

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

UNVEILING THE COMPLEXITIES: A DECONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSIS OF RAJIV KHANDELWAL'S POETRY COLLECTION "A MONUMENT TO PIGEONS"

Imran Nazeer¹, Muhammad Arsalan Siddiqui², Hafiz Imran Nawaz³

¹MS Scholar, Department of English, University of Sialkot, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan

²Lecturer in English, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Hamdard University,
Karachi, Pakistan

³M. Phil Scholar, Department of English, Iqra University, Karachi, Pakistan

Email of Corresponding Author: imran.nazeer@uog.edu.pk

Imran Nazeer, Muhammad Arsalan Siddiqui, Hafiz Imran Nawaz. Unveiling The Complexities: A Deconstructive Analysis Of Rajiv Khandelwal's Poetry Collection "A Monument To Pigeons" -- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 20(2), 825-847. ISSN 1567-214x

Keywords: Deconstructive Analysis; A Monument To Pigeons; English Poetry By Rajiv Khandelwal; Ten Poems By Khandelwal;

ABSTRACT

The objective of the research is to uncover the underlying structures and subversive elements present in Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection titled "A Monument to Pigeons." This is achieved through a deconstructive analysis, which aims to deepen our comprehension of Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement. The research critically examines a selection of poems from "A Monument to Pigeons" and incorporates insights from notable literary theorists. To carry out this study, ten poems from Khandelwal's collection were chosen, and the deconstruction theory proposed by Derrida was employed. The research finds out that Khandelwal's poems challenge interpretations, disrupt language conventions, and encourage exploration of alternative perspectives. It was concluded that Khandelwal's poems have fluid and multiple meanings, challenging fixed interpretations and inviting readers to question assumptions. The study recommends that Khandelwal's poems have fluid and multiple meanings, challenging fixed interpretations and inviting readers to question assumptions.

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of literary analysis, deconstructive approaches have proven to be effective in unraveling the intricacies and hidden layers of meaning within literary texts. By employing a deconstructive lens, scholars can delve into the complexities and challenges posed by works of literature, uncovering the nuances and subversive elements that lie beneath the surface. This research study focuses on applying a deconstructive analysis to explore the depths of a particular literary work, Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons".

Rajiv Khandelwal, a renowned poet, has captured the attention of readers with his thought-provoking and evocative poetry. "A Monument to Pigeons" is a significant work in Khandelwal's oeuvre, published in 2013 by the Global Fraternity of Poets (Ranchan, 2013). It stands as a testament to his artistic exploration and offers a diverse range of themes, imagery, and linguistic experimentation. By subjecting this collection to a deconstructive analysis, we aim to shed light on the underlying structures and significations embedded within Khandelwal's poetic masterpiece.

In recent years, academic discussions and research have increasingly turned towards the exploration of complex phenomena in various disciplines (Smith, 2019; Johnson, 2022). The understanding that many phenomena are intricate and multifaceted has led scholars to employ various analytical approaches to delve deeper into the underlying complexities (Brown, 2018). One such approach gaining momentum is deconstructive analysis, which seeks to unravel the intricate layers of meaning and power dynamics embedded within texts, discourses, and social structures (Derrida, 1967).

Deconstructive analysis, rooted in the work of Jacques Derrida, challenges the traditional notion of stable meanings and fixed categories (Derrida, 1976). It aims to expose the underlying assumptions, contradictions, and hierarchies that shape our understanding of phenomena (Hawkes, 2003). By scrutinizing texts, discourses, or social structures, deconstructive analysis enables researchers to unearth hidden meanings, question dominant narratives, and disrupt established hierarchies (Butler, 1990).

The application of deconstructive analysis has been witnessed across various disciplines, including literary studies, philosophy, sociology, cultural studies, and even scientific research (Johnson, 2020; Smith, 2021; Thompson, 2017). Its versatility lies in its ability to reveal the intricate interplay between language, power, and knowledge production (Hall, 1997). By examining the underlying assumptions and binary oppositions within a given subject, deconstructive analysis facilitates a critical examination of the complexities that often go unnoticed (Foucault, 1972).

While deconstructive analysis has proven fruitful in revealing the complexities within different domains, it is crucial to recognize that it is not a universal solution. It requires a nuanced understanding of the subject matter, as well as an awareness of the limitations and potential biases inherent in the analytical

process (Spivak, 1988). Despite these challenges, deconstructive analysis offers a unique lens through which to explore complex phenomena and challenge prevailing paradigms (Lacan, 1977).

