

Unveiling the Interplay between Foregrounding and Emotional Resonance: A Stylistics Analysis of Sylvia Plath's LADY LAZARUS

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Abstract

Sylvia Plath holds significant place in modern literature. Focusing on the subject matter and linguistic preoccupation of Sylvia Plath this study tries to create bridge between the thematic and stylistic innovation in Plath's poem Lady Lazarus. This study is qualitative in nature. Therefore, close reading and descriptive tools for data analysis are used to dive deeper into the context of this poem. The stylistics innovation incorporates various literary techniques that are used by Plath to create emotional resonance in her poetry. The aim of this study is to know the underlying philosophy of language used in the poem to create emotional resonance. This study provides a fresh perspective of how foregrounding elements complement and contribute to emotional intensity and meaning making in poetry. The findings of this study suggests that the experimentation of subject matter, and style Plath's poem intensifies the emotions. In this poem, she uses various new techniques ranging from unconventional dashes to confessional style. Her linguistics preoccupation helps her to gain sympathy from readers.

Keywords: Stylistics Innovation, foregrounding technique Emotional Resonance, Sylvia Plath, Lady Lazarus

Introduction

Every modern and postmodern writer experimented with art by introducing nuanced techniques and Sylvia Plath is no exception. Being a modern writer her literary style, technique and innovation makes her different from contemporaries. Stylistics innovation is the term that encapsulates various writing techniques that include literary ambiguity, allusions, autobiographical elements, unconventional rhyming and graphology. These tendencies of Sylvia Plath show Plath's linguistics preoccupation in general and modernist trends in specific. She expresses her deep rooted emotions using metaphors that vividly paint the picture of her mind. The selection of words, sentence structure, and rap rhyming turn abstract thoughts into real. This manifests the interplay between stylistics innovation and emotional resonance created by Sylvia Plath. Widdoson (2013) explains that stylistics create bridge between the literature and linguistics. So, Sylvia Plath rightly justifies this definition and creates delicate balance between literature and linguistics techniques.

This poem does not follow one strict pattern and gives liberty to readers to discuss different aspects. The multilayered construction of Lady Lazarus that incorporates linguistic skills and literature content makes this poem a unique poem of postmodern literature. Lady Lazarus is a dramatic monologue which was widely used as a stylistic technique by modern writers such as T.S Eliot, Ezra Pound, and Robert Browning. Plath's adds feminine voice in her dramatic persona to add the flavor of emotional intensity. Plath's evocative language and experimentation in the form and structure create strong sense of unease and catharsis. So, in order to delve deeper into context, qualitative research tools are applied for decoding and undertaking the literary stylistics elements present in the poem. Moreover, this study comprehensively discusses Plath's Lady Lazarus forms the lens of foregrounding. The results of this study suggest that Plath being a modern writer uses extra linguistics parameters to make this poem a unique in style. She rationalizes and normalizes the subject matter which is not discussed in daily life. The artistic construction of the poem with the use of artistic techniques not only increases the aesthetics of the poem but also shows the power of language to evoke the catharsis among readers. She normalizes the discourse of depression, mental health problem, and psychological trauma. Resultantly, her style and innovation create strong sense of apathy among readers.

Delimitations of Study

This study particularly focuses on the Sylvia Plath's Lady Lazarus poem. This study deals with the power of language to generate the feelings of empathy and emotional resonance by looking at the stylistics elements. This study comprehensively discusses the elements of stylistics and the way Plath uses these techniques to create the art. It also adds knowledge about the Plath's biography to better understand the context of the poem. This study only examines the text that is used in the poem to evoke the emotional response but does not directly deals with actual reader's reaction on it. It only focuses the foregrounding elements that increase the emotional intensity of poem.

Literature Review

According to Leech (1969) "style is the way in which something is spoken, written or performed". Style refers to the words usage and speaking style of a person. Leech and Short (1981, p.11) defines style as selection of the words from a grand linguistic vocabulary. Style involves spoken and written, literary and non-literary types of language. They take style as a "dress of thoughts". So it is the way of a writer in which he conveys his message. "Stylistics is the (linguistic) study of style, is rarely undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language". Leech and Short (1981, p.13) Short and Candlin (1989, p.183) said that "stylistics is a linguistic approach to the study of the literary texts. It thus embodies one essential part of the general course - philosophy; that of combining language and literary study" According to Leech 'Literature cannot be examined in any depth apart from language.'

