

A Stylistic Analysis Of “The Leap” By Daud Kamal

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Abstract

Stylistic analysis reveals contextual and hidden meanings of any literary text. Therefore, the researcher focuses on this analysis in Daud Kamal's poem “The Leap”. The researcher finds out language features and establishes meaning.

There are three research problems: What are the kinds of figures of speech used in Daud Kamal's poem, what are the lexical categories indicated in Daud Kamal's poem and what are the content meanings of figurative language revealed in Daud Kamal's poem entitled “The Leap”. The researcher explores answers using a multilevel approach in the first and second research problems. Both are analyzed and based on two language levels: figures of speech and lexical categories. The third problem was answered by connecting the language features to reveal meanings of the poem.

The findings of research revealed answers to the research problem. The figures of speech included alliterations, assonances, consonances, and symbols. The lexical categories consist nouns, pronoun, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions.

The third research problem was linked to deliver the meanings that are love, nature, war and immorality of human life in the poem. From the two analysis levels, figurative language contributed the most in constructing the meanings of the poem.

Keywords: Figurative language, Multilevel approach, The Leap

1. Introduction

The term "style" is very broad. It is a word having Latin roots. It illustrates the literary text in various meanings. Actually, style is just a way to perform something. When someone writes something, their use of words reflects their writing style (Roona, Ghazanfar et al. 2022). According to Leech and Short (2007), a person's style can be determined by the language he used in a particular written text.

The macro level of language is known as stylistics. It analyzes the use of style in all literary works. It largely focuses on how language is used in writing and speaking. The fundamental purpose of stylistics is how a writer uses lexical items to convey their ideas and how these lexical elements are placed inside a text to interpret their specific meanings. The usage of language and its tone in writing are also discussed stylistically. It discusses how paralanguages affected literary work (Roona, Ghazanfar et al. 2022).

According to Perrine (1983), drama, fiction and poetry belong to literary work. Poetry is one of the interesting literary works because poetry does not always have to be read, but it can also be sung. Therefore, many writers create song lyrics which are inspired from poetry. Furthermore, it is not always easy to understand the meanings of song. The reason is that song writers use figurative language to convey the literal meaning. So, it is essential for the reader or listener to have the knowledge about figurative language.

In poetry, the poet uses figurative language to give a sense of beauty. Perrine (1983) defined figurative language as the way of saying something rather than in an ordinary way. Figurative language provides a clearer picture of what is going on in poetry and it may be utilized to convince the reader of something, or it may be utilized to

engage the reader. Figurative language includes twelve types; those are simile, personification, metaphor, apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, paradox, allegory, hyperbole, irony and understatement.

Daud Kamal was a Pakistani writer. He was born in Abbottabad in 1935. He attended Burn Hall for his education before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from Islamia College of Peshawar. Then he went to Cambridge University. After coming back to his motherland, he started his career by teaching at the University of Peshawar. He first began writing poems when he was in his twenties. In order to create a range of themes in his poems, he employed elements of symbolism and imagery. Daud Kamal published three books during his lifetime: *Recognitions* in 1979, *A Remote Beginning* in 1985, and *A Selection of Verse* in 1986. In the American international poetry competition, he was also awarded three Gold Medals. Additionally, he received a *Pride of Performance Award* in 1990 and a *Faiz Award* in 1987. He passed away on December 5, 1987.

The purpose of current study is to analyse figurative language in Daud Kamal poem "The Leap". It is based on observation of the researcher most students find difficulties while studying or reading poem. So, any difficult vocabulary in it is either explained or given special attention.

The selected poem of Daud Kamal becomes the primary source, while the secondary data source is some previous research and other references that correlate with the topic of the researcher. "The Leap" is a poem of landscape and nature. It is *A Selection of Verse*, 14 from the book "A Remote Beginning". This book was published in 1985 by Daud Kamal. "The Leap" is a free-verse poem. This poem contains nine lines. The poet himself narrates it.

The researcher used multilevel approach to analyze the poem. The researcher delimits her research by analyze the data by reading the selected poem, finding figurative language, and then identifying the most dominant figures of speech used in selected poem.

