

A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL FORTY RULES OF LOVE BY ELIF SHAFAK

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ABSTRACT: The aim of this study is to find out the figures of speech by doing stylistic analysis of Elif Shafak's novel *Forty Rules of Love*. Writing takes various forms and shapes, it is the reason that the study of stylistics becomes an important area for linguists. The novel *Forty Rules of Love* discusses the themes of spiritual love and mysticism. The novel consists of an introduction and five parts naming Earth, Water, Wind, Fire and The Void, but first part Earth has been covered in this study. The actual approach used in the study is the heuristic checklist of linguistic and stylistic categories presented by Leech and Short [2007] as it gives an opportunity to interpret linguistic description with critical appreciation. The findings of the study show that the writer has used various figures of speech in her novel to give a vivid description of any idea or thought. Figures of speech extracted from the first chapter consisted of simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, oxymoron and onomatopoeia.

Keywords: Figures of Speech; Stylistic Analysis; Mysticism; Linguistic Description

INTRODUCTION

Language is a medium of communication. It is composed of sounds and graphic symbols. The study of language is indispensable because it performs various functions in the society. Sounds representation on paper is called writing. Writing takes various forms and shapes, it is the reason that the study of stylistics becomes an important area for linguists. The development of stylistics has been started from the classical period and from that period onwards the interest among scholars and writers regarding the relation between patterns of language in a text and the way the text communicates is continue [1].

Hence, stylistic analysis may provide assistance to anyone in the field of literature: writers, critics, literature teachers and students to discern the different and distinctive writings of a certain writer. The positive aspects of a writer can be acquired and the negative aspects can be a lesson to be learned. So, stylistic analysis of *The Forty Rules of Love* by Elif Shafak is the main concern of this study.

STYLE

The term style can be applied to individuals, to genres, to ages, to periods or to languages [2]. For instance, scholars and writers who read Shakespeare's writings, attribute these writings to him due to his style. One style is recognized for the age of renaissance and another style for erudition and wisdom. When we consider language in terms of style we find that there is clarity of style in French language and there is obscurity in style of German language. So style is not confined only to individuals, genres, periods, languages rather it has a wide array of applications.

The term style is "a manner of linguistic expression in prose or poetry" is defined by [3]. He further explains that the quality of style of a work or a writer may be interpreted in terms of its diction, or the selection of words; structure of sentences and syntax; types of figurative language etc. By keeping this in view it can be understood that in literature the style is particularly associated with the linguistic behaviors of a literary piece of work and the attributes of the literary choice that deals with forms of expression which are used to convert thoughts into words. When style is studied from the viewpoint of linguistics, it is closely related with stylistics.

A researcher [4] is of the view that "style and variety are synonymous; in simple words it means the way of expression

that varies in different contexts and situations". Perhaps styles change according to place, timing, modality and individuality.

STYLISTICS

Stylistics has been defined as the study of literary texts from linguistic perspectives which makes stylistics a subject that is different from literary criticism and takes linguistics as its connecting technique [5].

An author [6] presents the same view about stylistics by saying that it is a discipline that serves as a bridge between linguistics and literature. In stylistics following devices are studied: rhetorical terms, syntactical elements. These devices are used to make literary style expressive. Therefore, stylistics has connections with literary criticism and linguistics because its morphological structure proposes so.

Stylistics is an attitude towards the analysis of literary pieces employing linguistic description. Stylistics bridges the borders of the two fields of study literature and linguistics. Ultimately, sometimes stylistics may seem pertaining to linguistics and sometimes it may seem related to linguistics and this distinction depends on where a person is standing when he is looking at it [7].

The purpose of stylistics is the exploration of language and particularly the exploration of creativity in use of language and its contribution for the construction of meaning. Stylistics enhances our patterns of thinking and exploration of language improves our understanding of literary texts [1].

Different goals of the study of stylistics are identified by [8]: The apprehension and acknowledgement of different literary texts. Most of the time, pronouncements about literature have been formed using the techniques of impressionism or subjectivity, without providing any proof for such pronouncement in the text. The study of stylistics gives understandable proofs in the text, on the basis of which pronouncements can be given. The decision regarding the fact that whether a certain literary text is "Great" or not, can be taken on the basis of the objective realities of language present in the text itself.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Different stylistic choices made by non-native writers in their novels can play an important role in inferring particular meanings hidden in the text. Therefore, the stylistic analysis of Turkish writer's novel portrays various styles and choices of figures of speech in her novel to create an insight into the

stylistic choices of non-native novel writers while writing a novel.

