

## STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF DEVIATIONS IN E.E CUMMING POEM SHE BEING BRAND

Maratabali, Sumerabatool, Wajid Riaz, Anila Mubarak and Rana Batool

M.Phil. Applied linguistics University of Lahore Pakistan

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**ABSTRACT:** *In linguistics we deal with the properties and varieties of language that is called the study of stylistics. The role of stylistics is prominent in understanding modern and postmodern literature which deviates from the regular pattern of syntax, semantics, morphology and phonology. This article is an effort to stylistically analyze the use of deviation in the poetry of an American poet EDWARD ESTLIN CUMMINGS. American poet Cumming is well known for creative ideas and innovative style. His poetry is interesting from stylistic point of view, because the use of intentional misspellings, innovation of phonetics spellings, creation of new style and irregular arrangement of syntax. These are regular features of his poem. E.E CUMMING plays with form and structure and he uses nontraditional punctuation to push the boundaries of what, words can mean. In this article stylistics analysis of deviation used for stylistic analysis of E. E CUMMING poem (SHE BEING BRAND). This analysis done under the aspects of deviations at orthographic, graphological, syntactically, morphological and grammatical level.*

**KEYWORDS:** Stylistics, Deviations, Graphological, Morphological, Syntactically, Grammatically.

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## INTRODUCTION

### Background

E.E. Cummings was a 20th century poet and novelist known for his innovations in style and structure. E.E. Cummings (Edward Estlin Cummings) was born in 1894 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a fine artist, playwright, novelist and poet. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. degree from Harvard University. Then he went to serve in World War I overseas as a volunteer for the ambulance corps. He adopted a cubist style in his artwork. He considered himself a painter as well as a poet, spending much of the day painting and much of the night writing. Cummings particularly admired the artwork of Pablo Picasso. He uses the poetic term “free verse” in his poetry. He has disregard for capital letters. He does not observe the traditional rules and regulations of writing. He falls in the category of modern poets. Cummings died on September 3, 1962, in North Conway, New Hampshire. He was second most widely read poet in the United States. His poetry mainly deals with the themes of relationships and love.

Stylistics, as a branch of Linguistics which deals with properties and varieties of the language, it helps to understand the literature in a better way because it investigates the principles behind the linguistics choices. Stylistics analysis establishes scientifically, methodologically and logically rules and reasons for linguistics choices made by a poet or writer in genres to facilitate the reader in understanding the meaning of the text. In modern and postmodern literature deviation are found from regular patterns of syntax, semantics, morphology and phonology, whereas, stylistics plays a vital role to understand the modern and modern text. The present

paper is an attempt to stylistically analyze the use of deviation in the poem “She being Brand” by an American Poet Edward Estlin Cummings who is modern poet and famous for his creative ideas and innovative writing style. It is important to study Cummings’ poetry from stylistics point of view because he used intentional incorporate phonetic style, intentional misspelling inventive style of compound nouns and irregular use of syntax etc. These features are visible in the poetry of Edward Estlin Cummings. Thus, the current study deals with the Cummings’ poem “She being Brand” in which the graphological, orthographical, grammatical, semantic and syntactic deviations are analyzed.

### **Statement of the research:**

Edward Estlin Cummings as a modern poet brings revolution in the genre of poetry where he uses intentional misspellings, incorporation of phonetic spellings, and irregular arrangement of syntax and the creation of innovative formation of compound words. These elements are called deviation where the poet deviates from the normal style and convey his message in sublime style, whereas, common readers do not understand his poetry. Therefore, the current paper tries to make understand the common readers with E. E Cummings poetry.

### **Research Question**

1. How and why the different types of stylistics deviation have been used by E.E Cummings in his poem She being Brand, help in conveying the real meaning and message?
2. How E.E Cummings relies on other stylistics devices used in the poem She being Brand.

### **Research Objective**

The research focuses on following Objectives.

1. To examine the types of stylistics deviations in E.E Cummings poem She being Brand.
2. To analyze the stylistics deviations in Poem She Being Brand, helping in conveying the real meaning and message as well as original ideas and thoughts of the poet.
3. To use stylistics as a medium for objectively analyzing E.E CUMMING Poem She being Brand.
4. To Investigate the significance of the stylistics deviations in E.E CUMMINGS poem, as well as its’ importance for the readers.

### **Delimitations**

Only one poet E.E Cummings’ poem “She being Brand” is taken for the purpose of stylistic deviations. The researcher only deals with stylistics deviation in the poem **She being Brand**.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study is about the stylistics analysis of deviation in E.E Cummings poem She being Brand. This paper analyzes different deviations used by the poet.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### What is stylistics?

