Stylistic Analysis of Weeping Wisdom by Nazir Ahmed Shawl through the Lens of Leech's (1969) and Short's (1996) Models of Linguistic Deviation

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Abstract

In this research, the researchers analyze Shawl's Weeping Wisdom through the lens of linguistic deviation. This poem includes semantic and morphological contradictions. The researchers explore how the writer put all the ideas coherently to describe his feelings about the sacrifices, loss, and uncertainty that a man faces during life. The poet also describes that life is fragile and that not all desires are meant to be fulfilled. The poem's speaker beautifully reflects his views by using different figurative devices. The researchers focus on Leech's model (1969) to explore different levels of semantic types and Short's (1996) model of linguistic deviation to find out how the writer of the poem deviation.

Keywords: Stylistics, Deviation, Semantic, Morphological, Grammatical, Style, Foregrounding

Introduction

Language is one of the essential aspects of human life through which humans express their thoughts and ideas, helps in effective communication, and fosters understanding of the world in which humans interact with different species. Linguists and Psychologists have been studying language for the past two decades. Greeks first studied its complexities and how words can convey ideas and thoughts. Due to this nature of language, it attracts experts from different fields to analyze how it is used, observed, and understood by the audience. Rashid (2021) says that language can be used for many purposes. It is used for communication and achieving goals like persuading the receivers, motivating the readers, or projecting a specific ideology. It is necessary for a linguist to analyze the language of literary texts precisely to find out the writer's purpose behind using a specific style (Butrus, 2019).

Humans use language differently in their daily lives. The use of language is dependent on the context in the modern world. In literature, language is used differently than in daily life. It includes words scattered on the pages and delves into the figurative devices implied in its usage to convey meanings and thoughts effectively. It is used as an art in literature to reflect the writer's mind and experience. It evokes pleasure in the readers. Due to this, poetry holds a vital role in literature

compared to other genres. Shawl encompasses figurative devices in his poem *Weeping Wisdom* to precisely convey his thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Shawl uses various deviations for his message and theme. Due to these deviations, readers are not comprehending the poem entirely. Readers face difficulty in getting the theme of Shawl's poem. Due to this, the researcher analyzes these deviations to enhance readers' understanding, accessibility, and comprehension of Shawl's thoughts.

The Concept of Style

Leech (1969) says that "style is the manner in which something is written or spoken, serving as an identification of the individual behind the communication". It includes figurative devices implied by the writer, word choice and sentence structure used by the writer. A Latin term "elocutio" refers to the Greek style of diction and language. Leech and Short (2007) studied style in detail and said that it refers to the context and dependent on the writer that how a writer is implying it for the conveyance of message and theme.

Lang (1979) says that style is not only dependent on the language but also it encompasses features which are related to the meaning. According to Lang, texts would be different linguistically but the style used in the texts can be same or share some similarities. Abrams (1999) defines style as, "the mode of linguistic expression employed by writers or speakers". Here, Abrams refers to the aims, sentence structure, word choice and figurative devices implied by an author.

According to Hornby (1995), "style is the way of doing or presenting something". It includes rhetorical strategies, word choices, sentence structure, and use of idioms by authors. Poets use different style in order to share the feelings, thoughts, ideas and desires with the readers. A poet uses style differently in order to satisfy the readers and also to share the feelings with the readers and of the readers. Due to this, different poets are remembered and applauded for their specific use of style. Through their style, poets effect and attract the minds of the readers.

Lehman (1996) suggests that "style can be attributed to genres, individuals, periods, or languages". Different writers have different peculiar styles like Shakespeare's writing during the Renaissance and Enlightenment periods is different. He used different styles in both the periods. Languages also encompass different styles such as German language includes clarity and French language is obscure. In a

nutshell, one can say that styles includes different perspectives through which it can made effective.