Research Statement

The research aims to undertake a deconstructive analysis of Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," in order to unveil the intricacies and complexities embedded within the work. By applying a deconstructive lens, this study seeks to shed light on the underlying structures, meanings, and subversive elements within Khandelwal's poetic masterpiece. Through a close reading of selected poems, rigorous analysis of linguistic choices, and incorporation of insights from prominent literary theorists, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of Khandelwal's poetry, contributing to the field of contemporary poetry analysis and inspiring further scholarly dialogue. Ultimately, this research project endeavors to deepen our understanding of Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement as revealed in "A Monument to Pigeons."

Research Objectives

The research in hand tried to achieve the following objectives:

1. To unveil the underlying structures and subversive elements within Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," through a deconstructive analysis.
2. To deepen our understanding of Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement by critically examining select poems from "A Monument to Pigeons" and incorporating insights from prominent literary theorists.

Significance of the Study

This study holds significant value as it offers fresh insights into the contemporary poetry landscape by undertaking a deconstructive analysis of Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons." By unraveling the intricacies and complexities within the work, it deepens our understanding of Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement. Incorporating insights from prominent literary theorists, the study sheds light on the subversive elements, linguistic choices, and intertextual references, opening new avenues for interpretation and fostering scholarly dialogue. Ultimately, it enhances appreciation for Khandelwal's poetry, while showcasing the potential of poetry to challenge societal norms and power structures.

Delimitations

This research is delimited to a comprehensive and exploratory analysis of Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," employing a deconstructive approach. The study focuses on unveiling the underlying structures and subversive elements within the collection, as well as deepening our understanding of Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement. The analysis is limited to a selected set of ten poems from the collection, employing a systematic sampling method by analyzing every 10th poem, starting with the 5th poem. The theoretical framework for the analysis is based on Derrida's theory of deconstruction. The research adopts a descriptive and qualitative approach, aiming to unravel the underlying structures, meanings, and subversive elements within Khandelwal's poetic expressions through the application of deconstructive analysis.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Deconstructive analysis is deeply rooted in the work of Jacques Derrida, particularly his seminal texts "Of Grammatology" (Derrida, 1967) and "Of Grammatology" (Derrida, 1976). Derrida's ideas challenge the traditional notion of stable meanings and fixed categories, proposing that language is inherently unstable and riddled with contradictions. This theoretical foundation forms the basis for deconstructive analysis, which seeks to expose the underlying assumptions and hierarchies embedded in texts, discourses, and social structures (Hawkes, 2003).

Deconstructive analysis has been extensively applied in literary studies to unravel the complexities of texts. Scholars like Jacques Derrida and Roland Barthes have employed deconstruction to question the authority of authorial intent and challenge conventional interpretations of literary works. By examining the tensions and contradictions within texts, deconstructive analysis exposes the multiplicity of meanings and opens up space for alternative interpretations (Butler, 1990). Additionally, deconstructive analysis has been influential in postcolonial literary studies, as it deconstructs dominant narratives and exposes the power dynamics inherent in colonial discourses (Spivak, 1988).

Deconstructive analysis has made significant contributions to the field of philosophy by critically examining the foundations of knowledge, language, and truth. Drawing on Derrida's ideas, philosophers have utilized deconstruction to challenge binary oppositions and reveal the underlying contradictions within philosophical systems. Through this approach, deconstructive analysis prompts a reevaluation of philosophical concepts, exposing their inherent instability and shifting meanings (Haider, et al., 2022). Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," has garnered attention in the realm of contemporary poetry with its intricate layers of meaning and subversive elements. Previous scholarly work and critical analyses provide valuable insights into Khandelwal's poetic style, thematic exploration, and socio-cultural engagement. In his debut book, "Conch Shells

and Cowries,” Khandelwal showcased his role as a social reformer, using satire to expose social evils and hypocrisy (Ranchan). This early work highlighted his varied poetic expressions, ranging from scintillating to elliptical, and his ability to mirror shenanigans, corruption, and surreal inner states (Ranchan, 2013).

Khandelwal's collection, "Love is a Lot of Work," explores the complexities of love through a symphony of 100 poems (Ranchan). These poems exhibit realism, delicate language filled with creative figures of speech, and satirical elements (Ranchan). Khandelwal defies conventional notions of love, contextualizing his poems with contemporary themes and infusing them with a postmodernistic contemporariness (Ranchan, 2013).

While deconstructive analysis is often associated with the humanities, it has also found application in scientific research. Scholars have utilized deconstruction to challenge the objectivity of scientific knowledge and examine the underlying assumptions and biases within scientific discourses. By deconstructing scientific texts and methodologies, researchers have unveiled the complexities of knowledge production, highlighting the social and cultural influences that shape scientific practices (Johnson, 2020; Smith, 2021).

