UNVEILING PSYCHOLOGICAL ENIGMA: A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF "THE SILENT PATIENT" BY ALEXANDER MICHAELIDES

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to examine linguistic and stylistic features in the novel "The Silent Patient" by Alexander Michaelides by using stylistic analysis. Stylistics has a very influential role in linguistic analysis because of various shapes and structures. In the novel there are psychological aspects that make it more appropriate for such stylistic analysis. The novel has certain sections, and each section contributes to the larger story. This study will deal with the first portion of the novel that highlights both characteristics that are stylistic and linguistic. In this research Leech and Short's [2007] framework has been used for stylistic analysis having different levels such as phonological, semantic, syntactic, and graphological levels. With the use of this framework, a detailed analysis of the language aspect has been done. Findings concluded that the writer various varieties of language and stylistic aspects in the novel "The Silent Patient" so that it can transfer powerful ideas and thoughts. The study highlights the presence of different poetic devices such as simile, metaphor, anaphora, alliteration, parallelism and onomatopoeia. This analysis sheds light on the linguistic and stylistic strategies that create narrative in the novel "The Silent Patient".

Keywords: Alliteration, stylistics, stylistic analysis, and linguistic choices.

1.   Introduction

Stylistics is rooted in the field of applied linguistics and give a set of principles to perform linguistic analysis on literary texts. Widdowson (1975) provides a definition, characterizing it as "the investigation of literary discourse from a linguistic perspective." In line with this, Short and Candlin (1989) describe stylistics as a method for dissecting literary works through the lens of linguistic analysis.

Stylistics is derived from the concept of "style." The root of "style" can be traced in the Latin word "Elocutio," which means "style." Stylistics is the examination of style. It pertains to the writer's individual style or unique expression. As noted by Leech (2014), "style" refers to the way something is spoken, written, or presented. Writers employ diverse styles based on their individual perspectives, aiming to distinguish themselves from their peers. Furthermore, style is subject to variations across cultures and serves as a window into the author's mindset. According to Haynes (1989), "style" is the study of distinctions, encompassing a range of expressive elements that adapt to different contexts. Lawal (2004) contends that "style" embodies a comprehensive expression, encompassing various aspects of language, including diction, sentence structures, and phrases, closely intertwined with the subject matter at hand.

Alex Michaelides' "The Silent Patient" is a modern psychological novel. This text delves into psychological mystery that draws readers. This text delves into psychological mystery that draws readers. The novel compels readers to understand and question the depth of the human psyche. This research seeks to explore the concept of enigma in Michaelides' narrative through a focused stylistic analysis. The study analyzes the author's use of specific linguistic choices and use of psychological intricacies within the text. This research conducted a detailed stylistic analysis on the linguistic of Alex Michaelides's The Silent Patient. The study determines stylistic choices used in Michaelides's narrative, its role in character development, and its impact on psychological themes. Stylistic analysis in this study uncovers the nuances of Alex Michaelides's writing style.

This study aims to reveal Michaelides' artistic linguistic style and its stylistic choices by analyzing how the author employs linguistic, structural, and narrative techniques to convey the psychological mysteries. These psychological mysteries contribute to the characterization within the text. The study intends to shed light on the portrayal of the characters' psychological states and motivations by closely examining these stylistic elements. The analysis offers a deeper understanding of the narrative's psychological underpinnings. This research aims to decode the psychological mysteries present in the novel through a comprehensive stylistic analysis.

Previous research has focused on exploring the novel's themes and characters. However, the rationale of this research lies in its aim to fill this gap by emphasizing an analysis of the linguistic and stylistic aspects of *The Silent Patient*.