The Concept of Stylistics

Verdonk (2002) states, "Stylistics includes different styles and analysis of expression in language to understand its purpose and effect." Literary discourses are examined by stylistics from a linguistics perspective (Widdowson, 1975). He states that stylistics is a middle between linguistics and literary criticism, mediating between the two disciplines and offering an interdisciplinary approach" (Widdowson, 1975). "It combines the subjective judgment of the reader with linguistics description to explore the artistic element and overall effect of the text" (Short, 1996). Stylistics focuses on language "as a means of textual explanation, as the various forms and patterns of language structures are indicative of the text's function" (Simpson, 2004). Linguistics features help in discovering the meaning of the text albeit "literary stylistics incorporates external elements like History and Philosophy" (Isodore, 2010).

How language is used through a specific style is studied in stylistics. It involves the study of language and style. "Literary stylistics focuses on the relationship between language and function performed by that language" (Leech & Short, 2007). It uses lexical, grammatical, contextual, and cohesive elements and figurative devices while analyzing a text (Isodore, 2010). The elements that deviate from the natural and frequent language use are termed marked elements, and, according to the rules, those that are used commonly are termed unmarked elements. Those who are against the rules and expected language standards are thus considered deviated (Richards, 1993 and Ghazala, 1994).

Research Questions

The researchers discuss the following questions in this research. Through this research, the researchers try to overcome the difficulty and inaccessibility of the readers to understand the writer's thoughts, feelings and message.

1. How does the use of deviation technique in *Weeping Wisdom* lead to the development of theme of the poem?
2. Why the poet deviated himself from the normal standard of language?
3. What does the poet get by using deviation technique?

Problem Statement

"Stylistics, is an interdisciplinary field encompassing linguistic and literary criticism, has gained significant importance in the present era as compared to the traditional emphasis on literary criticism alone" (Leech and Short, 2007). Language acts as a medium when something is performed. Through the use of language, poets express their feelings and desires. Linguistic deviation is done to make the writing creative while expressing thoughts and ideas. This research focuses on that how and why people are facing difficulty in understanding the linguistic deviation which plays a vital role in the expression of poets' feelings and thoughts in the form of information. In this study, answers to the questions will be provided in order to make it feasible for the readers to understand the concept of deviation easily.

Objectives of the Study

This research aims at,

1. Examining the use of deviation technique by the poet while focusing on the thoughts of poet.

2. Investigating the purpose of deviation and its types and levels.

3. Understanding the poet's theme through the technique of deviation.

Hypothesis

The research hypothesized that,

1. The important role of language in creating effective ideas.

2. Main levels of linguistic deviation, realization, form and semantic, and different types of deviation such as phonological, graphological, lexical, grammatical, and semantic deviation.

3. The poet uses the technique of deviation deliberately for the expression of his feelings and desires.

Procedure Used by the Researchers

The researchers carry out the research through the following procedure,

1. Detailed explanation of linguistic deviation from a stylistic perspective through the thorough explanation of data's realization, form and semantic level, and the phonological, graphological, lexical, grammatical types under the levels of linguistic deviation.

2. Identifying the types of deviation used by Nazir Ahmad Shawl

3. Analyzing the data through the models of Leech (1969) and Short (1996).

4. Applying the models to the poem.

5. Evaluating the results for verifying the hypothesis and answers of the questions.

6. Making conclusions on the basis of findings.

Limitation

In this research, the researchers focus on stylistics analysis of *Weeping Wisdom* by Nazir Ahmad Shawl through the lens of Leech's (1969) and Short's (1996) models of linguistic deviation. Semantics level is explained through the model of Leech and different types of linguistic deviation are explained from the perspective of Short's model. APA style 7th edition has been adopted in this study.

Literature Review

Maratab Ali, Sumera Batool, Wajid Riaz, Anila Mubarak and Rana Batool (2018) analyzed "She Being Brand" by E.E. Cummings through the lens of stylistic deviation. They find out that how deviation is implied in his poem. They focus on punctuation, use of small and capital letters, sentence structure, and word choice that help readers in understanding the poem easily. That research shares some similarities with the this research as deviation technique is focused in both. Linguistic deviation is used by E.E. Cummings and Nazir Ahmad Shawl for the expression of their feelings. Both the researches focus on these deviation technique in order to make the poems easy for comprehending for the readers.