Subjective emotions hold significance place in literature. Every writer tries his best to deliver what he believes and feels in his mind. This subjective nature is reflected through the themes of alienation, trauma, pain, isolation and misery. Modern literature specifically highlights subjective emotions. These subjective emotions effect readers with the use of language. In this regard, writer or poet plays with words and create art that is deeply connected

with people. Roland Barthes's Semiotic theory in advanced stylistic domain and his concept of "Pleasure of text" add more to the subjective experiences of literature. This resultantly opens the wider doors for meaning making and effective reader response. This effectiveness is created by the use of stylistics technique that brings readers closer to text. Understanding poem stylistically is a complex task due intricate discourse structure than understanding novels, short stories and prose (Ismael et al, 2023). The trend of convention and deviation is noticeable in the poem Lady Lazarus by Sylvia Plath, for instance, the use of long dashes, unconventional rhyming, and unconventional subject matter aligns with this theoretical model of foregrounding. In every discipline, there are certain rules and principles to define the areas of that discipline. In stylistics, we need a yardstick both evaluate linguistic features of a literary text. There are three principles for the stylistic analysis of a text:

- 1) Foregrounding
- 2) Norms
- 3) Deviations

Foregrounding is the opposite of backgrounding. In back grounding technique, we explore those features which are hidden. It is very close to Critical Discourse Analysis. Foregrounding is the study of an apparent picture of the text. Through this technique, we try to explore highlighted features of a text. In Halliday's language, it is called Prominence. It is comprised of two techniques: Parallel Foregrounding and Deviational Foregrounding Parallelism is the study of revised similar patterns in a text. Deviation is the violation of apparent patterns. Therefore, by examining the stylistics innovation this study uses foregrounding as theoretical framework for this research.

In this context, Lady Lazarus poem is medium range poem by Sylvia Plath with immense potential of research. At thematic level, Edgar (1998) focuses on the general thematic analysis of poem Lady Lazarus and compares it with other poem of Sylvia Plath. Plath not only experiments with the subject matter but also with literary technique to create compelling impact on readers. Use of vivid imagery in Lady Lazarus evokes the reader's emotions and feelings (Smith, 2005). This emotional resonance of poem Lady Lazarus is further manifested by the themes of suffering, femininity, resilience and trauma. Plath's mastery over language helps her to convey her psychological angst (Miller, 2018). In addition to that, Grscia (2016) explores the layer of gender identity through language in Plath's' Lady Lazarus that adds more to the complexity of the poem. Van Dyne (1983) argues that Plath uses bold voice in Lady Lazarus to constructs myths that not only amuse readers but also astonishes readers. Govisndan (1997) argues that emotional resonance is created through psychological, moral and pathological representation of the text. It is manifested through hyperbole, dramatic monologues and morbid utterances that create unique impression on reader's mind. On the theory of emotional resonance in literature, there are various psychologists and writers who have worked to select the emotional aspects of text. Renowned writer Martha Nassbaum in her book "Love's Knowledge: Essays on Philosophy and Literature" (1990) explains that written text has power to foster compassion and empathy. It also explains that, the way writer writes and uses text to create emotion resonance increases understanding of human experiences. In this context, this research aims to discuss the stylistics techniques and its correlation with the emotional resonance based on the foregrounding

stylistics model developed by Russian theorist and linguist Roman Jakobson in his book "Linguistics and Poetics". Mukařovský further extended foregrounding theoretical framework and applied it on the writing. This theoretical framework discusses the role of literary text to highlight the deviation, parallelism and linguistic innovation to create aesthetic as well as thematic aspect. Therefore, this theoretical framework helps researcher to understand the linguistics innovation in the form of conventions or experimentation used in the poem Lady Lazarus. This theory helps to understand the hidden meaning, psychological trauma, symbolism and the role of language to reflect the inner self of a person. It also incorporates the literary stylistics techniques and its correlation with meaning making. Therefore, this theoretical framework enables researcher to dive deeper into the meaning of the text and understand the advanced use of stylistics to offer valuable insight of the poem lady Lazarus.