DELIMITATION

This study is limited to an analysis of preeminent stylistic devices used in Elif Shafak's novel *Forty Rules of Love*. As it is a voluminous novel so analysis has been delimited to exploration of figures of speech: simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, oxymoron and onomatopoeia and only first part of the novel namely Earth has been covered to find out these figures of speech.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To find out the figures of speech in the novel *Forty Rules of Love*.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. How figures of speech have been used in the novel *Forty Rules of Love*?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will help readers understand the stylistic choices made by non-native writer i.e. Turkish writer *Elif Shafak* in her novel. From the examples taken from the novel the readers will be able to get the concept of the stylistic devices and its importance in depth. Moreover, this study can act as a facilitator for future studies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The main purpose of literature review is to review the theoretical works and studies regarding the subject of this research. In this regard the notions of style, stylistic analysis and stylistic devices or figures of speech are mainly discussed. A group of researchers [9] have conducted a stylistic analysis of a short story "The Last Word" written by "Dr. A. R. Tabassum. They have discussed the formative elements of the short story in depth such as point of view, characters and allegorical elements so that one could get a better understanding of the story. The story was analyzed stylistically in terms of figures of speech where grammatical, lexical and phonological schemes were taken into account. The authors followed a checklist of linguistic and stylistic categories that was proposed by Leech and Short. Figures of speech of repetition, parallelism, alliteration, consonance, assonance and rhyme were focused on in the article. Findings revealed that figures of speech of repetition, assonance, consonance, rhyme, alliteration, parallelism and anaphora were used in the story to elaborate the concept and underlying meanings of the story.

Another group of researchers [10] explored in their study the stylistic features of the short story "The Sound of Falling Leaves" written by QuratUlAinHyder. They briefly highlighted the different formative elements of the story, such as characters and point of view, so that audience and readers could get a better understanding of the story and stylistic features. The short story was analyzed in terms of stylistic devices where different phonological, grammatical and lexical schemes were taken into account. The researchers followed the checklist of linguistic and stylistic devices presented by [11]. Stylistic features: simile, prolepsis, hyperbole, exclamation, claque and question were taken into account. In the conclusion, the findings and conclusion sections were given to end up the discussion about the stylistic features of the short story. The researcher [12] has conducted a stylistic

analysis of the speech "I Have a Dream" made by Martin Luther King. The stylistic analysis was performed to find out the style, tone, attitude and intention of the king which has made his speech a renowned delivery and a famous piece of text in the genre of literature. The author has explored this with the help of theories and approaches given by Leech and Short [2007]. From lexical scheme he has highlighted common words and literary words, pronouns, words in complete form and shortened form. In syntactic features, he has studied repetition and parallelism, Periodic sentence structure. Under semantic features, he has studied euphemism, simile, metaphor, pun, paradox and irony and Antithesis. Under phonological features, he has studied rhythm of sentences and alliteration. These can provide some suggestions for pedagogical application and can enrich the techniques of learning English language..

An author [13] conducted a research on the overall analysis of stylistic characteristics of the advertisement of "Atkins Chocolate Chip Granola Bar" that was aired in China. He took for analysis three aspects: linguistic description, textual analysis and contextual analysis. For linguistic description graphological style markers, lexical style markers, syntactic style markers, grammatical style markers, and semantic style markers were included. For textual analysis the layout and the paragraph development, cohesive devices were taken. For contextual analysis medium of communication and role-relationship were included. Modern linguistic theory and stylistic analysis pattern were used as methodology to find out these characteristics of the advertisements. The authors concluded that with the help of such devices in the articles the commercial and ads producers can convey their messages to the audience and make their advertisement more famous among the audience so that they can achieve the motive of purchase that is never ending.

The researcher [14] conducted a stylistic analysis of the novel *Wuthering Heights*. The author confessed that the novel *Wuthering Heights* appalled and offended the Victorians, critics of modern era, nonetheless, advocated the power of the novel's structure and on Emily Bronte's versatile and disciplined handling of language. The author was of the view that stylistic analysis was employed as a tool to observe patterns of text and its importance. The base of this research was statistical data that authorizes how various linguistic items like vocabulary and syntax were employed to accomplish the explanation of text. In *Wuthering Heights* multiple styles have been presented. The language of the novel shows many contradictions. Various paradoxes were used. Violent movements, vocal violence, atmospheric tumult, breaks from past to present tense, interjected remarks, broken phrases, half-expressed ideas and powerful imagery make the novel an idiosyncratic novel.

