

STYLISTICS ANALYSIS OF HOLLY THURSDAY I BY WILLIAM BLAKE

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ABSTRACT: *The aim of this paper is to analyze Blake's poem "Holly Thursday I" from the viewing platform of stylistic analysis. This stylistics analysis shelters the different features such as the lexico-syntactic patterns and choices, semantically, grammatically, graphological and phonological patterns. This analysis is helpful in understanding the basic concept of poem that is basically irony which poet doing on cathedral hypocrisy. Though this poem is in personal in tone and mood but depict the general reality behind these religious traditions. The poem is simple but the theme is universal. This research is accommodating to analyze the structure and style of William Blake's poetry. The poet conveyed his message, themes, views and handling of fake ideology forcefully by using different stylistic devices.*

KEYWORDS: Graphological, Hypocrisy, Innocence, Lexico-Syntactic Patterns, Phonological, Stylistic, Viewpoint.

INTRODUCTION

Blake, an English versifier, poet, artist, and printmaker. Mostly unrecognized throughout his lifespan, Blake is now well-thought-out a pivotal figure in the history of both the poetry and pictorial skills of the Idealistic Age. His visionary poetry has said to remain to form "what is in ratio to its evidences the smallest read bulk of poetry in the English language". His graphic, visual ability has steered one modern-day art critic to declare him "significantly the utmost artist Britain has ever produced". Even though he born in London and spent his whole life in London except for three years spent in Felpham he shaped a miscellaneous and symbolically rich body of discourse, which comprised the fancy or imagination as the body of God, or Human existence itself. The 19th century scholar Rossetti considered Blake as a "glorious luminary," and as "a man not anticipated by forerunners, or to be ranked with colleagues, or to be substituted by recognized or willingly surmisable beneficiaries". William Blake and his mechanism of work have been broadly debated and evaluated over the twentieth century and now this span, however earlier to that he was hardly known. Blake's concern with good and evil as well as his strong religious and philosophical ideas or beliefs stayed throughout his life and he certainly not stopped portraying them in his poetry and inscriptions. He expired at the age of sixty nine in 1827 and his inheritance as a captivating, multifaceted man of many artistic faculties will no doubt remain strong well into this century. Other well-known works include America, Europe, The Book of Urizen and The Visions of the Daughters of Albion.

Holy Thursday I is a poem written by Blake, taken from his book of poems named as Songs of Innocence. This book is written in 1789. This poem portrays a ceremony celebrated on Ascension Day known as Holy Thursday in England, now this name is also called Maundy

Thursday generally. On this ceremony six thousands children from London's charity schools, cleaned and clad in the coats of typical and bright colors, are paraded double sided at Saint Paul's Cathedral, under the supervision of their gray headed beadles, sing and chant in the cathedral. The orphans in their bright and colorful dresses are symbolized with flowers in the poem and their parade toward the cathedral as a river. Their songs according to this special ceremony are portrayed their prayers. The orator moved through the bleakness of the dream of the children in cathedral, longings the reader to evoke that such kids as these are in fact angels of God.

This poem depicts the cruel irony in this way that in the world of truly innocent children there are wicked men who stifle the children. Blake has selected the name of this poem Holy Thursday as the title of this poem, which declares us more or less what the poem, is about, and when we reading it we noticeably have the revelation or vision of that Christian custom.

Theme of the Poem

In Songs of Innocence all human wishes are innocent; even self-restraint is innocent and marks for pleasure as "Holy Thursday" shows. The main theme that Blake designates in this poem is innocent enough, but the sense that under the surface is different as is the case with most poems in The Songs of Innocence. In this poem, Blake took this theme of innocent to depict the hypocrisy of the cathedral. The orphans are marched into St. Paul's church to display the charity and gentleness, but it is in fact just a demonstration and does not seem to be genuine. The children are deprived and probably poor and homeless, which can be gritty by the circumstance that Blake highlights in the paramount line that the faces of orphans are neat and clean, inferring that this is not like fact that how they usually seem. This poem gives the impression about the charity of the church; that they prepared and nourished a crowd of poor children just to show them off.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Stylistics is the study and clarification of texts in respect to their linguistic and tonal style. As a restraint, it associates literary criticism to linguistics. It does not role as an independent area on its own, and can be applied to an empathetic of literature and journalism as well as linguistics. From Wikipedia (modified on 15 March 2010), Stylistics is a branch of linguistics, which deals with the study of varieties of language, its properties, and principles behind choice, dialogue, accent, length and register. H.G. Widdowson (1986, p.4) defines stylistics as, "The study of literary discourse from a linguistics orientation. In 2003 Gabriela Miššikova said, Stylistics is a field of study where the method of selecting and implementing linguistic, extra linguistic or expressive means and devices in the process of communication are studied.

