

## Stylistic Analysis of Daud Kamal's Poem *Reproductions*

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### Abstract

*The current research work is focused on the stylistic analysis of DaudKamal's poem "Reproductions". The present study will shed light on the phonological, semantic, structural, grammatical and several stylistic devices which are used in the given poem. Furthermore, the paper investigates the selected poem by employing linguistic tools with the aim to make their meaning explicit. Stylistics is a scientific discipline, and it is quite beneficial to both the teachers and students of English language and literature. Native speakers of English as well as foreign students can benefit from the field of stylistics. It provides both linguistic and literary insight and knowledge.*

**Keywords:** stylistic analysis, Daud Kamal, linguistics, phonological level, semantic level,

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Style

The word 'style' comes from the Latin word 'stilus'. It can be generally described as 'a way of presenting oneself to the world. It is a manner of doing things. Leech & Short (2007) defines 'style' as 'the way of which language is used in a given context, by a given person, for a given person and so on' (p. 9) and 'the linguistic characteristics of a particular text'. (Leech & Short 2007, p. 11).

### 1.2 Stylistics

Stylistics is a branch of linguistics. It is concerned with the style and with the analysis of style of anything written or speech. It thoroughly discusses how words or languages are employed in written material. Stylistic analysis is based upon

facts and is very objective case of the study — theories which originate in language usually help in developing an objective approaches and methods of analysis, investigation, and interpretation by especially focusing on the literature entity independent of a writer's intents (Kumar, 1987, p. 40). The function of the stylistic analysis is to analyse that how words are used which express thoughts and emotions and its impact when we read it. Stylistic Analysis clarifies the poem under study 'Reproductions' is written by a renowned Pakistani poet Daud Kamal. Various linguistic tools will be employed for its stylistic analysis.

Before the analysis of the given poem, it is necessary for a researcher to know about the different tools and deviations which are used in the actual analysis of a given poem.

**Lexical Deviation:** The use of words in a specific manner which is different from its common usage for example by giving words an extensive value to express and give meaning.

**Semantic Deviation:** It is a deviation, which gives an astonishing meaning to simple words. Occasionally the life of a poet can also affect the meaning of a word.

**Phonological Deviation:** The phonological deviation concerns itself with the sounds which an author creates on purpose to produce music with consideration to rhyme.

**Morphological Deviation:** the deviation in the formation of words is known as morphological deviation.

**Grammatical Deviation:** Poets do not care about grammar and they deliberately violate the rules of grammar to produce certain effects. Such type of deviation is called grammatical deviation.

**Graph logical deviation:** Neglecting the rules related to punctuation like the use of capital letters instead of small etc etc.

**Historical Deviation:** The use of archaic and obsolete words which are normally not used in daily language and such words are used in order to enhance the aesthetic value of a given poetry.

The poem under consideration will be analyzed under all these mentioned tools, which will be highlighted and expressed through their effects. The researcher will focus the semantic, phonological and graphological deviation.

### 1.3 Biography of the Poet

Daud Kamal was born in 1935 in the city of Abbotabad. He received his early education from Burn Hall and then he went to University of Peshawar for Bachelor of Arts. He graduated with a distinction and then he went to Cambridge University for the completion of Tripos. Afterwards he returned to Pakistan and started teaching at

University of Peshawar. His poetic career started in his early twenties. His themes varies and he uses symbols and there is abundant imagery in his poetry. A literary critic Carlo Coppola (1998) highly praises Daud Kamal's poetry and states that "Daud Kamal's poetry is like a primordial scripture of a people betrayed not only by kings and priests but by weather, geography, history, foreigners, and most treacherously by each other". Various historical reference can be easily found in his poetry. Daud Kamal wrote three books of poetry. *Recognitions* in 1979, his second book was *A Remote Beginning* which was published in 1985 and 'A Selection of Verse'.

During his lifetime, Daud Kamal won three Gold Medals in the international poetry competitions in the United States, the Faiz Award in 1987, and a Pride of Performance award in 1990 posthumously. Daud Kamal died on December 5, 1987.

## 2. Research Questions:

How various stylistic devices function in "Reproductions"?

How to stylistically analyze the poem at semantic, morphological, and semantic level?

## 3. Research Objectives:

To explore and investigate the style and structure of the poem *Reproductions*.

To understand the poem on semantic, lexical, semantic, and morphological levels

### 1.4 Literature Review

Emanin her research article *A Stylistic Analysis of Two Selected Poems (2014)* does the analysis of E.E Cummings's poem "maggie and milly and molly and may" and Heaney's Seamus "A Kite for Aibhín" from the stylistics' point of view. She analysed the poem to find meanings explicitly in the

poem using different linguistic tools, to understand the meaning and its interpretation.