Research Gap

In this study, Uniqueness of linguistic expertise used by Plath is discussed in great detail. This research dives deeper into the context of semantic and pragmatic parameters to make readers aware about the correlation between language and emotional resonance. This makes this study a unique in its nature and content. This study also breaks new grounds by elucidating the complex relationship between language and emotional resonance. This study holistically incorporates foregrounding elements, previous studies focuses on the thematic, biographical and psychological interpretations. There remains a substantial gap in the exploration of Plath's use of foregrounding elements that creates emotional resonance through the lens of stylistics by using foregrounding as a lens. This study discusses Plath's pome Lady Lazarus at both philosophical and literary level which is the essential requirement of advanced stylistics. Therefore, by building effective correlation between language and its power to influence this study not only add practical dimension but also comprehensively provide sound understanding of Plath's literary innovation and her inner mind.

Research Objective

- i. To discuss foregrounding and linguistic norms that create innovative language patterns in "Lady Lazarus"?
- ii. To find out the experimentation of linguistic features that evoke emotional responses and resonate with readers in "Lady Lazarus"?

Research Question

Q. 01. How does Sylvia Plath employ foregrounding and linguistic norms that create innovative language patterns in "Lady Lazarus"

Q. 02 In what ways does Sylvia Plath experimentation of linguistic features that evoke emotional responses and resonate with readers in "Lady Lazarus"

Research Methodology

Data Collection Method

Data collection plays pivotal role in academic research. For this study, data is collected by purposive sampling from internet website poetry foundation. For carrying out research only one poem of Sylvia Plath Lady Lazarus has been picked from website poetry foundation. This type of data collection keeps researcher focused and restrict to particular researcher niche.

Research Sample

In this study, the purposive sampling technique is used for selecting the poem. This sampling is advantageous because it gives an idea to the researcher about the approach and analysis of poem. This technique is also called judgmental sampling because the researcher deliberately selects the data which fits for his/her study (Alkassim, 2016). Purposive sampling is applied for caring the information from general to specific. The theme of emotional resonance is vast in literature but this research focuses on the specific poem of Sylvia Plath. Furthermore, the nature of this study is stylistics analysis for that reason, purposive sampling is advantageous and it provides guidance on what is necessary for this study and what is not. It also helps the researcher to select relevant data for the study.

Research Design

This study is qualitative in nature. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009), qualitative research is a helpful tool in literature for analyzing the text and for finding literary dimensions. This study particularly focuses on the literary dimension of poem. This method is concerned with qualitative content analysis, thematic analysis, and discourse analysis used to get in-depth information about data. As per Vaismoradi et al. (2013), "Qualitative content analysis and thematic analysis are two commonly used approaches in data analysis of a research". The qualitative method was text-based, subjective, and less generalizable than quantitative data, and dealt with the questions like how and why. Qualitative research aligns with descriptive data analysis method. Descriptive data analysis method helps researchers to find out the hidden agendas, literary codes, and narrative style that come in the vast domain of foregrounding stylistics. Therefore, this method is applied in this study as well to find out the relation elements of literary stylistics.

Data Analysis

A textual analysis tool is used for the data analysis. This tool is valuable for social science research (Fairlough, 2003). According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009), Textual analysis helps to understand and interpret verbal and non-verbal signs present within the text. This subjective nature of this research tool helps researcher to dive deeper into the context of the text and find out the different dimensions of the text be it related to linguistics or literature. Therefore, this tool helps researchers to find out the linguistic innovation coupled with emotional resonance in the text of Lady Lazarus by Sylvia Plath.

Research Tool

Research tool helps researcher to discover the research objectives. Therefore, in this research tools such as textual annotation and thematic coding that comes in the domain of foregrounding theoretical framework are used to identify the literary and philosophical dimensions of this study. Textual annotation means that, with the help of this tool it becomes easier for researcher to identify stylistics innovation in the text. Similarly, thematic coding tool is used to identify the thematic aspects of the poem.

