in terms of Stylistic Devices, where grammatical, phonological and lexical schemes are considered, following the checklist of linguistic and stylistic devices (G. Leech, M. Short, 2007). Features of simile, hyperbole, prolepsis, question, exclamation and calque are focused on. At the end, the findings and conclusion is given to sum up the discussion.

Key Words: Stylistic, Analysis, Short Story, Falling, Leaves & Qurat Ul Ain Hyder.

Introduction:

Stylistics is a literary discourse of a linguistic orientation. According to Traugott and Pratt (1980), “Linguistic can contribute substantially to understand of a text by helping us to realize why it is that we experience, what we do, when we read a literary work”. Stylistics is a field of study which started in almost the second half of 20th Century (Freeman, 1971). In doing a stylistic analysis, the researcher should formulate the research option not only by asking question, “What use is made of language”, but also about the why and how, as Leech and Short (2007) elaborate: “Why does the author choose to express himself in this specific way?” and “How is such an aesthetic effect achieved through language?” Hence, it is clear that a stylistic analysis aims to explain the language used in a text in relation to its creative function.

Qurat Ul Ain Hyder (1927-2007) was an Indian writer, scholar and translator, who helped the novel become a serious genre of hitherto poetry-oriented Urdu literature. Although she wrote in a traditional style but in her short story “The Sound of Falling Leaves”, she made a sort of satire on the girls who ruin their lives just to make their standard up in the society, through the ordinary use of language.

Aims and Objectives:

1. To investigate the importance of stylistics in a piece of literary work.
2. To evaluate the use of stylistic devices in a short story.
3. To pave way for the new researchers in the field of stylistics.

Research Questions:

What are Stylistic devices applied in the short story “*The Sound of Falling Leaves*”?

How does the study of literary and stylistic devices help to have better understanding of “*The Sound of Falling Leaves*”?

Literature Review:

What is Stylistics?

‘Style is the costume of thinking’ (G. Leech, M. Short, 2007).

“It is said by various critics that the term style normally used without understanding its meanings. Style is a mode in which something is written, spoken and performed” (Leech, 1969). To create the sprightliness in any piece of literature, writer uses different techniques to make it stylish and attractive. It is called ‘Stylistics’. Stylistics is a furcated

of applied linguistics, originated as a way of applying linguistic models to literary content.

Widdowson (1975) defines it as “the study of literary discussion from a linguistic orientation”. “Stylistics is an access to the study of literary texts using linguistic explanation and considers it as a linking method” (M. Short, C. Candlin, 1989).

“Stylistics is a span within Linguistics and Literature” (Carter, 1988).

Though, there are a number of controversial approaches and orientations which adopted by the analysts.

These different approaches, according to Wales (1989) are “appropriate to the main influence of linguistics and literary appreciation”.

Widdowson (1975) “observes the view that stylistics is a connection between the literary criticism and linguistics”.

While David Crystal (1980) says “stylistics is a part of linguistics which studies different aspects of language deviation”.

In this way the purpose of the stylistic analysis is to explore and explain the different choices made by the author in the variety of words and sentence formation.

Style also explained by Leech and Short (2007) as “the way to transmit the message of the writer, to the reader”.

Stylistic Analysis:

Through the use of different literary devices a writer can enhance the meanings of his writing. Simile is the best example of it. The things are over exaggerated in Hyperbole which intensify the mood and create a kind of amusement in the writing. Usually stylistic analysis was knew as a way of exploring the meaning of literary text but now it is not the same. It is moved towards a more practical direction to “connect choices in text to social and prosperous Creativeness & Literacy cultural environment (J. Thornborrow, S. Wareing, 1998).

“Stylistic analysis is not only deals with the discussion of certain effects of language in a text but it needs to be a significant method for understanding the mores in which all types of realities are fabricated through language” (Birch, 1989).

“In addition to exclamatory sentences investigative of judgment and evaluation, in the text there are also those inducement satirical effects” (Mansfield, 1981).

Research Methodology:

Stylistic analysis is a method, which is used to analyze the given piece of literature. Stylistic analysis is further categorized such as various figures of speech, some stylistic features such as grammatical and lexical categories.