Short (1996) believes that stylistics is a linguistic approach to study the literary texts. In other words we can say that stylistics studies literary texts using linguistic description. Short also shows his interest not only in the (linguistics) forms of he analyzed texts (i.e. How), but he also studies the meaning (i.e. what) of the text in the sense of plot and overall message of a story.

From this point of view short (1996, p.1) further says, "Stylistics can sometimes look like either linguistics or literary criticism, depending upon where you are standing where looking at it". "To Leech (1985) stylistics is the study of the style which can be applied in both literary and

non-literary texts. In a non-literary text, style is learned because we want to explain something, while literary stylistics explains the relations between language and artistic function.

The levels of stylistics analysis are as following:

- Phonetic level: It is the level of sound analysis in which we study the characteristics and function of sounds in a literary piece of work.
- Phonological level: this level is concerned with the study of sound system of any given language. It deals with the recognized rules of pronunciation. Phonological devices comprise rhyme elements, consonance, alliteration, and assonance etc.
- Graph logical level: it recognizes the writing system of a language and studies the formal rules of capitalization, spelling, structure, the systematic formation and punctuation in the sentence.
- Grammatical level: It comprises the both syntactic and morphological levels and discusses the internal formation or structure of sentence and their function in sequences. It identifies the clauses, phrases, words, nouns, verbs, etc.
- The lexical level: This level observes the mode in which distinct words and phrases incline to design in diverse linguistic context, on the semantic level in positions of stylistics. It studies words relative to internal expressiveness.

Stylistics Analysis of Poem

Narrative voice of character in poem Holly Thursday

“Holly Thursday,” is a first-person description of feelings about a religious tradition. In which the narrator is himself describe his feelings about church and highlights the hypocrisy of the cathedral by using the theme of innocence with irony.

Graphological Level

At very first glance the poem is composed in three stanzas.

Use of Capitalization

Each line of these stanzas start with capital letters, in title we see that there is a use of arrow which shows the flow of something the continuity of something. There are some words within the stanzas and within the lines which are also capital, Like in 1st stanza in line 1 the word “Holy Thursday” is in capital letters which shows the importance of this word in the poem, it has great importance near poet as he place it in very first line of the poem in capital letters, these two things shows the importance of this word in the theme of the poem and in line 4 word Paule and Thams are in capital letters which also shows the importance of these two words in the theme of the poem, like in London river Thams has a great importance it flows by the heart of the London and the word used by the poet in the poem to show that how much the flow of these innocent children is looking beautiful just like river Thams make London beautiful, the flow of these children in Pauls dome is same like river Thams which is glorifying the Pauls dome, Pauls dome is another important place in London where the children are going, sign of ampersand is used by the poet in line 2 and 8, the purpose of using this sign is to catch the attention of the reader and poet also use it as a style in poem, use of pronunciation is very less in poem just to show the flow of ideas and theme of the poem smoothly like river Thams flow smoothly in the heart of London.

Use of Punctuation

Poet also uses many punctuation marks to present different views in poem. In this poem we can see there is a use of full stop, colon, and semi colon abundantly.

Phonological Level

Rhyme scheme

The poem is consisted of three stanzas; As phonological level deals with the phonology and rhyme scheme of any poem, as far as we are concerning with the written text of poem then rhyming scheme of poem can be analyze, the rhyming scheme used in the poem in couplet form as AABB.

For example

Clean, green Snow, flow, town, own, lambs, hands, song, among, poor, doo

Imagery and symbolism

For Example

Flowers: This judgment stresses the children's prettiness and fragility. They are London's fairest product

Children: poet takes the child is an image of purity, innocence and calmness.

Lambs: The children are lamb-like in their innocence and meekness, as well as in the sound of their childish voices

Use of Metaphors

- Poet uses metaphors for innocent children by using under mentioned words.
- Grey headed beadles walk'd line
- These flowers of London
- Multitudes of lambs

Use of Simile

A figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid (e.g. as brave as a lion and she is like rose).

In this poem this device used at many places as:

- Grey headed beadles walk'd before, with wands **as** white **as** snow,
- Till into the high dome of Paul's they **like** Thames' waters flow.
- Now **like** a mighty wind they raise to heaven the voice of song,
- Or **like** harmonious thunderings the seats of Heaven among.