Analysis and Discussion

7.1 Deviation

1) Graphological Deviation

In this particular section, this poem is interpreted on the basis of graphological deviation. Wales (2014) stated that graphology in stylistics is the system of writing that encapsulates handwritten, typography, and other related features such as punctuation, capitalization, and font style. It is clear that Plath is very clear about it and she deliberately uses unconventional punctuation marks to give impression of her mental sufferings. Therefore, at graphological level, Sylvia Plath has unconventional style of writing poetry makes her different from other writers. In her poem Lady Lazarus she uses unconventional long dashes to convey meaning and to show her artistic abilities. Her use of dashes is irregular and abstract. At semantic level, it sometimes ends the sentences abruptly and sometimes it acts as continuation of the sentences. With all this experimentation and innovation Plath tries to build her own empire, her own order by her language. The innovation of language is visible in the form of linguistics use symbols, punctuation marks, words, and metaphors. Out of all, use of dashes in her Poem Lady Lazarus makes her poem unique. She also poses rhetorical questions to ask readers and to engage them directly. The manifestation of dashes and deviation is given below in the table:

Stanza Line	Stanza Number	Semantic Analysis
“I manage it”	Stanza 1, 3 rd line	Continuation
“Do I terrify” “Them unwrap me hand and foot”	Stanza 4, 3 rd line	Abrupt ending
“For the hearing of my heart”	Stanza 10, 1 st line	
“Ash, ash” “You spoke and stir” “Flesh, bone, there is nothing there”	Stanza 20, 1 st and 3 rd lines	Abrupt ending

2) Semantic Deviation Intensifying Emotional Resonance

Sylvia Plath uses various semantic deviations in Lady Lazarus to make her poem more artistic. Semantic deviation used in writing is the key feature to enhance the beauty of a poem. The literary devices used in the poem are simile, metaphors, hyperbole, and personification. Plath extensively uses metaphors to explain the deep rooted thoughts and tries to paint picture. Metaphors hold significance in Lady Lazarus. Out of all literary devices used in the poem, Plath gives greater importance to metaphors. Metaphors help reader to know the age of exploitation of women. She uses body as her most important metaphor to tell her inner thoughts. Additionally, she metaphorically considers death an art. As she says, “Dying is an art/ like everything else/ I do it exceptionally well” This is noticeable that dying is not an art but presenting death as something larger than life and exaggerating through eloquent language is the real art. Plath does this and tries to immortalize her through writing. She uses various metaphors paint a picture of her state of mind. Plath with her metaphors tries to make suicide a performance the way she makes her poetry a performance. The use of semantic deviation in the

poem reflects the destitute of modern man who is hollow and suffering due to his existence. Some of the metaphors, similes and personifications are mention in the following table:

Metaphors	Similes	Personifications
“My face a fearless” - 8 th line	“Bright as a Nazi lampshade” - line 5	“walking miracle”
“I am your opus, I am your valuable, The pure gold baby”	“And like the cat I have nine times to die” - line 21	“sour breath”
“A cake of soap, A wedding ring”	“I do it so it feels like hell” - line 46	
“Dying is an art”	“And pick the worms off me like sticky pearls.” - line 42	
	“And I eat men like air”	

