

STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF IDENTITY, ATTACHMENT AND DETACHMENT OF 'PARTICLES OF HER: A SANDMAN'S ELEGY' BY HASSIN UR REHMAN THROUGH LEECH AND SHORT MODEL

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Abstract

This study investigates the ways in which identity, attachment, and detachment are expressed through metaphorical language in the poem "Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy" by Hassin ur Rehman. Through stylistic analysis, the speaker's emotional journey from profound connection to psychological separation is revealed through the use of figures like hyperbole, simile, repetition, antithesis, and aposiopesis. The poem's metaphorical structure represents the disintegration of the self in addition to conveying sorrow. This examination demonstrates how literary elements are effective means of expressing emotional states and provide insight into the ways in which close relationships and their eventual breakdown shape and modify a person's identity. To sum up, "Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy" captures the mental journey of a speaker whose identity is formed, questioned, and finally undermined by emotional attachment and disengagement. The poet skillfully uses a range of figures of speech to represent the speaker's inner psychological development. The researcher analyzes various research articles to support the topic understudy.

Key words: Stylistics, Attachment, Detachment, Figurative Language, Disengagement

INTRODUCTION

Stylistics is the linguistics approach to literature focuses between artistic function and language. Stylistics is the study of style of a writer. Style can be defined as a writer's personality dressed in words, and character manifested in discourse. Style can also be called image of character. "Style is the way a writer uses the language available to him to create a specific effect on the reader." Stylistic analysis is the study of various discourse styles to determine the intended meaning of a text. Stylistic analysis uses several linguistic techniques to examine a text and determine how the author's language choices contribute to the text's theme and produce an artistic effect. It also links a text's choices to its social and cultural background. Rigid stylistic analysis is based on a clear and explicit analytical framework. It can also be retrieved, and its analysis must be based on precise rules and conditions. Typically, stylistic analysis is done to comment on a text's quality and meaning (Ali & Ahmad, 2023).

Study of stylistics looks at language usage and styles in a variety of literary works. The aesthetics of language, both spoken and written, are the main emphasis of stylistics. Because stylistics applies language conventions and techniques to literary works, it is also occasionally called as "literary linguistics" or "linguistic criticism." (Mubashir & Jameel, 2023a). Unique, interesting and inventive styles are used by writers, authors, and poets in literary works. Leech and Short (2014) defines style as how any literary work is communicated orally or in writing. In their writing, authors only employ metaphorical and poetic language. The authors use a variety of word choices, sentence constructions, and creative poetry techniques to convey their emotions and ideas. The theme of identity is very common in English Literature. Identity refers to how individuals or group define themselves

or they are defined by others. It contains psychological aspects (like inner conflict, memory, or trauma) or personal traits (like gender, age, beliefs), social roles (like race, class, nationality), In stories, poems, and plays, identity often shapes characters' motivations, relationships, and struggles.

Within the realm of literature, the study of stylistics plays a crucial role in disclosing and unraveling the intricacies of language and examining and analyzing the artistic devices employed by authors to convey their ideas (Mohsin et al., 2023).

The most popular genre among literary readers is considered as it gives vent to smooth flow of emotions. Native speakers have composed millions of poems in this particular language. But the matter of fact, the non-native speakers of English also give preference to English over their native language by selecting it as the medium to reflect their idea due to colonial reason. Many Pakistan writers also write in English while using figurative language to explore the hidden meaning of the text. Taufiq Rafat is one of the giants in Pakistani writing in English (Nawaz et al., n.d.).

The researcher has selected the poet named Dr. Hassin ur Rehman who is a Pakistani short story writer and poet. He is not only a great educationist but also a remarkable researcher. Many of his research articles have been published in national and international journals. He has been working in the field of teaching for more than 12 years. He has been teaching English literature, philosophy, stylistics and grammar in various universities and colleges. Presently, he is offering his best services at Hamdard University in Karachi (Nawaz et al. 2025).

The researcher has selected the poem 'Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy' which explores intense longing and obsession as the speaker describes an almost supernatural connection to a woman hearing her heartbeat from miles away and sensing her presence in every detail. Despite his desperate pursuit, he ultimately leaves her because he is unable to fully hold onto what he desires. The speaker also seeks emotional support from a friend comparing them to sunlight on sand while the world around him seems to whisper her stories. In the end, he dismisses his feelings as mere "rumors and lies," though the unresolved tone suggests deeper and unspoken pain. The poem blends raw emotion with mythical imagery capturing love's fleeting and haunting nature. The poem's inconsistent pattern and rhyme scheme reveal the mental status of the speaker. The poem touches the themes of yearning, elusiveness, and the blurred lines between reality and fantasy (Rehman, 2025).

