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STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF WILLIAM HENRY DAVIES'S POEM
"MONEY"

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Abstract

This research article aims to analyze the concepts of Davies's poem "Money" from a stylistic point of view and explore four levels of stylistics analysis that is graph logical, syntactical, semantic and phonological. The poem dilates upon the pathetic and painful conditions of the poet's determination who wants to gain eternal pleasure of life, and he says that the significance of money can be realized in a poor economic condition only. He says that the friends of the rich by heart are better than the rich by money. Materialistic joys vanish in the flow of time, but eternal pleasures remain as it is. The analysis of this poem will be helpful in analyzing and searching for the concepts of money which cause tensions in human lives, especially in the modern and postmodern era.

Keywords: Style, Stylistics, Money, Phonological level, Graphical level, Morphological. level, Lexico-syntactic level.

Introduction

'Money' is a poem written by English Poet W.H. Davies. He was a Welsh poet known as the 'Tramp poet'. All his poems and lyrics have a force and simplicity. In this poem, the poet presents his self-experienced wisdom that money makes the world go round. When the poet had money, he had a very big circle of friends. Many false friends would come knocking at his door. These friends used to often visit him as they thought that they could benefit from being with a wealthy man. But when he became poor, these so-called friends left him all alone. This made the poet realize that his big circle of friends was actually fake. And he recognized that the very few friends who did not leave him in his misery were his true friends. In this way, he experienced the real worth of joy and happiness in spite of being poor.

Theme

The poem dilates upon the pathetic and painful conditions of the poet's determination who wants to gain eternal pleasure of life, and he says that the significance of money can be realized in a poor economical condition only. He says that the friends of the rich by heart are better than the rich by money. Materialistic joys vanish in the flow of time, but eternal pleasures remain as it is.

1. Money can't give you eternal happiness.
2. Poor people laugh freely with their little earning and few friends.
3. In richness, a lot of friends of poet remained false and untrue but in poverty friends were few but true.

Poet's view on money

The poet wants to peep out from the materialistic world to gain the eternal joy of a sound soul. With the help of money, someone can purchase the objects for external pleasure of mind, but such an object can't give eternal happiness. We can accomplish our need with the touch of



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money, but a happy soul and a sound mind can't be attracted by the power of money. A person having a lot of money attracts a lot of friends, but such friends and friendship are alive till the appearance of money. In case of a poor person, though they struggle for each penny, they have a few true friends.

Poet's view on Rich person

Rich people keep themselves in catch more money and higher position, but their struggle keeps them far away from the eternal happiness of the heart. A rich person possesses a large number of friends who remain unfaithful to them because of dependency of friendship on the base of money and glamour. Even the laughs of such people are false and cold. So, according to the poet, rich people want to do more exercise to go down from the glitter of money to get real pleasure of sound mind.

Poet's view on the life of Poor people

According to the poet, poor people belong to such groups who have the true sense of joy and happiness. They are content with their earning. They took enjoyment of each moment of life with their family member remarking the loud laugh with no ambiguity. They laugh truly and act freely through a few numbers of true friends they possess.

Poet's view on Friends and Friendship

A friend in need is a friend indeed. A true friend never thinks about money or allowances. The richness of money never coined a true friend. A friend with a pure heart and mind never incline towards wealth. We should keep good friends. The poem proves that friendship with a true heart is richer than anything in this materialistic world.

Research Objectives

1. To explore the contribution of graphology Level in the poem.
2. To investigate the poem at a morphological level.
3. To examine the poem at a phonological level.
4. To evaluate Lexico-Syntactic Level in the poem.
5. To evaluate how language devices have been integrated in the poem.

Research Questions

1. In what way does Davies try to explore the concept of the material world?
2. What are major approaches of Davies to explore human nature?
3. Why does Davies explore the concept of naturalism in his poem 'money'?
4. What is Davies's view about money?
5. What is Davies's notion about eternal happiness mentioned in the poem?

Literature Review

Style is a broader term and has several meanings, and it is a specific method by which something is done, a manner or a way is style. In a broad appearance of everything is style. The way of living and doing something is also a style. According to Leech (1969), the basic purpose of achieving lucidity in diction and formality is to change the structure of the word. Style, in our view, is the language which is used in a given background and by a specific person for a



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particular purpose. Leech and Short (1981) describe that style is the cover of our imagination and feelings. This is applicable to the written and spoken, and literary and non-literary principles.