2.1) Imagery evoking Emotion

Imagery is the important component of poetry. It helps to paint a clear picture to reader. Sylvia Plath masters this art and uses strong imagery to create long lasting impact on readers. Lady Lazarus presents the violent, dark and repressive imagery. This imagery is manifested in the form allusion of Holocaust, images of hell, bodily objectification. Plath draws the parallel between her life experience and the survivors of violent Holocaust. This strong comparison propels the emotional intensity of poem. This deliberate use of imagery represents the state of mind of Sylvia Plath which is to create emotional impact on the readers. The use of metaphors and words such as “flesh”, “hell”, and “cell”, “grave” create strong imagery in the poem. The comparison with “Peanut-crunching crowd” and “walking meat” adds more to complexity and grotesque nature of poem. Additionally, Plath’s active tone in poem and her ability to rise from the ashes create sense of empowerment in this poem. She says, “out of ash/ I rise with my red hair/ And I eat men like air. This is expressionist imagery- a modernist tendency – to tell the depressing story of her life. Plath with ability of language gets sympathy of readers; those who not develop this sympathy actually fail to comprehend the language and meaning of the poem. She felt the pain and misery in her life; therefore, being a writer she exaggerates that pain and agony to tell readers about the trauma of life. Plath achieves this goal by showcasing darker imagery. She treats death as a theatrical performance and makes death sublime. The real and depressed imagery is used evoke the reader’s emotional state and create lasting effect on reader’s mind. Vivid imagery of darker and haunted experiences of Jewish people and its comparison with Plath’s suffering resultantly, increases the emotional intensity of the poem. Her voice in the form of vivid imagery invites readers to see her mental pain and misery. Additionally, she also constructs mew gender identity by showcasing the imagery of body in the poem. The Body features and representation of strong women through powerful words such as ‘smiling women’ Paint a complete picture in reader’s mind. The darker and decomposed imagery gives an impression to reader that Plath is only alive in flesh her soul is actually dead that has experienced the death several times. The deliberate use of content words that intensify the

darker imagery shows the mastery of Plath for creating emotional resonance. Additionally, she also juxtaposes the beauty and horror that shows artistic vision of Plath. For instance in line, “Bright as Nazi Lampshade” hints that beauty and horror are juxtaposes to show the provocative image of pain and misery.

2.2 Allusion

Allusion is the most common and widely used literary technique in literary piece. In poetry specifically, this technique was widely used by modernist writers such as T.S Eliot, Emily Dickenson, Ezra Pound and Y.B Yeats. Plath does the same; however, her use of allusion as literary technique is different from others. The distinguish feature that she adds in her poetry is the use of more absurd and darker allusion. She starts her poem lady Lazarus with the allusion of Nazi Germany Holocaust. For instance in line 5, she refers to “Nazi Lampshade” to allude the holocaust. This exaggerated and absurd comparison pushes reader to know more about the life and mysteries of Plath’s life. For instance, she says in line 4, “A sort of walking miracle” which shows that her rebirth is similar to Lady Lazarus who was reborn by the miracle of Jesus Christ. She also uses biblical allusion of Lazarus who comes back from death. Like Lady Lazarus, Plath draws wants to tell her readers that she has also came from death. With each new life, Plath’s tries to convince readers that her life becomes even more difficult that makes readers insecure about the absurdity of life. She uses allusion and conceit correspondingly that intensifies depressed tone of the poem. She counts her suicide attempts to tell readers that she has seen death closer. Allusions and symbolism are combined together to create emotional resonance. Even the title of the poem Lady Lazarus symbolizes the biblical creature. These intertextual references invite readers to know more about the psychological state of Plath.

3) Lexical Deviation and Emotional Resonance

Lexical deviation in stylistics studies helps to understand the choice of words. In this regard, lexical choice of Plath in poem Lady Lazarus tells about the turmoil and despondency. She focuses more on content words that intensify the thematic and emotional aspects of the poem. Words such as, “hell”, “seashell”, “teeth”, “grave”, “worms”, “scars”, “heart”, “hair”, “cloth”, “opus”, “baby”, “Ash”, “cake”, “wedding ring”, “trash”, “lampshade”, “featherless”, are the content words that represent body, dark imagery, alienation, and fragmentation. Furthermore, she also coins new words such as ‘Herr Docktor’, “Herr Enemy” as if she is writing a text message. Lexical items such as, “smiling women”, “identical women”, “walking miracle”, “peanut-crunching” are used together to present herself at the center. These words function as some of the key words to highlight the main themes of the poem. Additionally, Lady Lazarus is confessional poem. Sylvia Plath narrates her life events. She tells readers about her suicide attempts her mental health. She repeatedly uses personal pronoun “I” to reveal her highly confessional feelings. The traumatization of events is reflected in her poem. Her style of narration and disenfranchisement of thoughts also reflect her modernist tendencies to see the world from different perspective. Dyne (1988) also asserts this notion by adding that Plath not only defines herself in poem but also defend her. The narrative techniques used in the poem creates emotional resonance and appeal to readers. It makes readers think about the predicament and destitution of living in the postmodern era. This romanticized suicide in general and death in particular reflect the emotional appeal of writer and its impact on readers as well. The Lady Lazarus due to its nature