A study conducted by [15] to analyze the language deviation stylistically in the poem naming *The Ruined Maid* written by Thomas Hardy. The author's perspective on this view was that every poet was at liberty to write any poem beautifully even it created language deviation. In this poetic liberty, the poet may ignore the ordinary rule in making a word, phrase or even a sentence. According to the research, Thomas Hardy was a poet who used deviations to present his ideas through his poem. There were five language deviations used in the poem: lexical

deviation, grapho-logical deviation, semantic deviation, and historical deviation. These deviations help to make the language of the poem attractive and eye-catching.

Through her novel *The Forty Rules of Love*, Elif Shafak contributes in the modeling of 'an obviously different Rumi...designed for the market of Americans' as called by [16]. The *Forty Rules of Love* equates the story of Rumi with that of Ella, who is a housewife of middle age and belongs to Massachusetts, as they both excel alienated from their routine lives and get exposed to their true selves and their hearts opening towards love. Figures of speech are visionary and ingenious devices in literary and usual communications and writings that are used to explain speech afar its customary use. According to [17] figure of speech can be defined as "an expression like simile, in which words are not showing their literal meanings, but are classified as multi-word expressions, which perform in the text as units.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Paradigm

It is a qualitative study which is based on reading and interpretation of the text of novel *Forty Rules of Love*.

The heuristic checklist of linguistic and stylistic categories presented by Leech and Short [2007] will be used as actual approach. Qualitative research is basically an exploratory research technique. It is used to unveil trends in thoughts and opinions. It provides deeper understanding of the underlying ideas and opinions. A literary stylistic analysis will discuss the interpretation of the novel stylistically.

SAMPLE/CONTENT

The novel *Forty Rules of Love* by Elif Shafak will serve as the sample and primary source of this research.

METHOD

This research will use the stylistic analysis as the actual method or approach. Figures of speech simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, oxymoron and onomatopoeia will be explored by using stylistic analysis as a method. The analysis will be done on first carefully selected chapter. The novel is composed of five chapters but only first part of the novel naming Earth has been chosen for analysis.

The first part Earth has been selected because it is giving an insight into the story of the novel. In the novel there are two stories line by line, first story is about Ella and her family and second story is about the companionship of Maulana Jalal ud Din Rumi and Shams of Tabriz. This second story has been described in the novel *Sweet Blasphemy* written by Aziz Z Zahra in the novel. The novel *Sweet Blasphemy* was given to Ella to write a report about it. For Ella the study of this novel *Sweet Blasphemy* proved a life changing event.

The first part Earth is giving an insight into those things that are solid, absorbed and still. These things are of great importance because they are a move towards introduction of the point of view and characters of the novel. It is another reason for selecting this part for analysis.

CONTENT ANALYSIS

SIMILE

"But then, deep down at the bottom of the well, he caught sight of my hand floating aimlessly on the rippling water **like** a rickety raft after a heavy storm.

"Just then a shadow scurried out from behind a bush, and with fast, furtive moves it hopped over the garden wall, **like** a

wildcat."

"You were screaming **like** a bear with a thorn stuck in its paw."

"You dervishes are **as crazy as** rats in a pantry."

"When he spoke again, it sounded **as if** he were addressing everyone around, his voice soaring high and low, **like** a marauder bird boasting in the open sky."

"And heart **as hard as** rocks."

"In truth your wife and son are both fine, traveling in infinity, **as free as** a speck of light."

"A sharp taste in her mouth, sour **like** bile"

"Some days I ascended all the way up to the seventh sky **as light as** a whisper."

"Hidden away **like** a rock buried under mighty oaks and sweet chestnuts"

"To me these were **as universal, dependable and invariable as** the laws of nature."

"But let us not forget that cities are **like** human beings." "We are not **as wealthy as** we used to be at the time of Caliph Harunar-Rashid."

"**Like** giant mirrors, they reflect the hearts of their residents."

"This man was radiating vigor and vitality and burning within, **like** a ball of fire."

"The sharia is **like** a candle."

"Instead I dashed out of the garden **as fast as** an arrow."

"An outsider watching them might assume they were a perfect family, **as graceful as** the wisps of smoke slowly dissolving in the air."

"When it came to a routine, he got desperate, **like** a tiger trapped in a cage."

"He looked fatigued, and pale, **as if** he had aged considerably during these past days."

"I caught sight of a dazzling color, **as delightful as a sweet song**, sticking out from under the piles of snow."