Framework

The researcher applied the Leech and Short model as a framework for Hassin ur Rehman's poem *Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy* to analyze identity, attachment and detachment of the text while using the element of figurative language. There are four elements in this model; Lexical,

Grammatical, Context and Cohesion and figure of Speech (Leech & Short, 2007).

Research Objective

To explore the role of figurative language in conveying theme of identity, attachment and detachment in the poem *Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy* by Hassin ur Rehman.

Research Question

How does figurative language assist in conveying the theme of identity, attachment and detachment in the poem *Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy* by Hassin ur Rehman?

Literature Review

The conduct, attitude, and personality of the writer are reflected in their style. A writer's style conveys to their audience their thoughts, feelings, and personality. Because some writers deviate from accepted norms, an author's name may be revealed by their writing style. According to Enkvist (2016) People who deviate from the phonetic, morphological, syntactic,

semantic, and graphological systems of language have a unique style. Numerous linguistic expressions are examined by stylistic analysis. Stylistics is an essential analysis of literary works. The way readers interact with words, particularly in a literary discourse, is suggested by stylistics. It is a scientific discipline that examines every significant aspect of a given language. Understanding literary works according to their purpose rather than just their formal elements is known as stylistics. According to Leech and Short (1981), a literary work's style can be examined at four distinct levels: lexical, grammatical, phonological, and graphological. They put out an all-inclusive framework for examining work from all angles in order to gain a complete comprehension. Readers can perform a linguistic analysis of the text and pinpoint important elements with the aid of the list of likely style markers. Because some studies only concentrate on one or a small number of important characteristics, this checklist enables a more thorough stylistic analysis of a text (Mubashir & Jameel, 2023).

Since a written or spoken discourse's style gives it meaning, stylistic analyses of many literary works have been employed to examine these works from unusual angles. Style, according to Leech (1969), is "a sort of revolt against the norm; a repetition of linguistic forms" in the selection of linguistic medium (Mubashir & Jameel, 2023a).

Leech and Short (1981) proposed that the style of a literary work can be analyzed at four different levels which include, lexical, grammatical, phonological, and graphological. They proposed this comprehensive frame to analyze work from every perspective to get a thorough understanding. The list of probable style indicators can help readers conduct a linguistic assessment of the text and identify key aspects. This checklist allows for a more comprehensive stylistic study of a text, as certain investigations focus on only one or a few key traits (Mubashir & Jameel, 2023b).

Stylistics according to Leech and Short is in their 2007 book *Style in Fiction* aims to study the relationship between the author's artistic achievement and how it is achieved through language. It studies the relationship between significances of text and the linguistic features. These features are famously called "markers or features". They are divided or classified, according to Leech and Short, into four categories: Lexical, grammatical, phonological and graphological (Makhloof, 2020). Style, according to F.L. Lucas (1995), is a way for someone to connect and establish a connection with others; it's *a person's personality expressed via words and their character in conversation*. Gibbon reinforces this opinion by saying that "style is the image of character".

Methodology

This Study follows a textual analysis method using the stylistics model proposed by Leech and Short Model. The researcher has used Leech and Short Model (2007) as a theoretical framework for the study. The stated model is consisted of four different categories i.e. lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, and cohesion and context. But in this study, the third category, i.e. figures of speech, is explored specifically. The analysis of data is based on the close reading of original text. The research investigates how the narrator uses language at figurative levels to analyze and express themes of identity, attachment, and detachment by Hassin ur Rehman's poem *Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy*.

Analysis of the Poem

Hyperbole

Using a wealth of figurative imagery, Dr. Hassin ur Rehman's poem *Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy* examines the emotional aspects of identity, attachment, and separation. The use of exaggeration in the opening phrase, **"I can hear her heartbeat from a thousand miles,"** demonstrates the speaker's strong emotional bond with the nameless woman. In addition to highlighting the intensity of attachment, this exaggerated expression implies how the speaker's identity is emotionally molded by the beloved's presence, even at an impossibly

remote distance. The fullness of the woman's influence on the speaker's sense of self is highlighted by the paratactic listing in "*Her voice, Her steps, Her thoughts even smiles,*" where each sensory recollection becomes a defining aspect of his individual identity. In addition to highlighting the intensity of attachment, this exaggerated expression implies how the speaker's identity is emotionally molded by the beloved's presence, even at an impossibly remote distance. The fullness of the woman's influence on the speaker's sense of self, where each sensory recollection becomes a defining aspect of his individual identity, is highlighted by the paratactic listing in "Her voice, Her steps, Her thoughts even smiles."