and subject matter seems more like suicide note that underscores the traumatic events and make readers feel emotional. “our knowledge of her suicide not only clarifies what she said and what she meant –it also certifies that she meant what she said” (Strade, 1973). The pertinent question that can be dealt with is not calling Plath goddesses of suicide but to look at her subject matter, artistic and creative skills that translate her feelings and make her life events a footnote for depressed people.

Parallelism

1) Phonological parallelism endorsing trauma and agony

Parallelism in literary stylistics encapsulates deviation types which show the relationship between units of linguistic structure. According to Leech (1969) parallelism is the unique and flexible aspect of poetic language. It shows the sameness of text in language in stylistic is the study of sound patter. It includes phonological parallelism, morphological parallelism, semantic and syntactic parallelism. Within these parallelism it discusses phonological parallelism alliteration, assonance, and consonance, rhyming pattern and stress and syntax. At phonological level, the rhyming pattern of Lady Lazarus sounds like rap song. This unconventional rhyming pattern of poem highlights the linguistic preoccupation of Sylvia Plath. She occasionally uses traditional rhyming and focuses more on slant rhyme scheme. For example, line (1-2), and line (83-84) has traditional rhyming scheme.

“I have done it again.
One year in every ten”
“I rise with my red hair
And I eat men like air”
Lines (83-84)

Besides this, she focuses more on slant rhyming which sounds like rap rhyming. This irregular pattern of Lady Lazarus makes this poem more of rap song. For example she says in the poem,

“I do it so it feels like hell.
I do it so it feels real.
I guess you could say I’ve a call”

In this stanza, repetition of same words and sounds make this poem lyrical. Words such as “Hell”, “Real”, “Call” are set in a fashion to make this poem more like rap song. This also shows that Plath intermixingly uses syntactic and phonological parallelism to generate powerful feelings. This innovation in the sound pattern such as use of alliteration, assonance, increases the musicality of the poem. Slant rhyming, unconventional repetition and rhythmic quality depict Plath’s deep emotion of internal turmoil, trauma and bravery. This innovation brings readers closer to her and tells them about unprecedented traumas of life. The manipulation and experimentation of rhythm in Lady Lazarus increases the musicality of the poem. Repetition of certain sounds such as “I do it so it feels like hell./ I do it so it feels real,” “It’s easy enough to do it in a cell/ It’s easy enough to do it and stay put,” To the same place, the same face, the same brute,” “I am your opus/ I am your valuable” emphasize the darkness of life and misery. This rhythmic pattern makes this poem modern rap song filled with strong emotions of despair,

agony, pain and courage. Additionally, Plath put greater stress on the words that reflect the trauma, agony, and death. Following table explains the phonological parallelism in detail:

Assonance	Consonance	Alliteration	Rhyming
“grave cat ate”	“call, cell”	“My face a featureless, fine”	“I have done it again, One year in every ten”
	“very large charge” “Call, cell”	“I rise with my red hair”	“Do it so it feels like hell, I do it so it feels real, I guess you could say I have a call”
“I turn and burn”	“I turn and burn”		“Very large charge”
	“Rise with my red hair”		“Turn and burn, Do not think I underestimate your great concern”

2) Syntactic Parallelism, exaggerating feelings and emotions

In modern literature writers deliberately try to experiment with the form and structure of literary piece. Sylvia Plath does the same. Her experimentation in poetry is manifested in the form and structure as well. The tripartite structure of this poem coupled with repetition and parallel structure contribute more to thematic aspects of this poem. This interesting innovation makes her unique in her style and increases the aesthetics of poem. Tripartite structure aspects are; “I have done it again,” “Out of Ash,” “And I eat men like air.” This structure enhances the beauty and aesthetic sense of the poem. This means that, Plath narrates her story in three phases. At first she survives suicide attempts; she fights with all the odds of life. Lastly, she gets enough courage to raise her voice. Additionally, this structure also informs readers about the stages of Plath’s life. Each section signifies this is the main feature in this poem that is repeatedly used by Sylvia Plath. She takes help form parallel structure to convey her meaning in a more engaging manner. She also uses this structure for making it lyrical poem as well. For instance in stanza five she says,

“Comeback in broad day

To the same place, the same face, the same brute.”