1.2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH:

The primary objectives of the research are:

1) To examine linguistic and stylistic choices made by the writer encompasses dialogues, sentence structure, and other devices to analyze their role in character development, setting, and plot progression.
2) To determine the relationship between the stylistic elements employed in the novel, psychological depth of the narrative and its impact on character development.
3) To analyze the use of dual narrative style employed by Alex Michaelides in The Silent Patient with an emphasis on identifying literary techniques, such as irony, symbolism, and foreshadowing that contribute to hidden meanings in the text.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How does Michaelides employ diverse linguistic features in *The Silent Patient* to effectively convey psychological mystery within the narrative?
2. What impact do the stylistic choices, such as imagery, syntax, and tone have on the reader's interpretation and engagement with the novel?

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

Stylistic analysis of The Silent Patient can provide beneficial insights, and study also contributes to the better understanding of the text. The study has great significance because it unveils the symbiotic relationship between style and substance. With the help of this analysis, the study aims to elucidate the impact of Michaelides' stylistic choices on the novel's narrative structure and reader's engagement. The research aims to highlight how he strategically constructs psychological aspects.

The study conducted a deep analysis of the author's intentions, character development, themes, and symbolism in the novel with the use of stylistic choices. It closely examines the narrative techniques and literary devices that highlight author's goals in the novel. It examines how characters are being portrayed through the different dialogues, actions and thoughts. The words choices can provide insight into the characters' personalities. Many poetic devices such as metaphors, similes, and other figurative language can be highlighted to examine hidden meanings to broader themes in the novel. The stylistic choices such as descriptive language and tone have a influential role in shaping the novel's atmosphere.

1.5 Research Gap

On Michaelides's works there is lack of research and very minimal focus on linguistic analysis of the novel, The Silent Patient. Foremost, this research aims to fill this gap and contribute to a more detailed understanding of the novel. Existing research has primarily concentrated on the novel's themes and characters. This analysis will address this gap by concentrating on the linguistic and stylistic dimensions. There is a lack of in-depth analysis specifically focused on how the interplay of these stylistic features contributes to the psychological enigma within the novel. A research gap exists in understanding how

Michaelides' stylistic choices contribute to symbolism, and character development that collectively shape the reader's experience of unraveling the psychological mystery. The research delves into the intricacies of the author's stylistic choices and their impact on the overall psychological mystery of dual narrative.

The research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the author's intentions and the novel's implications in terms of human behavior and societal norms.
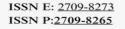
## 2.	Literature Review

Widdowson (1975) offers a distinct definition of stylistics, characterizing it as the examination of literary texts from a linguistic perspective, thus setting it apart from literary criticism and firmly establishing linguistics as its core methodology (p. 307). Similarly, Carter (1988) aligns with this viewpoint, positioning stylistics as an interdisciplinary bridge between linguistics and literature. Stylistics, in this context, investigates a variety of linguistic elements, including rhetorical devices and syntactical structures, skillfully infuse expressive qualities into literary style. Consequently, the morphological foundation of stylistics creates inherent connections with both literary critique and linguistics.

In the research paper titled "Stylistic Analysis of Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights," Varghese (2012) conducts a detailed examination of the classic novel, *Wuthering Heights*, exploring the specific literary techniques and language choices employed by Bronte. Varghese (2012) takes a rigorous analytical approach, thoroughly analyzing various aspects of the novel's writing, including vocabulary, sentence structure, imagery, and rhetorical devices. Through this comprehensive stylistic analysis, the author unravels the intricate themes and deep emotional depth woven into the narrative.

The researcher finds stylistic choices with specific examples from the text which enhances readers' understanding of the novel's linguistic features. These findings significantly contribute to the field of literary criticism subsequently increasing appreciation for Bronte's literary style. It also emphasizes the importance of stylistic analysis in uncovering the multifaceted meanings within timeless literary masterpieces. Javaid et al. (2024) studied cognitive and motivational impact on ESL learning and assessed stress caused factors and language learning related challenges among first years students.

