

ANALYSIS OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN ROBERT FROST'S POEM, STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

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ABSTRACT

Linguistics deals with the characteristics and varieties of language, called the study of stylistics. Stylistics helps in understanding postmodern and modern literature beyond structure: regular patterns of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. The article deals with the analysis of stylistic devices, also known as rhetorical devices and figures of speech. A stylistic device is a unique characteristic of a text that makes it different. These devices are tools for writers to make their writing compelling and influential. Every writer has a writing style that distinguishes them from other writers of their era, and over time, this writing style becomes their identity. These writings give hope and inspiration to the readers. The analysis here shows that Frost portrayed realistically New England life, using language and circumstances intimate to the public. His poetry is interesting from a stylistic perspective. He used many stylistic devices to give a supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling. This article analyzes stylistic devices in the poem STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING. This analysis will offer a new outlook on the poem to make it more fascinating for the reader.

INTRODUCTION:

Background

Robert Lee Frost was born on March 26, 1874 in San Francisco, California, America. Modern readers admire Frost for his illustrations of the rural life of New England. His command of American colloquial speech and his realistic verse portraying ordinary people in familiar situations inspired the critics. He acquired the title of Poet Laureate on July 22, 1961. He won four Pulitzer prizes for his remarkable poetry. He remains a modern poet who uses simplified language and often abandons traditional rhyme and meter. Frost died in Boston on January 29, 1963. Though his poetry is simple, the themes of realism, isolation, love for nature, and observation of human life make it interesting.

Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics. It deals with the study of style in texts, particularly in literary works. Stylistics concentrates on figures, tropes, and other rhetorical devices to provide variety and uniqueness to writing. The following research paper attempts to analyze stylistic devices in Robert Frost's poem STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING. He got fame for depicting rural life and natural imagery in his poetry.

Statement of the research:

Robert Frost, as a modern poet, transformed the outlook on poetry. He practised both modern and conventional techniques. Frost utilizes poetic devices considered stylistic devices to highlight the effect of the poem. In addition, he conveys a simple message in a sublime style. Interpreting his poetry is not entirely simple because it contains hidden philosophical themes within the text. Therefore, the current paper tries to follow the general readers with Robert Frost's poetry.

Research Questions

1. Frost uses stylistic devices in his poems. Why did he do it?
2. How does Frost rely on these stylistic devices used in his poem?
3. What do stylistic devices tell us about the mood of the poet?

Research objectives:

The research focuses on the following objectives:

1. It looks at stylistic devices in Robert Frost's poem, stopping by woods on a snowy evening.
2. It is to research the stylistic devices in the poem that help convey the first idea and thought.
3. It is to use stylistics as a medium for objectively analyzing Robert Frost's poems.
4. Analysis is to research the importance of stylistic devices in Robert Frost's poems and their importance to the readers.

Delimitation:

Only one of Robert Frost's poems, stopping by woods on a snowy evening, was taken for stylistic analysis. The researcher solely deals with stylistic devices within the poem, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.

Methodology:

This study analyzes stylistic devices in Robert Frost's poem Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening. This paper carefully analyses the numerous devices that the poet employed.

What is stylistics?

Stylistics studies the style of different writers, types of literature, elements of language, text interpretation of all types, and spoken language concerning their linguistic and tonal style. Style is the specific variety of language used by different individuals in different situations or settings. According to the Britannica Dictionary, stylistics is the study of the devices in language to produce an expressive or literary style.

Stylistic devices:

Stylistic devices refer to any variety of techniques that convey an additional or supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling to the reader. The goal of these devices is to create imagery, emphasis, or clarity within a text, hoping to engage the reader.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The selected poem was composed during a difficult time in Robert Frost's life. He lost his kid, and this poem became a way for him to express his grief. Though simple and melodic on the surface, this poem is littered with notions of philosophy, meditation, and transcendentalism. It portrays the problem of every man's situation. We all desire to be free of obligations and be engulfed by lovely surroundings at some time in our lives. We want to have fun and experience pleasure. The majority of his poems are about ordinary events, yet his lyrical brilliance transforms the banal into the magnificent. "In pursuit of the representation of generally recognised realism in his poetry, Frost's major focus never flips from the road of 'truth,' and he emphasises topics like daily activities, duty, hard labour, and the obligations of individuals (Reddy 118)." His acute observation that surpasses the general dilemma is expressed in the profundity of his views. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening taunts us with a near-nihilism, then reaffirms our acceptance of the universe of continuity and duties.