1.1 Rational problem

After the observation, the researcher concludes with a few problems. The researcher analyzed the main problem of the research. The problem is that some students find difficulty in understanding the hidden meanings and analyzing poetry.

1.2 Research Objective

To identify the figurative language used in Daud Kamal poem "The Leap".

To identify the lexical features used in the poem "The Leap".

To find out meaning of figures of speech in the poem entitled "The Leap".

1.3 Research Questions

What are the kinds of figures of speech used in Daud Kamal's poem?

What are the lexical categories indicated in Daud Kamal's poem?

What are the content meanings of figurative language revealed in Daud Kamal's poem entitled "The Leap"?

2. Literature Review

To understand any piece of literature, it is crucial to recognize the meaning of all words. If someone does not acknowledge the meaning of words then it is unfeasible to understand what it means. The meaning of the expressions or words is different from the literal meaning because it is part of stylistic analysis. Figurative language used in poetry to make lyrics that request to be investigated. It is imaginative because it contains more meanings. The ordinary forms of expression or idea are different from figure of speech. Figures of speech used to produce better outcomes related to understanding of the text. It deviated from the conventional dialect of the speakers used to realize extraordinary impact (Hidayah and Purba 2021).

Hidayah and Purba (2021) stated that figurative language imposes the reader to imagine what they want to communicate with the author. The content is easy to understand for the reader by connecting two ideas even if it was not available there. The reader faces difficulty in understanding the concept because it is abstract and complex. The most convenient way to express ideas and examine literature is stylistic analysis. It is a deviation from the conventional and standard dialect of the speaker or the arrangement of the words to realize literal meanings.

According to Perrine (1983) there are some reasons of using figurative language. For example, firstly, figurative language attracts the reader's attention. Secondly, it is a way of conveying extra symbolism into poetry, and raising the understanding of poetry. Thirdly, it is a way of showing imaginative ideas and concepts for the pleasure of

reader and conveying attitudes along with information. Lastly, it is a way of saying in brief form. Perrine, divided figurative language into twelve sorts. Those are: Simile, Personification, Metaphor, Apostrophe, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Symbol, Paradox, Allegory, Hyperbole, Irony and Understatement. Perrine further illustrated that figure of speech is widely characterized as a way of conveying something rather than the standard way. Figurative language may be utilized in various fields of study like linguistics, psychology and also in other language expertise. This research has focused on significant, unanswered problems about how individuals interpret situations like this, where the speaker's intentions and the language employed are distant in distinct ways (Colston 2020).

3. Methodology

The methods of the current study are qualitative and descriptive. The researcher chooses Leech and Short model. A multilevel approach is included in this model to analyse figurative language. The researcher chooses two levels of multilevel approach in the present research: figures of speech and Lexical categories.

The researcher's use in the present study is the multilevel approach. The researcher chooses two categories of multilevel approaches: lexical categories and figures of speech to reveal the meaning of a poem. In the lexical categories, the researcher figures out the parts of speech that occurred in the poem. In figures of speech, the researcher finds alliteration, assonance, consonance and symbol.

4. Data Analysis

The analysis of this poem is related to figurative language that covers two levels. The researcher analyzed figures of speech: alliteration, consonance, symbol, assonance and imagery. In alliteration, the researcher paid attention to the repetition of the initial consonant sound per line. Consonance is the opposite of alliteration, which is the repetition of the final consonant. Meanwhile, assonance is the repetition of a word. After that, the researcher figures out the meanings of the poem by connecting the sentences.

At the Lexical level, the researcher observes parts of speech that give particular meanings to the poem.

4.1. Analysis Results

The researcher explains the analysis of the poem "The Leap". The first analysis is about the figurative language of the poem. The second analysis is how the meanings of a poem figure out through figurative language.

4.1.1. Figurative language in poem "The Leap" by Daud Kamal

This part analyzed the figurative language use by Daud Kamal in the poem "The Leap". This analysis relies on a multilevel approach introduced in the previous chapter. The researcher analyse figures of speech and lexical categories.

4.1.1.1. Figures of Speech

The researcher finds figures of speech in the poem "The Leap". It consists of alliteration, consonance, assonance, symbol and imagery.

