

Stylistic Semasiology: A Lexico-Semantic Analysis of Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*

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ABSTRACT

Stylistics is the systematic analysis of style in language which is vary from the factors such as genera, historical background, autobiographical elements and context of a text. It deals with the analysis of linguistic elements of a text. The present research is devoted toward the stylistic analysis of Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*. It emphasizes on the analysis of the short story, *The Overcoat* from stylistic point of view using different tools of linguistics to make it more effective for the readers. This research is stylistically analysed by using the Leech and Short model for stylistic analysis. The purpose of analysing the short story is to examine the linguistics tools used in the text by the author. The main focus of this study is the discovery of using different figurative language for understanding its impacts on the readers. The teachers and students of English Literature regard stylistics as worth mentioning scientific discipline. Stylistic analysis of any piece of writing makes writing very easy to understand and readers to comprehend the hidden meanings of the text and the intentions of the writer. For understanding of the complex meanings used by the author stylistic plays a vital role. In the field of study as well as for speaking stylistics has its own importance which cannot be ignored. Stylistics can help to a logical and scientific understanding of the literary texts based on linguistic evidence by using its tools and methods of linguistics. The purpose of this research is to explore language and the creativity in language use. Studies of language can be divided into two main areas; studies of structure and studies of language use.

Keywords: Stylistics, Style, Semasiology, Linguistics, Lexico- Semantic, Parts of Speech

Introduction

Style is a broader term with multiple meaning used in language. It is helpful to do any kind of task for extracting meanings from text itself or from outside the given text. In style one can get the reality of everything or appearance of everything. By understanding the writing style of any writer/author one can get the idea of his/her

personality. Further style is studied with a term Stylistics. Stylistics in a sense of analysing data is different from literary criticism as it has different characteristics. Text is interpreted in literary criticism while in stylistics the text is analysed by going into the hidden meanings used by the author/writer in the literary text. Stylistics is

studied and the text is analysed by going through the different levels of stylistics.

The Overcoat is written by Nikolai Gogol who was a Russian author. *The Overcoat* was published in the year 1842. This short story has a great influence in the history of Russian Literature. *The Overcoat* (1842) is considered as the greatest Russian story ever written and is regarded too much in Russian society as well as in rest of the world. The story is narrated a third person and is set in St. Petersburg, Russia. The story tells about human sympathy. It is also a satire on bureaucracy. Nikolai Gogol is a Russian author who was born in the year of 1809 in Ukraine. *The Overcoat* word is a symbol of security and protection. We can take it in dual meanings the first one is that it is about overcoat which a person wears over his clothes to protect himself from the cold weather and secondly, we can also say that overcoat means to hide someone's or something's reality. By putting overcoat on anything or anyone we are showing the things which are not in a real sense but the reality is something else.

The Overcoat (1842) is about a life story of a person Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin, working in an unknown department with the designation as a copyist and a clerk in the capital of Russia, St. Petersburg. It is about the behaviour of the society with a man of low rank who faced lots of difficulties in his life even though he was much committed with his work but he could not lead a luxury life and faced criticism from the people. For buying new overcoat he throws a party to his co-worker on their demand, since in starting he was agreed but on party he was not satisfied and somehow, he managed to escape from the party. While going back to home he encountered with robbers who

beaten him badly and also snatched his overcoat. He took this incident very seriously and it resulted in the form of the death of Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin the protagonist of the story. After some time period of his death people observed that someone was stealing overcoats from people and then they come to the knowledge about the ghost of Akaky who was involved in snatching overcoats especially when he snatched the overcoat from a general who one had refused to help him while he was in a problem.

The story is of great importance as it shows from its title. The story is satire on our society. Gogol has tried to depict the behaviour of the people towards the lowest class. Everything presented in the story has its own importance. The name of the main character Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin has a sir name Bashmachkin which means a shoe which is a representation of the thoughts of the people. His mother has given him this name as she though he deserved only this name and the status. Here we can say that the concept of dehumanization has discussed that humans are giving so low value. The story is about the sympathetic condition of a person and it is also criticizing the bureaucracy by depicting the real face of the society as a person is doing a job with its full devotion who has no care about eating and drinking but he is fully paying attention to his work but when he had to buy a new overcoat he had to think for a while because his financial condition was not so good and to buy new overcoat, he had to face a starvation. It shows the cruel behaviour of the society that despite working with full devotion and honesty a person is not financially strong enough that he could make himself save form external disasters.

