



## **THE APPLICATION OF FIGURES OF SPEECH ON “DREAMS IN THE DESERT” BY LEHR NIAZI**

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### **Abstract:**

*There are two ways of expression of thoughts and ideas. One is prose and the other is poetry. Poetic expression needs figures of speech to create attraction and explanation. The hidden message is explored through the deep understanding of the figures of speech applied on the poetry. Every poet tries to analyze his society through his poetry.*

*The trends and priorities of modern man have been changed. Today everyone wants to get more and more benefits from the society. In this race, the human values have been ignored by the modern man. The gap between rich and poor has been widened more and more. This modern trend in a society is very harmful and destructive. “Dreams in the Desert” By Lehr Niazi has some poems which teach modern man the lesson of sympathy to others and give the importance to the human values. Through the analysis of the application of figures of speech on “Dreams in the Desert”, the researchers would try to highlight the real message and beauty of some poems in it, so that modern man can be motivated to get the real message and enjoyment out of them.*

**Key Words:** Application, Figures of Speech, Dreams in the Desert, Message & Enjoyment.

### **Introduction:**

This research article is to analyze the application of “Figures of speech” on the earlier six poems of “Dreams in the Desert” by Lehr Niazi. These poems are analyzed from the perspective of the message given by the help of the application of figures of speech. This research article observes the research questions, objectives, research methodologies and literature review in the field of the application of the figures of speech. After analyzing the main idea of the poem and application of the figures of speech on it, conclusion is stated. The poems in “Dreams in the Desert” are written in lyrical form. The rhyming couplets are used in most of the poems and the words used in them are very simple and very attractive. The application of the figures of speech on these poems gives them more beauty and attraction. It is very useful application which also highlights the message and beauty of the poems alike.

The pictorial impact of the application of the figures of speech also highlights the poet’s changing mood and reaction on any incident in the society. The poet of these poems also belongs to a poor family and has the deep knowledge of the difficulties and hardships of the poor. So through the application of the figures of speech on the poems, he beautifully highlighted the message of love and respect to the society as a whole.

### **Research Questions:**

How does the application of the Figures of Speech create beauty in the poems?

How much is the application of the Figures of Speech helpful in conveying main idea in the poems?

What is the message of the poet in “Dreams in the Desert”?

### **Objectives:**

Any piece of literature has two basic aspects, one is moral and the other is aesthetic. These two aspects are always highlighted through the application of the figures of speech in poetry.

The objective of the study of the application of the figures of speech on “Dreams in the Desert” is to highlight the mentioned two aspects of the poems in it. So that the reader would achieve both benefits from the study of these poems.

**Methodology:**

The research work concentrates on the application of the figures of speech on “Dreams in the Desert”. This research is qualitative in nature, as far as descriptive and analytical. The researchers adopted the mentioned approach to obtain the effective results through supporting material for the mentioned study from the published material.

**Literature Review:**

To satisfy the aesthetic sense of the reader, every poet tries to create rhythm and charm in his verses. There are many poetic devices used by the poet to create liveliness in his piece of poetry. Figurative language gives meanings a new look and variety.

**Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary** (5<sup>th</sup> edition) defined “Figure of Speech” as “a word or phrase used for vivid or dramatic effect.” This dictionary explained figurative language as “(of a word, phrase, etc) used in an imaginative or metaphorical (metaphor) way that is different from the usual or basic meaning”. Every poet decorates his piece of poetry with figures of speech. Through the application of figures of speech the message is easily conveyed to the readers. Flight of imagination is always supported by the use of images and symbols.

**The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory** (4<sup>th</sup> edition)... defined the terms “Image and Imagery” as “The terms image and imagery have many connotations and meanings. Imagery as a general term covers the use of language to represent objects, actions, feelings, thoughts, ideas, states of mind and any sensory or extra-sensory experience. An ‘image’ does not necessarily mean a mental picture.” It further defined that “Many images (but by no means all) are conveyed by figurative language, as in metaphor, simile, synecdoche, onomatopoeia and metonymy (qq.v.). An image may be visual (pertaining to the eye), olfactory (smell), tactile (touch), auditory (hearing), gustatory (taste), abstract (in which case it will appeal to what may be described as the intellect) and kinesthetic (pertaining to the sense of movement and bodily effort).” It also explained “Symbol and symbolism” as “The word symbol derives from the Greek verb *symballein*, ‘to throw together’, and its noun *symbolon*, ‘mark’, ‘emblem’, ‘token’ or ‘sign’. It is an object, animate or inanimate, which represents or ‘stands for’ something else.” “A literary symbol combines an image with a concept (words themselves are a kind of symbol). It may be public or private, universal or local.”

**The Sterling Dictionary of Literary Terms** (edition 1998) defines image as “The physical representation of a person, animal or object that is made visible by painting, photograph, sculpture or portrait. It also means a mental impression or visualization done through phrases, words or sentences. This is done by the use of figurative language such as metaphors and similes which create a mental image in the mind of the reader too, and is as vivid and clear as the physical representation. The use of images is the basic element in any imaginative poem or prose or any art form”.