In the poem "Adonais", Abbas (2017) conducted research on exploring different types of linguistic deviation being used by P. B. Shelley. Abbas identifies eight types of linguistic deviation in the poem such as lexical, grammatical, phonological, semantic, graphological, dialectical, register and historical periods deviations. Abbas also focuses on Leech's (1969) model and explores that some of the types of deviation explained by Leech are present in the Shelley's *Adonais*. He finds out that these deviation violate the rules of grammar but these are helpful in enhancing the poem's aesthetic value. These help the readers to comprehend the feelings and thoughts beyond the surface structure of the poem. In this research, the researcher also uses the Leech's (1969) model. The researcher also uses Mick Short's (1996) model of stylistic analysis. There is also similarity in discussing the levels of deviation as Abbas discussed six types while in this study, the researcher also focuses

on semantic, syntactic and grammatical structure.

Uzma Khalil (2016) studies linguistics deviation in E.E. Cummings's selected poems. Khalil's research titled "Linguistic Deviation are not Linguistic Blunders", focuses two of Cummings' poems to illustrate the significance of deviations in creating a poetic effect. She identifies discoursal, semantic, lexical, grammatical, phonological, graphological, and morphological levels of deviation. Both the studies share similarities in the identification of levels of deviation. The difference is only in types of deviation as this research is not focusing on all types of deviation.

Hira Ali, Ijaz Asghar Bhatti and Ali Hassan Shah (2016) also explored the stylistic analysis in "Hope is The Thing with Feathers" by Emily Dickinson. Their research focus on the identification of graphological, grammatical, phonological and lexical levels. In the poem, hope is represented as a bird metaphorically that remains faithful during hardships. Stylistic techniques and methods are used to analyze the poem. The researchers focus on deviation in order to represent the experiences of the poet. This research also meets the similarities with the present one as both are focusing deviation in different poems.

Research Methodology

According to Mick Short (1996), deviation "is a linguistic phenomenon that effect the readers' perception." Writers are using the technique of deviation in order to create the foregrounding effect. The Oxford dictionary (2022) defines deviation as "actions that deviate from established rules or accepted standards." Leech (1969) says that deviation is actually deviating from literary norms or or everyday speech. Style and stylistic variation are the focus of stylisticians while analyzing language in different works. Poetry involves different language as compared to other works as it focuses on figurative devices, semantic deviation, word choice, use of idioms and sentence structure. It allows freedom to the writers. The Prague School of Linguistics' says that "foregrounding is actually referred to in stylistics as artistically motivated deviation" (Leech and Short). Features in foregrounding are used by writers consciously or unconsciously for the expression of their feelings and thoughts. These features help the writers to convey their message easily. They can give a specific theme to their ideas by adopting these techniques.

Types of Deviation

1) Discoursal Deviation

In discourse, written or verbal, sentences are connected with each other in giving a comprehensive and organized message. It is a standard norm in discourses that a text should begin from the beginning. There are literary texts which deviate from this rule. If we analyze some poem like that of John Donne's *The Canonization*, Edward Thomas's *Adlestrop*, we can conclude that these poems begin from the middle of conversation and with an immediate response. Writers deviate in this way in order to create an effective impact of their works on the readers.

2) Semantic Deviation

It involves the relationship in meanings while focusing on the inconsistency. Meanings are paradoxical as writers take help from the use of metaphors in it. For instance, Dylan Thomas's *Light Breaks Where No Sun Shines* focuses on the use of paradoxes as it discusses light without sun, flesh with physical existence and tides without the presence of a sea. If readers want to interpret such poems, they must have a better capability of understanding imagination otherwise they will loose the theme of the poem.

3) Lexical Deviation

Lexical deviation utilizes new words or neo-logisms coined by the writers. Poets borrow or coin words to make their writing effective. These words cannot be found in the previous language. For example, *Under Milk Wood*, Dylan Thomas employs such words like "jolly roger". He uses this word to represent the pirates' skull and crossbones flag. These words create attraction in writings. Readers mind can easily be diverted through the use of lexical deviation.