Research Objectives

The main purpose of doing research is to achieve the below given objectives. Through different levels of stylistics and by going through the different processes of data analyzing the following objectives will be achieved.

1. To explore the Graphological aspects used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*.
2. To explore the Phonological aspects used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*.
3. To investigate Figure of Speech used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*.

Research Questions.

The following research questions are the part of this research during the stylistic analysis.

1. What are Graphological aspects used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*?
2. What are Phonological aspects used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*?
3. What type of Figure of Speech used in Nikolai Gogol's *The Overcoat*?

Significance of Study

The present study focuses on the analysis of the short story by using the tool of stylistics as we know that in literature the use of language has its own importance and at some stages it plays a very vital role for interpreting and understanding the text in its real meanings. We can say that Stylistics is

regarded as a binding force between literature and language as it brings together the both on a single platform. The present study signifies the practical application of stylistics in a literary text which is Nikolai Gogol's short story *The Overcoat* (1842). By analysing the stylistics tools used in the story this research is exploratory and it emphasizes the linguistics aspects used by the author. The research observes two main level of stylistics as Graphological and Phonological level to conduct the stylistic analysis of the selected short story *The Overcoat* (1842) by Nikolai Gogol. And the most importantly it discusses the use of Figure of Speech in the short story. As it analyses the short story by going through different level of stylistics hence, we can expect that it will help the student of literature and the researcher who are going to do research in future on stylistic analysis of any literary text.

Literature Review

The present research enables to understand the real meaning of style, stylistics and its application in any literary or non-literary text by using different tools of stylistic. First of all, the review is done by getting the multiple data from different articles and from the other supporting texts from different research papers which makes the research more effective and to achieve the objectives of the research and to answer the questions discussed above in the research through the stylistics analysis and by getting the thematic analysis of the story and by reading different aspects of the story we get the idea of using words and the meanings of the words by the author. The intension of the writer is clearly understood after its stylistic analysis which is the real purpose of the research. Before understanding the term

stylistics, there is a description about the term style because without understanding the term style, we cannot effectively understand the term stylistics.

Style is referred as a term for performing any given task. In fact, style is a reflection of the thoughts. While a person uses any style, he is showing his or her intensions towards the observers or readers. According to Khan et al, (2014), in style the poet/author/writer use different poetic devices and different writing techniques in his/her writings to make it more effective and attractive. The sentence's order and the meaning of language are also discussed in this term style. This term is used in both writing as well as speaking dealing with literary text as well as the non-literary text. Although it is concerned with non-literary text also but mostly, we refer it with literary text which is in written form. The style is referred as an organized process which is used to speak and write or to perform any specific given task (Leech, 1969). Style is a kind of register adopted by the people in a recurring situation (Chapman, 1973).

According to the concept given by the Widdowson, (1975), the study or the analysis of any literary text is called stylistics. The stylistics is a study of style in linguistics to understand the use of language in writing (Leech and Short, 1981). For the description of formal features of the given text as well as the interpretation of text, stylistics is used. In stylistics both type of text are analysed or understand which are in writing form or presented orally. There is no doubt that mostly stylistic analysis is done on poetry (Coyle & et al, 1993) but now we see that the researchers of literature are also much keen towards the analysis of short stories so that the readers can more

effectively understand the purpose and the message behind the given text. According to the concept of Ali & et al, (2021), it is the branch of applied linguistics for the interpretation of all type of texts and for the discussion of tone of the style of all given languages. It is the representation of a broad discipline which is consider as a part of linguistics. The text is completely understood in a part or with the help of different levels of stylistic and stylistics is used for the interpretation of the literary text. In literature for the creation of aesthetic effect different kind of styles are used by keeping the different levels of stylistic in mind. According to the concept of Short and Candlin (1989) To study literary texts a linguistic approach is called stylistics. Definition of style according to Chaika (1982) In words the messages are not normally conveyed easily. There is no concern with what has been said but the main concern is that how a speaker or writer says. Each style is used to produce certain aesthetic effect in a literature.