The term style is used occasionally in literary criticism, and it is defined according to one's own field of study. So, there are many interpretations of word style. In Leech and Short (1981), style is the cover of our feelings, and it is the tool of the writer to transfer the message to readers. Here is Carter (1989) view about style: that it is based on linguistic levels. That's why style is the primary thing which gives newness to every writer. Birch (1989) says that language and style cannot move beyond a boundary on the greatness of words. He believes that words have specific meanings which distinguish it from ordinary language.

Davy and Crystal (1969) points out that stylistics is the one part of applied linguistics which presents scientific study of style by applying linguistic principles and theories. Stylistics, however, mainly concerns with the literary variety, mainly writing. Stylistics as we understand it today with its being armed with the qualities of linguistics. Galperin (1971) puts that the structure of mutual language which is used in communication. In Widdowson's (1975) opinion style is the study of literary texts from linguistic perspective. He puts his view as that the connection between literary criticism and linguistics is style.

Stylistics is a critical approach which uses the findings of science of linguistics in the study of literary discourse. British linguist in 1930's presented a different type of tradition but with similar concept and is known to be as British Contextualism. According to Roger Fowler, linguistic stylistics or new stylistics thus provides for the first time a technical base for the study of style. Without a sound theory, the fundamental concepts and categories cannot be established. Before the 20th century stylistics dealt with literary text. But from 20th century it started to deal writer literary text. The very first aim of Stylistics is to understand the intentions of author or writer. Stylistics involves the study of grammar, lexis, semantics, as well as phonological attributes and discursive devices. It is more in the importance of intention and purpose.

The study of style is not confined to the analysis of literature; it can be imposed to the expository prose, advertisement and political speeches. It shows that language of literature is not essential on the contrary; literary language can be studied like any other kind to reveal precisely how effects are created.

Research Methodology

This study is purely qualitative in nature. This research is a stylistics analysis of the poem "Money" by Davies. The nature of this study is analytical. The researchers have analyzed the poem at graphological, phonological and morphological levels. The text of the poem is analyzed from the methods of stylistic analysis given by Leech (1985).

Data Analysis

It is not enough to translate the words; rather, understanding the basic concepts has great fun. It is a naked truth that Stylistic analysis has an eminent role to trace the basic ideas and meanings of any genre because Stylistics is a critical approach which uses the findings of the science of linguistics in the study of literary discourse. Lawal describes the features that deal with choices of diction, phrases, sentences and linguistic substance that are consistent with the



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subject matter. Lawal also adds that the narrative skill that the author uses in the matter of choice and in the division of words and characters.

Levels of Stylistics

Stylistics analysis is divided into four levels like:

- Graphology Level
- Phonological Level
- Morphological Level
- Lexico- Syntactic Level

Graphology Level

It refers to the entire writing scheme: Punctuation, spacing and paragraphing. It deals with all the writing methods such as Capitalizations, Hyphen, semicolon, full stop, the comma, the colon, question mark, dash, italicized letters and spacing variation etc.

Punctuation

When we find out punctuation in a sentence, we have three aspects about punctuation. Either the speaker of the poem uses punctuation in the middle lines or ends of the lines or runs the lines without spacing. If he or she uses punctuation in the middle lines, we say Caesura. If the poet writes a line without using punctuation, we call it Run on line, and if the poet uses punctuation at the end of the line, we say it End stopped line. Punctuation marks provide visual clues to readers, telling them how they should read the sentence. Some punctuation marks tell you that you are reading a list of items while other marks tell you that a sentence contains two independent ideas. Punctuation marks tell you not only when the sentence ends but also what kind of sentence you have read. This chapter covers different types of punctuation and the meanings they convey.

Caesura

Everyone speaks, and everyone takes breaths while speaking. For instance, when you say, "Maria has taken a break," you take a breath before further saying, "But Adam did not." Then again, you take a little breath and say, "He fell on his ankle." Such pauses come from the natural rhythm of your speech. Poetry also uses pauses in its lines. One such pause is known as "caesura," which is a rhythmical pause in a poetic line or a sentence. It often occurs in the middle of a line or sometimes at the beginning and the end. In "Money" Davies caesura is used in each stanza of the poem.

Examples

- Stanza 1: Line # 1=When I had money, money, O!
- Stanza 2 :Line # 3= Because a man is dead; I dared
- Stanza 3: Line #2=How poor men's hearts are ever light;
- Stanza 4: Line #3 = Poor men, think I, need not go up
- Stanza 5: Line #1, 2, 4 = When I had money, money, O!

But now I have no money, O!

My friends are real, though very few.