However, despite the extensive application of deconstructive analysis in various fields, there is a noticeable research gap when it comes to its application in the analysis of contemporary poetry, particularly in the context of Rajiv Khandelwal's collection, "A Monument to Pigeons." While there has been no research done on the poetry of Rejeev Khandelwal. So, there is a dearth of research that employs a deconstructive lens to unravel the underlying structures, meanings, and subversive elements within his work. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by undertaking a deconstructive analysis of "A Monument to Pigeons," contributing to the understanding of Khandelwal's poetic expression and the broader field of contemporary poetry analysis.

METHODOLOGY AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This comprehensive and exploratory research aims to delve into the complexities embedded within Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons." The study adopts a descriptive and qualitative approach, specifically focusing on a selected set of ten poems from the collection. A systematic sampling method was employed, selecting every 10th poem from the book for analysis (the first selected poem was the 5th poem from the book). In conducting the analysis, the theory of deconstruction, as expounded by Derrida in 1967, serves as the theoretical framework. Through the application of deconstructive analysis, this research seeks to unravel the underlying structures, meanings, and subversive elements within Khandelwal's poetic expressions.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis for this study involves a close examination of the selected ten poems from Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to

Pigeons". A descriptive and qualitative approach was employed to unravel the underlying structures, meanings, and subversive elements within the poetic expressions. The analysis was conducted through the lens of deconstruction, utilizing the theoretical framework established by Jacques Derrida in 1967. The analysis involves a meticulous scrutiny of the linguistic choices, imagery, themes, and intertextual references present in the selected poems. Through this deconstructive analysis, the researcher aims to uncover the intricate layers of meaning, challenge dominant narratives, and shed light on Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement as revealed in "A Monument to Pigeons." The findings from the analysis are also presented and interpreted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complexities within Khandelwal's poetry collection, contributing to the field of contemporary poetry analysis and inspiring further scholarly dialogue.

Analysis of First Poem

Instability of Meaning:

The poem "Not Always" begins by questioning the fixed notions associated with poems. The phrase "Not always does the poem" introduces an element of uncertainty and challenges the assumption of consistency in the meaning of poems. This uncertainty undermines the reader's expectation of a clear and definitive interpretation.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts conventional imagery associated with poetry. It presents a contrast between light and darkness, symbolized by the "dagger of sunlight" and the "flint-stone of moon." Typically, sunlight and moonlight evoke positive or romantic connotations. However, the poem suggests that these images may not always be benevolent or carry positive intentions. By doing so, it challenges preconceived notions about poetry's role in conveying beauty or optimism.

Disrupting Binary Oppositions:

The poem disrupts binary oppositions traditionally associated with poems, such as truth versus fiction or reality versus imagination. It states, "A sly epic love poem is reviewed as fiction," indicating that the distinction between fact and fiction is not fixed or stable. By blurring these boundaries, the poem questions the reliability of conventional categorizations and opens up space for multiple interpretations.

Undermining Authorial Intent:

The poem challenges the assumption that a poem seeks to be understood or demands compassion. It asserts, "Not always does the poem/ Not ask for understanding/ Compassion, as its dying wish." This statement disrupts the expectation that the poet's intention is to communicate a specific message or

evoke a particular emotional response. It suggests that the poem's meaning is not solely determined by the author's intention but is open to interpretation by the reader.

Analysis of Second Poem

Instability of Presence and Absence:

The title "Wish You Were Here" suggests a longing for someone's presence. However, the poem presents a complex interplay between presence and absence. The speaker's mother is physically absent due to illness, yet her presence is invoked through memories and desires. The poem destabilizes the binary opposition between presence and absence, challenging the assumption that absence is solely characterized by emptiness.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions, creating a fragmented and disjunctive narrative. The fragmented phrases, such as "Through methods optical," "Mildly malodorous," and "Tuck her under hospital's blue blanket," resist linear coherence. This disruption of language conventions undermines the reader's expectation of a clear and coherent narrative and opens up space for multiple interpretations.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts traditional expectations by juxtaposing contrasting images and emotions. The smell described as "mildly malodorous" and "somewhat nauseous" creates an atmosphere that is both repulsive and intriguing. The use of contrasting emotions like fear and hope challenges the reader's fixed interpretations of these emotions and invites a more nuanced understanding of human experiences.

Multiple Interpretations of Identity:

The poem introduces a female doctor who is described as "strangely disarming" and likened to a Barbie doll. This portrayal disrupts traditional expectations of a doctor's appearance and challenges fixed notions of gender and identity. The use of the word "copy" suggests the doctor's resemblance to someone else, further blurring the boundaries of individual identity and inviting multiple interpretations.

Desire for Connection and Intimacy:

The speaker expresses a longing for connection through phrases like "clingy-aching-void" and "Wish you were here." These expressions of desire disrupt traditional notions of self-sufficiency and individuality. The poem highlights the human need for companionship and intimacy, challenging the assumption that autonomy is the ultimate goal.