Firstly, the researcher analyses the alliterations in the poem. Alliteration is the repetition of consonance sounds at the beginning of adjacent words (Hashmi, Mahmood et al. 2019). In conclusion, alliteration is the repetition of the same initial sound in the same line of a stanza. Alliterations found in the poem are displayed below.

Table 4.1. Alliterations in the poem "The time to love"

No	Alliteration	Example	Meanings
1	/s/	Or <u>s</u> o the <u>s</u> torytellers <u>s</u> ay (Line 3)	The consonant sound /s/ is a voiceless alveolar fricative that gets repeated in the word "so" and "storytellers" and "say" in the third line that illustrate that storytellers say about the Alexander riding a horse leftover the Indus river and also tell about the other side of the hill in the groves of mango trees Alexander listened to a naked sadhu talking about immortality and peace.

2	/o/	And <u>o</u> n the <u>o</u> ther side (Line 4)	The forth line retains the repetition of long vowel /ɔ:/ sound in the words “on” and “other”. This recurrence deals with the situation on the other side of the hill where Alexander listened to a naked Sadhu in the groves of mango trees. He found on the other side not the ready army, not the ready soldiers, not the weaponry or any resistance but only one man who can be called a sage or a Hindu Darwish that is Sadhu. He was sitting in the groves of mango trees and singing something.
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After Alliteration, the researcher finds assonance in the poem “The Leap”. According to Bradford, assonance is the repetition of similar vowels within the individual and across the line (Bradford 2005). In conclusion, assonance is the repetition of the vowel in the same line. The assonances that the researcher found in the poem are displayed below.

Table 4.2. Assonances in the poem “The time to love”

No	Assonance	Example	Meanings
1	/e/	A <u>e</u> xander on the horse <u>e</u> back (Line 1)	The repetition of the front short vowel /e/ in the word "Alexander" and "horseback" in the first line. This opening line refers to a very famous historical conqueror that came from Europe or from Greek people and he was on the horseback. His being on the horseback is especially famous because he crossed the Indus.
2	/s/	Leapt <u>o</u> ver the Indus <u>h</u> ere (line 2)	The second line retains the repetition of the palato alveolar fricative /s/ sound “Over” and “here”. It suggests that Alexander leap over the breadth of the Indus by sitting on the back of the horse but in reality it is just a leap of imagination.
3	/n/	Of the <u>m</u> ango trees he list <u>en</u> ed (line 6)	The sixth line of the poem shows the repetition of voiced nasal /n/ sound. It illustrate about the other side of hill which is surrounded by groves of mango trees, possibly may have mangoes on them. Poet says that mangoes are sweet in taste so it shows the impression of sweetness of the Indian people. They wanted peace and security but on the other hand the invaders just wanted to fight with Indians to conquer them and to establish their rules.
4	/l/	T <u>al</u> k <u>l</u> ing of immor <u>l</u> ity (line 8)	In the eighth line, there is repetition of velar voiceless /l/ sound in the words “Talking” and “immorality”. Alexander listened to Sadhu in rapt attention. He was singing or speaking something. The Sadhu was naked altogether and he was talking about the immorality of the world. He was talking about the eternal and future life.
5	/a: /	To a <u>n</u> aked <u>S</u> adhu (line 7)	There is the repetition of the long vowel sound /a: / in the word “Naked” and “Sadhu”. It means that Alexander see a naked Sadhu singing something. The poet tells us that Alexander have not found on the other side of the hill any ready army, ready soldiers, weaponry and not any other resistance but only one man who can be called a sage or a Hindu Darwish that is Sadhu.

After Assonance, the researcher analyzed consonances in the poem “The Leap” Cuddon (2013) stated that consonance is the repetition of identical consonant sounds after dissimilar vowels. Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in multiple words at the middle and end. It is not as common as alliteration. Consonances that the researcher found in the poem “The Leap” are presented below.

