



Stylistic Analysis of the poem "Leisure" By William Davies

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ABSTRACT

The researcher has tried to highlight the dilemma of modern man described in the poem "leisure" by William Davies. Modern man is so much engrossed in getting and spending that he has no time to see and enjoy the beauty of nature. Nature is present everywhere in its full bloom and splendor but modern man is so much pre-occupied with worldly pursuits and materialistic designs that he has no time to see and enjoy the beauty manifested in various forms. The natural elements present an invitation to man but a modern man, being busy in rat race, refuses their invitation. He has declared blunt refusal to his aesthetic sense and replaced it with lust for money and other worldly designs. Even animals are much better than man because they live in the heart of nature and enjoy its company. God has, no doubt, created man to explore the nature and praise its beauty but modern man has made himself slave of time and gives preference to his evil designs instead of thinking and brooding upon nature and its blessed beauty.

KEYWORDS: Stylistics, analysis, poem, leisure.

INTRODUCTION

William Davies is, no doubt, a great poet of nature. He has spent most important part of his life as a tramp. He has taken common social themes from ordinary life and described them in a simple language which is easy to read and understand. Leisure is, in fact, documentary by William Davies, describing human misfortune that hampers him to enjoy the natural beauty lying around him. Flowers with its fragrance, sun with its brightness, moon with its romantic glow, Streams with bright stars and mountains with magical heights are there in an easy access for man but man does not look at them. He has created his own artificial world which is quite contrary to the world created by God. In the world of man, emotions and passions are replaced by figures and calculations and quantity has replaced quality. Man has become a slave of his worldly desires which he has to attain by hook or by crook. This artificial world of man has snatched freedom from man. Even animals are more freer than men. They are free from the chains and shackles of worldly tasks and materialistic pursuits. William Davies has drawn a graphic picture of modern man with his unnecessary involvement in the world of profit and loss. He has elaborated the selfishness and lust of man which has deprived him of his sense of beauty and his ability to explore the nature and conquer it.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- (1) Why does a modern man not enjoy natural beauty?
- (2) Why does William Davies call the present life of man a poor one?
- (3) In what case are animals better than man?
- (4) Which poetic device has been used by William Davies in order to emphasize his idea?

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This research paper aims

- To Highlight the dilemma of modern man, i. e his too much preoccupation with his worldly pursuits.
- To Describe the misfortune of man being unable to look at the nature and enjoy its beauty
- To discuss the superiority of animals upon man in case of enjoying with the natural elements.
- To introduce personification in order to highlight beauty and its various exposures.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research paper is qualitative in its approach. It is descriptive in nature. It has been proceeding on account of stylistic analysis of the poem.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

There is a lot of poems which show love of nature and beauty, but a researcher has limited his study to the poem "Leisure". The researcher has focused his attention upon the indifferent attitude of modern man towards nature and its beauty. Modern man's acute involvement in rat race has deprived him of real delights of life. His mechanical life has made him a slave of worldly desires and materialistic designs. The researcher has drawn stylistic analysis of the poem.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to H.G widdowson, "stylistics represents connectivity between linguistics and literature. From the linguistics and literature point of view, it is a multidisciplinary study".



According to leech(1969), "style is selection of linguistic medium; a sort of revolt against the norm;a repetition of linguistic forms.style also defines the personality of person. style shows the thoughts and ideas of a person. Leech views that the structure of words should be changed in order to get clarity in diction."

Davy and Crystal states that stylistics is deeply related to applied linguistics which studies style scientifically ,using linguistic principles and theories. Stylistics is deeply related with writing. Today we deeply associate stylistic with linguistics".

According to Birch(1989), "language and style are allowed to move in a fix boundary on the greatness of words. He says that words have special meanings which create distinction between them."

According to Haynes(1989), "style is studied in terms of differences. It can be called variety or diversity."

Crystal considers linguistics a discipline that gives birth to language on the basis of scientific knowledge and stylistics shares this discipline in presenting aspects of language change."

Short(1996)expresses that it is not merely the (linguistic)forms of texts but also the meaning of the text in the sense of the plot and over all message of a piece of work. To him, "stylistics can sometime look like either linguistics or literary criticism, depending upon where you are standing and where looking at."

Carter describes:"stylistics works like pull between linguistics and literature. He has divided it into 5 parts: literary stylistics, linguistic stylistic, style and discourse, pedagogical stylistics, stylistics and foreign language learner."

FINDINGS:

Themes:

(1) Giving no space to entertainment in life: William Davies views that modern man has bluntly refused the recreational activities in life. He laments on the miserable condition of modern man who has busied himself in the achievement of worldly designs and materialistic pursuits. William Davies has called it a poor life in which man has no time for leisure.