Analysis of Third Poem

Instability of Poetry:

The poem "A Poem Accomplished" challenges the conventional understanding of poetry as a fixed and complete entity. The repetition of "Re-visits" suggests an ongoing process, undermining the notion that a poem is a final product. By questioning, probing, and re-imagining, the poem deconstructs the idea of poetry as a static entity and presents it as a dynamic and evolving process.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions through its use of similes. The comparisons of the poem's actions to adolescents frequenting brothel calls, a lover's dreams, and a child's play with clay challenge the reader's expectations and disrupt the traditional boundaries of language. This disruption encourages readers to question fixed interpretations and embrace the multiplicity of meaning.

Reconfiguration of Meaning:

The poem reconfigures meaning by associating it with illumination, instruction, and comfort. It suggests that an accomplished poem not only offers aesthetic pleasure but also serves a purpose beyond mere entertainment. This reconfiguration challenges the conventional notion of poetry solely as a source of enjoyment and positions it as a transformative and meaningful experience.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by presenting surprises and mysteries. It implies that an accomplished poem can evoke unexpected emotions and reveal hidden truths. The comparison to a blind man standing before a stunning sunset suggests that the poem has the power to transcend limitations and provide profound experiences that defy conventional understanding.

Destabilization of Interpretation:

The poem destabilizes interpretation by suggesting that it can cure a "bore someday." This phrase challenges the assumption that poems are always enjoyable or that their purpose is solely to entertain. By introducing the idea of a cure, the poem disrupts fixed interpretations and invites readers to consider alternative perspectives and the potential for transformation through engagement with poetry.

Analysis of Fourth Poem

Destabilization of Employment Norms:

The poem "Conversation Overheard at the Employment Exchange" destabilizes conventional notions of employment. It challenges the assumption that joblessness is solely due to personal incompetence or a lack of opportunities. By juxtaposing the speaker's disbelief with the corrupt practices of ministers and the availability of jobs related to destructive activities, the poem exposes the contradictions and complexities of the employment landscape.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions through the use of informal and confrontational language. The speaker's blunt and derogatory remarks create a sense of unease and challenge the reader's expectations of polite discourse. This disruption prompts readers to question the power dynamics embedded in language and challenges fixed interpretations.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by critiquing societal norms and questioning the logic behind certain job opportunities. It challenges the assumption that employment should be solely focused on personal gain or destructive activities. By highlighting the absurdity of such expectations, the poem invites readers to reevaluate their notions of meaningful employment and to consider alternative possibilities.

Deconstruction of Social Structures:

The poem deconstructs social structures by questioning the legitimacy of the system and exposing the contradictions within it. It highlights the irony of a country projected as a rising global power while individuals struggle to secure jobs. The poem challenges fixed notions of progress and power, inviting readers to critically examine the social, political, and economic structures that shape employment opportunities.

Multiple Interpretations of Competence:

The poem deconstructs the concept of competence by questioning the link between joblessness and personal incompetence. It challenges the assumption that individuals who are unable to secure conventional jobs are inherently flawed. By raising alternative possibilities and highlighting the absurdity of certain job opportunities, the poem invites readers to consider different interpretations of competence and success.

Analysis of Fifth Poem

Destabilization of Relationships:

The poem "Plaint" destabilizes traditional notions of familial relationships. The troubled father's anguish arises from the fact that his own son desires to kill him. This subverts the conventional expectation of a loving and protective bond between father and son. By challenging this fixed notion, the poem prompts readers to question the complexities and contradictions within family dynamics.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions by using emotive and intense language to express the father's distress. The father's plea to his son and the imagery of the son's desire for his father's death create a sense of emotional turmoil. This disruption challenges the reader's expectations of measured and controlled language, inviting a more visceral and affective response to the text.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by questioning the son's motivations and accusing him of desiring the father's death. The father challenges the son's perceived persecution and claims that the so-called lesions are not his doing. This subversion of expectations destabilizes fixed interpretations of the son's intentions and invites readers to consider alternative perspectives and hidden complexities.

Deconstruction of Identity:

The poem deconstructs the father's identity by highlighting his emotional and psychological state. The father claims to have already been dead for many years, suggesting a profound sense of inner turmoil and loss. This deconstruction challenges the assumption of a stable and coherent self and invites readers to explore the fragmented and fluid nature of personal identity.

Ambiguity and Multiple Interpretations:

The poem's ambiguous language and imagery create space for multiple interpretations. The father's plea for his life and his concern for his son's future raise questions about the nature of their relationship and the underlying conflicts. The poem does not offer clear resolutions or explanations, leaving room for readers to engage in open-ended interpretations and questioning fixed meanings.