From Linguistics Orientations the study of literary discourse is called stylistics. According to Oxford Dictionary stylistics is defined as "the study of style and the methods used in written language". Stylistics is used as a medium for studying the text systematically and objectively. At the world level now, stylistics is given more importance and the researchers of literature and language are very keen to study the different aspects of stylistics. The term stylistics is defined by the Leech and Short that is considered as most simple definition that is "stylistics as the linguistics study of style". But stylistics demands more clarity to understand it because stylistics refers to the multiple definitions and cannot be defined with a single definition. To further

understand the meanings of stylistics we have a definition according to the Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language “style is seen as the selection of set of linguistics features from all the possibilities in a language”. By proceeding further, we consider more explanation of stylistics in a broadest sense by Leech and Short because stylistics can be referred as both for speaking as well as writing as it is considered for both literary as well as for non-literary varieties of language: but it is particularly associated with the text in written form. Stylistics can have so many others definition with the requirements of time and can be varied from person to person but the above given definitions will surely help to understand the real meaning of stylistics and can be used in doing research on any literary text.

To understand further about stylistics and for the analysis of the short story we understand the different levels of stylistics and before going through the different levels of stylistics, we discuss some more important terms related with stylistics which are given in detail as under:

For the understanding of term stylistics, it is very necessary to understand about the foregrounding as it is directly related with it. In poetry it can be considered as the most important part of stylistic analysis through which the analysis is done. In foregrounding the concern is about the way something is saying rather than to concern on what is being said. The use of meter differentiates poetry from everyday speech and from prose. The use of metaphors, alliteration and other devices is the source of attention for the poetry.

According to Znamenskaya (2004) the stylistic device that includes tropes, schemes and other of syntactical expressive means is called Figures of speech. Figure of speech is used to analyse the words in terms of their aesthetic point of view on how to distinguish deviation. The most important element in foregrounding is the use of figurative language by the poet. Figure language is defined as the use of word or phrase that has different literal meanings. It is used to make the work more dramatic and more interesting for the readers by ignoring the literal language. Figurative language is expressed through different ways. Most important examples of figurative language are metaphors, smiles, personification and hyperbole.

A literary device that is used for a comparison between two unlike things, is called metaphor. Metaphors can be used in linking the unknown to the known by explaining the concepts and ideas. According to Glucksberg (2001) a figure of speech there is a transfer of an object or action that is different from literally applicable meaning from a name or descriptive words. A process of transfer or to give a thing name that is associated with something else. It is also a representative of some other thing. It is associated with the object that is literally not belonged to it. Metaphor is a device of directly relating two different things without using word “like” or “as”.

In simple words we can define simile as relating two things by using word “like” or “as”. According to the concept of Willis (1969) it is an indication of comparison between two things by making conjunction like, as, then or verb resemble. A significant resemblance is shown by using simile by

comparing two things that are initially different. By using the term simile in a literary work, a clear and specific meaning is conveyed indirectly. Often, we confuse with the use of metaphors and similes but the major difference between them is that metaphors are used without using word “like” or “as” while simile is the use of word “like” or “as” to compare two things.

According to Kovecses, (2002) the non-human entities are given the human qualities. Human characteristics are given to a thing or an abstract term in personification. In personification non-human world is dramatized in human terms. There are human traits given to the non-human things like plants, animal, object and etc. (Perrine, 1969). Personification is a process of giving attribute to lifeless objects by giving them human properties (Znamenskaya, 2004). In this the reader is asked to visualize the literal term in human form by the authors. With the non-human topic reader can imagine the human quality with non-human quality. Personification helps the reader to his or her mind.

Different Levels of Stylistic Analysis

Stylistic Analysis of the text is done by going through different level. By going through these different levels this research will be done. Before proceedings towards the stylistic analysis of the selected short story *The Overcoat* (1842) firstly there is a detailed description of these levels so that the reader as well as the future researcher can understand the way of doing stylistic analysis. Stylistics has so many branches but the most important and basic thing that we should keep in mind when doing stylistic analysis of any text is the level of style that through which level the analysis is being

