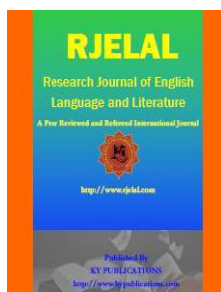




STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF ROBERT FROST'S *ACQUAINTED WITH THE NIGHT*

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims at the stylistic analysis of Robert Frost's poem *Acquainted with the Night*. It will analyze the poem from four levels of stylistic analysis, i.e. graphology, phonology, grammatical level and lexical level. The theme of the poem and its form has also been discussed in detail.

Keywords: stylistics, syntax, acquaint, graphology, phonology, style

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Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics in which the study of styles and devices in a language takes place which are considered to produce an expressive literary style. There are various levels of stylistics analysis and a text is being analyzed as per these levels, which can be identified as:

- Graphology
- Phonology
- Grammatical level
- Lexical level

Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963), an American poet known for his realistic depiction of rural life. He was awarded with Pulitzer Prize four times for poetry. *Acquainted with the Night* was published in 1928. In this poem the loneliness has been described by the poet as he walks on the isolated streets at night. Frost usually wrote about the rural life but this is one of the few poems that was set in the city.

Theme

There are three major themes in the poem; theme of loneliness, theme of sadness and theme of longing.

Theme of loneliness: In this poem, poet deliberately chooses to be alone; he even avoids the only human in the poem.

Theme of sadness: The poet walks all alone in the darkness and does not want to meet anyone. He deliberately walks in the rain and does not express his feeling to anyone.

Theme of longing: Although the poet seems to walk lonely in the lane, yet he longs to from someone. This can be noted when he hears a cry and feels even more lonely because the call was not for him

Form

The poem *Acquainted with the Night* is a sonnet. The poem *Acquainted with the Night* is a terza rima sonnet.

Graphology: An analogous study of writing system in a language.

- The form of the poem is sonnet
- It has five stanzas which are divided in four tercet and a rhyming couplet.
- The poem is rich in symbolism and imagery.
- Various punctuation marks have been used in the poem.

Phonological level: In this the study of systematic organization of sounds in languages is being done.

The poem *Acquainted with the Night* is written in Terza Rima sonnet form with five stanzas and follows a rhyme scheme of aba-bcb-cdc-ded-aa. There are four stanzas of three lines followed by fifth stanza which is a couplet.

Alliteration: It is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of nearby words; cry, came.

Sibilance: It is the repetition of 's' sound e.g. in seventh line; stood, still, stopped, sound.

Metaphor: a figure of speech in which a thing is regarded as representative of something else; 'luminary clock' for moon in line twelve of the poem.

Personification: a figure of speech in which human characteristics are attributed to non-living thing; 'saddest city lane'.

Imagery: A figure a speech that appeals to five senses. In this poem, visual and auditory imagery have been used; 'furthest city light', 'luminary clock against the sky', 'sound of the feet'. 'interrupted cry.'

Diction: The selection of the words for a poem may vary from formal, semi-formal to informal or may be

ornate or technical etc. Robert Frost used simple and clear language, and he used many monosyllabic words.

Tone: The tone of the poem is melancholic filled with depression longing and loneliness and emphasis is being made on sad feelings.

Acquainted with the Night is subjective and personal poem; the use of words like 'walked out in rain' adds to the melancholic tone. Throughout the poem same tone has been maintained. In third stanza, there seems to be a ray of hope of someone calling out for the poet but in next stanza that hope also dies and again a tone of sadness is maintained till the last line.

Grammatical analysis: In this level analysis of internal structure of sentences is being done.

Full stop has been used six times; at each point it shows the completion of idea. Semi-colon has been used once in tenth line of the poem where the poet feels sad that the cry was not a call for him. In second line there is a use of hyphen and comma is used thrice in the poem.

Lexical analysis: Lexis means all of the words in a language; here study of the pattern of way in linguistic context of individual words is being done.

Noun	Abstract noun	Common noun	Compound Noun	Pronoun
Sound	Time	Rain	Good-bye	I
Night		City		His
Rain		Night		My
City		Light		Me
Lane		Feet		
Light		Street		
Feet		Sky		
Street		Houses		
Clock				
Sky				
Time				
Houses				
Verb	Adverb		Adjective	
Acquainted	Still		Furthest	
Walked out	Interrupted		Saddest	
Back			Far away	
Out-walked			Unearthly	
Looked down			Luminary	
Passed			Wrong	
Beat			Right	

Dropped		
Stood		
Explain		
Cry		
Came		
Call		
Say		

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