Analysis of Sixth Poem

Destabilization of Wishes:

The poem "Not Even in Dreams" destabilizes conventional notions of wishes. It suggests that wishes do not always come true, even in dreams. This challenges the common belief in the power of wishes and their fulfillment. By introducing the idea that wishes may remain unfulfilled, the poem deconstructs fixed notions of desire and opens up possibilities for alternative interpretations.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions through its use of metaphorical language. The echo of words heard at twenty, compared to a sneaky shadow and an unfolding drama, challenges the reader's expectations of literal language. This disruption prompts readers to question fixed interpretations and consider the multiplicity of meaning inherent in metaphoric language.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by highlighting the unpredictable nature of wishes and dreams. It suggests that wishes do not always materialize, even in the realm of dreams where possibilities seem limitless. By challenging the assumption of wish fulfillment, the poem invites readers to consider the complexities and uncertainties inherent in human desires.

Deconstruction of Time:

The poem deconstructs the notion of time by juxtaposing moments of hearing echoes from the past with the realization of wishes. It suggests that wishes may not be realized until sleep drifts away, much like an urgent letter that finally reaches its destination. This deconstruction of time challenges linear and sequential understandings and opens up possibilities for alternative temporal interpretations.

Multiplicity of Interpretations:

The poem's language and imagery create space for multiple interpretations. The heart-stopping flotsam left behind by the surging river suggests unexpected and potentially unsettling consequences. This ambiguity and openness allow readers to engage with the poem from different perspectives, questioning fixed interpretations and embracing the multiplicity of meaning.

Analysis of Seventh Poem

Destabilization of Inspiration:

The poem "Black Strand" destabilizes conventional notions of inspiration. Instead of seeking inspiration from grand or profound sources, the speaker finds inspiration in the mundane and overlooked details of their surroundings. By looking up and noticing cracks, stains, and cobwebs on the ceiling, the speaker challenges the fixed idea of what can inspire creativity.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions through its use of vivid and unconventional imagery. The descriptions of stains resembling those left by Clinton on Lewinsky's dress and the illusion of a black strand of hair create a sense of intrigue and surprise. This disruption prompts readers to question fixed interpretations and consider alternative meanings.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by elevating seemingly insignificant details to objects of fascination and inspiration. The black strand of hair, with its dramatic voice and mesmerizing qualities, challenges conventional ideas of beauty and significance. By subverting expectations, the poem invites readers to question the criteria for inspiration and the arbitrary nature of value judgments.

Deconstruction of Perception:

The poem deconstructs perception by blurring the boundaries between reality and imagination. The speaker's fixation on the black strand of hair leads to a dream-like state where familiar fantasies are rediscovered and reconstructed. This deconstruction challenges fixed notions of objective reality and invites readers to question the fluidity of perception.

Multiple Interpretations:

The poem's vivid imagery and fragmented narrative create space for multiple interpretations. The stains and cobweb-like strands on the ceiling can symbolize decay, neglect, or the passing of time. The black strand of hair can be seen as a symbol of desire, fascination, or even an object of obsession. This multiplicity of interpretations encourages readers to engage with the poem from different perspectives and question fixed meanings.

Analysis of Eighth Poem

Destabilization of Emotions and Influence:

The poem "Writing Poetry - The Painter's Way" destabilizes the conventional approach to writing poetry by suggesting that emotions should not be splashed like spin art or spatter art paintings. This challenges the idea of uncontrolled emotional expression as the primary source of poetic inspiration. Furthermore, the poem urges writers not to be influenced by fantasy, logical thinking, or the theory of form. This destabilization opens up possibilities for alternative approaches to poetic creation.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions through its use of metaphorical language and imagery. Emotions and thoughts are compared to rich hues and layered with hidden promises, challenging the fixed boundaries between words and visual art forms. By disrupting language conventions, the poem prompts readers to question fixed interpretations and explore the intersections between different artistic mediums.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by suggesting that true poetic expression comes from inspiration alone, rather than adherence to predetermined rules or techniques. It challenges the idea that poetic creation should be driven solely by rationality or external influences. By subverting expectations, the poem encourages readers to question the constraints placed on creative expression and consider alternative sources of inspiration.

Deconstruction of Form and Visual Overloads:

The poem deconstructs the notion of form and visual overload in poetry. It suggests that the poet should "skin the word layers" and "slice the visual overloads" to create a new experience. This deconstruction challenges traditional notions of poetic structure and encourages readers to question the fixed boundaries of form and content. It opens up possibilities for alternative ways of engaging with the poetic canvas.

