

**STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF E.E. CUMMINGS' POEM [I CARRY YOUR HEART WITH ME (I CARRY IT IN)].**

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**ABSTRACT**

In this article, stylistic features are used for the stylistic analysis of E.E Cummings' poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)]. This analysis is done under the aspects of graphology, syntactical, grammatical, lexical and phonological patterns. This analysis is helpful in understanding the main idea of the poem that is ideal, selfless and profound love. The poet goes in realm of love in his dedication to the "heart" that he carries. There is the spontaneous flow of thoughts and outburst of emotions for his beloved.

**Keywords:** Style, stylistics, selfless love, levels.

**INTRODUCTION: STYLE AND STYLISTICS**

Leach (1969) defines style as "Style is the way in which something is spoken, written or performed." Style is choosing a right word at the right time at right place. It is concerned with the artistic expression of thoughts and ideas of writer. We can say that linguistic expression in prose or verse is called style. The style of any writer has been analysed on the basis of the modes of his vocabulary, his pattern of words, through his figurative language and by the personal involvement of his emotions and attitude. Style is derived from the word 'stylus' which means "anything to write with". But after a passage of time its meanings were changed to "any pointed thing". The style is both individual and as a whole. We can say that, style is the manner of doing something. The style is both following and violating a rule. If you follow certain rules and regulations during writing it becomes a stylistic value and if you violate the set patterns it becomes a stylistic variation. It is the style of E.E Cummings that he violates the set patterns and rules and regulations in his writings.

Short and Candlin (1989, p. 3) said that "stylistics is a linguistic approach to the study of the literary text. It has embodied one essential part of the general course – philosophy; that of combining language and literary study". Stylistics is the application of linguistic knowledge to the study of style. The word stylistics is derived from the style. Stylistics is the path that links the thought of style in the analysis of a literary text with the help of linguistic tools. Stylistics refers to the study of appropriate use of words or language in a sentence or writing. Stylistics is the application of linguistic knowledge to the study of style. Widdowson(1975,p. 3)defines stylistics as "The study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation". According to him stylistics is the bridge between literary criticism and linguistics. And has no independent branch of its own.

There are three principles for stylistic analysis of any piece of text: Foregrounding, norms and deviations. In foregrounding our aim is to highlight the apparent picture of text. Norms are the established and accepted set and rules that may be society oriented, genre and register oriented or writer oriented. Parallelism is the excessive use of anything and deviation means violation of certain set patterns.

### **About E.E. Cummings**

E.E. Cummings was a 20th century poet and novelist known for his innovations in style and structure. E.E. Cummings (Edward Estlin Cummings) was born in 1894 in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was a fine artist, playwright and novelist and poet. He earned both his B.A. and M.A. degree from Harvard University. Then he went to serve in World War I overseas as a volunteer for the ambulance corps. He adopted a cubist style in his artwork. He considered himself a painter as well as a poet, spending much of the day painting and much of the night writing. Cummings particularly admired the artwork of Pablo Picasso. He uses the poetic term “free verse” in his poetry. He has disregard for capital letters. He does not observe the traditional rules and regulations of writing. He falls in the category of modern poets. Cummings died on September 3, 1962, in North Conway, New Hampshire. He was second most widely read poet in the United States. His poetry mainly deals with the themes of relationships and love.

### **Introduction to the poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)]**

The poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)] is a deep and selfless love poem. It has been a favourite selection as both love and marriage poem for many years. It is about a deep and profound love that transcends the soul and mind. Here we find a spontaneous overflow of emotions. There is an outburst of feelings. It is a profound love, the kind that keeps the stars apart and that transcends the soul or the mind. In this poem we observe a poet’s lack of use of capitalization. He has disregard for capital letters. There is unusual paragraphing in the poem. In this poem we come to know that the poet has adopted the unique style of writing by violating certain set patterns of writing. The scheme of the poem is ABAB.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This article will give a stylistic analysis of the poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)] Here we analyse graphology, syntax, lexical and phonological levels give to express the main idea of the poem. It is the poem consisted of four stanzas with unusual paragraphing and spacing and capitalization.