Litotes

In the sentence "*She is not unfamiliar to the deities,*" a more subdued figure, litotes, is employed, ironically elevating the lover to a celestial rank. This shows how much the speaker values and idealizes her, further fusing his identity with hers. Nonetheless, the remark "*I need your heart in this matter in vain*" marks the beginning of the emotional transition toward detachment. Assonance contributes to the gentle, melancholy tone in this instance, indicating the speaker's emotional pleas are not met and the pointlessness of his desire.

Simile

In "*You are the sun shine reflecting on sand,*" the poet uses a simile to highlight the fleeting nature of connection. The speaker's knowledge of emotional loss and the beloved's waning presence are symbolized by the sun's fleeting and delicate reflection on the beach. In the line "*As I am a Sandman to them like fairies,*" the poet uses ellipsis and a simile to further the introspection. The ambiguous simile "like acres" evokes vastness and emotional dispersion, signifying a lack of cohesive identity and a widening emotional blank.

Climax and Anticlimax

The phrase "*I found her, I talked to her, and I left her, went very fast*" exemplifies climax and anticlimax encapsulating the abrupt decline and increase in intensity of an emotional arc. It signifies the transition from attachment to disengagement. The emotional gap is emphasized by the opposite contrast that follows in "*She was going very slow at last*"—his departure was quick, but her fading is gradual, indicating different emotional timelines.

Aposiopesis

The dash and broken structure in "*I cannot tell you — leave it let it go*" imply that the speaker is either unable or unwilling to explain the anguish of letting go, which is an example of aposiopesis used to convey emotional suppression. The phrase "*leave it let it go*" is repeated, further reinforcing the idea that this moment is a direct confrontation with detachment. The internal conflict becomes apparent when the sentence is repeated, as though the speaker is persuading himself to emotionally distance himself from the things that once defined who he is.

Contradiction and Emotional Denial

The final words, "*These are just rumors and lies / Don't listen with anyone sighs,*" expose inconsistency and emotional denial. Here, the speaker rejects earlier opinions as untrue in an effort to disprove them. It is possible to see this dismissal as a last attempt of psychological protection and separation, implying that identity itself becomes unstable when fundamental emotional ties are severed.

Figures of speech are used throughout the poem to track the speaker's emotional development in addition to adorning the language. According to the metaphorical devices, attachment creates a common identity that, upon detachment, dissolves into a fragmented sense of self. Because of its stylistic development, the poem is an intimate elegy for both the personality that was previously defined by it and for love that has been lost.

Conclusion

To sum up, "Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy" captures the mental journey of a speaker whose identity is formed, questioned, and finally undermined by emotional attachment and disengagement. The poet skillfully uses a range of figures of speech to represent the speaker's inner psychological development. Every figurative device, from the first hyperbolic declaration of intimacy to the broken ellipses and contradictions that denote emotional withdrawal, turns into a mirror reflecting the speaker's inner struggle. The poem shows how attachment creates a sense of shared identity, making the speaker's sense of self inextricably linked to the beloved. But that cohesive self is broken down by the slow transition toward detachment, which is characterized by antithesis, repetition, and self-censorship, leaving behind a fractured emotional state. The analysis shows that stylistic elements are essential to meaning-making and are not only ornamental by charting this journey through figurative language. This study supports the notion that stylistics can effectively examine psychological themes like identity development and emotional disintegration by highlighting the ability of poetic form to convey emotional depth.

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APENDIX

Particles of Her: A Sandman's Elegy'

by Hassin ur Rehman

I can hear her heartbeat from a thousand miles
Her voice, Her steps, Her thoughts even smiles,
It is not unique to have these abilities
She is not unfamiliar to the deities.

I need your heart in this matter in vain
You are the sunshine reflecting on sand
Every particle starts telling me her stories As I am a
Sandman to them like fairies.
I want to meet her, catch her and squeeze her at any
cost I found her, I talked to her, and I left her, went
very fast.
Now I followed her steps very fast
She was going very slow at last
I cannot tell you — leave it let it go
I shouldn't tell you — leave it let it go
These are just rumors and lies
Don't listen with anyone sighs.