Findings:

The researchers tried their best to provide a quality work. They did it with passionate and extreme interest to describe all mentioned devices so that the new researchers can get a clear indication to the discipline. The following devices are elaborated in a stunning way from the researchers.

- **Simile:** A figure of speech which consist a literal likening of one thing to another on the basis of a common attribute, it is used to draw a similarity between two un-similar things.

“I’d put on a brocade sari, I looked like a Maharani”.

“I would be dressed like a princess...”

“Married, with children, tall like a camel; dark-complexioned.”

“Like all businessmen, Faruq was terribly religious and superstitious.”

“Tall and heavy, dark as midnight, about forty-five: he looked like a giant in the children’s book.”

- **Hyperbole:** An acute exaggeration used to make a point is called hyperbole. It is not meant to be taken literally. It is driven from a Greek word meaning 'excess'. (Elizabeth Closs Traugott, Mary Louise Pratt, 1980)
"Married, with children, tall like a camel; dark-complexioned."
"Tall and heavy, dark as midnight, about forty-five: he looked like a giant in the children's book."
- **Prolepsis:** A stylistic device, in which the use of words not appropriate till a later time. The noun is often repeated in the form of resultant personal pronoun.
"There I met Major Khushwaqt Singh. He was Chauhan Rajput from somewhere near Jhansi: very tall and sturdy and extremely dark of complexion, he had long moustaches ..."
- **Ratiocinative Question:** A stylistic device, in which a speaker often asks a question and often answers himself.
"Why do fairly reasonable, well-educated girls suddenly turn bad? One theory said, only the girls with low I.Q turn bad, intelligent one doesn't ruin themselves knowingly. But I have seen highly intelligent, super-smart girls running around with men."
- **Rhetorical Question:** A figure of speech based on aninterrogative statement, which requires no answer on the part of the reader or speaker.
"In any case, what good will all your studying do?"
"They must all be true. What other explanation can there be?"
"He grumbled. What sort of a 'sister' are you? Can't you stop by just once in a while and put your 'brother's house in order? Tell the servants what to do? Must I run the school and house too?"
"But how can I find time for it?"
"What use it is now to think of Khushwaqt?"
"Khushwaqt Singh! What can you possibly have to do with me now?"
- **Exclamation Mark:** Punctuation mark which shows the strong feelings, emphasis on a comment or indicate astonishment. It is used in the writing to show a forceful way of speaking or utterance. There are few sentences from the short story which shows its presence.
"She almost shrieked, 'Oh.... It's you!'"
"Those four years at Aligarh Muslim Girls College. What a dream of place!"
"Of course. They cannot be that bad!"
"I knew how these Hindu-Muslim marriages always ended!"
"Only ten thousand. When he himself was a millionaire!"
"Some of the most notorious girls of those days now go around looking so very virtuous!"
"Khushwaqt Singh! Khushwaqt Singh! What can you possibly have to do with me now?"
- **Calque:** Calque, which is also called lone translation, is a word which is borrowed from some other language. It's often used to make the writing impressive. There are some words from Hindi used in this short story.
"Saheb, Zamindar, Purdah, Burqas, Sari, Tonga, Arya Smaji, Mahavidyalaya, Bhabi, Maulvi, Maharani, Hijrat.
- **Important Quotations:**
"Women are their own worst enemies."
"A mirror under a veil of flowers."

"One rotten apple can spoil a barrel."

"A mad desire to burst out laughing."

"If you can be content with your fate, you automatically save yourself from much grief."

Delimitations of the Study:

Stylistic analysis is an extensive topic to analyze. The researchers delimitates their study to some specific terms: Simile, Hyperbole, prolepsis, Ratiocinative question, Rhetorical question, Exclamation mark, claue and some important quotations. The purpose of the study is to give a better understanding of the short story and also to capture the thought of the writer.

Recommendations:

There are a lot of things which need to elaborate. The new researchers can find out other stylistic terms by studying it. Even they go for critical analysis. There are some themes which need to be critically analyzed.

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