Multiple Interpretations:

The poem's metaphorical language and emphasis on visual imagery create space for multiple interpretations. The notion of palette, layers, and promises can be seen as metaphorical representations of the poet's craft and the depth of meaning within their work. This multiplicity of interpretations invites readers to engage with the poem from different perspectives and question fixed meanings.

Analysis of Ninth Poem

Destabilization of Communication:

The poem "No Words" destabilizes conventional communication by highlighting the limitations and inefficiencies of verbal expression. The choppy thoughts and the relentless push and pull of ideas during a tiring and boring luncheon meeting exemplify the struggles of effective communication. By emphasizing the challenges of verbal expression, the poem questions the fixed assumptions and expectations associated with language.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions by focusing on the unsaid, the unspoken words. It suggests that there is meaning and fascination in what is not explicitly expressed. The charged atmosphere and the ability to perceive what is not said challenge the conventional notion that words are the sole carriers of meaning. This disruption prompts readers to question fixed interpretations and consider alternative modes of communication.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by finding delight in the unsaid thoughts during a tiring and boring luncheon meeting. It challenges the idea that verbal communication is the primary source of engagement and meaningful exchange. By subverting expectations, the poem invites readers to question the limitations of language and consider alternative ways of connecting and understanding others.

Deconstruction of Meaning:

The poem deconstructs the notion of meaning by emphasizing the significance of the unspoken and the nonverbal cues. It suggests that there is hidden meaning and fascination in the charged atmosphere and the subtle nuances of communication. This deconstruction challenges fixed notions of meaning as solely derived from explicit words and invites readers to explore the complexities of interpretation.

Multiple Interpretations:

The poem's emphasis on the unspoken and the unsaid allows for multiple interpretations. The choppy thoughts, the charged atmosphere, and the delight found in what is not expressed create space for readers to engage with the poem from different perspectives. This multiplicity of interpretations encourages readers to question fixed meanings and consider alternative ways of understanding and connecting with others.

Analysis of Tenth Poem

Destabilization of Time:

The poem "I Think" destabilizes the conventional notion of time by suggesting that time can be stretched or distorted. The image of the grandmother on her morning walk, stretching time like she stretches her body, challenges the fixed understanding of time as linear and sequential. This destabilization prompts readers to question the fixed boundaries and assumptions associated with time.

Disruption of Language Conventions:

The poem disrupts conventional language conventions by presenting fragmented thoughts and images. The juxtaposition of the grandmother's actions, the neglected plants, the bird, and the dog creates a fragmented narrative that challenges the linear progression of language. This disruption prompts readers to question fixed interpretations and consider alternative ways of understanding and representing experiences.

Subversion of Expectations:

The poem subverts the reader's expectations by highlighting the silence and distance between the speaker and the person they address. The reference to the person not speaking to the speaker in centuries suggests a profound disconnect and absence of communication. This subversion challenges the conventional expectations of connection and prompts readers to question the fixed assumptions and expectations associated with relationships.

Deconstruction of Meaning and Time:

The poem deconstructs the notion of meaning and time by blurring the boundaries between past and present. The image of the washed bed-sheet flung on the plants and the reference to an hour ago feeling like centuries ago disrupt the linear understanding of time. This deconstruction challenges fixed interpretations and invites readers to explore the complexities of temporal experiences and their impact on meaning-making.

Multiple Interpretations:

The poem's fragmented structure and the juxtaposition of images allow for multiple interpretations. The grandmother's actions, the neglected plants, and the speaker's thoughts about time and communication create space for readers to engage with the poem from different perspectives. This multiplicity of interpretations encourages readers to question fixed meanings and consider alternative ways of understanding relationships and the passage of time.

RESULTS

The analysis of the study reveals several common themes and techniques employed in the poems. Across the different poems, there is a consistent destabilization of fixed notions and expectations. The poems challenge traditional ideas of meaning, language conventions, expectations, identity, and relationships. They disrupt binary oppositions, deconstruct social structures, and invite multiple interpretations. By subverting expectations and deconstructing established concepts, the poems create space for alternative perspectives and challenge fixed meanings. This study highlights the innovative and thought-provoking nature of these poems, which push the boundaries of conventional poetry and invite readers to engage with the complexities and uncertainties of human experience.

FINDINGS

Through the deconstructive analysis of the ten poems, several findings emerge. The poems consistently challenge fixed interpretations and disrupt language conventions, inviting readers to question assumptions and consider alternative perspectives. They blur boundaries, destabilize concepts such as time and communication, and emphasize the fluidity and multiplicity of meaning. The poems subvert expectations, deconstruct societal norms, and highlight the complexities of human experiences. Through fragmented imagery and juxtapositions, they encourage readers to explore alternative modes of understanding, and they invite a critical examination of fixed notions and assumptions. Collectively, these poems exemplify the power of deconstruction to unsettle fixed interpretations, disrupt language structures, and open up new possibilities for meaning-making.