The Jafar (2014) performs a stylistic analysis of two poems, namely E. E. Cummings' "maggie and milly and molly and may" and Seamus Heaney's "A Kite for Aibhín." This research extensively applies various linguistic features to these poems. These features include phonological, morphological, graphological, syntactic, and figurative elements. Furthermore, the study explores the aesthetic use of language within these poems. For instance, the exploration of assonance, alliteration, repetition, and simile. The author comments that stylistic analysis of poetry serves to enrich one's comprehension of the literary work. Stylistics not only enable readers to appreciate the aesthetic aspects of language but also enhance the overall enjoyment and connection with the poems. Ramzan et al. (2023) studied cultural paradigms and found shifts in style. Ramzan et al. (2023) studied social media usage for academic motivation and linked social media usage with academic motivation. Ramzan, & Alahmadi, (2024) viewed the effects of syntax instruction in complex sentence development.

Alex Michaelides's works have been appreciated by literary scholars, focusing on various aspects, including character development, narrative techniques, and thematic exploration. Alex Michaelides's novel *The Silent Patient* is an example of his artistic ability to capture the complexities of human nature and relationships his narrative. Published in 2019,"The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides stands out as a compelling mystery, featuring Alicia Berenson, a woman who shoots her husband and then chooses silence. "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides intricately explores themes of silence and communication,

where the protagonist, Alicia Berenson, communicates through her silence following a traumatic event. The novel delves into the profound effects of psychological trauma on identity and behavior, examining guilt, grief, and the search for meaning. Deception and perception play a crucial role as the narrative challenges the reader's understanding through unreliable narrators and unexpected twists, emphasizing the subjective nature of truth.

However, there is limited research that specifically examines the stylistic and linguistic aspects of *The Silent Patient*. The purpose of this research is to contribute to the existing literature by providing a detailed examination of Michaelides's stylistic choices in this novel.

3. Framework

The study utilizes the framework of stylistic analysis given by Leech and Short (2007). Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short (2007) are linguists who have made significant contributions in the field of linguistics. They explore the concept of "language as a cognitive code" in their book "*Style in Fiction: A Linguistic Introduction to English Fictional Prose.*" In this book, they state that language serves as a cognitive code by which speakers and writers convey their thoughts and ideas. They explore how language is used in literature to create specific styles and convey meaning.

They analyze various fictional texts on linguistic levels to understand how style is constructed and conveyed in literary texts. These linguistic levels provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing the stylistic features of a text and understanding how they contribute to its overall effect. This framework gives various levels for linguistic analysis. Leech and Short's approach to stylistic analysis has been widely adopted in the field of literary studies and has been applied to a wide range of texts, including poetry, drama, prose and fiction.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study basically has a qualitative research approach to perform stylistic analysis. It will do stylistic analysis by highlighting four linguistic levels that are phonological, syntactic, semantic, and graphological levels. This research will analyze the first five chapters of the text to identify linguistic features, including syntax, figurative language, and narrative style. This comprehensive approach in this study allows for a deep examination of diverse linguistic elements in the novel.

4.1 SAMPLE

The primary sample of the research is The Silent Patient by Alexander Michaelides.

4.2 Data Collection:

The data is taken from the novel The Silent Patient. In this study the text has been annotated to highlight linguistic elements. These linguistic features encompass a spectrum of elements, such as imagery, sentence structures, word choices, metaphors, similes, and other literary devices that contribute to the literary style.

4.3 Stylistic Analysis of The Silent Patient:

The stylistic analysis of the novel *The Silent Patient* is done on four linguistic levels i-e phonological level, syntactic level, semantic level and graphological level. This stylistic analysis highlights how author's stylistic choices unveil psychological mystery throughout the novel. It reveals how stylistic elements contribute to the portrayal of characters' psychological states and influence reader's engagement and incorporate psychological suspense and intrigue.

The first five chapters the *The Silent Patient* are used for stylistic analysis. These initial chapters serve as a critical foundation for the psychological mystery, providing insights into the author's language choices and narrative techniques that captivate the reader's interest and set the stage for the unfolding complexities in the novel.