End- stopped line technique



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An end-stopped line is a poetic device in which a pause comes at the end of a syntactic unit (sentence, clause, or phrase). This pause can be expressed in writing as a punctuation mark, such as a colon, semi-colon, period, or full stop. According to A. C. Bradley, a line would be an end-stopped line when the meter and sense both make a natural pause at its end. The end-stopped line technique is used by the poet many times in the poem “Money” by Davies.

Examples

When I had money, money, O!
I knew no joy till I went poor;
Came knocking all day at my door.
Not speak to let this false world know.
How poor men's hearts are ever light;
About their work from morn till night.
So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,
So much as rich men should come down.
When I had money, money, O!
My many friends proved all untrue;
But now I have no money, O!
My friends are real, though very few.

Run on Line Technique or Enjambment

Enjambment, derived from the French word enjambment, means to step over or put legs across. In poetry it means moving over from one line to another without a terminating punctuation mark. It can be defined as a thought or sense, phrase or clause, in a line of poetry that does not come to an end at the line break but moves over to the next line. In simple words, it is the running on of a sense from one couplet or line to the next without a major pause or syntactical break. The run-on-line technique is also used twice in the poem “Money” by Davies.

Examples

For many a false man as a friend
Then felt I like a child that holds
A trumpet that he must not blow
Because a man is dead; I dared
Much have I thought of life, and seen
And see the rich ones coldly frown
Poor men, think I, need not go up

Comma

A comma (,) is the punctuation mark that is frequently used in sentences. Commas separate ideas, add pauses, and help you to list things clearly. They also let us connect words, phrases, and clauses together to make longer sentences. In fact, the comma is one of the most important and commonly used types of punctuation. Without them, sentences would just be



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messy! The poet uses it in this poem many times. The frequent use of the comma reflects the sense of wandering. They emphasize the pauses for thought and reflection.

Examples

When I had money, money, O!
So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,
Poor men, think I, need not go up
When I had money, money, O!
But now I have no money, O!
My friends are real, though very few.

Full stop

Full stop (.), also called 'period', is used to mark the end of a declarative sentence or an imperative sentence. It essentially marks a pause greater than the one marked by a comma and is also used to suggest that there is nothing more to say on a topic, for instance, 'I like playing football.' The places where full stop is used can be easily remembered through practice. Full stop is also punctuation mark that is used at the end of the sentences. It is used to suggest that there is nothing more to say on this topic. The speaker of the poem has mentioned this technique in two times. It is used seven times in this poem. Each full stop shows the completion of one sense.

Examples

Came knocking all day at my door.
Not speak to let this false world know.
Came knocking all day at my door.
Not speak to let this false world know.
About their work from morn till night.
So much as rich men should come down.
My friends are real, though very few.

Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a punctuation mark used in contractions to replace missing letters. The contraction "we'll" stands for "we will," with the apostrophe replacing "wi." It can also show possession, as in "Mary's car." The apostrophe indicates the car belongs to Mary. The poet uses it one time in the poem. A dead object is called an apostrophe and considered alive.

Example

How poor men's hearts are ever light;

Inversion

Inversion, also known as "anastrophe," is a literary technique in which the normal order of words is reversed in order to achieve a particular effect of emphasis or meter.

Inversion Techniques

Inversion is achieved by doing the following:



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- Placing an adjective after the noun it qualifies, g. the soldier *strong*
- Placing a verb before its subject g. *shouts* the policeman
- Placing a noun before its preposition g. *worlds* between

In the English language, there are inversions that are part of its grammar structure, and are quite common in their use. For instance, inversion always occurs in interrogative statements where verbs, or auxiliaries, or helping verbs are placed before their subjects. Similarly, inversion happens in typical exclamatory sentences where objects are placed before their verbs and subjects, and preceded by a wh- word, such as the following examples of inversion:

- What a beautiful picture it is!
- Where in the world were you!
- How wonderful the weather is today!

In the poem 'money' the poem uses this technique to change word order or sequence for emphasis as in the poem:

Examples

For many a false man as a friend.

Word order is not in a correct prose order. The correct prose order is 'A false man as a friend for many'.

2. Poor men, think I, need not go up.
3. Much I have thought of life, and seen.

Repetition

The repetition technique is used to generate musical effects in the poem as the poet repeats the word 'money'.

Example

When I had money, money, O!

Phonological Level

On this level this poem has a several qualities. It is one another level to measure the poem in the balance of stylistics. In this level any genre is analyzed through alliteration, consonance, assonance, onomatopoeia, couplet, rhythm and rhyming scheme. In this level two types of devices are including: literary devices and sound devices.