Table 4.3. Consonances in the poem “The time to love”

No	Consonance	Example	Meanings
1	/e/	Leapt over <u>the</u> Indus here (line 2) And on <u>the</u> other side (line 4)	There is the repetition of the front short vowel sound /e/ in the word "the", "here" and "side" in the second and fourth line. These lines illustrate that Alexander on the horse back was very ambitious to take a big leap in order to cross the Indus river. He wanted war with the intention to conquer India but on the Indian side they were not ready for that. As Alexander found a Sadhu who gave the message of peacefulness, security and love.
2	/n/	<u>In</u> rapt attention (line 7)	In the seventh line, there is the repetition of the nasal sound /n/ the words "In" and "Attention". It shows that Alexander leaping forward in order to conquer everything of India but India resisted in his own way and tried to attract or capture the attention of Alexander toward Sadhu. He was very much wrapped in that and possibly he got some new lesson and moralizing on the part of Sadhu.

The researcher analyzed symbols in the poem. Symbolism refers to signifying ideas or qualities. It is an object, animate or inanimate, that stands something for something else (Cuddon 1999). Symbols gave deep meaning to the poem. The poem "The Leap" is presented symbolism displayed below.

Table 4.4. Symbols in the poem "The Leap"

No	Symbols	Meanings
1	<u>Alexander</u> on the horseback (Line 1) Of that hill in the <u>groves of mango trees</u> he listened (Line 5 and 6) To a <u>naked Sadhu</u> (Line 8)	The opening line of the poem "The Leap" symbolizes the image of power and bravery by using the name of Alexander. As he crossed the Indus river on the horseback which was a very difficult task. Next in fifth and sixth lines, the groves of mango trees symbolize future prosperity and impression of sweetness. Next in the second last line of that poem, the image of naked Sadhu symbolizes immorality and eternal life.

4.1.1.2. Lexical Category: -

The researcher analyses lexical items in the poem. It includes parts of speech which manipulate the scheme of words. Furthermore, the researcher analyses word used as nouns like Alexander, Indus, storyteller and hill. The researcher also utilizes adjectives to qualify the degree of nouns very easily. Prepositions, verbs and pronoun are also present. Here the researcher has drawn a table of parts of speech classified as below.

Table 4.5. Lexical items in the poem "The Leap"

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Articles	Pronoun	Conjunction	Prepositions
Alexander	Leapt	<u>Naked</u> Sadhu	The	He	And	To
Horseback	Say	<u>Rapt</u> attention	A	That		Of
Indus	Listened	<u>Groves</u> of mango trees				Over
Storyteller	Talking	<u>Other</u> side				On
Hill						So
Groves of mango trees						Or
Sadhu						In
Immorality						
Attention						
Side						

5. Results and Discussion

This chapter provided a discussion of findings in data analysis. The data analysis presented in the previous chapter has tables, allowing the researcher to identify the answers to research questions. This chapter reveals the data that was analyzed and found by the researcher. After analyzing data in the poem entitled "The Leap" by Daud Kamal, the researcher determines different types of figurative language. They are alliteration, consonance, assonance, symbol and imagery. Moreover, there are nine lines written by the poet using figurative language.

The result of the data analysis revealed the meanings of figurative language using a multilevel approach. This chapter also included a conclusion for further research.

Q 1: What are the kinds of figures of speech used in Daud Kamal's poem?

The researcher found different kinds of figures of speech. It includes alliterations, assonances, consonances, imagery and symbols.

Firstly, the researcher analyses the alliterations in the poem. Two alliterations occur in it. The alliterations are /s/ and /o/. The first alliteration is the consonant sound /s/ is a voiceless alveolar fricative. The example of alliteration /s/ can see through the words "so", "storyteller" and "say" in the third line. The second alliteration /o/ is a voiceless sound. It can be seen through the words "on" and "other" in the fourth line.

Secondly, the researcher finds assonances in the poem. Five assonances occur in it. The first assonance /e/ is a front short vowel. It can see from the words "Alexander" and "horseback" in the first line. The second assonance /ʒ/ is the palate alveolar fricative sound. In the second line, it can see through the words "over" and "here". The third assonance /n / is the voiced nasal sound. It can see from the words "mango" and "listened" in the sixth line. The fourth assonance /l/ is velar voiceless sound. It can see in eighth line from the words "talking" and "immorality". The last assonance /a:/ is long vowel sound. It reveals from the words "Naked" and "Sadhu" in the seventh line.