"Baba Zaman announced, his voice rising in pitch and thinning out **like** the howl of the wind."

"I have been working **like** a dog."

"True mentors are **as transparent as** glass."

"My mind pounded **like** dumpling dough."

The writer has used the expression of simile in the novel by creating a direct comparison between two different elements to make a concept more clear, vivid and emphatic. The above examples show the expressions of simile used in the novel.

METOPHOR

"Let him know that when He abandons his **lambs**

"I was a **lamb** once and have turned into a **wolf**"

"I can see that you have become a **wolf** indeed"

"You can become a **lamb** again"

"This city is a **gem**"

"He was indeed Shams, "**the sun**"

"Love is the **water** of life"

"Believers are each other's **mirrors**"

"I could hold my **fire** from spring to autumn"

In the above examples the writer has used the indirect comparison to create a rhetorical effect and to unveil the hidden similarities between two ideas. The writer has created a literary effect through implied comparison.

ANAPHORA

My arms, **my** legs, **my** whole body froze

Christians killing Christians, **Christians** killing Muslims

Muslims killing Christians, **Muslims** killing Muslims

....**her** kitchen, **her** dog, **her** children, **her** neighbors, **her** husband, **her** cookbooks

Same food, **same** water, **same** old crap

In the above extracts from the novel the writer has used same words at the start of different clauses to highlight the particular section of the text of novel. Through the use of anaphora the writer has managed to emphasize the subject of action.

ALLITERATION

Turkish tribes

Passionate poet

Rickety raft

Scott stammered, surprised

With her friend for a few days

Started seeing something

Cuts across countries cultures

Stop screaming for starters

Subtle sardonic smile

Confidence and composure that clearly annoyed

Contempt creeping

Feminist friends from

He stood up, straightened his spine, and slowly

The writer has used repetition of same consonant sounds at the start of words to show the alliterated pattern in the novel. Through the use of alliteration the writer has amplified different attitudes in the novel.

OXYMORON

Dark clouds

Dark bread

Sweet blasphemy

Wild rice

Faint glimmer

Wild imagination

Wild speculations

Long while

Heavy taste

Painfully delicate

Bitter sweetness

The writer has combined two contradicting ideas by means of oxymoron. A verbally puzzling and engaging effect has been created through this figure of speech.

ONOMATOPOEIA

Click

Wow

Crack

Yell

Ring

Murmured

Chuckled

To give an instant sound effect and to describe a situation without the use of further words different onomatopoeic sounds have been used by the writer.

CONCLUSION

Findings

The findings of the study show very clearly that the writer has used various figures of speech in the first chapter of the novel to make her writing vivid and stylistic. The writer has compared two ideas with the help of simile and metaphor in very expert manner to give the reader an interesting and

attractive view while studying the novel. With the help of simile and metaphor the writer has made readers understand different concepts and ideas more vividly. The writer has used alliteration abundantly in the first chapter to grab the reader's attention towards a particular section of text in the novel. The writer has also used anaphora to persuade and to create a particular effect in the audience. With the help of anaphora the writer has made an appeal to the feelings or pathos of the audience. Moreover, the writer has used the oxymoron in the first part of the novel to add an element of complexity and to encourage the reader to think about an idea deeply. To give the natural sounds effect the writer has used different onomatopoeic sounds. The first chapter of the novel naming Earth which was selected for extracting figures of speech simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, oxymoron and onomatopoeia contains a great number of similes. These similes have been appeared with various words "like", "as if" and "as". Both explicit and implicit similes have been used. Basic and multiple similes have also been used by the writer. It also contains metaphors which are less in number as compared to similes. The writer has used alliterated patterns extensively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study can prove very useful for literary analysts and linguists both who are going to conduct stylistic analysis of a literary piece of writing. Other four parts of novel can be studied for different stylistic devices used by the writer and various other figures of speech like assonance, hyperbole, oxymoron, personification, irony etc. which can be traced while doing stylistic analysis of the novel *Forty Rules of Love*. Further the novel can stylistically analyzed by tracing out deviations, references, cohesive and coherent devices etc. This study will also be helpful for students of language and literature who want to conduct researches in the field of stylistic analysis. The researcher therefore recommends that upcoming writers should use figures of speech in their novels to make their writing style interesting and attractive and in this way their ideas and concepts would become more understandable by the readers.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is important to conclude that in the novel the writer has provided essentials to grab the attention of the readers. Figures of speech have been used in the manner that they deviate the language of the novel from everyday language and the aforementioned purpose has been accomplished which the study of the novel has shown.

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