done. Mostly five levels are followed while doing stylistics analysis of the text that are used by many researchers earlier in their research and in completion of the stylistic analysis. Khan & Jabeen (2015) have used the basic five levels in their research that are used to represent the themes of the poems used by the poets. There are many branches we have to know relating with stylistic. But the basic thing which mostly involves in stylistics is the level of style. For Khan, et al. (2014) the division of stylistics level includes: graphology, phonology, grammar, and also lexis. Their research contained several mentioning words which used four levels above and related them with the theme of the poem as their object of the study. The similar division also had already used by Khan & Jabeen (2015) study by mentioning five levels in their research work. These five levels aimed to represent stylistics analysis toward five themes of poem in the analysis. Moving out from the journals, there were Leech & Short (2007) who became the prominent stylistics division and according to Simpson (2004) the level of stylistics is categorized as under:

a) Phonetic level

Phonetic level is the study of characteristics and potential utility of sounds that also examines the sounds. It is basically referred as a study of physical properties of speech.

b) Phonological level

Phonological level deals with the formal rules of pronunciation of a given language. Phonological level is a fundamental system to comprise the language, like its morphology, syntax and its vocabulary. In this level sound pattern, utterance of different words is focused. Furthermore, in this level in text there is a discussion on

forming systemic use of sound in language for sake of knowing about the meaning and ideas. In phonological devices alliteration, repetition, consonance, assonance etc are included.

c) Graphological level

Graphological level is basically the formulized rules of spellings. For example, the use of spacing, capitalization, punctuation etc. It is also called the study of hand writing. Through this kind of writing, we learn more about somebody's character. Commas, contracted forms, full stops and question marks etc. are included in it.

d) Grammatical level

Syntactic and morphological levels are discussed in grammatical level. Function of sentences in sequences and the internal structure of sentences is analysed in this level. In writing the use of grammar, parts of speech, clauses and phrases are discussed in the grammatical level of stylistic analysis. Through this level we find out the information about what was done in the past.

e) The Lexical Level

In a piece of text, it deals with different linguistic contexts, the individual words and idioms. In linguistics contexts this level deals with the information about individual words and idioms.

Elements in Stylistic Analysis

There are some elements in stylistic analysis that are discussed briefly so that by going through the different level we can understand the meanings of stylistic analysis. It will help the future researcher to understand the meanings of stylistic analysis and how the stylistic analysis can be completed in a short time by adopting the

accurate information. In this research paper the researcher has tried to give the complete details of the all levels of stylistics so that the students and the researchers who want to do their research on stylistic analysis they can find each and everything of their requirement in a single paper.

Graphological Devices

It is related with the pronunciation and the arrangements of the words. In this level of stylistics, the technique of handwriting or the style of authors can easily be analysed and understood. It has different elements through which we get the further idea about the writing skills and the writing style of the author/writer/poet. It deals with the concept of Punctuation and Paragraphing etc.

a) Punctuation

The sentences and phrases are divided by using punctuation in a written work. The use of hyphen, comma, sign of exclamation, colon, quotation marks, semi colon, brackets etc. is called punctuation. These are all the terms of language that make the writings more effective and easily understandable for the readers. By using these the real purpose of speaking can be observed. These are used in such a way that the readers realizes that same event is happening in front of them. As the words are speaking by themselves to give their own meanings to the readers.

b) Paragraphing

Part of text that consists of some information in a several lines or sentences separately is called Paragraph. On a new line we start the paragraph. In any literary or non-literary work paragraphing plays very important role. Through the technique of paragraphing the author/writer can easily convey his different ideas without giving any extra

headings. From the new paragraph he/she can start his new discussion without giving any unnecessary heading on the text.

Phonological Devices

It is related with the phonology of the text means the sounds of the text is studied in this level of stylistics. In phonological level of stylistics, the most importantly Rhyme elements are discussed that how words are arranged in the literature and what is the purpose of using different rhymes in the text. In this level of stylistic analysis, we study different literary techniques which are quite common while studying language in literature. The most important one is Alliteration which is the repetition of the same word in the start of those words who are closed to each other and then we study the consonance which carries the repeating final consonants but before the ending consonants there is a vowel. Then we have Assonance and Onomatopoeia.

a) Rhyme Elements

In poetry the stressed pattern and the rhyming scheme is followed that is called the pattern of rhymes. The importance of the words and their meanings is shown by using different pattern of rhymes.

b) Alliteration

Alliteration is a use of letters or sounds that are same in nature in the starting of closed words. Old English poetry contains the Alliteration systematically but in modern poetry the use of Alliteration is only for particular effect. Alliteration is used in starting of the words with the same sound in a repeated way. Through the repetition of sound with a starting consonant the musical effect is created to make the writing more effective and attractive for the readers.