There are two types of components in poetry: intrinsic and extrinsic factors:

Intrinsic components, such as diction, symbols, figurative language, subject, imagery, tone, rhyme, and metre, help to construct and explain poetry. Symbol and subject will be the major topics of discussion in this study, since the writer may relate these fundamental aspects to the poet's biography, which is Robert Frost's.

Symbols in literature, according to Croft and Hellen (2000), are things that imply more than their exact meaning. Symbols, like images, symbolise something else. A red rose is typically used to signify love, while distant thunder is often thought to symbolise a coming disaster.

Moniri and Dohniyatkar (2019) used Persian poetry to describe symbol analysis before. They categorised sacred war poetry symbols into four categories: national, international, political, and literary style. The theme explains the unity of what is happening in the tale and tells the story of life in a unified substance. It indicates that the topic encompasses the entirety of the story's material (Moniri & Dohniyatkar, 2019).

The Biographical Approach, according to Diyanni (2001), "focuses on the relationship between work and the author's own experiences." It indicates that a biography's viewpoint is limited to the author's life. Cuddon's prior study also backs it up (2014). A biography, he said, is a narrative of a person's life. Many individuals may write about someone's life since they are fascinated by their favorite person. Before writing a biography of someone's life, individuals must conduct research. It indicates that a biography is a written account of a person's life. Before writing a biography, someone must conduct research, since a biography is about someone's true history or facts. As a result, the biographical viewpoint is when readers have a better understanding of an author's biography, they may better comprehend his or her work. Characters in a work may be based on individuals the author knows, and events in a work may be based on actual occurrences in the writer's life.

Permatasari (2016) took a biographical approach as well. She used two external aspects to examine Maya Angelou's poems: feminism and biographical methods. The biographical approach is a technique for analysing a poem by comparing it to what is understood about the poet's biography. As a result, Robert Frost's poetry can be the subject of analysis in this study, and the author is interested in learning about his personal life while producing his work.

Wang talked about some more studies that focused on Robert Frost's poetry (2013). Li Wang concentrated on a poem by Robert Frost called *Desert Places*. This poem is disclosed through an aesthetic analysis based on the topic, title, setting, imagery, sound quality, grammar, rhythm, figures of speech, and diction. Following the debate, Li Wang came to the conclusion that the poetry under consideration is similar to Robert Frost's life. Other researchers (Liu, 2017) were also interested in studying Frost's poem a few years later. "Discover the beauty of life," "Relationships between people," and "Ideology to Live Life" are among the poems she examined in light of spiritual ideology. Frost's poetry is being dissected. It is worth debating since his poetry may provide light on a variety of topics. Another investigation looked at literature components, while another looked at items like Liu's work.

From an eco-critical standpoint, the poem shows how nature is mercilessly destroyed without the presence of a woman and a reasonable man. The speaker's entry into the woods reveals his intention to pierce and ruin the natural beauty of the forests. The poem alluded to a separation between man and man, as well as between man and nature. The poem begins with such a beautiful scene in nature and ends with the concept that savage aspirations to dominate nature have always existed in the human heart, even if latent, and still find their way out.

We strive to brutally murder nature through urbanisation in order to improve our living conditions. As a result, nature becomes unbalanced. The poem encourages us to analyse, assess, and rethink our views on progress. The poem might be taken to mean that the forests have come to a halt as a result of the ravenous plundering of the woods. He has a hunch that the forests will be cut down as a result of industrial development. "Dialogical and communicative connections of

sensitivity, negotiation, and mutual adaptation" are the key to solving the current situation (Plumwood, 169-70).