4) Grammatical Deviation

Foregrounding effect is created through deviation from grammatical norms. This is done consciously by different poets. They know that the readers know the rules of grammar but they manipulate it. Robert Graves's *Flying Crooked* is the example of grammatical deviation as he consciously put conjunction "and" in noun phrase to highlight nouns separately.

5) Morphological Deviation

It involves the addition of suffixes, affixes or endings to the words that are not used in the normal use of language. For example,in E.E.Cummings' *From Spiraling*

Ecstatically This, poet adds suffix "less" to the nouns such as hopeless (hope + less), hateless (hate + less) and sunless (sun + less). The poet does it intentionally for reflecting deviation to the standard rules of grammar.

6) Phonological Deviation

It holds importance in creating effective meaning and effect in the poem. It is used to have a significant effect of the poem on readers. It focuses meanings and employs unusual pronunciation, or stress patterns in order to have different rhyming scheme. Its purpose is to convey specific thoughts and ideas by the writers. Ted Hughes' *Crow's First Lesson* "love" is capitalized to express a different pronunciation, representing God's role as an instructor.

7) Graphological Deviation

It refers to the creation of images or visual elements in poetry or texts. It is created by focusing on the breaking of sentences and capitalization of words. It does not involve to effect the meaning of the text. *Man to Man Blues'* by Michael Horovitz includes graphological deviation. Ted Hughes' *Crow's Vanity* also involves the use of this. It is also done for the purpose of attracting readers mind. If produces curiosity in readers that why this structure is employed by the writer.

8) Internal and External Deviation

External deviation includes deviations external to the text from standard norms. And internal deviation involves deviation from established norms internally in the text. It focuses on rhyming scheme such as if a poem is written in rhyming couplets but also has a couplet which does not involve rhyming. *October Dawn* by Ted Hughes involves this deviation as the last stanza of the poem deviate from the established norms. The last of this poem have rhyming scheme and the rest of the poem does not have rhyming.

Analysis and Discussion

Summary of the Poem

Nazir Ahmad Shawl in *Weeping Wisdom* is saying is words of wisdom get lost when they do not get the desired response. The image of paper boat might be a children's play but for the poet, it is the vehicle of sending his messages across. Moreover, the terrific images of words jumping into the water, committing suicide and even the vultures feeling sad about the tragic slaughter of them shows how the poet feels about

his message not being understood the way they should have been. He adds, what will be the future of those things which has come at the cost of sacrifices and have bloomed after a great loss. He concludes with the re-emphasis of his central thought that wisdom weeps when it is not apprehended and understood. It reflects that life is fragile. It also expresses the sacrifices faced in pursuit of love. The overall idea reflected in the poem is that of loss, sacrifices and uncertainty. Through figurative devices, poet expresses his thoughts, feelings and desires with the readers.

Text of the Poem

1) *Towards you I sent my paper boat*

2) *All my words boarded in it to flow*

3) *These words jumped in the water and committed suicide*

4) *On this tragedy my soul cried*

5) *The corpses of words are scattered on water*

6) *Even the vultures are saddened by this slaughter*

7) *What will happen to the flower*

8) *That I procured in my ecstatic hour*

9) *For purchasing I had mortgaged my eyes*

10) *Life moves and time flies*

11) *That was the beginning*

12) *A yearning of the heart*

13) *At times wisdom weeps when you are smart*

14) *I know not love nor its art*

Semantic Deviation

The poet through the use of semantic deviation in sentences 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 13 creates effective meaning and impact on the readers. In line 1 "*Towards you I sent my paper boat*", poet is deviated from the established norms that how paper boat is sent as it is used by children when they play. It is not literary possible for someone to sent paper boat as a carrier. Semantic oddity is employed here as paper boats are used by children during play. It expresses the poet uncertainty about message.