4.3.1 Phonological level

Phonological level of linguistics involves examining the sound patterns and structures in language to understand their stylistic effects. The Phonological level is mainly divided into sub-categories namely alliteration, assonance, consonance, and onomatopoeia.

Alliteration:

Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in nearby words or stressed syllables within a phrase or sentence.

The writer depicts many examples of alliteration throughout the novel. For Example, Thirty-three, semi-starved, semi-naked, test of time, forty-four, frozen frightened face, car collected, Hampstead Health, Haverstock Hill, shoot in Shoreditch, blackened bloody, lost a lot, haunted house, femme fatale, suffered a severe trauma surrounding, without wishing, small smile, rehearsed response, fully formed, buried beneath, returned repeatedly, far from, foot to foot, made to make, stepped up security, tribal tattoo, said smiling, you to your, whatever you want, fondness for, short-sleeved shirts, steady stream, worked well.

In "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides, the use of alliteration contributes to the psychological mystery woven into the narrative. Instances like "semi-starved, semi-naked" evoke a sense of precariousness, heightening the mystery surrounding the character's physical and emotional state. The "frozen frightened face" employs alliteration with "f" sounds, creating a chilling and suspenseful atmosphere that intensifies the portrayal of fear. "Blackened bloody" utilizes the repetition of "b" to convey darkness and violence, adding to the mysterious and unsettling tone of the story. Phrases like "haunted house, femme fatale" incorporate alliteration to add intrigue. The repetition of "s" in "suffered a severe trauma surrounding" intensifies the gravity of the character's experiences, creating a somber undertone. Finally, the repetition of "r" in "returned repeatedly" suggests a cyclical or repetitive nature, hinting at ongoing psychological themes or events in the narrative. Together, these instances of alliteration contribute to the linguistic richness of the text, enhancing the reader's engagement with the psychological mystery elements in the story.

Assonance:

Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words or stressed syllables within a phrase or sentence.

The writer mentioned many instances of assonance in the novel. For example, Thirty-three, shone torches around the room, glowed ghostlike in the torchlight, torchlight — a knife, neon red, forty-two, attractive face, arbitrary rages, primordial fog, original red-brick Victorian, firmer and tighter, mid-forties, unconvincing smile, metal detector, reinforced steel, beckoned me to follow, locked doors, pitch switches, light white.

In "The Silent Patient," assonance is strategically employed to heighten the psychological mystery. For instance, the repeated long "o" sound in "shone torches," "ghostlike," and "torchlight" creates an eerie ambiance, enhancing suspense. The short "a" sound in "attractive face" and "arbitrary rages" adds an unsettling quality, emphasizing the contrast between appearance and inner turmoil. The long "i" sound in "original red-brick Victorian" and "firmer and tighter" imparts a sense of confinement, contributing to the psychological complexity. The short "i" sound in "mid-forties" and "unconvincing smile" adds discomfort, highlighting a disparity between age and authenticity. These instances of assonance contribute to the overall mood, guiding readers through the enigmatic and suspenseful elements of the story.

Consonance:

Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in nearby words or stressed syllables within a phrase or sentence.

The novel under stylistic analysis has shown various examples of consonance such as thirty-three, fashion photographer, semi-starved, semi-naked, shoot in Shoreditch, wrapped wrists, self-sacrifice, turned and marched.

Onomatopoeia:

Splashed, whistle, whipping, shrieking, jangling, slams and bolts, yawning, bang and shouted are the various instances of onomatopoeia used in the novel.

In "The Silent Patient," onomatopoeic elements like "splashed," "whistle," "whipping," and "shrieking" heighten the psychological mystery, immersing readers in a tense and urgent atmosphere. Mechanical sounds like "jangling," and "slams and bolts," contribute to a foreboding sense, hinting at turmoil and containment. The sudden "bang" and emphatic "shouted" create vivid moments, intensifying the suspense and drawing readers into the enigmatic narrative twists. These onomatopoeic choices in sound words effectively amplify the emotional impact, making the psychological mystery more immersive and engaging.

