



## STYLE OF JOHN KEATS POEM “TO AUTUMN”

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### ABSTRACT

*In this paper John Keats's poem "To Autumn" is analysed stylistic. The stylistics is made under the aspects of graph logical, grammatical, syntactical, phonological patterns have also find tropes and schemes that are present in the poem. This paper analyzes structure and style of Keats poem, in context of nature and beauty.*

**Keywords:** Autumn, Literature, Ode, Poetry, Style

### I. INTRODUCTION

Webster's dictionary says that style is a distinct way of expressing written or spoken words. Style has assorted meanings when literature is concerned. It is way of performing something. Personality is style, facade is style, thoughts shows style, way of representing one's words is style, construct of sentence is style, intend of tone is style. We observe that, Keats poetry portraits a unique style of thoughts.

### II. STYLISTICS

The study of text and its interpretation means stylistics from perspective of linguistics. It can be considered as a branch linguistics covering the style of writing. Scientifically concrete data and proper way is provided by stylistics analysis, using special concepts of linguistics. Examination of sounds is phonetics whereas pronunciation using rules of a language is phonology. Writing with a set of rules of spellings is known to be graphology. Here grammatical analysis is also performed to analyze the structure of different stanzas of poem "To Autumn" by knowing different parts of it like noun, adverbs, verbs, etc. Lexical analysis is a study by which words make various linguistic properties.

### III. POET JOHN KEATS

John Keats died at an early age of 25 years. The wrote many poems like "To Autumn", "Ode of Psyche", "On Death", "Three Sonnets on Women", etc. He was amongst famous poets of centuries of that time. His poems are such a great piece of work that English language can be said to be incomplete without poems of Keats. He gave a spiritual touch to the love and the beauty through his poems.

- Important Features of Keats' Poetry



His poems are romantic. His poems speak about beauty. He was unmarried and was also associated with church, so his desires to love and sensuality is seen in his poetry. His poems depicted beauty and sensuousness. His poetry portrays an audio visual effect on the mind of the reader. He was fond of Greek culture and this is readily observed in his poetry.

- Introduction to the Poem

There are three sections in the poem “To Autumn”. These can be summarized as follows.

- Stanza 1

Poet in first stanza of the poem ‘To Autumn’ speaks about the autumn season’s fruits available like apple, plum, guard, etc. here poet gives description of fruits being riped in sun, with their sweetness reaching the kernel of the fruit. He also speaks about the bees and flowers, because of these two entities pollination takes place which is start of reproduction. This also shows his desire.

- Stanza 2

In this section of poem, the poet creates a picture of autumn giving a visual effect of the season. A sort of sensuality is also seen here in this section of poem when poet writes about loneliness while sitting on grassy ground as if soft air flowing the hairs of his partner. It can be visualized on reading these lines from this stanza of the poem. Keats also says in the poem that the gets mesmerised with autumn which the compares with the fumes of poppy seeds as if the poet is getting dosed and intoxicated.

- Section 3

In this section the poet speaks about the music of autumn season. Poet speaks about music from choirs of gnats, sound from bleating of lamb, cricket’s song, redbreast whistle melody, swallows twitter sound, etc. All these sound gives an audio effect on the minds of the readers.

#### **IV. STYLISTICS ANALYSIS OF THE POEM**

Word Ode is seen missing from title of the poem “To Autumn”. Ode as per Cambridge dictionary means ‘a poem expressing poet’s thoughts about a subject’. Here poet writes about autumn season which means, it is an Ode. But, Keats poem is titled “To Autumn”. This can be interpreted as the poem is addressed to autumn, but actually the poem come in the category of an Ode.

Ode is a Greek word, used in English literature by Keats. Ode in Greek means a song. As poet Keats was fond of Greek culture and mythology, the used Greek words like Ode in his poems. Odes can be for any subject like person, place, season, event, activity, etc.

- Graphological Analysis

The poem is an imaginative Ode of three sections. It creates an audio visual effect on the minds of readers. There are some punctuation marks used in the poem like comma, question mark, full stop, hyphen, semi colon, colon, etc in the poem.

- Lexical Analysis

There are many grammatical constructs and words used which represent the lexicons of grammar like noun, verb and adjective. We can enlist the words used in the poems as per their category.



*Noun:* Autumn, Sun, Lilly, Bourn, Apples, Cricket, Fruit, Red breast, Flower, Swallow, Trees, Sky Ground, Wind, Bees Wind, Summer Furrow, Floor, Wind, Gleaner, Poppies, Vines, Brook, Thatch, Spring, Eves, Clouds, Kernel, Grants, Wind, River, Muistor

*Common Noun:* clouds, bees, hill, press, days, glance, wind, cottage, garden, flowers, trees, floor, granite, brook, etc.