In line 2 "*All my words boarded in it to flow*" also reflects semantic oddity as how words will be boarding. Line 3 "*These words jumped in the water and committed*

suicide" shows semantic oddity that how words will jump and commit suicide. Here, the poet personifies the words and takes the words as humans. Line 5 "*The corpses of words are scattered on water*"is also exhibiting semantic oddity as words have no corpses. It just represents the poet feelings that he has written the words with great care but these words are lost now.

Line 9 "*For purchasing I had mortgaged my eyes*" and line 13 "*At times wisdom weeps when you are smart*" show that the poet gets these words after a lot of sacrifices but those words are not understood properly. Here contradiction is represented that the poet faces sacrifices for sending his message. The poet in the ends says that when you are not apprehended properly then you will cry.

Honest deception (hyperbole and irony), transfer of meaning (metaphors), alliterations, and personifications show that the poet expresses his thoughts in a precise and organized way. Through the incorporation of these devices, the poet's thoughts are reflected and it is also shown that the poet is in grief and he is lamenting the loss of his message which he sends for a specific purpose.

Shawl uses semantic eccentricity in line line 3 and 5. he says that words jumped into the water and committed suicide and their corpses are scattered on the water. Literally, words cannot commit suicide and have corpses. The poet intends to convey that his message is not taken properly due to which it is lost. Committing suicide here means that his thoughts are not apprehended due to which they are lost.

Semantic deviation is widely used in the poem in order to show the hopelessness of the poet. Poet expresses through his thoughts that after a lot of sacrifices and loss, his words are not understood the way they should be. He draws imagery while taking help from semantic deviation as paper boats are not used for carrying something. The employment of paper boat, boarding of words, jumping into the water and committing suicide, the weeping of wisdom, mortgaging of eyes are all beautifully drawn by the poet to show his expressions about the loss of his message.

Discoursal Deviation

Shawl also takes help from discoursal deviation. This appears in lines 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 13 and 14. He employs the concept of paper boat in line 1, boarding of words in line 2, jumping of words into the water and committing suicide in line 3, corpses of words in line 5, vultures are saddened in line 6, mortgaging of eyes in line 9, weeping wisdom

in line 13 and the loss of poet's feelings in line 14. Through the use of these concepts, the poet deviates himself from the standard rules of discourse.

The concept of paper boat and suicide of words are not used in normal discourses. These are used when a person is referring to something. But Shawl uses all these concepts in order to captivate the readers intention. He does this deliberately to produce an effective impact on the readers. He further, employs that suicide is committed by words and their corpses are scattered on water. How one can say that words can commit suicide and their corpses are scattered. As words have no physical shape and existence.

The poet then says that the vultures are saddened upon the suicide of words and wisdom is weeping. Now for instance, if something has no physical existence, how can they commit suicide. The poet is actually expressing his feelings on the loss of his message. He is not taken seriously although he tried his best. The poet expresses his feeling in the last sentence that he does not know how to convey his message again as his words are not apprehended and understood.

Morphological Deviation

The poem also reflects morphological deviation. This is present in lines 1, 2, 3, and 13. Through the use of morphological deviation, the poet expresses his feelings and desires. The poet sent his thoughts in a paper boat. He boards his words in a per boat. But those words committed suicide and their corpses are scattered on the water. Due to this, the poet says that wisdom is weeping. If the ideas of poet are analyzed, one can say that words cannot be boarded and cannot commit suicide. The poets gives a physical shape to his thoughts. But his thoughts, do not reach the destination and are lost in the middle of the journey. Therefore, the poet employs that the wisdom is weeping on this loss. The poet is actually naming his message as wisdom. His message does not reach its destination and that's why the poet is in grief.

Phonological Deviation

Shawl also takes help by deviating himself phonologically. He uses alliterations in lines 5, 6 and 10. In line 5, he says that the corpses are scattered which is a kind of alliteration. He repeats consonant sounds to have aesthetic beauty while sharing his feelings. He then says in line 6 that vultures are saddened and in line 10 says that time moves and life flies. He repeats the consonant sounds consciously to attract the

readers and also to have a poetic effect in the poem.