4.4.2 Syntactic level

The syntactic level of linguistics involves examining the structure, arrangement, and organization of words, phrases, and sentences in a text to uncover their stylistic effects. This level of analysis delves into the choices made by the author in terms of sentence structure, sentence length, word order, and overall syntax. In the novel, the writer employs parallelism, anaphora, enumeration, contractions, and epistrophe.

Parallelism:

Parallelism is the use of similar grammatical structures or patterns in nearby words, phrases, or clauses. Parallelism adds balance, rhythm, and clarity to a sentence. Following are the various examples of parallelism employed by the writer in the novel.

She could not, would not, speak.

Alicia barely ate or slept.

I mustn't color them, twist them, or tell any lies.

I stared at the painting, staring into Alicia's face, trying to interpret the look in her eyes, trying to understand.

Experts were brought in to explain, condemn, justify Alicia's actions.

Everyone was talking, writing, arguing about Alicia.

Alicia would have — should have — remained an idle fantasy.

I had internalized my father, introjected him, buried him deep in my unconscious.

I ran, I carried him with me.

I was worthless, shameful and a failure.

I was defeated, trapped.

I talked about my childhood, my home, my parents.

Crumpling, flattening them or tearing them to shreds.

I could sense Diomedes was watching, evaluating my performance.

In "The Silent Patient," the intentional use of parallelism likely serves to enhance the psychological depth of the narrative by emphasizing contrasts, building suspense, conveying mental turmoil, creating a sense of pattern, and highlighting key themes. By leveraging this rhetorical device, the author contributes to the overall enigmatic atmosphere of the story, inviting readers to delve deeper into the mysteries presented within the text.

Contractions:

Contractions are a stylistic choice in language and writing. They involve combining two words by omitting one or more letters, usually replacing them with an apostrophe. Isn't,

wasn't, couldn't, hadn't, I'd, he'd, they'd are the various instances of contractions from the novel.

Anaphora:

Anaphora is the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences for rhetorical effect. Following are the examples of anaphora from the novel.

Along the floor, along the grain,

Week followed week, month followed month,

Join us, join us.

Sit, sit, sit.

My vocabulary was too limited, my words too loose.

I had to get away, far away.

In "The Silent Patient," the use of anaphora creates a rhythmic pattern, emphasizing psychological complexities, building suspense, and intensifying emotional depth.

Epistrophe:

The phrase "they were, were simple" seems to involve a form of repetition for emphasis. It's a specific type of repetition called epistrophe, which is the repetition of a word or phrase at the end of successive clauses or sentences.

In this instance, the word "were" is repeated at the end of the first clause and the beginning of the second clause. While this is not as common or standardized as anaphora, it still serves a similar purpose of drawing attention to the repeated word for emphasis or rhetorical effect.

Enumeration:

"One by one" and "step-by-step" is an example of an enumeration. It is an expression that indicates a sequential or individual process. This device is often employed to create a sense of order, clarity, or emphasis in writing. While not as explicit or intentional as some other rhetorical devices, enumeration serves to organize information and guide the reader through a series of actions.

4.3.3 Semantic level

Semantic level of linguistics involves examining the meaning of words and how they contribute to the overall artistic and expressive qualities of a text. Imagery, metaphor, personification, juxtaposition and idiom are found in the text at semantic level.

Imagery:

Imagery is the use of vivid and descriptive language that appeals to the senses, creating a mental picture or sensory experience for the reader. Following are the instances of vivid imagery from the novel.

Something <u>glinted</u> in the torchlight, another <u>beam of light</u> revealed the blood <u>spattered</u> on Alicia's white dress, the <u>monstrous lack of remorse</u> of a <u>cold-blooded</u> killer, I was <u>shivering</u>, the patients were all women, and most has <u>coarse features, lined, scarred</u>.