The literary adage "less is more" is applied to poetry. It's the most condensed form of writing. "Art is an explanation of life," says French postmodern philosopher Francois Lyotard, and literature is a "linguistic experience." Frost's poetry best exemplifies these poetic principles. Robert Frost was a well-known American poet who won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry four times. Due to the complex tapestry of his writing, his poems have been evaluated from many perspectives. His poetry is lushly steeped in the pastoral environment and infused with natural themes. "Stopping by Wood on a Snowy Evening" is a brief poetic work with many different aspects to give its readers. Frost's poem is well-known and frequently cited. The poem may be read in a variety of ways and has numerous meanings.

In this sense, Untermeyer's insights are significant: Robert Frost has written on nearly every subject... but humanity is his core theme. Because it depicts living people, his poetry has a special aliveness. People have been the subject of poems by other poets. Robert Frost's poetry, on the other hand, is about people; they work, go around, chat, and relate their stories with the freedom of ordinary speech (16).

All of the above mentioned critical studies show that there is not a specific work dedicated to the theme of stylistic analysis of the study. Consequently, this is the research gap which the current study fulfills.

The							Poem:
Stopping	By	Woods	on	a	Snowy		Evening
Whose	woods	these	are,	I	think	I	know.
His	house	is	in	the	village		though
He	will	not	see	me	stopping		here
To	watch	his	woods	fill	up	with	snow.
My	little	horse	must	think	it		queer
To	stop	without	a	farmhouse			near
Between	the	woods	and	frozen			lake
The	darkest	evening	of	the			year.
He	gives	his	harness	bells	a		shake
To	ask	if	there	is	some		mistake.
The	only	other	sound's	the			sweep,
Of	easy	wind	and	downy			flake.
The	woods	are	lovely,	dark,	and		deep,
But	I	have	go	promises	to		keep,
And	miles	to	go	before	I		sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.							

The woods' appearance is mesmerizing and enticing. The forests are "beautiful, dark, and deep," and they might represent the subconscious mind. The subconscious, according to Freud, is a dark, inaccessible, and impenetrable part of the human brain and ideas. The narrator in the poem is fascinated by the wood's beauty and refuses to leave it. The speaker was captivated and fascinated by the woods' quiet, serene, and mesmerizing atmosphere. He couldn't stop himself from succumbing to it. The id triumphs over the superego. When the horse, on the other hand, rings its bell, it is a warning that society and its traditions are the factors that prevent a person from fully enjoying life.

The horse signifies a world that is both idealistic and pragmatic, a world that instructs a human being on how to live according to its principles. "Be joyful, happy, happy, / And grasp the day of pleasure," he writes in his poem *Carpe Diem*. Shelly, for example, believes in the greatest enjoyment of one's senses. The speaker believes that satiating one's Id allows one to live a happy life. It does, however, allude to Iyearning d's to own things that are not authorised to it. The speaker looks to be peering into other people's forests. It's a reference to Eve's temptation to eat the forbidden fruit. He imagines a mental environment and a sense of impending doom in the direction of everlasting slumber The gloom, doubt, and insecurity that gnaws at a person's psyche can be debilitating inner serenity and pleasure will calm you down. The poem's closing words show the battle between Id and Ego, the ego triumphs. In some ways, he's portraying an individual's journey. Individuals are encouraged to carry out their responsibilities and tasks by the refrain: And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep. (Frost)

Analysis of Stylistic Devices in Robert Frost's Poem, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening:

The poem was published in 1923. It reveals the conflict between man and nature, disparity and hope, wishes and obligations. On the surface, the poem is simple, and the speaker is stopping by some woods on a snowy evening. He takes in the bewitching scene in silence and wants to stay longer. Next, he acknowledges the pull of responsibilities and the considerable distance yet to travel before he can rest during the night.

Figurative Language

Metaphor: It compares two different things by saying one of them as the other. This poem does not provide too many metaphors. However, in the last line of the third stanza, the sweep of easy wind and the downy flake. The downy flake is a metaphor. The second metaphor is in the final line, where miles represent the journey while sleep represents death.

Personification: It is the practice of attributing human traits and characteristics to inanimate objects, phenomena, and animals. Robert Frost has personified the thoughts of a horse when it stops, and in the third stanza, he gives the rider a sign. He gives his harness bells a shake to ask if there is some mistake, shows the horse is a human being who comprehends his owner and inquires if it is necessary to stop.