Rhyme and rhythm are also employed by Shawl to have metrical feet in the poem. He does this to have a poetic effect on the readers. Readers can be attracted if musicality is there. So, Shawl also employs musicality by using alliterations, rhythm and rhyme.

Register Deviation

Register deviation is also found in this poem. In line 1, "*Towards you I sent my paper boat*" and line 4, "*On this tragedy my soul cried*", Shawl uses register deviation. He deviates himself from the standard norm of sentence structure and builds sentences according to his thoughts, feelings and emotions. He focuses on emotions and feelings rather than on sentence structure. In his poem, emotions precede the normal structure of language. Due to this, his other poems also holds a love and attraction from the readers. Whenever a poet uses this structure, that poet focuses the feelings and desires. He expresses his feelings of loss, sacrifices that he gives, sufferings that he faces, fragility and uncertainty of life through register deviation.

Findings

The researcher finds through the analysis of the poem that the poet uses various forms of deviation techniques. Poet expresses his feelings and desires through the use of deviation technique. The imagery in the poem is the outcome of these deviations that the poet consciously adopts in his poem. Without deviations, it was difficult to convey his thoughts to the readers. These help the poet in developing the theme of the poem as these give coherence and organize the thoughts of the poet.

The poet deviated himself from the normal standard of language as he finds it easy to convey his message to the specific audience. By adopting this technique of deviation, the poet exaggerates his emotions and draws a beautiful picture of his feelings when the message does not reach the specific destination. Using deviation techniques, discussed in the analysis chapter, lead the to express his thoughts of sacrifices and sufferings. He adds meaning to the poem by expressing his views about fragile life and uncertainty through semantic, discoursal, morphological, phonological, and register deviation.

These techniques help the poet to develop the theme of the poem. These also enhances the readers attraction towards the thoughts of the poet. Through these

techniques, the poet shows that how normal words can be expressed in a beautiful way and can be aligned with the meanings that a writer wants to convey. Poet actually plays with the word in this poem. As using paper boat as a carrier, jumping of words into the water and committing suicide, scattering of words' corpses on the water, sadness of vultures, mortgaging of eyes, and weeping of wisdom, all lead to the development of poets feelings and desires. Feelings and desires are emphasized by the poet in this poem that's why he uses hyperbole in order to exaggerates his feelings and emotions.

Conclusion

This study examines Leech's (1996) and Mick Short's (1969) models of linguistic deviation. Both the models are applied on Nazir Ahmad Shawl's *Weeping Wisdom* and it is found out that how Shawl reflects his feelings, thoughts, desires and sacrifices through the use of linguistic deviation technique. The researcher, by applying Leech's and Short's models of stylistic analysis, focuses on semantic, discoursal, morphological, phonological and register deviation. Initially, the writer in this study explains the models of Leech and Short. On the basis of assertions, given by Leech and Shawl, the writer focuses on *Weeping Wisdom* and through a thorough examination, the deviation techniques used in it are discussed in a precise manner. The significance given by Leech's and Short's models is discussed by the writer in this research. Poem's meaning and theme holds a significant part and poets transmit various meanings. Some poets also emphasize on the expression of specific meanings. Shawl focuses on the sacrifices, loss, fragility, uncertainty and complexities of life. Stylistic analysis helps in understanding the meanings of any text. *Weeping Wisdom* is difficult to apprehend by the readers, but this analysis will help the readers to understand and comprehend Shawl's message with ease and simplicity. The writer, through applying the lens of stylistic deviation, explores the hidden meanings of the poem.

The poet adopts the deviation technique for the purpose of creating imagery, symbolism and personification in the poem. These figurative devices help the reader to understand the message clearly, once a reader is familiar with all these. These devices also lead to the confusion as these are difficult for the common readers to comprehend. The researcher analyses all these devices and discusses that how these

devices help the poet to develop the theme of the poem and also in expressing his feelings and desires. The implicit meaning is explored by the researcher by analyzing the poem through the lens of linguistic deviation. How the poet deviates himself, why he deviates himself and what is the reason of deviation from the established norms are all discussed by the researcher in this study.

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