In the novel the use of imagery heightens the psychological mystery. A glint in the torchlight sparks intrigue, blood spatter on Alicia's white dress creates an unsettling visual, and the description of a "cold-blooded killer" introduces a dark and mysterious element. The narrator's shivering conveys a personal sense of fear, while details about patients with "coarse features," "lined," and "scarred" intensify the enigma surrounding their backgrounds. Through vivid and evocative language, the author invites readers to unravel the complexities of the characters and their stories, contributing to the overall psychological depth of the narrative.

Metaphor:

A metaphor is a figure of speech that expresses a direct comparison between two unrelated or dissimilar things, suggesting a shared quality or characteristic without using "like" or "as." Following are the examples of metaphors from the novel.

An enigma that gripped the headlines and captured the imagination for months to come.

Feathery air

It's no walk in the park.

Seemed like eternity.

looked more like a kindergarten.

In "The Silent Patient," metaphors deepen the psychological mystery. Describing the central enigma as an "enigma" suggests complexity and widespread impact. The metaphor of "feathery air" conveys an elusive and delicate atmosphere, hinting at the intangible nature of the mystery. The phrase "no walk in the park" metaphorically emphasizes the difficulty, adding a layer of suspense to the narrative. Through these metaphors, the author enhances the reader's perception of the intricate and puzzling elements.

Personification:

Personification is a figure of speech in which human attributes or qualities are assigned to non-human entities or abstract concepts. The examples of personification from the novel is as follows:

The belt would be pulled off, and whistle in the air.

I christened him (snowman) 'Dad', and with his big belly, and two black stone for eyes, and two slanting twigs for stern eyebrows.

Paint was crawling away from the walls.

Juxtaposition:

Juxtaposition is the placement of two or more contrasting elements (ideas, characters, settings) side by side to highlight their differences or create a unique effect.

"I internalized a new kind of relationship with another human being: one based on mutual respect, honesty, and kindness — not recrimination, anger and violence". There is a juxtaposition in this instance. The contrast between "mutual respect, honesty, and kindness" and "recrimination, anger, and violence" sets up a clear opposition, highlighting the shift in the type of relationship the speaker has internalized. This use of opposites enhances the impact of the statement.

Idiom:

An idiom is a phrase with a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of its individual words.

He had made no bones about saying I was making a mistake. Here made no bones is an example of idiom from the novel.
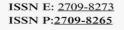
4.3.4   Graphological level

Graphological level of linguistics refers to the examination of the visual aspects of a text, specifically focusing on its physical characteristics, layout, and punctuation.

Hyphen:

A hyphen connects words or parts of words to create compound terms, enhance readability, or indicate joint meaning.

The author employed various examples of the use of hyphen in the text such as Thirty-three, semi-starved, semi-naked, forty-four, vice-like, pitch-black dark-ness, solic-itor, cold-blooded, self-sacrifice, self- portrait, arts-lover, sex-shop, sex-game, old-fashioned, per-sistent, forty-two, jet-black, warm-up, pre-cursor, part-time, post-graduate, half-formed, semi-detached, gut-wrenching, ill-defined, white-haired, half-digested, self-harm, stomach-

churning, red-brick, mid-forties, well-being, twice-divorced, rugby-playing, good-looking, short-sleeved, t-shirts, bashed-up, side-effect, and time-out.

Em dash:

The em dash contributes to the overall style of the writing, offering a nuanced and dynamic way to convey information or guide the reader through the narrative.