Stylistics studies the literary discourse from Linguistics Orientations. It helps that how language serves a particular artistic function within text. The definition of stylistics in Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 'the study of style and the methods used in written language. Stylistics is objective and based on rationale. A piece of text can be dissected systematically and objectively by using stylistics as a medium. In present era stylistics is being taught and researched in universities at departments of languages and literature in the world. Simple definition of stylistics is given by Leech and Short [nineteen eighty one] 'stylistics as the linguistics study of style. However, it seems to be more simple and lacks of clarity because stylistics is not related to one definition but to multiple of definitions are associated to it, as the definition of stylistics is given in The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language 'style is seen as the selection of set of linguistics features from all the possibilities in a language. Furthermore, Leech and Short explains that in the broadest sense, style can be applied to both spoken and written, both literary and nonliterary varieties of language; but by tradition, it is particularly associated with written literary texts. However, definition of stylistics may vary from person to person but it can be said that above definitions suit from time to time and place to place as they clear the context and meanings.

### Stylistics devices

Stylistics devices are main features of stylistics which are sometimes called poetic devices as well such as alliteration, personification, simile, imagery, metaphor and symbols. These features are used frequently in poetry and provide auxiliary meaning, thought and feelings to the genre of poetry. Through Stylistics devices a poem can be interpreted in many levels.

### Stylistics deviations

Stylistics deviations provide the readers a working criterion for the selection of those Linguistics features which are of literary significance. A stylistics deviation is defined by the **Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary** the act of moving away from what is normal or acceptable. The word deviated itself shows the violation of what is principally accepted. Deviation in the poetry means deviation of style in poetry. The deviations in poetry help in creating a style by using language that is different from the normal use. Poetic language is quite different from conventional speech, whereas, in poetry deviations play a significant role and the poet deviates from the expected norms of linguistics expression to convey something more than what would be conveyed through the non-deviant language.

According to Champan deviation can be phonic when a poet chooses to make wind have the sound /waind/ to rhyme with behind as Shelly does in the 'Ode to the West Wind'. Smith says 'orthography connotes making meaning through conventional spelling, or arrangement of letters within a word. Ogidefasays that lexical deviation occurs when a word is over use in a line or when there collection of clash or when a strange lexical item is brought in.

Morphological deviation occurs when a writer uses morphemes to create unusual combination of words, whereas, syntactic deviation is seen the violation of the syntactic rules and formalities. However, a writer uses these deviations for foregrounding and invites the readers' attention. Foregrounding may include all salient linguistics phenomena which in some way cause the reader's attention to shift from the paraphrase ablecontent of a message to focus on

the message itself. (Flower). Furthermore, in deviation, grammatical deviations are used to grammatical rules are not followed. Widdowson say that grammatical deviations occur when a feature of animacy is attached to nouns which are specified as inanimate in the description of the language system. Moreover, semantic deviations might be seen in terms of the violation of logical and experiential facts and truths. Pradhan. Final part of deviation is graphological deviation that is relatively minor and superficial part of style concerning such matters as spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, and italicization and paragraphing.

The above deviations are being used by the creative writer in order to convey original meaning and effect of a piece of writing.

### **The Poem She Being Brand**

she being Brand-new; and you

know consequently a

Little stiff i was

careful of her and(havingthoroughly oiled the universal

joint tested my gas felt of

her radiator made sure her springs were O.K.)i went right to it flooded-the-carburetor cranked herup,slipped the

clutch(and then somehow got into reverse she

kicked what

the hell)next

minute i was back in neutral tried andagainslo-wly;bare,lynudg.ing(mylev-er Right-

oh and her gears being in

A 1 shape passed

from low through

second-in-to-high like

greasedlightning)just as we turned the corner of Divinityavenue i touched the accelerator and giveher the juice,good(itwas the first ride and believe i we was

happy to see how nice she acted right up to

the last minute coming back down by the Public

Gardens i slammed onthe

Internalexpanding

&amp;

externalcontracting

brakesBothatonceandbroughtallofthertremB

-ling

to a:dead.stand-

;Still)

### **Analysis of stylistic deviations in E.E CUMMING POEM SHE BEING BRAND**

E. E. Cummings' *SHE BEING BRAND* is one of the poem which is full of deviations. In this poem Cummings alters the structure of the poem and creates a rhyme scheme unlike traditional poetry. However, as it is clear that deviations used by a poet are not without purpose. It has some hidden meaning which are difficult for common readers to understand. However, these deviations play a core role to clarify the meaning and theme of the poem. Deviations used by Cumming in the *She Being Brand* are very important and make him a prominent writer of the existing era. The analyses of deviations are as analyzed below.

