The Influence of Literary Devices and Musical Enhancements in Robert Frost's "Design"

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Abstract

This research article discusses the utilization of literary and musical elements in Robert Frost's poem "Design." Literature, as a form of artistic expression, involves various elements that captivate readers and evoke strong emotions. The objective of this study is to explore the intricate use of metaphor, personification, simile, apostrophe, allegory, rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and refrain in the poem. The research methodology employed is qualitative analysis, which encompasses the investigation of the methods used, data collection process, analysis results, and implications of the study. By unraveling the depth and beauty of the poem "Design," this research also portrays the transformative power of literary and musical elements and their significance in Frost's creative process. This article provides a deeper understanding of the harmonious relationship between literature and music in literary works and uncovers the artistic value embedded in Robert Frost's poem "Design."

Keywords: Literature, Poetry, Intrinsic Elements

Abstrak

Artikel penelitian ini membahas tentang penggunaan elemen sastra dan musikal dalam puisi "Design" karya Robert Frost. Sastra sebagai bentuk ekspresi seni melibatkan berbagai elemen yang menarik perhatian pembaca dan membangkitkan emosi yang kuat. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelajahi penggunaan yang rumit dalam puisi tersebut, termasuk metafora, personifikasi, perumpamaan, apostrofe, alegori, rima, aliterasi, asonansi, konsonansi, dan refrain. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah analisis kualitatif yang meliputi penelusuran terhadap metode yang digunakan, proses pengumpulan data, hasil analisis, serta implikasi dari penelitian ini. Dalam mengungkap kedalaman dan keindahan puisi "Design", penelitian ini juga menggambarkan kekuatan transformatif elemen sastra dan musikal serta signifikansinya dalam proses kreatif Frost. Artikel ini memberikan pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang hubungan harmonis antara sastra dan musik dalam karya sastra serta menggali nilai artistik yang terkandung dalam puisi "Design" karya Robert Frost.

Kata Kunci: Sastra, Puisi, Elemen Intrinsik

1. Introduction

Literature, an ancient art form that has stood the test of time, serves as a means of expression encompassing various subjects, including quality, intellect, morality, aesthetics, politics, and nationalism (Herlina, 2016). In our modern world, literature has transcended traditional mediums and can now be found everywhere, from social media platforms to newspapers and magazines, as noted by Fletcher (2002). As a reflection of human experiences and reality, literature holds a significant place in our daily lives. One form of literature, poetry, has been particularly instrumental in teaching English as a foreign language (Antika, 2016). It serves as a powerful tool for developing language skills, such as writing, reading, speaking, and listening, while also imparting knowledge of structure, grammar, and vocabulary.

Literature serves not only as a source of entertainment but also as a valuable educational resource. Adam and Babiker (2015) emphasize that the study and teaching of literature, including poetry, greatly enhance the four fundamental language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Additionally, exploring literature from different time periods expands our understanding of human experiences and values. Beyond its instructional benefits, literature provides a medium for personal expression. For instance, during moments of sadness, one can transform emotions into prose, poetry, or drama, offering solace and artistic release. Among the diverse forms of literature, poetry, as the oldest, holds a special place.

Poetry, as described by Wolosky (2001), is a multifaceted art form that can be philosophical, emotional, sentimental, descriptive, satirical, funny, or even political. It exudes beauty while conveying profound meaning. Unlike reading a book, experiencing poetry requires a distinct approach. NASR (2001) contends that poetry, as a literary selection, is a rewarding medium for foreign language instruction. It serves as a communicative bridge between the reader and the writer, conveying complex messages through seemingly simple yet intricately crafted language (Silva, 2014).

Within poetry, various intrinsic elements are interconnected, such as the subject, speaker, audience, diction, connotation, denotation, imagery, figurative language, allusion, meaning, idea, tone, musical devices, pattern, rhythm, and meter. In this research, the focus will be on the subject, speaker, audience, musical devices, pattern, rhythm, meter, and a brief exploration of figurative language found in Robert Frost's poem "Design."

Understanding these intrinsic elements allows for a deeper analysis of the poem. While the subject, speaker, and audience are open to individual interpretation, they provide essential perspectives for analyzing the poem's meaning. Furthermore, the effective use of figurative language, including metaphor, personification, apostrophe, simile, symbolism, and allegory, adds depth and beauty to the poem. Exploring these elements will illuminate the complexity and richness of "Design" by Robert Frost.