The author employed various examples of the use of em dash in the text to incorporate mysterious style. Attention — by, almost — and, August — it, wrist's — fresh cuts, torchlight — a knife, silent — but, picture — making endless sketches, form — a long gestation, her — returning, thought — considering, line — and, wrong — the husband, murder — another women, loudly — and, endless speculation — no answers, press — her face, trail — a fact, hearsay — but, distress — and, mad — that is, passes — and, people — myself included — continued, Alicia would have — should have — remained, gut — and, personally — I, again — help, smile — as, damaged — we, reasons — who, formed — more, aim — particularly, retreat — physically, surrey — and, too late — I, suicidal impulses — but, left me — but, myself — less empty, kindness — not recrimination, grief — all, recently — since, reply — but, suffered — physical, me — Christian, detectable — he'd,

Apostrophe:

An apostrophe, as a stylistic choice, is employed to indicate possession, create contractions, or add emphasis in written language. For Example, Gabreil's blood, Alicia's feet, Alicia's white dress, husband's murder, Gabriel's body, Alicia's story, father's unpredictable and arbitrary rages.

Semi colon:

A semicolon, as a stylistic choice, can be used to connect closely related independent clauses, creating a sophisticated and seamless flow in the writing. For example, Ease;, quite yet;, body;, death;, murderers;, teenager;, psychology;, forces;, trust me;, much;, mental illness;.

Colon:

A colon, as a stylistic choice, is used to introduce, emphasize, or clarify information, providing a structured and impactful way to present ideas. Simple:, start:, responsibility:, buntly:, sense:, alone:, being: are the instances of the use of colon in the novel.

Ellipsis:

Ellipses, as a stylistic choice, can create a sense of suspense, hesitation, or trailing off in writing, leaving thoughts or narratives open-ended. The truth came to light . . . , Especially today . . . , six months . . . , your decision . . . are the examples of ellipses from the novel.

Question mark:

A question mark, as a stylistic choice, is employed to denote direct questions, adding inquiry or uncertainty to a statement. For example, But where to begin?, what about money?, why does she refuse to speak?, what did it mean?, was she hiding something?, protecting someone?, It so, who? And why? Where was she?

***Italics*:**

Vogue, Alcestis, and *why* are used in italic form in the novel.

Greek Lettering:

The writer also used Greek lettering for the word 'ALCESTIS'.

5.   DELIMITATION OF THE RESEARCH

The research is delimited to the stylistic analysis of the first five chapters of "The Silent Patient" by Alexander Michaelides. This specific focus allows for an in-depth exploration of the initial segments of the novel, concentrating on linguistic and stylistic elements within this delimited section. In these initial segments, the foundation is laid for the psychological mystery, capturing the reader's interest and setting the stage for the unfolding

complexities in the novel. The stylistic analysis highlights how the author's deliberate choices at multiple linguistic levels contribute to the immersive and enigmatic nature of "The Silent Patient."

6. CONCLUSION

This study reveals the meticulous use of different linguistic aspects like phonological, syntactic, semantic, and graphological, to enhance the psychological mystery in the novel. At the phonological level, the author highlights alliteration, assonance, consonance, and onomatopoeia to create a rich auditory experience, intensifying the suspense and intrigue. The style of author investigates the linguistic devices that contribute to the portrayal of characters' psychological states. The syntactic level analysis involves the intentional use of parallelism, anaphora, and epistrophe. On the semantic level there is vivid imagery, metaphor, personification, juxtaposition, and idioms that deepen the psychological mystery. The metaphorical elements and personification add layers of complexity to the narrative. The graphological level examination reveals deliberate choices in punctuation, including hyphens, em dashes, apostrophes, semicolons, colons, ellipses, question marks, italics, and Greek lettering. These visual elements contribute to the overall style and rhythm of the writing, creating a mysterious and engaging reading experience.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The study will be highly useful for stylistic analysts and linguists who will be conducting stylistic analysis of a literary work. Other sections of the novel can be studied for different stylistic devices used by the writer as well as various figures of speech such as assonance, hyperbole, oxymoron, personification, irony, and so on that may be identified when conducting stylistic analysis of the novel The Silent Patient. The novel can also be stylistically analyzed by tracing out variations, allusions, harmonious and coherent stylistic devices. This research will also be useful for linguistics and literature students who intend to conduct stylistic analysis study.

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