These terms have their own significance in writing. Also, it shows the writing style of the author/writer and signifies the nature of the text.

c) Consonance

In this element there is a repetition of the final consonants of a half rhyme with different preceding vowels.

d) Assonance

Two closed syllables in words have same consonants but different vowels or have same vowel sound proceed with different consonants create an effect that is called Assonance.

e) Onomatopoeia

It is effect produced when a word describes similar sounds of the objects that is being discussed in the text. It creates the sense of hearing and the reader can easily understand the story or poem, for example "murmuring of innumerable bees".

Morphological Devices

a) Affixes

Before some words morphemes is added to form news words, this process is called Affixes. Affixes are divided into further two popular types of morphological operations that are prefixes and suffixes. As we know that prefixes are used in the start of the word while suffixes carry word before it. Prefixes are used to change the meanings of the words while the part of speech is changed by using suffixes.

b) Coinages

It is the process of inventing a new word or phrase in writing. In fact, it is the process of inventing a new word for the comfort and

the use of the others. It is also referred as production of coins after working hard on metal. It means it is a result of gaining something fruitful after labouring on something for a short or long time period.

Lexico-Syntactic Devices

a) Anastrophe

Anastrophe is a device through which the reversal of the natural or usual word order is done. It is used to bring attention for a specific concept used in the text.

b) Parenthesis

Extra information is added in a text after though or a comment in the form of some verbal unit that creates interruption in the sentence to the original syntactical flow is called Parenthesis.

c) Ellipsis

To create emphasis or ambiguity in the text Ellipsis is used. Means it is a source of focusing on something or it create ambiguity which is the mix-up of certainty and uncertainty. In it some sentence is left incomplete in such a way that it provides the complete sense. Ellipses are consisting on three dots.

d) Asyndeton

In a sentence a hurried rhythm is produced. Between a series of related clauses there is the deliberate omission of conjunction, this process is called Asyndeton.

e) Anaphora

The already used word in a sentence is referred or replaced with the Anaphora.

f) Epizeuxis

Without any kind of break the process of repeating a word or phrase is called Epizeuxis.

Research Methodology

Research methodology is a detail discussion about data collection and the analysis of the selected data which is in the form of a short story titled as *The Overcoat* (1842) by Nikolai Gogol. It provides the information about, research methodology and theoretical framework that are two major aspects of an authentic research. With reference to theoretical discussion on selected poems this section provides information to the reader that how the research is collected to analyse the data. For analysing the data related to the selected topic the accurate and appropriate information is too much supported for the researcher and the researcher can do accurate and authentic research. Research methodology deals with the procedure and approach towards the research, while to provide justification and to prove the arguments on the given research theoretical framework used. The research is based on the concept of Leech and Short (2007) for the stylistic analysis of the text by going through its different levels. It is qualitative in nature as the story is analysed through stylistics.

It is analytical because the researcher has used the qualitative approach. We get different natures of research on one stage by using qualitative approach from different point of views. To select the perception and interpretation of different people about different thoughts, attitudes and believes qualitative approach stresses on different methods.

Method for Analysing Primary Text

According to the nature of the research many methods can be used but it is very necessary to select proper method for analysing the specific text. Selected chunks and portions of the story have been discussed while proceeding the research because the research is purely about the stylistic analysis of selected short story so the main focus is to go through the style used by the author to present his idea. Stylistic analysis focuses on the stylistics aspects of the story and which is well suited and applicable for analysing the short story *The Overcoat* (1842) by Nikolai Gogol. To make the short story significant and meaningful different stylistics elements have been discussed in the research. The research has been completed with proper interpretation and discussion about the stylistics elements and the terms used by the poets by doing close stylistic analysis. The readers can easily get the idea of style used by the author by going through the terms discussed in the process of doing research. The stylistic analysis plays an important role to provide the proper and actual interpretation of the writing style of the author to get through the research and the approach of the author. Sometimes the facts and aspects are not easy and understandable for the readers so the stylistic analysis helps them out to understand the purpose and the intention of the author behind their writings and readers get the hidden ideologies and the meanings used by the author. The purpose of the researcher is to discover and explore the hidden meanings and intentions of the author through his/her writing style. This method plays vital role by dividing the analysis in different levels and different elements to explore writing style. This method involves very close reading of the

style of the writer to understand his intension. With the stand point, opinions, justification of arguments, explanations, interpretation and discussion are focused through the researcher's thoughts. The stylistic analysis has different levels for analysing the required data but in this research the analysis is done through Graphological and Phonological level of stylistic analysis. By going through these levels, we do the stylistic analysis of the author. In stylistic analysis ideas and details are put together side by side to provide authentic information based on exact language used by the author.