### **Main Elements for Stylistic Analysis**

There are some elements and levels which help us to do a stylistic analysis of a text. In graphology level we examine how the text looks like? We examine the stanza structure. It means how stanza develops. In how many lines it consists of. How do lines of each stanza start and end. We also study Punctuation marks here. In this we see where the comma, semicolon and full stops etc. are used and what the purpose of their usage is and what effect they create.

Phonological level deals with the sound patterns of the given text. It includes contracted forms, rhyming words, alliteration, assonance, consonance etc. Alliteration means use of words with the same letter in a line to create musical effect. Rhyme means a proper pattern for the ending of lines. It also creates music. Rhyme is mainly about music. In phonology devices we find contracted forms and find out that what effect they create. Use of contractions result in change in pronunciation, change in spellings and change in sound and rhyming words. Contractions are not allowed in standard writing. Assonance is rhyming of vowel sounds. Consonance is about sound in which the breath is complete partially obstructed. Neologism is the formation of a new word, which has permanently become part of the vocabulary. Nonce-formation is form of a new word, which is never used again. It is only used by a writer for a certain purpose. In Malapropism there is the formation of a word by combination of two different languages. It is also called compound words.

In grammatical level we observe the grammatical rules of writing. Here we check sentence markers, punctuation marks, contractions and the pattern of a sentence etc. Syntactical level deals with the sentence structure. Proper sentence structure is followed by:

Subject + Predicate

He goes to school.

If there is the use of the double negative, it means that the writer uses this to show a particular social class and a specific dialect.

### **Application of levels in poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)]**

Following levels are being observed in stylistic analysis of the poem:

- Graph logical level
- Grammatical level
- Phonological level
- Syntactical level
- Lexical level

### **Graphology**

E.E.Cummings adopts a unique style in his writing. The poem comprises of four stanzas. Pattern of lines in each stanza is different. First stanza contains four lines, second contains five lines, third stanza contains five lines and last one contains only one line. There is unusual capitalization in this poem. We come to know that the first word of the title of the poem [i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)] is a small letter i.e. “i”. In the same way the first letter of every line should be grammatically capitalized, but in this poem we observe that it is also a small letter. There is an unusual pattern of lines, unusual spacing, and unusual capitalization in this poem. The poet has made the use of parenthesis. Mostly we find that there is no full stop at the end of any line. It shows rush of thoughts. It depicts that as there are no boundaries and restrictions in lovemaking, in the same way you can feel free from any rules and set patterns of writing, while writing about your beloved. It shows poet’s intense love and uncontrollable passions for his beloved.

### **Grammatical level**

E.E. Cummings does not use capital letters in his writings. I, that is a personal pronoun, according to the norms of grammar must be written in capital letter, is violated here. We come to know that in this poem, there is unusual capitalization, unusual spacing and unusual pattern of lines in the stanzas. Absence of capitalization is deviation of general norms of grammar. We find here lack of full stops. Contracted forms of words are being used. Contractions are not allowed in the standard writing. Line pattern and line spacing is not according to the set norms of grammar.

### **Syntactical level**

There is a regular sentence structure used in the poem. He uses contractive form like it's in the third line of the second stanza and that's on the fifth line of the third stanza. Contractions are not allowed in standard writings.

### **Phonological level**

The poet uses unusual rhyming in the poem. We know that contractions are avoided in a standard writing. But Cummings has used contracted forms which change the sound pattern and pronunciation also. He also uses alliteration. Music is created through playing words like sky of the sky, bud of the bud and root of the root. We can say that, to some extent, in first and last line of the poem, there is the use of the refrain. The refrain is the regular pattern of lines that follows after every stanza. The poet has given metaphorical statements to compare the love and beauty of a girl with the moon, sun and stars. There is the use of imagery in this poem. Here is the use of personification for the poet gives moon and sun human qualities who can sing like human beings. Personification means giving human attributes to a non-living thing.