Hyperbole: It is an exaggeration to emphasize a point. We note an example here in the poem when Frost informs us that the woods are filled with snow. We did not see snow reaching the treetops. This exaggeration shows the landscape blanketed with snow. The reader can grasp a genuine sense of where the poet is and what he witnesses all around him.

Symbolism: Figurative language enhances literal things with symbolic meaning. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening is full of such symbols. In the poem, the poet and his horse go across snowy woods. The owner of these woods possesses a house in the village, but the poet is nowhere near it. Alternatively, nature surrounds him, and he stops without a farmhouse nearby. The village and the farmhouse are symbols of society and civilization. The 'Horse' symbolizes companionship and responsibilities towards his family. He must reach home before his death. The Frozen Lake and the darkest evening are symbols of difficulties and hurdles on the way to his destination. 'The darkest evening' also symbolizes the time of disparity and hopelessness in life. The solitary journey of the poet might indicate the journey of an individual through life. The dark and deep woods that surround the poet are a symbol of death.

Imagery: Imagery requires readers to perceive a phenomenon and ideas through their physical senses. The poet uses visual imagery, such as woods, a house and a lake. Other images aid readers to see the woods as a source of peace and comfort for a lonely traveller. Additionally, the first line of the third stanza shows auditory imagery in which he gives his harness bells a shake as the sound of a bell echoes when they shake. Sound's sweep shows auditory imagery.

Foreshadowing: The foreshadowing technique shows an event that will take place in the future. In the fourth stanza, the poet implements this technique in the second, third, and fourth lines. He tells the reader that he has promises to keep and a long distance to cover before he can rest.

Auditory Devices

The Mood of the Poem: The poem shows uneasiness and discomfort. The moment we acknowledge the traveller has stopped alone in the snowy woods with no civilization nearby, it creates worry and fretfulness. This sentiment later turns to hope and comfort when the traveller leaves the enchanting sights of nature and resumes his journey toward his destination.

Quatrain: It is a four-lined stanza from Persian poetry. Each stanza in the poem is a quatrain, though the rhyme scheme is a little different.

Rhyme and Rhyming Schemes: Rhyming words are critically important in this poem. They contribute to the opposites of moving on and stopping, a notable theme. It consists of iambic tetrameter and a tight-knit chain rhyme with four (almost) identical stanzas. Each line is iambic, with four stressed syllables.

In each stanza, the first, second, and fourth lines rhyme, while the third line does not. However, it sets up the rhymes for the following stanza. For instance, queer, near and year all rhyme in the third stanza. However, the lake rhymes with shake, mistake, and flake in the following stanza.

The third line of the final stanza rhymes with the previous two and is repeated as the fourth line.

The rhyme scheme is aaba bccb ccdc dddd.

Alliteration: The same consonant sounds in the same lines with consistent use of/w/,/wh/, and/s/sounds. The phrase watch his woods, sound the sweep, his house and his harness are examples of alliteration.

Assonance: The repetition of the vowel sounds in a similar line, such as the sounds of/e/and/i/. These come in quick succession and see me stopping.

Consonance: Consonance represents the consonant sounds, like/w/and/th/sounds in Whose woods? I think I know, and/w/sounds in watching his woods fill up with snow.

Euphony: It mentions the sound that satisfies the ears. While the journey through the forest is about loneliness, according to Robert Frost, the woods are not haunted or even frightening. They provide comfort and calmness through their captivating imagery. His companion is too faithful and obliging. The woods equally represent a world without corruption and deceit. Therefore, it is euphony.

Frost uses repetition in the final two lines of this compact poem to emphasize the regret of leaving behind beloved nature since some necessary task anticipates him.

And miles to go before I sleep.

And miles to go before I sleep.

Refrain: It refers to the lines repeated at some distance in the poem. Therefore, the repetition of the last two lines in the final stanza with similar words is a refrain.

Conclusion

This analysis shows a simple composition that points to the reality of deciding in dreadful times. There is a conflict between desire and social obligations. A man restrains his inner desires to fulfill his duties and responsibilities. The outcome of the poem resists a conclusive reading and suggests the tensions between society and nature, optimism and pessimism, obligations and individualism are uncertain but constantly in a murky state of flux.

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