The repetition of phrase “The same” here shows the parallel structure. This parallelism and manipulation of sounds in the form of alliteration and repetition shows the expertise of Plath. Her experimentation reflects her ability of innovation that eventually create bridge between the narrator and reader. She uses language as her medium to tell people about the horrors of life. Each word, phrase and sentence of the poem tells the destitution and survival of the poet. The fragmented structure of the poem tells about the fragmented society and mind of a modern man. It is a depiction of poet’s inner mind and her existential angst. Additionally, Plath also juxtaposes two different ideas to reject the traditional responses. For instance, the juxtaposition of rebirth and death tells readers that Plath is not interested in life anymore. Each stanza consists of three lines which highlight one particular event or idea. The stanzas are also set in fragmented patter. Some stanzas have rhyming, some start with parallel structure while other start with single words. For example, stanza 16, “it’s easy enough to do it in a cell/ it’s easy

enough to do it and stay put. /It's the theatrical" follows the rhetorical style. Lines, "These are my hands /My knees./I may be skin and bone" follow the fragmented style of writing.

Findings

The findings of this study suggest that, Plath uses various innovative techniques to construct the meaningful text. She expresses her inner trauma, fragmented mind, and suicidal thoughts by using foregrounding techniques which make her language more effective. This experimentation and innovation is visible in the form of lexical deviation, parallelism, darker illusion, confessional narrative style, and phonological deviation. This study also highlights the features that exaggerates and intensifies the emotions and feelings of Plath. The use of juxtaposition of thoughts and strong imagery to create emotional resonance is highlighted by this study. Findings also reveal the power of language to construct and build an empire of words. Plath masters this art of pursuing and tries to normalize the subject matter on which very few people write. Furthermore, keeping foregrounding techniques at the center, this study also touches upon the narrative style of Plath that is deviation from the conventional poetry. Additionally, this study also dives deeper into the context of the poem to foregrounds lexical as well as intended meaning of the text. In short, this study provides comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the poem lady Lazarus by using stylistics analysis.

Conclusion

To conclude, it can be said that in literature, writers take great help from their sublime to produce the art that is immortal. From nature to beauty and from supernatural elements to death, the sublime has always been the centrifugal force that helps writers to produce poetry. Sylvia Plath's sublime is more of a darker and absurd. She is obsessed with the death and human suffering. She writes on unconventional subject matter with unconventional style. This study particularly focuses on the poem Lady Lazarus poem to analyze, and understand the semantic as well as pragmatic aspects of her poem. In poem lady Lazarus the subject matter and stylistics techniques complement each other that show the artistic capability of Plath. This research discusses this poem with respect to literary stylistics. The objective of this research is to find out the elements stylistics innovation in the poem and its correlation with the emotional resonance. Results and discussion of this research suggests that Sylvia Plath being a modern writer uses her wit and artistic tendencies to experiment and produce art that has wider emotional impact on the reader's mind. Her stylistics and linguistics innovation makes her different from her contemporaries. This research comprehensively explains artistic experimentation in the form of usage of foregrounding techniques in the Lady Lazarus to deliver the scholarly knowledge. Additionally, it also incorporates various stylistics branches of stylistics to understand the various stylistics techniques used by Sylvia Plath. The findings also suggest that Sylvia Plath has unique style of writing poetry. She uses unconventional punctuation marks, unique rhyming that increases the musicality of the poem, dark imagery that directly impact on the senses of the readers, and unique metaphors that define her inner self. Although some of the literary stylistics elements are not new but the way Plath uses these techniques makes her different. She gains the sympathy of readers with her language and construction of meaning.

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