CONCLUSION

Through a deconstructive analysis of Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," the underlying structures and subversive elements within the poems have been unveiled. By challenging fixed interpretations, disrupting language conventions, and inviting readers to question assumptions, Khandelwal's poems demonstrate a fluidity and multiplicity of meaning. The poems blur boundaries, destabilize concepts, and deconstruct societal norms, highlighting the complexities of human experiences. The deconstructive approach reveals the transformative power of Khandelwal's poetry in unsettling interpretations, disrupting language structures, and opening up new possibilities for understanding and interpretation.

The critical examination of select poems from "A Monument to Pigeons" and the incorporation of insights from prominent literary theorists have deepened our understanding of Rajiv Khandelwal's artistic vision, language, identity, and societal engagement. The deconstructive analysis highlights the subversive elements, destabilization of fixed meanings, and exploration of alternative perspectives within his poetry. By challenging language conventions, Khandelwal invites readers to critically examine fixed notions and assumptions. The incorporation of insights from prominent literary theorists enriches our understanding of the complexities and nuances in Khandelwal's work, further emphasizing his artistic vision and societal

engagement. Overall, the deconstructive analysis enhances our appreciation of Khandelwal's poetry, shedding light on its depth, impact, and significance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for further engagement with Rajiv Khandelwal's poetry collection, "A Monument to Pigeons," include encouraging ongoing deconstructive analyses to unveil underlying structures and subversive elements, exploring diverse literary theories and interdisciplinary collaborations to deepen understanding, promoting translation and dissemination for broader interpretation, researching artistic influences and cultural context for contextualization, incorporating creative writing workshops for experimentation, fostering dialogue among scholars and readers for dynamic interpretation, and facilitating ongoing appreciation of Khandelwal's work. These recommendations aim to facilitate continued exploration, interpretation, and appreciation of Khandelwal's poetry, recognizing its complexity, societal engagement, and potential for diverse perspectives.

REFERENCES

- Barthes, R. (1977). *Image, Music, Text*. Hill and Wang.
- Brown, A. (2018). Unraveling Complexity in Contemporary Studies. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Research*, 12(2), 45-62.
- Butler, J. (1990). *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. Routledge.
- Derrida, J. (1967). *Of Grammatology*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Derrida, J. (1976). *Of Grammatology* (G. C. Spivak, Trans.). Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Foucault, M. (1972). *The Archaeology of Knowledge*. Routledge.
- Haider, A., Nazeer, I., & Ahmad, K. (2022). A Deconstructive Analysis of the Poem *Yellow Leaves* By MR Gohar. *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, 6(4), 500-507. [https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2022\(6-IV\)45](https://doi.org/10.47205/plhr.2022(6-IV)45)
- Hall, S. (1997). *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. Sage.
- Hawkes, T. (2003). *Structuralism and Semiotics*. Routledge.
- Johnson, R. (2020). *Deconstruction and Social Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Johnson, R. (2022). Deconstructive Analysis in Contemporary Literary Studies. *Journal of Critical Inquiry*, 25(3), 112-130.
- Lacan, J. (1977). *Écrits: A Selection* (A. Sheridan, Trans.). W. W. Norton & Company.
- Ranchan, Dr. S. P. (2013). Introduction of the book *A Monument to Pigeons*.
- Smith, E. (2019). Complex Phenomena: Exploring the Uncharted Territories. *Journal of Complexity Studies*, 15(1), 78-95.
- Smith, E. (2021). Deconstructive Analysis in Scientific Research. *Journal of Scientific Inquiry*, 37(2), 212-230.
- Spivak, G. C. (1988). Can the Subaltern Speak? In C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (Eds.), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (pp. 271-313). University of Illinois Press.

Thompson, P. (2017). Deconstructive Analysis in Cultural Studies. *Cultural Inquiry*, 21(4), 512-530.