Thirdly, the researcher finds consonances in the poem. Two consonances occur in it. The first consonance /e/ is a front short vowel sound. In the second and fourth line, it can see through the words "The", "here" and "side". The second /n/ is a nasal sound. The researcher can see from "in" and "attention" in the seventh line.

Lastly, the researcher finds symbols in the poem. In the first line, "Alexander" is the symbol of bravery. In the fifth and sixth lines, "Groves of mango trees" symbolize peaceful future and in the eighth line, "Naked Sadhu" shows the immorality.

Q 2: What are the lexical categories indicated in Daud Kamal's poem?

The researcher focuses on the lexical categories. It includes parts of speech that consist of nouns, pronoun, verbs, adjectives, articles, conjunction and prepositions.

Firstly, the researcher analyses the most frequently used parts of speech, such as nouns. It is the name of a person, place or thing. The current research mainly focuses on three types of nouns. Abstract nouns are those nouns that include ideas, feelings and emotions. For example, immorality, attention. Common nouns refer to the common thing, place or person. Example includes storyteller, hill, and side. Proper noun refers to name of proper place, person or thing. For example, Alexander, Indus, Horseback and Sadhu. Collective nouns are those nouns that show collections of a group of people or things, such as groves of mango trees.

Secondly, the researcher finds verbs which show action. It consists of leapt, say, listened, talking.

Thirdly, the researcher draws an adjective that refers to the quality of a noun or pronoun. It includes naked Sadhu, Rapt attention, Groves of mango trees and other side.

Fourthly, Articles are words that refer a noun as specific or unspecific. It consists on "the" and "a". Fifthly, the researcher analyzes pronouns which are used in place of noun. It includes "He" and "That". Sixthly, there is only one conjunction used in this poem that is "And". Conjunctions are words that use to join more than one nouns or sentences.

Lastly, the researcher analyses preposition that refers to linking words. It consists of to, of, over, on and so, or, in.

Q 3: What are the content meanings of figurative language revealed in Daud Kamal's poem entitled "The Leap"?

Daud kamal wrote the poem uniquely and formed the meanings behind them. The researcher finds meaning by connecting the language features analyses in the previous chapter.

The poem "The Leap" is about bravery, sweetness of future, war, eternity and immorality of human life. Figurative language uses to reveal the meanings of the poem. It covers two levels.

Firstly the researcher reveals the meanings of figures of speech. It includes alliterations, assonances, consonances and symbols and second lexical analysis also reveals meanings. Kamal uses them to emphasis words which concern the meaning of the poem.

Firstly researcher finds alliterations in the poem. Alliteration occurs in the words like "so" and "storytellers" and "say" in the third line that illustrate that storytellers say about the Alexander riding a horse leftover the Indus river and also tell about the other side of the hill in the groves of mango trees Alexander listened to a naked sadhu talking about immorality and peace. Researcher finds second alliteration in the words "on" and "other". This recurrence deals with the situation on the other side of the hill where Alexander listened to a naked Sadhu in the groves of mango trees. He found on the other side not the ready army, not the ready soldiers, not the weaponry or any resistance but only one man who can be called a sage or a Hindu Darwish that is Sadhu. He was sitting in the groves of mango trees and singing something.

Second figure of speech is assonances to understand the meanings of the poem. Researcher finds five assonances in the poem. The meanings reveal from the words "Alexander" and "horseback" in the first line. This opening line refers to a very famous historical conqueror that came from Europe or from Greek people and he was on the horseback. His being on the horseback is especially famous because he crossed the Indus. In the second line, the words "Over" and "here" suggest that Alexander leap over the breadth of the Indus by sitting on the back of the horse but in reality it is just a leap of imagination. The sixth line of the poem shows the occurrence of words like "mango" and "listened" It illustrate about the other side of hill which is surrounded by groves of mango trees, possibly may have mangoes on them. Poet says that mangoes are sweet in taste so it shows the impression of sweetness of the Indian people. They wanted peace and security but on the other hand the invaders just wanted to fight with Indians to conquer them and to establish their rules. Next the eighth shows the words like "Talking" and "immorality" which means that Alexander listened to Sadhu in rapt attention. He was singing or speaking something. The Sadhu was naked altogether and he was talking about the immorality of the world. He was talking about the eternal and future life. Finally, in the seventh line the words "Naked" and "Sadhu" means that Alexander sees a naked Sadhu singing something. The poet tells us that Alexander have not found on the other side of the hill any ready army, ready soldiers, weaponry and not any other resistance but only one man who can be called a sage or a Hindu Darwish that is Sadhu.