She further says about imagery that “By the use of imagery, a poet or writer appeals to the senses, than to the sight. The use of metaphors and similes are two major devices of imagery”. Every poet, like a painter of vivid pictures, provides food for thoughts and senses by his pictorial art. Figures of speech are the tools that help in pictorial presentation. The most common figures of speech are simile and metaphor.

**International Journal of Academic Research and Reflection** (vol.3, no. 1, 2015) defines metaphor and simile as “A trope in which a word or phrase is transfused from its

literal meaning to stand for something else. A metaphor compares two objects or things without using the words like "Like" or "As". For example: close bosom friend, soft dying day." and simile as "A troop in which comparison is introduced by using the words "Like" or "As" "Like a gleaner", "as the light wind".

This International Journal (vol.3, 1, 2015) explained that "Imagery is a figure of speech or vivid description which appeals to the five senses. There are two types of imagery. 1. Visual. 2. Auditory."

Literature reflects the society and age in which it is created. Every literary artist is the mouth piece of his society and age. Poets recreate their societies in their works by the application of figures of speech. Figures of speech always create freshness in poetic works. Every poet is unique in applying these figures of speech on his creative piece of writing.

**Geoffrey Chaucer** (1340-1400) applied figures of speech and recreated trends and traditions of his society.

"And palmers for to seken straunge strondes.  
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes,  
And specially, from every shires ende  
Of Engelond, to Canterbury they wende,  
The holy blissful martir for to seke,  
That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke".

**Alexander Pope** (1688-1744) mirrored the various tastes of his society by the application of Figures of speech in his poetry.

"Meanwhile, declining from the noon of day,  
The sun obliquely shoots his burning ray;  
The hungry judges soon the sentence sign,  
And wretches hang that jury-mendine;"

**Percy Bysshe Shelley** (1792-1822) used figures of speech very beautifully in his poems. He in one poem, imagined the time as a deep sea.

"Unfathomable sea! Whose waves are years,  
Ocean of time, whose waters of deep woe  
Are brackish with the salt of human tears!  
Thou shore less flood, which in thy ebb and flow."

**John Keats** (1795-1821) had great power of imagination. With this power he created fantastic poetry. Pictorial descriptions are supported by the application of figures of speech. The poet creates imaginary world through the application of figures of speech.

"Open wide the mind's cage-door,  
She'll dart forth; and cloud ward soar.  
O sleep fancy! Let her loose;  
Summer's joys are spoilt by use,"

**Robert Frost** (1874-1963) used symbols drawn from the ordinary, common place, objects and phenomena of nature, and from the common everyday events and situations of human life.

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To whereit bent in the undergrowth."

**Richard Wilbur** (1921-) used imagery in his poems which made the subjects and themes alive in front of the reader's eyes. This technique makes the poetry pleasant to read and easy to understand.

"After the last bulletins the window darken,  
And the whole city founders readily and deep,  
Sliding on all its pillows  
To the thronged Atlantis of personal sleep,"

**Philip Arthur Larkin** (1922-1985) developed the portrayal of Mr. Bleany with the help of imagery. He applied the figures of speech and visualized Mr. Bleany living there.

"This was Mr. Bleany's room. He stayed  
The whole time he was at the Bodies, till  
They moved him. 'Flowered curtains, thin and frayed,  
Fall to within five inches of the still,"

Because of the implied comparison and contrast poets create imaginary portraits successfully.

**John Ashbury** (1927) depicted common events and scenes of everyday life through figurative language.

"It's as though a visible chorus called up the different  
Stages of the journey, singing about them and being them:"

The poet used symbol of journey to highlight the drama of life. Through the application of figures of speech, every poet creates beauty in his verses. All poets are endowed with keen imaginative faculty.

**Adrienne Rich** (1929-) took the tigers as symbol of freedom of spirit as:

"Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty."

Figures of speech are always helpful in creating the beauty and charm in the verses.

**Sylvia Plath** (1932-1963) expressed mother's love for her child. She employed figurative language as:

"Clown like, happiest on your hands,  
Feet to the stars, and moon-skulled,  
Gilled like a fish."

The imagery refers to the child's happy mood. By the help of imagery every writer Portraits the inner feelings of a person. The poetess here paints a beautiful image of a mother with her child. Poetry is the representation of life. Every poet represents his feelings and ideas through symbols. These symbols are drawn from the ordinary, commonplace objects, from the common everyday events and situations of human life.

#### **Data Analysis:**

##### **1. "Parents Love":**

1. Alliteration:  
"My-- mother" ..... line.3  
"World-- ways" ..... line.5
2. Personification:  
"Cruelty of the world" ..... Line.5
3. Elision (omission of syllables):  
"Nights...n... days" ... line.6
4. Repetition:  
"Sweet" .... ..line.3

**Message:**

1. Parents love. 2. Desire to become a child again.

**2. "Childhood Memories":**

1. Personification:  
"Our thoughts have many wings" .... Line.1
2. Alliteration:  
"Sweet-- song" ..... line.7  
"Milk—made-- me" ..... line.8  
"Message -- me" ..... line.11  
"Memories—my" ..... line.12

**Message:**

Childhood memories.