Rhyme

The repetition of the same sound at the end of a line in a poem is called a rhyme. For example,

- Poor – Door
- Blow – Know
- Light – Night
- Frown – Down



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- Untrue – Few

Rhyme scheme

The rhyme scheme of the poem – I to IV stanza is abcb. and V Stanza – abab.

Alliteration

In literature, alliteration is the conspicuous repetition of identical initial consonant sounds in successive or closely associated syllables within a group of words, even those spelled differently. As a method of linking words for effect, alliteration is also called head rhyme or initial rhyme. There are two types of alliteration which are as follows:

Assonance

The repetition of vowel sound in poetry is assonance. The assonance gives a rhythm to the poem. For example, in the entire poem “a”, “o”, “e” sounds are repeated many times. For example,

When I had money, money, O!
I knew no joy till I went poor;
For many a false man as a friend
Came knocking all day at my door.
Then felt I like a child that holds
A trumpet that he must not blow
Because a man is dead; I dared
Not speak to let this false world know.

Much have I thought of life, and seen
How poor men's hearts are ever light;
And how their wives do hum like bees
About their work from morn till night.
So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,
And see the rich ones coldly frown
Poor men, think I, need not go up
So much as rich men should come down.

When I had money, money, O!
My many friends proved all untrue;
But now I have no money, O!
My friends are real, though very few.

Consonance

“D”, “F”, “N” are repeated consonants which shows the limitedness of the poet in every line of the poem. Repetition is a literary device which shows the same words a few times to make a thought visible. The poet again and again puts focus of the reader on particular word. There are five stanzas in the poem. Beginning sound of the word is repeated for musical effect. For example,



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Poor men, think I, need not go up
So much as rich men should come down.
When I had money, money, O!
My many friends proved all untrue;
But now I have no money, O!
My friends are real, though very few.

ONOMATOPOEIA

Onomatopoeia is the process of creating a word that phonetically imitates, resembles, or suggests the sound that it describes. Such a word itself is also called an onomatopoeia. Common onomatopoeias include animal noises such as oink, meow, roar, and chirp.

Common Examples of Onomatopoeia

- Machine noises—honk, beep, vroom, clang, zap, boing.
- Animal names—cuckoo, whip-poor-will, whooping crane, chickadee.
- Impact sounds—boom, crash, whack, thump, bang.
- Sounds of the voice—shush, giggle, growl, whine, murmur, blurt, whisper, hiss.

But Davies uses only one sound “hum” in the poem to express sound effect and to explain the concept of onomatopoeia. For example,

And how their wives do hum like bees

SIMILE

Comparison is made between two object which his shown by words, ‘like’, ‘as’ etc. For example,

For many a false man as a friend
Comparison is made between friends and false man. It is shown by word ‘as’.
Then felt I like a child that holds
And how their wives do hum like bees.



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So much as rich men should come down.

METAPHOR

Indirect or implied comparison is made between two objects.

1. How poor men's hearts are ever light.
Implied comparison is made between 'light' and the 'heart of poor man'.
2. Because a man is dead; I dared.

ANTITHESIS

Use of two opposite words or idea is called antithesis.

For example,

About their work from morn till night.

– Morn and night are two opposite words used.

So, when I hear these poor ones laugh,

And see the rich ones coldly frown

Poor men, think I, need not go up

So much as rich men should come down.

– 'rich' and 'poor' – opposite words are used together.

– 'laugh and 'frown' – opposite words are used together.

– 'up and 'down' – opposite words are used together.

Morphological Level

In this level structure of the words are described. Through this level reader knows the features of the words: either word is monosyllabic or disyllabic. Leisure is very simple poem because its structure is very simple and mostly words are decorated in monosyllabic platform except four disyllabic words.

Monosyllabic words

Monosyllabic words refer to single syllable words. Monosyllabic words usually make the poem more forceful. This might partly be explained by the fact that the English language was originally a German dialect, with a lot of short words, and when the Norman French conquered the English, their language became regarded, inevitably, as more upper-class (like the French people controlling the country) and more refined. Thus, the words from Old English even today tend to be felt as common, direct words, while the words from French usually seem more gentle. For example, man, when, come, see etc.

Disyllabic words

Words which have two or more syllable are called disyllabic words. Here, poem is decorated with few disyllabic words. For example, coldly, knocking, dared, because etc.

Prefixes in the poem

A prefix is a group of letters placed before the root of a word. For example, the word "unhappy" consists of the prefix "un-" [which means "not"] combined with the root (or stem) word "happy"; the word "unhappy" means "not happy." The only one prefixes word is used in the poem that is "untrue".