***Stylistic Analysis of the Poem “O Where are you Going” by W. H. Auden (2014)*** is research paper by Humalqbal, Sadafqbal and Aqsa Kanwal. The researchers applied various linguistics tools to explore and investigate the literal and hidden meanings of the poem for better understanding of the poem and concluded that Auden uses unique imagery to present picturesque scenarios for audience to comprehend and enjoy.

***Exploring the Language of Poems: A Stylistic Study (2010)*** is a research paper conducted by **TIMUÇİN** in which in researcher discusses various aspects that how important is the role of stylistics when discussing a literary text. Stylistic approach not only enhances the ability to understand such a literary text but also its importance for language-based approach for foreigners, which enables them to understand the targeted language.

Stylistics is the branch of linguistics in which we study about the style in text. As we know style replicates the mind, thoughts, and ideas of a person. It shows the way a person speaks and writes and communicates. Through stylistics we can trace the meaning and the message the writer tries to convey to his readers.

The recent development of linguistics into an independent discipline and its role in the study of literature opened new ways in the field of literary criticism. It is the beauty of stylistic that it makes a bridge between literature and linguistics. In stylistic analysis we use linguistics terms and tools to interpret literature. The purpose of this analysis is to introduce stylistics tools and the practical application of those tools in poetry analysis. According to Goodman (1967) in stylistics analysis, the readers get the important position. It is the reader who traces

meanings and gives importance to some text. Fowler considers literature as a social discourse due to the readers' interaction with the text. It means that the readers show a sort of reaction when they come across with the text. In simple words that the readers communicate with literature in their interaction. This view is further supported by Widdowson (1975). According to him when we read literary text we interact with the author.

The term individual style, however, refers to that part of linguistics which deals with the writer's individual choice of using language means to achieve desirable effect according to Sachkova (2012). These stylistic devices or expressive means include alliteration (repetition of similar consonants sounds), onomatopoeia (sound words), rhyme (repetition of similar sounding words at the end of the lines), metaphor (transference of meaning based on resemblance) to name a few. These stylistic devices make a writer's work recognizable as they are used specially for foregrounding purposes.

Stylistics is objective in its nature and takes insights from the field of linguistics and employs useful terminology, which enables stylistics to make our interpretation valid. Furthermore, it enhances our ability to enjoy literature. Stylistics has now become a compulsory portion of contemporary criticism, so it is impossible for a serious student to ignore it. For this reason alone, critics do not separate it from a wider theory of literature. Every writer creates different scenarios and situations through which s/he delivers a moral lesson and this purpose of moral teaching cannot be completely detached from style which is its means and its fine texture. The linguistic and literary patterns fuse as color and compositions in a painting (Carter & Stockwell, 2008, p. 44)

Stylistics is the study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation, and it links literary criticism and linguistics together. Widdowson(1975) states that stylistics objectively analyze the language of a given text and tries to develop and create objective approaches and methods of analysis and interpretation by concentrating on the literature entity, which is free of the intention of the writer. (Kumar 1987, p. 40). Bradford (1997) warns that this topic is quite slippery and elusive as it contributes to the vast, diverse, and multifaceted discipline of literary studies. According to Bradford (1997), stylistics focuses on style and a writer's fabrication of situations and resulting moral evaluation are embedded within the style which cannot be ignored. Carter and Stockwell (2008) opine that style is how can readers understand a given text. This may influence the features related to stylistics, which is a part of linguistics (p. 44). (Wales 1989) states that stylistic analysis is a type of analytical research that primarily studies the way social power Abuse, dominance and social inequality are enacted, reproduced, and resisted by the text and the talk in the social and political contexts (p. 435).

Van Dijk(1998) argues that while analyzing a poem stylistically, one must keep some important terms in mind like, **Foregrounding**, **Deviation** and **parallelism**. These are the main tools which are used in the stylistic analysis of a given poem. The deviation may be lexical, semantic, phonological, morphological, or grammatical. It is not necessary that all these deviations would be present within a poem at the same time (Leech 1969, p. 43). The core concern for a stylistician is the text of a given piece of writing, which conveys all the realities regarding a specific problem. It also takes into consideration the style of the writing of a specific writer, which is

basically the replica of the writer's mind. It tells about the attitude, mental aptitude, and taste as well.

Every individual person has unique taste for things and style for a person can have different meanings. In other words, it varies for person to person. Carter (1989), in this regard, states that style usually refers to the analysis of a text on linguistic levels. For him, there are certain levels of linguistic analysis and it is because of these levels that it can be safely stated that each text, whether oral or written, is different than the other and it is so because every genre has its unique characteristics (p. 14). Furthermore, Haynes (1989) believes that when we try to analyze style of any text, it is basically the study of distinctions (p.3). It means that we investigate what has been stated or written and discuss the intended possible meanings or what could have been written or stated. Hence style varies from person to person, and it is quite diverse in nature. Different contexts need unique ways to express the processes and scenarios, and this is the reason that we have such diversity in style.