Theoretical Framework

Interlinked theories are absorbed in theoretical framework hence it is very important part of research. It is the establishment used for the building of entire information either in the form of allegory or truth for doing research is called Theoretical framework. To complete the whole work theoretical framework is served as a representative. Theoretical framework is a model on which the whole plan depends and the researcher is motivated to research the topic in a proper way. The reader feels easy to experience the stylistic approach of the author and observes it through the eye of researcher. In the research work researcher required characteristics to perform his research effectively. Theoretical framework to identify theoretical framework to examine research. It is considered as the main part for the research which cannot be avoided. The research is being done through close reading the text of the story, lines of the text and focusing on the style used by the author. In stylistic analysis of the story different levels of stylistics have been adopted. Firstly, the methodology of analysing the data is

described. Then before proceedings towards the stylistic analysis there is a brief introduction of the author and the detail of the story. Then the summary of the story has been written to understand its central idea and to make understand for the readers about the plot of the story. After that simply the analysis of text has been done. In analysis of the story the detail about the story has been discussed to understand the purpose of writing the story. Then the real stylistics analysis of the story has been done by going through the Graphological and Phonological level to analyse the given data and has been observed. Where in each level the further stylistics elements have been discussed that is purely about doing of stylistics analysis. The study is dealing with the stylistic analysis of selected poems and is related to qualitative research and the purpose of doing this research is concern with the analysis by adopting two levels of stylistics. Different stylistics tools and the elements have been used in this research to examine the language and words used by the author. The utilization of the language and words is completely discussed thoroughly in this research. While proceeding with the stylistics level the researcher has analysed the data only by going through the level of Graphology and Phonology. In Graphology further figures of speech have also been discussed to understand the words used by the poets and their intensions to write the poem. And in Phonological level the techniques of Alliteration; Consonance and Assonance have been discussed to analyse the data properly. Further, the researcher has discussed the term Personification, Metaphors, Simile and the most important one is the figure of speech which shows the discriminative writing style of the writer.

Introduction of *The Overcoat*

This short story is written by a Russian author named Nikolai Gogol and it was published in the year 1842. Both the author and the story have a great influence in the history of Russian Literature. This story is considered as the greatest Russian story ever written. The story is written in third person narration and the setting of the entire story is in St. Petersburg, Russia. The story is about human sympathy and to help others. It is also a satire on bureaucracy.

The Overcoat word is a symbol of security and protection. One can take it in dual meanings the first one is that it is about overcoat which a person wears over his clothes to protect himself from the cold weather and secondly, we can also say that overcoat means to hide someone's or something's reality. By putting overcoat on anything or anyone we are showing the things which is not in a real sense but the reality is something else.

This story is about a life story of a person Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin who is working on a low scale as a copyist and a clerk in the capital of Russia, St. Petersburg. This story was published in the year of 1842. The name of the department where he used to work is unnamed due to the restrictions for writings. This story is about the behaviour of the society with a man of low rank who faced lots of difficulties in his life even though he was much committed with his work but he could not led a luxury life and faced criticism from the people. But instead of listening others and taking cares of others he remained in his own created world and was much concerned about his present job. But suddenly he experienced an event related to his overcoat when tailor

suggested him to buy new overcoat. He started to think about getting new overcoat and for that he planned to save money. Means he changed his attentions from work towards a new task of buying a new overcoat. And after some sort of struggle he managed to buy new overcoat. For buying new overcoat he throw a party to his coworker on their demand, since in starting he was agreed but on party he was not satisfied and somehow he managed to escape from the party. While going back to home he encountered with robbers who beaten him badly and also snatched his overcoat. He took this incident very seriously and it resulted in the form of the death of Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin the protagonist of the story. After some time period of his death people observed that someone was stealing overcoats from people and then they come to the knowledge about the ghost of Akaky who was involved in snatching overcoats especially when he snatched the overcoat from a general who one had refused to help him while he was in a problem.