As to start with deviations in the *She Being Brand* there are 24 graphological deviations in the poem. Graphological deviations are present in the poem in the form of capitalization, word splitting, hyphenation, and running together of words without spacing. The very first line is graphologically deviant. In the beginning of the poem initial alphabet "B" of the word "Brand" has been capitalized, this capitalization points towards the main theme of poem. Second capitalization "(O.K)" use in six line indicate that everything is all right. Third capitalization of the poem is the initial alphabet "R" of the word "Right" has been used. Fourth capitalization in the poem is the initial alphabet "D" of the word "Divintiyavenue" this capitalization indicates the another main point related to main theme of the poem. Fifth capitalization in the poem "P" the initial alphabet of the word "Public" has been capitalized to indicate that desire of the people for new things and brands. "G" initial alphabet of the word "Gardens" has been capitalized to indicate the happiness of the poet. Seventh capitalization in the poem is "I" the initial word is capitalized "Internalexpanding" that indicate the internal happiness of the poet. Eight capitalization is in the word "Bothatonce" the first word is capitalized to show the internal and external happiness of the poet. Ninth capitalization is "B" of the word "tremB-ling" the word trembling gives a sense of elevation. The last capitalization in the poem is "S" of the word "Still;" shows the poet calmness at the end of the poem. The words consist of scrambled hyphenated words brand-new, poet uses hyphen between brand and new to deliver the main theme of the poem.

In the word slow-lythe hyphen is used for the purpose to extend the expression and experience of poet, mylev-er,in-to,tremB-ling, flooded-the-carburator in these words there is hayphen to indicate the feeling of poet. The letters of word tremB-ling also split in twolines which has been scattered by alphabet tremB is present in the one line and rest of the letters" ling" in the second line.

Morphological deviations are present in the poem.

Morphological deviations are regular pattern of Cummings' poetry. He uses these deviations for the purpose to create unusual combination of words and expressions. The words "havingthroughly" are combined to show the poet's internal and external happiness in powerful

and authentic way. The word “herup” is the combination of pronoun and preposition to show the intensity of feelings. Word “andagain” combine to show the situation and condition of the poet. The words “greasdelightning” are being used for his feelings for new brand. Then the other word “divinteyavenue” are combined to show the poet’s feelings after touching a new brand. The combination of “onthe” indicates the poet’s position. Other combine words are bothatonce, andbrought, allofher, giveher, andagain. The use of scrambled words in the poem creates orthographic deviations which are Slow-ly, bare, ly, nudg.ing, mylev-er, in-to, tremb-ling.

Grammatical deviations are occurring because of the deviant use of punctuation and unusual bracketing. Seventeen instances of grammatical deviations are found in the poem. Bracketing has been inserted by the poet throughout the poem to indicate the subjective feelings of poet as compared to the objectivity of the poem. The poet conveys his direct and intimate experiences by bracketing certain expressions which add sentimentality to this poem as bracketed expressions convey the personal feelings of the poet. Grammatical deviations have been used by the poet bracketing is present in the expression where grammatical features are not required and bracketing is used by the poet to insert personal comments.

The first bracketed expression, “(havingthoroughly oiled the universal joint tested my gas felt of her radiator made sure her springs were O.K.)” in this bracket poet shows his personal feeling about new brand, and he mixes it with the gasoline. In the second bracketed expression in line “(and then somehow got into reverse she kicked what the hell)” poet shows his expression. The last word (still) indicates the calmness of the poem at the end. Grammatical deviations occur due to the deviant use of punctuation.

The expression “,new;and “ has been used for punctuation mark after the word new. The word “O.K.” fullstop show that everything is going all right and the thoughts of the poet is clear as he takes a pause there. Grammatical deviation in the words “herup,slipped” where the use of comma is not needed the poet uses these words here for a little pause. Punctuation in the words “slow-ly;bare,ly,” are used because the poet wants to show the rise and fall of his feelings, he uses semi colon and comma after the word “bare,ly” and full stop in “nudg.nig” to show rise and fall of his feelings again.

The combination of words “juice,good” and “&” have been used by the poet to show for a pause express his internal and external feelings. The punctuation in words “a:dead.stand” have been used by the poet where the grammatical use is not required for full stop. The semi colon at the initial position is not necessary “; still”. The poet uses all these punctuations to make his writing more beautiful, authentic, rigorous and creative and enhance the aesthetic sense of his poetry. Cummings expresses his personal thoughts and ideas while using of words in brackets.

Syntactic deviations pervades in the poem as poem follows no syntax rules. Word splitting, bracketing enhances are syntactic deviations in the poem. The poetry of E.E Cummings, as a modern American poet is full of linguistic deviations as well which helps the reader to understand the meaning and theme of the poem.

## CONCLUSION

The success of Cumming lies in the fact that this disruptive syntax and frequent foregrounding serves as a tool for him to convey his ideas and thoughts effectively. On the whole Cumming



has treated stylistics deviations effectively in his poem. He has molded his poetry into a visual art by his unconventional use of brackets, colons, commas, capitalization and line splitting that serves as signposts that direct the readers to speed up, slow down, or stop on his/her way of reading and comprehending the poem. This unique and original use of deviations adds to the novelty of his expression, and opens new vistas of meaning for the reader.

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