2. Research Question

The following are the research questions used in compiling this research

1. How do the various figures of speech, including metaphor, personification, simile, apostrophe, and allegory, contribute to the overall meaning and interpretation of Robert Frost's poem "Design"?
2. How do the musical devices, such as rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and refrain, enhance the aesthetic appeal and rhythmic structure of the poem "Design" by Robert Frost, and what impact do they have on the reader's experience?

3. Research Methods

This paper adopts a qualitative descriptive approach to explore the findings derived from the analysis of Robert Frost's poem "Design." The qualitative nature of the study allows for the interpretation and detailed understanding of the literary devices and musical techniques used in the poem. The method employed consists of the following techniques:

1) Observation:

The first technique used in this study is observation. By observing the poem's text and structure, researchers systematically record and analyze the various literary devices and musical techniques employed by Robert Frost. The observations are made to capture the nuanced details of the metaphors, personification, similes, apostrophes, allegory, symbol, and musical devices present in the poem.

2) Data Source:

The primary source of data for this research is the poem "Design" by Robert Frost. The analysis revolves around the examination of the poem's text and the identification of literary devices and musical techniques employed within it. The researchers closely study the poem to extract relevant textual evidence and examples for further analysis.

3) Data Analysis:

The data analysis process begins with a comprehensive observation of the plot, structure, and textual elements of the poem. Researchers carefully examine each discourse and scene in "Design" to identify and document the literary devices and musical techniques employed by Frost. The textual analysis is conducted to explore the metaphors, personification, similes, apostrophes, allegory, symbol, and various musical devices such as rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, refrain, pattern, rhythm, and meter. Additionally, visual aids, such as diagrams or illustrations, may be created to visually represent and explain the textual analysis of each scene. Finally, the findings derived from the analysis are discussed and interpreted in the discovery section, shedding light on the significance and implications of the identified literary devices and musical techniques within the poem.

By employing this method, researchers can conduct a qualitative analysis of Robert Frost's poem "Design," allowing for a detailed exploration of its literary devices and musical techniques. The use of observation, analysis of the primary data source (the poem itself), and the subsequent discussion of the findings ensure a comprehensive understanding of the poem's artistic qualities and thematic exploration.

4. Finding and Discussion

This study reveals on understanding how various figures of speech, including metaphor, personification, simile, apostrophe, and allegory, which also incorporates various musical devices, including rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and refrain, in order to contribute to the overall meaning and interpretation of Robert Frost's poem "Design." This discussion will present the findings based on the analysis of the poem and the incorporation of relevant scholarly sources.

1. **Contribution of Various Figures Of Speech**

Metaphor plays a significant role in the poem "Design." According to Yaseen (2013), a metaphor is a figure of speech that applies one idea or object to another analogy, creating a comparison. The poem contains several metaphors that enhance its meaning. For instance, the metaphor "white heal-all" refers to a flower mentioned in the seventh line of the poem. This metaphor helps establish the image of the flower. Another metaphor is found in the fourth and fifth lines, where Frost uses the words "death," "blight," and "mixed" to describe the dangerous situation the moth faces, evoking fear and the impending doom it confronts. Additionally, metaphors in the ninth, tenth, twelfth, and thirteenth lines emphasize the moth's helplessness and impending demise.

Personification is another figure of speech present in the poem, albeit to a lesser extent. Wiharja (2015) defines personification as attributing human characteristics or sensibilities to non-human objects or animals. In the second line, Frost personifies the flower by suggesting it can "hold" the moth, an action typically associated with humans. The eighth line personifies the moth's dead wing, indicating movement or agency where none actually exists. In the twelfth line, the spider is described as "steering" the moth, further exemplifying personification.

Simile, a figure of speech that compares two things using "like" or "as," is extensively employed in "Design." Similar to metaphors, similes contribute to the vividness and depth of the poem. The moth is described as looking like "rigid satin cloth" in the third line, emphasizing its trapped and motionless state. The sixth, seventh, and eighth lines use similes to depict the interplay between the moth, flower, and spider, revealing the precarious situation of the moth being drawn toward its fate.