Suffixes in the poem



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A suffix is a group of letters placed after the root of a word. For example, the word flavorless consists of the root word “flavor” combined with the suffix “-less” [which means “without”]; the word “flavorless” means “having no flavor.” The ten suffixes words are used in the poem which are as follows:

- Knocking
- Holds
- Wives
- Hearts
- Dared
- Bees
- Coldly
- Proved
- Friends

Infixes in the poem

An infix is an affix inserted inside a word stem (an existing word or the core of a family of words). It contrasts with affix, a rare term for an affix attached to the outside of a stem such as a prefix or suffix. For example, cupful, spoonful, and passerby can be pluralized as cupsful, spoonsful, and passersby, using “s” as an infix. For example, came, seen etc.

Lexico- Syntactic Level

These patterns are generalized linguistic structures or schemas that indicate semantic relationships between terms and can be applied to the identification of formalized concepts and conceptual relations in natural language text. It refers to finding out two things. One of them is to put out a lexicon that tells which type of vocabulary is used in the target text. Another target is to know about the sentences either the writer or poet has used in a clause or sentence. First is called lexical, and the second is called syntactic level.

Lexico- Syntactic Level

In the poem “money” the speaker has explored various sorts of parts of speech to give order and arrangement of words to create meanings and clear the concept of syntactic level.

Noun

A lot of nouns has been used by the poet to clear the concept of syntactic analysis and to give poem meaningful touch . For example,

- ❖ Money – Man
- ❖ Poor – Friend
- ❖ Door – Trumpet
- ❖ World –Heart
- ❖ Wives –Bees
- ❖ Child –Life

Verb

There are different types of verbs used by the poet in the poem to show actions and reactions of various kinds of syntactic activities.



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Auxiliary verb

1. Had –Have
2. Is – Are
3. Do

Model verb

The two model verbs are used by the poet in the poem. For example, should, must etc.

Main verb

The poet uses a lot of main verbs in the poem to generate sentence sequences. For example,

Went – know
Come- came
Like – blow
See – Speak
Go – think
Hum – laugh
Felt – thought
Holds – dared
Knocking –Seen

Adverb

The poet uses some adverb in the poem to increase the meanings of the words. For example, much, very, coldly, ever etc.

Adjective

The poet uses some adjectives to show good and bad qualities of the various things or people. For example,

Poor –many
Dead –false
Dare –speak
Light – hum
Up – down
Rich – untrue

Conjunction

The poet uses some conjunction to interlink ideas and notions in the poem. For example, and, as, but, so, though, because, till etc.

Conclusion

The poet confesses that when his life was enriched with money, he was far away from the eternal joy and true happiness. So the poet wants to be poor to receive the real pleasure of life. In addition, the poet had a lot of friends who always used to meet with him day and night. Friends remained untrue because they were not devoted to friendship. While leading a life of richness,



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the life of a poet was abounded with many restrictions and etiquettes. The poet compared his life with a boy having a strong desire to blow a trumpet, but due to the circumference and manner he can't do it. According to the poet, a true feeling of luck has to be buried under the false status of richness. Now being poor, the poet wants to lead a happy life. The poet doesn't want to utter any words about his condition to the world because the world is under the influence of false thinking of happiness. According to the norms of the world, happiness can be bought with money, richness is directly compared with happiness, which is untrue according to the poet. The poet has observed and learned the aspect of life minutely. He observed that the heart of a poor person is more delighted and contented though earning a little penny each day. Poet by heart, is impressed by the little activity of a poor person who is full of happiness and apart from a rich person. The wives of poor people are complaining and humming like bees about the effort taken by their husband from morning to evening. Poor people are struggling to get a penny and save it, but the wives have to take more effort to maintain the household work. They don't have enough money to spend. The poet is strongly fascinated by such behavior and circumstances. The poet has felt the difference between the laugh of a poor person and a rich one. The poor person laughs without any hesitation. It is free and from the bottom of the heart. On the other hand, rich people laugh, but it is cold and ambiguous. The poet pointed out that rich people are far away from the real happiness. They left behind the true happiness in search of more and more money. The poor person is happy with his or her daily earning and closely connected with the eternal joy of the soul. So the poet suggested that rich people wanted to go down to be in touch with eternal happiness of the soul. The poet has compared his economical condition with the past. In the past, he possessed sufficient money to spend having more friends in life, but these friends were not true because their friendship was shafted with money. So these friends proved untrue. In the present life, the poet is poor, having no sufficient money to spend. At this stage, he has a very few friends, but these friends are true and real. My friends are not rich by money but by heart.

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