Analysis of *The Overcoat*

The story is of great importance as it shows from its title about which we have already discussed. The story is stirring our society. Gogol has tried to depict the behavior of the people towards the lowest class. Everything presented in the story has its own importance. The name of the main character Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin has a sir name Bashmachkin which means a shoes which is a representation of the thoughts of the people. His mother has given him this name as she though he deserved only this name and the status. Here we can say that the concept of dehumanization has discussed that humans are giving so low value. The

story is about the sympathetic condition of a person and it is also criticizing the bureaucracy by depicting the real face of the society as a person is doing a job with its full devotion who has no care about eating and drinking but he is fully paying attention to his work but when he had to buy a new overcoat he had to think for a while because his financial condition was not so good and to buy new overcoat he had to face a starvation. That's shows the cruel behavior of the society that despite working with full devotion and honesty a person is not financially strong enough that he could make himself save form external disasters.

To analyse the character of Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin, we see the life of a common man whose life revolves around the thinking of livelihood. He is more concerned about getting bread than to live a luxury life because of the lack of resources. He was spending so miserable life that we see that despite working with full devotion he was not able to have One hundred and fifty rubbles to by new overcoat. And even when Petrovitch offered him to bring only eighty rubbles, he was not able to manage them. And he wandered about from where he would manage that amount. In a time of difficulty, he was not supported by his co-worker nor by the influential person from whom he was expected much. But when he brought new overcoat, his co-worker demanded for a party it shows the real picture of the society that in a time of difficulty no one stands with you but when in a time of comfort everyone tries to approach you.

We can see the positive approach by our main character who decided to manage amount even he had to live in a more miserable condition. And one more thing I

got from the text is the source of comfort for him was a little issue which was of no importance for the higher society. He considered the day as a happiest day in his life when he bought a new overcoat. This shows that how miserable life he was spending that he felt so much happiness over a little matter. But the next event we experience in a story shows that a happiness not remains for a longer period but only for a short time as his overcoat was snatched by the robbers while he was on the way back to his home after getting tired from the party.

Not only the robbers snatched his overcoat but also, they beaten him so badly that he could not survive and with the grief of losing his overcoat that he bought after a long struggle and the pain cause by the injuries he died very soon. Then in the story we see a new turn take by the author he introduced the ghost of the Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin who was stealing coats from different persons whom he was unhappy.

Stylistic Analysis of *The Overcoat*

Graphological Level.

a) Foregrounding

For creating prominence and to give the importance to the literary works foregrounding is done. By doing foregrounding we see that the title of the story and authors' name is written in bold letters. The story is narrated by a third person narrator who is criticizing on the corrupt system of the society but he is not willing to show himself on front. The setting of the story is in St. Petersburg.

b) Personification

As we already discussed that it is the literary technique used by the different authors/writer and the poets to give human traits to the non-human things to give more importance to the described things. By using such kind of things, the author has narrated the real situation of the society. The element of personification used in the short story is of great importance because the thing which he personified in the short story is nothing else but *The Overcoat* (1842) itself as he has described it as his "Pleasant Life's Companion", about which thinking was his pleasant feelings and he was much comfortable with this. Here we can say that author has tried to give a comfort in a time of sorrow by personifying overcoat as a "Pleasant Life's Companion" which shows a source of pleasant for the main character of the story. And we can also say that for some people there are some minor events which are not much interested for many people but the same events are worth-mentioning for someone. And we have also a message here that we should find pleasure and happiness in a little matter instead of finding the largest ones.

c) Paragraphing

This story has total 26 parts (paragraphs). every paragraph is linked with the paragraph came earlier than it. The entire story revolves around a life and death story of a single man who suffered from very tough circumstances and at the end of the story could not survive but his ghost appeared after his death which is a symbol of his unfulfilled desired. We can also say that it might be the illusion of those persons who was the source of disturbance and discomfort for Akaky Akakievich Bashmachkin.

Phonological Level

a) Alliteration

Repetition of initial consonant in two or more adjacent words is called Alliteration. Alliteration is used by the Nikolai Gogol to catch more attractions from the readers. There are some examples of Alliteration used in the short story *The Overcoat* (1842).