**3. "Dark Nights":**

1. Personification:  
"Cruelty of the night" .....line.1  
"Un-seen danger" .....line.3
2. Alliteration:  
"Every-- ear" ....line.5  
"Black-- birds" .....line.7  
"Seen-- sky" .....line.8  
"Stay—side-- side" ....line.11
3. Repetition:  
"Side" ....line.11

**Message:**

Childhood fear of dark-nights

**4. "Poor man's Dreams":**

1. Metaphor:  
"Poor dream" .....line.1.  
"Chicken....ice-cream" .....line.2.  
"Crow black" .....line.4.  
"Bread of second day" .....line.8
2. Alliteration:  
"No - not" .... Line.2  
"With...without" .....line.6  
"Dreams....day" .....line.8  
"Labor.....little" .....line.10
3. Repetition:  
"Poor" ..... line.1  
"No" ..... line.7-

**Message:**

Difficulties of the poor

**5. "Life is Personal":**

1. Alliteration:  
"Blood-below" .... Line.3  
"Better-be" .... Line.4  
"Before-become" ....line.6  
"Can-catch" ....line.7
2. Repetition:  
"Lost" .... Line.1

“Is” .....line.10

3. Contraction:

“Don’t” .... Line.9

**Message:**

Don’t disturb anyone, enjoy your life

**6. “The Poor in the Street”:**

1. Repetition:

“No” .... Line.2

“The” ..... Line.1, 5, 6, 9.

2. Simile:

“Like the Frog” .... Line.6

3. Metaphor:

“They are wheel” .... Line.8

4. Alliteration:

“They-the” ..... line.5

“Poor-proper” ..... line.7

“The-they” ..... line.8

“Involved-in” ..... line.13

“Silence-song” ... line.14

“Try-to” ..... line.14

**Message:**

Never hurt the ego of the people.

**Delimitations of the Study:**

The researchers tried to highlight the application of figures of speech on “Dreams in the Desert” and the message given in it. The research paper consisted on the analysis of only six poems selected from “Dreams in the Desert”.

**Recommendations:**

The researchers suggest the new researchers to analyze the poems through deviations’ viewpoint in the domain of Linguistics.

**Conclusion:**

Through the application of figures of speech the poet achieved all his objectives. He created charm and attraction in his poetry and highlighted moral and aesthetic aspects of the poems. In all these poems, he very successfully gave the very beautiful message to the world. “Giving the importance to human values” was the central theme of these poems. The poems were simple but had a unique charm. Aesthetic sense was successfully served through the application of figures of speech on the poems. All the figures of speech applied here, were quite appropriate to the both aspects of the piece of literature.

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**Appendix:**

**"Parents Love"**

My all childhood disappear,  
Not even a day spare.  
Sweet sweet lulling of my mother,  
No one is here now even my father.  
Cruelty of the world goes its ways,  
No sympathy here all the nights and days.  
So now, passed many years,  
My eyes are full of tears.  
I can bear no more pain,  
The paths, I travelled, not again.

**"Childhood Memories"**

Our thoughts have many wings,  
Always catch the charming things.  
From imaginations nothing away,  
In the past, we can stay.  
Everything was ok, nothing wrong,  
Dreams of childhood were so long.  
Early morning with a sweet song,  
And the glass of milk made me strong.  
With my fellows always run,  
All the day, had a fun.  
A happy message to me, always sending,  
Memories of my childhood never ending.

**"Dark Nights"**

He told the cruelty of the night,  
My grand-father was right.  
Unseen danger is always here,  
No one knows from where.  
Hissing sounds are heard by every ear,  
Shadows are seen far and near.  
Over the head black birds fly,  
But nothing seen across the sky.  
Someone chasing on tip toe,  
In the dark out I never go.  
Stay side by side in the cold,  
In the nights my grand-mother told.

I always think in the light,  
My grand-parents were right.

**“Poor Man’s Dreams”**

A poor man has a poor dream,  
No chicken not a cone of ice cream.  
Every morning in his shak,  
No guest but crow black.  
A cup of tea, without milk,  
Clothes with tags, without silk.  
Dirty cottages, no houses, no stay,  
Poor labour dreams, bread of second day.  
Cuts on the hands with pain,  
Great labour but a little gain.  
Bare- footed labour in the fields,  
Good job, but no honour, no shields.

**“Life is Personal”**

The moments, those lost, lost forever,  
But in heart, we forget them never.  
Dare to face life, blood not be low,  
If the hurdles are more, better to be slow.  
Controversies of life, solve in time,  
Before they may become a crime.  
Never can catch again, the moment lost,  
We are slow but life is very fast.  
Don’t disturb anyone, enjoy your spring,  
Life is personal, everyone is king.

**“The Poor in the Street”**

The poor in the street,  
No welcome, no treat.  
It’s hobby of the people,  
Throwing stones at the dogs;  
They think the poor of the town,  
In the pool jumping like the frogs.  
We must the poor proper deal,  
In the whole machine they are wheel.  
Never hurt the ego of the man,  
Consult every one when you plan.  
To the people never do any wrong?  
You will be remembered for a long.  
Passions are involved in the lines,  
Never try to silence any song.