Stylistics sustains its faith in getting knowledge by primarily empirical investigation and exploration of external phenomenon conducted by impartial inquiries. The same can be stated to expository prose, speeches delivered by politicians, all kinds of advertisements and so on. Stylistics is, in this regard, the modern form of the primeval field known as rhetoric, which concerned itself with teaching its students how to develop and build an argument properly, and the ways which focuses on an effective use of the literary terms/figures of speech and generally how to vary a speech or a piece of writing to produce maximum effect (Sebeok, 1960). The objectives of Stylistics are to uncover the ideologies and assumptions

which are hidden behind the words in a written text or oral speech.

Before the analysis of the given poem, it is necessary for a researcher to know about the different tools and deviations which are used in the actual analysis of a given poem.

### 1.5 Stylistic Analysis of the Poem:

In order to analyze a poem stylistically, various levels of stylistic are considered and used for an organized analysis of a text. These levels of stylistics can be divided into: Phonetic Level: In this level the sounds are analyzed and that how these are employed by the author.

**Phonological Level:** Lodge (2009), states that in phonology the focus is on the detailed study of

linguistic systems, specifically the way in which sound represents, differences of meaning in a language. In Phonological level the rules of pronunciation are analyzed and discussed (p. 8). Phonology is the branch of linguistics which concerns itself with the orderly organization of sounds pattern in a language. Phonology is also called phonemics because it has traditionally focused on the study of the systems of phonemes in different languages. Furthermore, it also concerns itself with linguistic analysis at different levels such as gestures, syllable, mora, onset, and rime, articulatory, gestures, articulatory features, etc. Moreover, the field of phonology also focuses on studying the equivalent organizational systems in semiotics/sign languages. The word phonology (as in the phonology of English) also refers to the phonological system (sound system) of a given language. This is one of the fundamental systems which a language is considered to comprise, like its syntax and its vocabulary. Lodge is of the view that phonology is the study of linguistic systems. Specifically, the way in

which sound represents, differences of meaning in a language. Ofuya (2007), in this regard, states that phonology focuses on the arrangement of speech sounds in English into a proper system. In other words, phonology, as a field of linguistics, primarily focuses on the sound patterns, and the rhyming scheme, and the way words are uttered (p. 14). There are certain phonological devices such as rhyme elements, alliteration, consonance, and lastly assonance.

**Graphological Level:** This level is concerned with the system of writing language. It also focuses on spellings as well. According to Leech (1969) graphology is superior to orthography greatly. Graphology is a complete package as it concerns itself with the overall writing system which include: the use of punctuation, the division of paragraphing a text, and the use of spacing (p. 39). Furthermore, Crystal and Davy (1969), in this regard state that graphology generally is the meticulous study of writing system of a language or the study of different types of handwriting i.e., orthography. In short, it concerns itself with the study of formalized principles and rules of any given language and the way it operates (p. 18). Additionally, Alabi (2007) opines that (p. 170) the study of graphology involves the use of ellipses, the use of contraction, hyphens, quotation marks, the use of colon and semicolon, periods, full stop, spacing, bold and gothic prints, capitalization etc. In short, the purpose of graphological study is to evaluate and analyse the structured formation, and the use of punctuation in a sentence.

**Grammatical Level (Syntactic and Morphological):** It emphasizes on both the syntactic aspect and morphological aspect. Syntactic is concerned with arrangement of words in sentence. It also examines parallelism. Morphological aspect focuses



on word structure. According to Mark and Kirsten (2005), the field of morphology concerns itself with the study of word formation or it is the field of linguistics which focuses on words and the way words are internally structured and the way they are formed. In morphological level, prefixes and suffixes are added to the root words (p. 1).

**Semantic Level:** Semantic level focuses on meaning of the words and sentences. It is a deviation, which gives an astonishing meaning to simple words. Occasionally the life of a poet can also affect the meaning of a word.

### **Text of the Poem:**

#### **Reproduction**

Reproductions  
of Mughal Miniatures  
cut out  
from last year's calendar  
and fragments  
of Gandhara sculpture  
bought for a song.

Prince Siddartha  
gone into the night  
with Channa,  
his charioteer,  
and old Tajiks  
in their tents  
drinking China tea.  
Almond-blossoms  
fall  
and a crow –  
carved out of ebony –  
pushes itself through the rain.  
I sit scraping  
the rust off my ancient coins.

### **Daud Kamal**

#### **Graphological Level:**

The poem is divided into three stanzas. Each stanza has seven lines, a septet. Each stanza begins with usual capitalization of the first letter of the opening line. The rest of the lines of each stanza begins with small letters which is unusual.