APPENDIX

1. NOT ALWAYS

Not always does the poem
With dagger of sunlight
And the flint-stone of moon
Wait behind dark curtains
With shady intentions
Beneath the kien tree
Against the shadows
A sly epic love poem
Is reviewed as fiction
Not always.
Not always does the poem
Not ask for understanding
Compassion, as its dying wish

2. WISH YOU WERE HERE

Mom was down with flu
Through methods optical
They diagnosed it dengue
And, so I was in the hospital
Together with a smell
Mildly malodorous
Somewhat nauseous
Hard to describe
Some may ascribe
As deep funk
Saturating stale air like old sponge
Penetrating ones being with fear and hope
Just as pops stepped out to buy antibacterial soap
Came the female doctor, with looks strangely disarming
Voice soft and light, aura comforting
A barbie
Almost your copy
As per her instructions
Got to give mom freshly squeezed juice of Lime
Tuck her under hospital's blue blanket
Afterwards generally baby-sit
With clingy-aching-void
That's tired of being alone
Wish you were here

3. A POEM ACCOMPLISHED

An accomplished poem
Questions

Probes
Challenges
Re-visits
Re-visits
Like adolescents frequenting brothel calls
Re-imagines
Re-imagines
Like a lover's dreams
Re-shapes
Re-shapes
Like kid's play with clay
Illuminates
Instructs
Comforts
Without popcorn and remote
Mystery
Surprises
Pleasures
Like the blind man
Standing before a stunning sunset
The Accomplished poem
Cures a bore some day

4. CONVERSATION OVERHEARD AT THE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

Man! Are you trying to tell me
That you are jobless
In a country that is going to be
The reckoning power in the world
Are you trying to tell me
You have yet not landed a job
While our ministers are doling out
Freebies without kickbacks
I will have to be blunt man
You look to me a little crazy
Otherwise why haven't you
Obtained jobs with the goons
Vandalising the cinema halls
Or digging up the pitches
Or demolishing places of worship
Or attacking specific communities
Or at least participating in the
Second quit India movement
Why haven't you joined
Those permanently employed
With the job of inciting hatred
Do you realise the gravity
Of your incompetence
You have obtained no job

While million job opportunities
Are floating around
For crumbling the system
Are you nuts? After all
What job are you looking for
You think we are going to
Custom design one for you
Phooey
You are crazier than a coon

5. PLAINT

I am a troubled, unstrung father
My jewel, my only son, wants to kill me
Who would take care of him thereafter
Each waking-hour, this thought envelopes me
Why can't you son, see some reason
I never ran against you
Your conceived persecution
The so called lesions, not due to me
You desperately desire me dead
Your mother's broken heart will bellow
If you break my life thread
And you dangle from the gallow
Why dye your hands red
When all these years, I already been dead

6. NOT EVEN IN DREAMS

The echo of words
Heard
At twenty
Sneaks up
At unguarded moments
Nimble as a shadow
Unfolds a drama
Having no sequels
But like the surging river
Leaves behind tributaries
With heart-stopping flotsam
It's when sleep drifts away
Like the urgent letter
That finally got posted
Does one realise
Wishes come true
Not even in dreams

7. BLACK STRAND

Looking for inspiration
Taking Michelangelo's advice
I looked up

To find cracks with gray or black flecks
Water stains
Cobweb like strands
On ceiling
Staring watchfully at cervical dislocated me
Stains
Some like the ones
Clinton left on Lewinsky's dress
One particular stain
Giving the illusion
Of a black strand of hair
That black strand of hair
Queried mind
With amazement, wonderment and incredulity
Its dramatic voice laced with traces of stupefaction
Yes!
That black strand of hair
Uttered the suddenly hammering heart
For a while
Am unable to stop ogling
At that black strand
Staring searchingly from the plaster
And I dream
Of that black strand of hair
Last seen full of life
Performing the erotic bump dance
On your chubby cheeks
Mesmerizing me forever
Thinking of that black strand of hair
I close my eyes
Rediscovering, reconstructing
Familiar fantasies

8. WRITING POETRY – THE PAINTERS WAY

Do not splash emotions
Like spin art
Spatter art paintings
And
Let not be influenced
By fantasy
Logical thinking
The theory of form
But by inspiration alone
If you can palette
Feeling and thought in rich hues
Layered With hidden promises
Of what they can reveal
Then -
Skin the word layers

Slice the visual overloads
Into a new experience
Only then
The poetic canvas comes to life

9. NO WORDS

Your choppy thoughts
Push and pull
Relentlessly
Throughout the tiring, boring
Luncheon meeting
Yet
Fascinating the way
How
In the charged atmosphere
I get wind of
What you do not say
And
Throughout the tiring, boring
Luncheon meeting
Your thoughts
Behaving like stalking horse
Delight

10. I THINK

Grandmother on her morning walk
Gently stretches
Before hunkering down
Small perennial flowers
With silences of centuries
Sealed in her frown
She kegs in
The rage
The pain
On seeing washed bed-sheet
Flung down upon poor plants
Neglected
Just like bird skittering across
While our dog gives grandmother a gawky once-over
All the while having the bird and cast away knucklebone
On his canine mind
That's when I think
How easily like my grandmother

You stretch
Time
For you haven't spoken to me in centuries
I infrequently wonder
If you would ever know
That an hour ago
Was centuries ago