Apostrophes, as Sayakhan (2018) explains, occur when the speaker breaks the fourth wall and addresses an absent or imaginary audience or object. In the poem "Design," apostrophes are observed from the ninth to the twelfth lines. The speaker questions the significance of the flower's whiteness and its connection to the moth's impending death, addressing these inquiries to himself, effectively using apostrophes

Allegory, a literary device used to represent deeper meanings, appears to be present in the poem, potentially conveying a spiritual allegory. Although not explicitly evident, a closer examination suggests that the poem discusses the preordained design crafted by a higher intelligence, often associated with a divine creator. The concept of an unalterable design and its spiritual implications can be considered as the allegorical element in the poem.

Symbolism is evident through the repeated use of the word "white." White symbolizes purity, innocence, goodness, and righteousness. In the poem, it represents the purity of the flower and the innocence of the moth. However, in the context of the design of the natural world, the symbol of white also signifies the absence of intervention, as the flower cannot prevent the moth from its destined demise.

2. Impact n The Reader's Experiences from Musical Devices

The poem "Design" by Robert Frost incorporates various musical devices, including rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and refrain, to enhance its aesthetic appeal and rhythmic structure, thereby significantly impacting the reader's experience.

The rhyme scheme of the poem, A-B-B-A-A-B-B-A-A-C-A-A-C-C, contributes to its aesthetic appeal and rhythmic structure. The consistent end-rhyme pattern creates a sense of harmony and musicality throughout the poem (Onič, 2006). This pattern helps to establish a pleasing and organized structure that engages the reader's attention and enhances their experience.

Alliteration is utilized in certain lines of the poem, such as the repetition of the initial consonant sounds "s" and "sp" in "snow" and "spider," and "f" in "flower" and "froth" (Onič, 2006). These instances of alliteration create a lyrical quality and add a melodic effect to the poem. By repeating specific consonant sounds, Frost creates a subtle musicality that enhances the overall appeal of the poem.

Assonance, the repetition of vowel sounds, can be observed in the poem, particularly with the repetition of the vowel sounds "I" and "O" in various lines (Ivanov, 2019). The use of assonance adds a pleasing tonal quality to the poem and contributes to its musicality. By repeating specific vowel sounds, Frost creates a sense of resonance and harmony that enriches the reader's experience.

Consonance, the repetition of consonant sounds, is employed in "Design" to enhance its rhythmic structure and aesthetic appeal. Examples of consonance can be seen in the repetition of the "t" and "f" sounds in the first line, as well as the repetition of the "h" sound in subsequent lines. These instances of consonance create a rhythmic flow within the poem (Onič, 2006). The repeated consonant sounds add a musical quality to the language, making the poem more engaging and memorable for the reader.

The refrain in the poem, which is the repetition of the word "white" throughout, serves to emphasize its significance and unify the thematic elements of the poem. The repetition of the refrain adds a musical and rhythmic element to the poem (Onič, 2006). It creates a sense of pattern and repetition that reinforces the central themes of purity and innocence. This repetition also aids in the

reader's engagement and understanding of the poem's message.

The poem exhibits a predominantly iambic stress pattern, with unstressed and stressed syllables. The rhythm and meter of the poem are mostly in iambic pentameter, with occasional variations, resulting in a consistent and flowing structure. The lines contain approximately five metrical feet, adher.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the poem "Design" by Robert Frost employs various literary devices to enhance its meaning and engage the reader. Metaphors, personification, similes, apostrophes, allegory, and symbolism contribute to the depth and vividness of the poem, allowing for a multifaceted interpretation of its themes and underlying messages. The use of these devices adds layers of meaning and invites readers to contemplate the poem's spiritual and existential implications. Furthermore, the musical devices utilized in the poem, such as rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance, and refrain, contribute to its aesthetic appeal and rhythmic structure. The consistent rhyme scheme and the strategic placement of alliteration, assonance, and consonance create a sense of harmony and musicality throughout the poem. The refrain adds a repetitive and rhythmic element, reinforcing key themes and engaging the reader on an emotional level. Collectively, these literary and musical devices work together to shape the reader's experience of the poem. They draw attention to the poem's imagery, evoke emotions, and emphasize its underlying themes. The use of metaphors and symbolism allows for a deeper exploration of the poem's central ideas, while the musical devices enhance its auditory and rhythmic appeal, capturing the reader's attention and creating a memorable experience. "Design" showcases the mastery of Robert Frost in crafting a poem that not only engages the intellect but also resonates with the reader on an emotional and aesthetic level. Through the skillful use of literary and musical devices, Frost creates a rich and immersive experience that invites readers to contemplate the complexities of existence, the interplay of design and fate, and the delicate balance of innocence and destruction in the natural world.

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