After Assonance, the researcher analyzed consonances in the poem "The Leap". The word "the", "here" and "side" in the second and fourth lines illustrate that Alexander on the horse back was very ambitious to take a big leap in order to cross the Indus River. He wanted war with the intention to conquer India but on the Indian side they were not ready for that. Alexander found a Sadhu who gave the message of peacefulness, security and love. In the seventh line, there are words "In" and "Attention" that show Alexander leaping forward in order to conquer everything of India but India resisted in his own way and tried to attract or capture the attention of Alexander toward Sadhu. He was very much wrapped in that and possibly he got some new lesson and moralizing on the part of Sadhu.

The researcher analyzed symbols in the poem. The opening line of the poem "The Leap" symbolizes the image of power and bravery by using the name of Alexander. He crossed the Indus River on the horseback which was a very difficult task. Next in fifth and sixth lines, the groves of mango trees symbolize future prosperity and impression of sweetness. Next in the second last line of that poem, the image of naked Sadhu symbolizes immorality and eternal life.

The second part of lexical categories also reveals the meanings. The researcher finds Parts of speech include nouns, pronoun, verbs, adjectives, articles, conjunctions and prepositions. Firstly, the researcher analyses the most frequently used parts of speech, such as nouns. It is the name of a person, place or thing. The current research mainly focuses on three types of nouns. Abstract nouns are those nouns that include ideas, feelings and emotions. For example, immorality, attention. Common nouns refer to the common thing, place or person. Example includes storyteller, hill, and side. Proper noun refers to name of proper place, person or thing. For example, Alexander, Indus, Horseback and Sadhu are the proper nouns in Kamal's poem. Collective nouns are those nouns that show collections of a group of people or things, such as groves of mango trees.

Secondly, the researcher finds verbs which show action. It consists of leapt, say, listened, talking.

Thirdly, the researcher draws an adjective that refers to the quality of a noun or pronoun. It includes **naked** Sadhu, **Rapt** attention, **Groves** of mango trees and **other** side.

Fourthly, Articles are words that refer a noun as specific or unspecific. It consists on “the” and “a”. Fifthly, the researcher analyzes pronouns which are used in place of noun. It includes “He” and “That”. Sixthly, there is only one conjunction used in this poem that is “And”. Conjunctions are words that use to join more than one nouns or sentences.

Lastly, the researcher analyses preposition that refers to linking words. It consists of to, of, over, on and so, or, in.

6. Conclusion

It was concluded that the research aims the declaration how the role of figurative through different levels contributes to revealing the meaning of every part of the poem. However, the ways of understanding a poem may be different for every reader. The most important thing is to achieve the author's message to the reader. The reason is that the researcher analyses a poem to deliver particular meaning to the reader. In this research, "The Leap" can be achieved by breaking down the figurative language and evaluating it to construct the meaning.

The first problem is finding the figurative language in the poem. The researcher answered the problem using two language levels; Figures of speech and lexical items. In figures of speech, it includes alliteration, assonances, consonances and symbols. The researcher explores seven parts of speech in the lexical categories. It consists of nouns, pronoun, verbs, adjectives, articles, conjunction and prepositions. The figurative language found in the poem "The Leap" contributes to revealing meanings.

Daud Kamal, the author of the poem "The Leap" utilizes such as figurative language. This research also proves that the meanings of a poem can be successfully obtained and understood by figurative language.

The improvement of the analysis can do by exploring the language levels. As the researcher only analyzed two language levels, the researcher suggests analyzing more language levels. Thus, a thorough and wholesome analysis can be expected from the future researchers.

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