### **Lexical level**

The poem comprises of simple and open class words which are easy to understand. His selection of words plays a significant role to get the theme of love in this poem. The poet uses words like my dear, darling, love, beautiful, heart and my world etc. which shows poet's immense love for his beloved.

### **Lexical Features**

Nouns: Heart, word, sky, tree, root, bud, sun, stars.

Main verbs: Carry, go, done, sing, grows, hide, meant, keeping, and called.

Adjectives: Deepest, beautiful, and higher.

We can see that poem mostly contains nouns and verbs. It is possible to divide nouns into two rough areas of meanings or semantic fields.

### **Distribution of nouns within two basic semantic fields**

Nouns related to nature: Moon, sun, stars, sky, tree, bud, and root.

Nouns related to human beings: Heart, secret and world.

The poem comprises of both words belonging to nature and words belonging to man. Nature is of two types, inner nature that is present inside human beings and outer nature that is the real beauty of this world. The words like heart, secret, and world describe inner nature of man and the words like moon, sun, sky and tree etc. describe outer nature. Poet compares his beloved with moon and sun and stars in order to express his selfless and profound love for her. The words like dear, darling, beautiful, secret and my world etc. depict the zenith of love for his beloved. And these words help a lot to get the main idea of the poem that is, profound love for beloved that transcends the soul.

## **CONCLUSION**

The poem [i carry your heart with me (I carry it in)] is written by E.E Cummings, having four stanzas. There is an unusual pattern of lines in these stanzas. It is a sort of free verse. There is unusual capitalization. Cummings follows no traditional guidelines, while writing poetry. In the book, 'Linguistic Guild to English Poetry', Leech differentiates poetic language with common language. He writes "Poetic language may violate or deviate from the generally observed rules of the language in many different ways, some obvious, some subtle" (Leech p. 5)

Cummings uses almost regular syntactical pattern in this poem. Instead of using end rhymes, he arranges the words to create rhythmic patterns. For example, the anaphora we come to know in the repetition of the "here is the" clause in lines 10-11, creates a familiar rhythm without sticking to a particular meter. In line 5-7 we have another familiar rhythm with the pattern we hear in "i fear no fate and then "i want no world". We can obviously see and hear Cummings use of syntax in those clauses.

Cummings' use of enjambment is super-modern. It also adds to the poem's lyrical quality. There is a rush of thoughts, which determines uncontrollable passion and love for beloved. The entire first stanza comes to us without any stops or pauses. In the third stanza where the poet has given the description of "tree called life" is an outburst of thoughts.

In the poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)], the poet uses metaphorical statements to compare a girl's beauty to the world, the moon, and the sun. He also uses repetition where he says how he carries her heart at both, the beginning and ending to reemphasize how much he cares for his beloved. In this poem, he also uses personification because he gives the heart and sun human qualities, for example he says that the sun will sing for her and he says to her beloved that it is you whatever a moon has always meant etc.

## **FINDINGS**

The poem [i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)] is about a deep and profound love for a beloved that transcends the soul. E.E Cummings has compared the beauty of a girl with the world, with the moon and the sun. We come to know uncontrollable passions of love and devotion for the beloved. E.E. Cummings explains this through his style of rhythm, by the

stressed pattern he observed and by playing through words. He beautifully describes the selfless and the ideal love of a lover for his beloved.

### **PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

The basic and fundamental purpose of this work is to examine the methods in which language use has been integrated in the poem. It is also aimed at analysing particular features that give the poem its identity. This directs the attention of the reader to the often and repeated features of stylistics employed by the writer or the poet.

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### **Appendix**

**here are the lines written in [i carry your heart with me(i carry it in)].**

i carry your heart with me(i carry it in  
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)  
i fear  
no fate(for you are my fate, my sweet)i want  
no world(for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud

and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows  
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)