What is this life if full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare?

The poet has regarded the present life full of cares and worries which has made a modern man depressed and confused. If he wants to relax himself, he has to sleep in the lap of nature, enjoy its beauty and its soothing effects.

(2) Nature, a gift of God: God has blessed upon man a bundle of blessings among-est. which nature is one of it. Natural beauty is present everywhere in the common and simple phenomenon of life as poet says:

No time to see, when woods we pass,

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass

All aspects of nature are beautiful to watch, soothing to feel, and relaxing to touch. But man is so unfortunate, that he does not look at them and enjoy its presence.

A balanced life: The poet values the balanced life. He recommends that he should do work but he should also take time for recreational activities. He should go to the heart of nature where cows, squirrels, flowers and clouds are there to entertain them and relax them for the time being.

Tone and mood: The tone of the poem is alarming and thought provoking. The very start of the poem startles the readers. As poet says:

What is this life if full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare?

The mood of the poem is reflective and thoughtful.

Graphological detail: Commas, full stops, and apostrophe fall under the category of graphology.

Full stops: The poet has used seven full stops in the poem. Every full stop is put after the completion of one sense or concept .

Commas: The poet has used eleven commas in the poem which show poet's wandering thoughts and reflective mood.

What is this life, if full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare,

No time to see, when woods we pass,

No time to see in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars ,.....

And watch her feet,.....



A poor life this if, full of care,
No time to turn at beauty's glance,

Apostrophe: It is used only once in the poem. It highlights the central idea of the poem i.e. man's need to live in the lap of nature.

Phonological detail: So far as phonological detail is concerned, this poem has proper rhyme scheme pattern, alliteration, assonance and consonance.

Rhyme scheme:

What is this life if, full of care, a
We have no time to stand and stare. a

No time to stand beneath the boughs b
And stare as long as sheep or cows. b

No time to see, when woods we pass, c
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass. c

No time to see, in broad daylight, d
Streams full of stars, like skies at night. d

No time to turn at Beauty's glance, e
And watch her feet, how they can dance. e

No time to wait till her mouth can f
Enrich that smile her eyes began. f

A poor life this is if, full of care, a
We have no time to stand and stare. a

Alliteration:

Alliteration is a technical term in which the beginning sound of the words in a line is same .

In the first couplet, alliteration is found in the sound of "s"

"Stand and stare"

In the 2nd couplet, alliteration is found in the sound of "b".

"Beneath the boughs"

Other alliteration is found in the sound of "s", "h", "w".

"Stare-sheep". "S" sound

"Her-how". "H" sound

"Stream-stars-skies". "S" sound

Assonance: Assonance is a technical term in which vowel sound is repeated in a line. It gives musicality and rhythm to poem.

For example, "what is this life", in this line, "i" sound shows assonance.

Consonance :The sounds of "w", "s" and "t" are consonant sounds. The consonant sound "No time" has been repeated seven times. Its repetition intends to cast emphatic impression upon the readers.

Morphological detail: So far as the structure of words are concerned, it is very simple. Mostly the words are monosyllabic, just 4 words are disyllabic.



Monosyllabic words :This, what, care, stare, sheep, dance, boughs, full, wait etc.

Disyllabic words: Beneath, squirrels, daylight, beauty.

Language and style:

- Personification: It is a device in which human qualities have been attributed to non living things. For example, beauty has been personified in the form of girl who dances and smiles.
- Imagery: This poem is rich in the use of imagery. The first image belongs to people standing under the tree. The 2nd image is related to the squirrels who are busy in hiding their nuts. The 3rd image is that of woman who has smiley look and dancing feet.
- Similes:

In the 4th and 8th line, simile has been used.

And stare as long as sheep or cows

Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

- Diction: The diction or selection of words is simple and easy to understand
- Rhetorical question: The rhetorical question is asked in the beginning of the poem in order to startle the readers by describing the social dilemma.

What is this life, if full of care.

CONCLUSION:

This poem has excelled in its love of nature, mastery of description, delineation of images and worship of beauty. William Davies has realistically elaborated the social dilemma. The modern man's inability to see and enjoy the beautiful scenery of nature is ample proof of his extra involvement in worldly task and materialistic designs. Each line of the poem shows poet's artistic devotion, his deep concern for nature, and his message for modern man to find solace in the lap of nature.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The researcher has done the stylistic analysis of the poem "leisure". Other researchers may study Leisure as pro nature poem and Leisure, a representative poem of William Davies's love of nature and beauty

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