“Short-Sighted”, “Far-Fetched”, “whereat he wept”, “how he entered”, “undress uniform”, “fly had flown” “And there was something strange in the words”, “suddenly stopped short”, “bit of beef”, “never noticing their taste”, “shoulders suffered with peculiar poignancy”, “tried to traverse”, “some other scheme”, “a cloak, cloth”, “the cold winter weather”, “to make more money”, “private and personal matters”, “his spirit sank”, “winked, and worked with his lips”.

b) Consonance

In a sentence consonance has the repetition of final consonants but has different preceding vowels. Final consonants that have different preceding vowels are considered as consonance. Within a sentence or phrase consonants produced the repetitive sound that is called Consonance. With the following examples the use of consonance by Nikolai Gogol can clearly understand the purpose of using these literary terms.

c) Assonance

Repetition of same vowel sound of words in linking related that create musical colour is called Assonance. It is in real a source of creating a musical sound in writing prose or poetry. Here are some common examples of Assonance used by the author in the short

story *The Overcoat* (1842) “Akakiy Akakievitch”,

d) Repetition

Repetition is used to create more attraction towards the short story and is source for giving more importance to some word or something. The examples of repetition used in the short story are as under:-

“He was always to be seen in the same place, the same attitude, the same occupation”.

“In these moving words, other words resounded”

Figure of Speech

a) Metaphors

It is referred as throughout the story we see different Metaphors used by the author to make more effective his writing. In the very first part of the story, we have an example of staircase of Petrovitch home are “dressed” we can say that staircase is metaphorically dressed as the word dressed is mostly referred toward the putting of clothes to someone or something. So, it is the example of metaphor used in the story. Then we see an example where the author discussed about the present condition of Russia by using metaphor. “Russia is infected with imitation”, infection in real is a term used in medical language where something or someone is under the effect of any disease and precautions or treatment is required for rehabilitation.

b) Simile

In story under consideration has lots of examples of simile at different points. In the very starting point of the story, we see the example of simile when narrator is discussing about the neck of Akakiy the

protagonist of the story. His neck has a very low and narrow collar around him showing its similarity with peddler's plaster kittens. By using this simile author has tried to depict the class status of Akaky. Through the use of such kind of literary techniques Nikolai has tried to highlight the real picture of the society and their class consciousness. Besides this there are also some most important examples used in the short stories as under:

“But he worked, as his companions, the wits, put it, like a horse in a mill”

Here is the description of the nature of work done by Akaky who was so much indulged and committed to his work that author has regarded him as a horse working in any mill who has no care about anything happening around him but his complete concern is with his working. He could work for long time without eating and drinking and the same was the case with Akaky who was busy in his work so much as for him nothing was more important than his work until the idea of buying new overcoat for him.

Here are some more important similes used in the short story *The Overcoat*.

“With his legs tucked under him like a Turkish pasha”.

“Who flew past like a flash of lightning”.

“He glanced back and, on both sides, it was like a sea about him”.

“His cloak-collar like a sail”.

“The official's face was white as snow, and looked just like a corpse's”

“Flew on like an arrow”

Conclusion

To conclude the current research, it is analysed through *The Overcoat* (1842) that it is about the life of a man in Russian society. And through different literary techniques author has tried to highlight the issues of the society faced by the working class in the hand of upper class or rolling class. In this story we find effective use of words by author is much important for creation of meanings. For understanding the purpose and the intention of author the choice of words in his writing plays significant role. The sum of the research is that the writing style used by the author is a source to display the personality of the poet and to define the literature is used to differentiate between poetic and non-poetic language. We have found the proper use of alliteration, repetition, simile, metaphor and personification to create effective and attractive sound. From these techniques it is evident that author has directly criticized on the life of a working class in Russian society. The manipulation of the language by the author is in such a way that differentiates itself from the ordinary language. In performing the present research, the nature of the story is characterized in such a way that it can be helpful for understanding the significance of the plot. The stylistic analysis can be effectively completed by using the above discussed levels of stylistic analysis. In Literature review I have completely described all levels of stylistic so that the future researcher and the students of literature may also get the idea of rest of the levels and they can do research on the remaining levels if they want to which could make their research more effective.

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