Grammatical Level

The grammatical structure of the poem is very simple no use of helping verbs in there, most of the prepositions are used there in the poem, structure is free, no grammatical rules are there.

This structure is presenting different views of the poet about the theme of the poem, that he is writing in a flow and all ideas are flowing smoothly with each other, it also shows that the ideas are closely related to each other and can't be separate from each other, this flow of ideas is actually making the theme of the poem, like in all three stanzas we can see that poet is showing the walk of children towards church and then their activities which create a strong imagery in the poem and also the flow in their activities. The smooth structure of the poem shows that the activities of the children have continuity and there is no pause in their Holy act.

Lexical Level

At lexical level we see the lexical choices that poet use in the poem, In this poem poet choose very simple lexical items, mostly nouns are used here in the poem, which create the sense of innocence in the poem, and use of nouns shows that poet deliver to many ideas by using different famous nouns related to the geographical surroundings of the church. Like he uses river Thames to present the view of beauty in the act of children, which shows that how much they are looking beautiful and how much their acts are innocent and how their presence is beautifying the place of church like river Thams beautify London by flowing from the heart of London. "Mighty wind" used by the poet to create a beautiful imagery of their sweet voices which they raise during pray. "Thundering" is also used to create imagery that how much their voices are combined and touching to hearts that they can thunder the heaven also. Poet uses very beautiful lexis to beautify the theme of the poem and create such a beautiful imagery that captures the reader into the poem fully.

Adjective	Adverb	Conjunction	Determiner	Noun	Verb
Innocent, clean	Before	And	a	Twass, Holly, Thursday, song	Walking
Red, blue	there	Or	the	Faces, grey, beadles, thundrings	Headed
Green, white	now		these	Wands, snow, dome , Paul	Walked
High, own	then		all	Thames, waters flow, multitude	Like
Little, mighty			The	Flowers, London, town, companies	Seeme'ed
Harmonious, wise			An	Radiance, seats lambs, guardians thousands, boys, Girls	Seated, sit, raising
Poor, cherish				Hands, winds, heaven, voice, pity, angel, door	Aged, drive

Preposition	Pronoun	Number
On, in, till, into, of, least	Their, they, you	Two
With, like, among, beneath, from	Your, them, what	

POEM

‘Twas on a Holy Thursday, their innocent faces clean,
 The children walking two and two, in red and blue and green,
 Grey headed beadles walk’d before, with wands as white as snow,
 Till into the high dome of Paul's they like Thames’ waters flow.

Oh what a multitude they seem’d, these flowers of London town!
 Seated in companies they sit with radiance all their own.
 The hum of multitudes was there, but multitudes of lambs,
 Thousands of little boys and girls raising their innocent hands.

Now like a mighty wind they raise to heaven the voice of song,
 Or like harmonious thunderings the seats of Heaven among.
 Beneath them sit the aged men, wise guardians of the poor;
 Then cherish pity, lest you drive an angel from your door.

Findings

The poem “Holly Thursday” defines the beauty and charm of the church traditions but with irony. William Blake points out the hypocrisy of the cathedral. The main theme that Blake designates in this poem is innocent enough, but the sense that under the surface is different as is the case with most poems in The Songs of Innocence.

This poem gives the impression about the charity of the church, that they prepared and nourished a crowd of poor children just to show them off.

CONCLUSION

The selection of words by the poet plays a very vital role in meaning constructing. It supports the reader to apprehend the meaning the poet is trying to pass on. Stylistics analysis of this

poem has shown that there is dissimilarity between poetic and non- poetic language as a means of defining literature.

Pedagogical Implications

The decisive aim of this analysis is to discover the ways in which language use has been combined in the poem. This rises to the persistent features of stylistics used by the writer.

In other words, this work will be concerned with striking and marked use of words in the poem in order to enhance effective transfer of message. The effects and functions of the stylistic elements as regards the poem will be looked at in the analysis.

Scope of the Study

This work shall be entirely stylistic, and analysis will be conducted through the use of the following levels of analysis: lexico-syntactic patterns and choices, phonology, graphology and morphology. Analysis will be conducted using the stylistic elements in each of the above mentioned levels of analysis, such that it could provide a guide and be relevant to future researchers in a related field.

Limitations of the Study

The time is too short to deal properly with the analysis of the poem. The material is not as much as it should be.

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