*Proper Noun:* The Gourd, The River, Swallows, The Red, Breast, Summer, Spring, Autumn, Sky, Sun, Light, Wind, Rosy, hue, Winnowing

*Pro Noun:* Him, They, Who, Thee, Them, Thy

*Verb:* Load, Bless, Twined, Round, Watches, Swell, Bloom, Plump, Set, Think, Mourn, Cease, Sink, Maturing, Live, Conspiring, Die, Loading, Bleat, Seek, Whistles, Soft, Lifted, Twitter, Winnowing, Drowsed

*Adverb:* Aboard, Careless, A lot, Loud

*Adjective:* Sweet, More, Warm, Mellow, Close Bosom, Maturing, Ripeness, Patient Look, Warm day, Winnowing wind, Barred Clouds, Soft Dying Day, Choir

- Grammatical Analysis

At this level of analysis, we can give details of symbols used in the poem as discussed in graphological analysis i.e. punctuation marks.

Commas, semi colons and colons are used in the poem to break the stanza of the poem and to create a pause and rhythm in the poem. The poem "To Autumn" consist of thirty three lines. Throughout this poem ten times comma is used in the end of the stanza of the poem whereas three times it is used in the middle of the line. Comma at end of the line like fruitfulness – bless, trees – bees – cease, asleep – keep, etc creates a rhyme. Commas are also used in between words to show the list like gourd and plump, more and more, river sallow and borne aloft, etc.

Semi colons were used in the poem for nine times at the end of stanzas whereas two times in the middle of the line. Each time used at the end of line creates rhythm like sun – run, core – more, brook – look, soft – croft, dies – skies, etc. Two times semicolons were used to continue and break the rhythm in the stanzas like a break is needed after sweet kernel and hedge cricket sings.

Colons were used in the poem only once. It shows the continuation of present line and next line with a colon. There are question marks in the poem which shows suspense of the mind of the poet like poet asks for what is stored in autumn and answers the sitting careless on granary floor. Next question poet asks in the poem is regarding location of songs of spring and answers beautifully by taking similitude of the choir of small gnats, lambs bleat, sound of cricket, whistle of red breast, swallows twitter, etc.

There are some more punctuation marks used like Hyphens for continuation and to show the couple bounding, Apostrophes were used to depict the work done in past like moss'd, brimm'd, reap'd, drows'd, etc. full stops were used to end the section of the poem. The poem has three sections and three full stops to end those sections.

- Phonological Analysis

The poem "To Autumn" by Keats has three main stanzas. This can be considered as the structure of poem. Eleven lines are there in each main stanza. The stanza is sub divided into two parts. First part of each main



stanza consist of four lines and rest seven lines make the second part of the stanza. First and third line and second and fourth line of the stanza has rhyming words through each of the stanza, be it first, second or third.

- Stylistics devices

Devices are of two types' scheme and tropes. Scheme speaks about sound and letters of the word and not the syntax or meaning of the construct, whereas tropes highlight the meaning or semantics of the word.

Parts of speech: In the poem, different constructs depicts different parts of speech like antithesis in life and death, metaphor in friend of maturing sun and soft dying day, Simile by using like and as, personification is also observed in the poem as the poet has personified autumn as a form of season which is actually not considered. Visual effect is created by the poet in the mind of readers by verse like 'To Autumn', 'The Maturing Sun', 'The Mossed Cottage Tree', etc. The poet personified the season autumn, as carelessly sitting, drowsed with fumes of poppies, watching oozing hours by hours, etc. We see the audio images of autumn are third stanza of poem. Here the poet says about choirs of small gnats, crickets sound, twitter of swallow, etc shows an audio image of autumn. The work of poet is related to the Ode to autumn. The poet expresses in a very simple way.

## V. CONCLUSION

The poem "To Autumn" is rich in visual and audio effects. The poem personifies the season autumn in most of the ways. The expressions and thoughts of the poet are simply imparted to the poem. The autumn is amplified to the extent of ripeness from raw. There is also a sensuous touch to the poem.

## APPENDIX - I

### Poem "To Autumn" by John Keats

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
And fill all fruit with ripeness tSo the core;  
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
Until they think warm days will never cease,  
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.  
Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?  
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find  
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,  
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;  
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,  
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook  
Spares the next swath and all its twined flowers:*



*And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep  
Steady thy laden head across a brook;  
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,  
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.  
Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?  
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—  
While barred clouds bloom the soft-dying day,  
And touch the stubble plains with rosy hue;  
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn  
Among the river sallow's, borne aloft  
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;  
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;  
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft  
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;  
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*