The poet has used parenthesis (-) in the last stanza: *and a crow – carved out of ebony – pushes itself through the rain*

Proper use punctuation can be seen the poem. Poet has used apostrophe, comma, full stop, parenthesis, capitalization.

#### **Lexical Level**

Every written work has words which belong to either open class or close class. Close class words have strict grammatical use, and their meaning is fixed. They can be transitional devices, or connectors such as determiners, prepositions etc. In this level both the morphological as well as syntactic levels are discussed. The morphological level is concerned with the structure of word (verb, noun, pronoun, adjective, etc.) while the syntactical level is mainly concerned with the structure of sentence. At this stage of analysis, we try to trace the grammatical deviations of the writer. The writer deviates for the sake of foregrounding which is the basic feature of stylistics analysis.

Open class words have significance as these words carry majority of meaning. Here is table which shows how the poet has used words from different classes.

**Table 1**

Analysis at Lexical Level of the Poem Reproductions

Noun/Pronoun	Adjective	Verb
Miniatures	Mughal	Cut
Calendar	Last	Bought
Fragments	Gandhara	Gone
Sculpture	Old	Drinking
Song	China	Fall
Prince Siddhartha	Ancient	Carried
Night		Pushed
Channa		Sit
Charioteer		
Tajiks		
Tents		
Tea		
Crow		
Ebony		
Rain		
I		
Rust		
Coins		

**Phonological Level**

In phonological level, different literary devices are evaluated and discussed. These devices may include assonance, alliteration, consonance, rhyming elements. This twenty-one-line poem has no rhyming scheme.

**Alliteration:**

Alliteration can be defined as the repetition of two or more consonant sounds at the beginning of each word. And in this poem, there are two examples of alliteration.

The consonant sound of *M* is repeated in the opening stanza: *Mughal Miniatures*; and then in the last stanza the sound of *S* is repeated in *Sit Scapping*.

Poets use alliteration to add musicality to the poetry and here Daud Kamal uses alliteration to its full effect as it creates harmony and adds beauty to the overall structure of the poem.

**Consonance**

Consonance can be defined as the repetition of two or more consonant sound in sentence, but these sounds not necessarily be in the beginning of a word. In this poem there are various example of consonance. Such as the sound of ‘r’ in *Reproduction*, and the sound of ‘t’ in *cut out*.

**Assonance**

Assonance refers to the repetition of vowel sounds in a sentence. This poem also has example of assonance. For example, the last line of the opening stanza has assonance *bought for a song*. The highlighted letters represent assonance.

**Morphological Level:**

Morpheme is a meaningful smallest part of language which cannot be further divided. Its study shows us that how morphemes combine to form a word. George Yule (1996) notes that “Morphology is an investigation which analyses all those basic ‘elements’ which are used in language. Those elements in the form of a linguistic message are more technically known as morphemes.”

Here are some examples of morphemes from the poem under study:

**Table 2**

Analysis at Morphological Level of the Poem Reproductions

Root	Prefix	Suffix	Free
Reproduct	Reproduct	Reproducti	Of
ion	ion	on	
Push		Miniatures	And
Drinking		Fragments	For
Tea		Coins	with

## Syntactic Level

Parallelism is one of the syntactical devices which can be applied here. The poet uses parallel structure in the first two stanzas. In the opening stanza he initially talks about *Mughal Miniatures* and then moves on to comment on *Gadhara Sculpture*. In the second stanza he reverses the structure, he initially talks about *Prince Siddhartha* and then he talks about *old Tajiks*.

## Semantic Level

In this level, the focus is on the meaning of words and sentences. It thoroughly observes that how the poet has used different terms to create certain effects. In the poem Daud Kamal uses historical references in the stanza 1 and stanza two. He talks about Mughal miniatures, which are reproduced in a calendar, it shows his longing for the past. And then he goes further back in time and explores Gandharasculpture. In the next stanza he again talks about Prince Siddhartha (who, despite being a prince, left his palace and went into wild to meditate about the mysteries of life) and then he shifts his direction towards *old Tajiks* and tells us how they are drinking China tea.

## 4. Conclusion

'Reproductions' is a poem which deals with the historical prospect and at the same time the agony of the narrator who is omniscient. The narrator initially tells us about the Mughal miniatures and Gandharasculpture. And how the crow is going after a fallen fruit in the rain while the narrator, who is an omniscient, is trying to take rust off the ancient coin.

The purpose of the analysis was to determine the nature of the poem and examine as to how the language has been used in the poem. Different linguistic tools were applied for this purpose to enhance our

understanding of the poem. Stylistic analysis helps to investigate the literary and linguistic aspect of a text. Daud Kamal is a renowned Pakistani poet who is yet to attain recognition which he deserves. It is suggested to the scholars to study and analyze his poetry as it has diverse themes, and his style is unique which needs to be discussed and analyzed for the readers.

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