
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

A Stylo-Rhetorical Analysis of Religious Literature

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| ABSTRACT

The study tries to reveal Ziarat Warith's stylistic and rhetorical traits. This research work focuses on the rhetorical and stylistic analysis of a specific prayer of Imam Al-Hussein (Peace Be Upon Him) and attempts to answer the following questions: What rhetorical tools are used in these texts? What are the rhetorical functions of the tools used in this text? Imam AL-Hussein (PBUH) holds a highly important and vital position within Islam. Rhetoric has profound ties to religion and culture. Muslim religious leaders used rhetoric to communicate directly with Allah and the people. Religious individuals use religious supplication to petition Allah for assistance for themselves and others. Imam Al-Hussein (PBUP) created the selected texts, titled "زيارة وارث". These sample sentences are designed to demonstrate Imam Al-Hussein's vocabulary, which is used as a weapon of supplication to ask Allah for what they desire. The technique for this study is based on Leech and Short's (2007) framework, which focuses on studying and examining language forms and concepts in the languages of the selected texts. The data reveal that Imam Al-Hussein (PHUT) employs particular language strategies to convey thankfulness and gratitude to Allah and win His favor.

تهدف الدراسة الى معرفة الخصائص البلاغية والاسلوبية المستخدمة في زيارة وارث. تركز الدراسة على التحليل الاسلوبي البلاغي لزيارة وارث للامام الحسين عليه السلام و تحاول الدراسة وضع اجابات لبعض الاسئلة منها: ماهي الادوات البلاغية المستخدمة في هذه الزيارة و ماهي الوظائف البلاغية لهذه الادوات المستخدمة في هذه النصوص؟ ان الامام الحسين عليه السلام هو شخصية مهمة في العالم الاسلامي . ان البلاغة تشكل صلة وثيقة بين الدين و المجتمع. استخدم القادة المسلمين البلاغة كطريقة فاعلة للتواصل المباشر مع الله تعالى و مع الناس. استخدمت المناجاة الدينية من قبل رجال الدين لطلب المساعدة من الله عز و جل و من الناس. ان الزيارة المختارة هي للامام الحسين عليه السلام بعنوان زيارة وارث". بينت هذه الزيارة المختارة بأن اللغة المستخدمة من قبل الامام الحسين عليه السلام هي بمثابة سلاح في مناجاتهم لغرض الطلب والالاح في تحليل الاشكال اللغوية في هذه 2007الطلب من الله عز و جل للحصول على مرادهم. استخدم الاطار العملي لليج و شورت سنة النصوص. اوضحت النتائج بأن الامام الحسين عليه السلام استخدم استراتيجيات معينة في لغته لبيان شكره و امتنانه لله تعالى و من اجل الحصول على دعمه.

| KEYWORDS

Prayers, Rhetoric, Ziyara, Stylistics, Imam Al-Hussein

الكلمات المفتاحية : - زيارة ، بلاغة ، أسلوب ، الإمام الحسين

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1. Introduction

The study aims at finding out the stylistic and rhetorical devices utilized in the religious text through the ziarat of Imam Hussein (P.B.U.H). The study focuses on answering the following questions: What are the rhetorical tools utilized in these texts? What are the rhetorical functions of such tools utilized in such texts?

Stylistic-rhetorical analysis is of interest to many academicians and researchers. Ibrahim Esan Olaosun (2013) conducted research on how new car branding influences the purchase process in Nigeria. Ajenifari Joshua (2020) releases a paper titled "stylo-rhetorical analysis of Lenrie Peter's poem: the fence". The author seeks to determine how linguistic and social elements influence our interpretation of the text. Samuel Ayodele Dada (2013) presents a study titled "stylo-rhetorical devices in pidgin English advertisements in Nigeria". He explains how stylistic and rhetorical tactics influence and grab readers' attention.

Stylistics is defined as a technique of analyzing literary content using specific language tools. This is the foundation of communication in both written and verbal forms. Crystal (2003: 460) defines stylistics as a topic within linguistics that investigates the aspects of language use in relation to literary language and aims to establish laws that may detect decisions made by individuals and organizations alike.

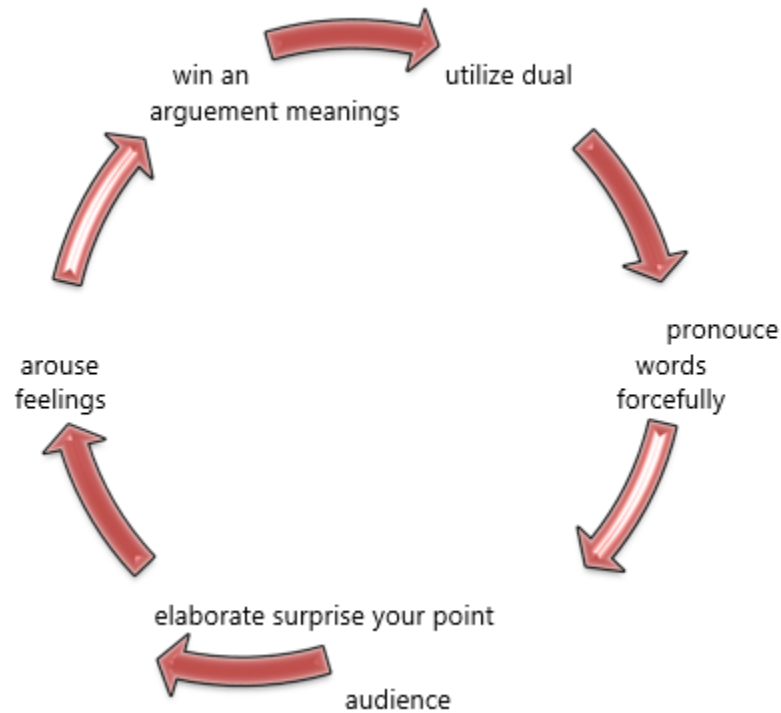
Stylistics is broadly described as the study of various styles. It signifies that the major and most important subject in stylistics research is the writer's style. Faniran and Adetuyi (2017: 1-7) argue that stylistics and style are primarily concerned with describing and evaluating the use of style. As a result, the evaluative approach assesses the literary text in order to evaluate the aesthetic features stylized by the writer. The descriptive method proposes a scientific explanation of the prominent elements of the literary text.

In addition, stylistics is adopted to the study of non-literary texts such as political speeches, sermons, advertisements, religious prayers ... etc. kamali Ikenna (2015: 10) suggests that stylistics is an academic field that has strong ties with rhetoric, which can be defined as the art of speech.

Leech and Short (1995: 10) define stylistics as the linguistic qualities of a particular text. Thus, the study of style should investigate the linguistic qualities of a specific text at the semantic, syntactic, phonology, and graphological levels. Holman (2001: 432) defines style as the arranging of words in a certain fashion that reflects the writer's originality and intended thoughts. According to Verdonk (2002: 6), stylistics is not arbitrary, but rather the goal and effect of a certain setting. According to Olajide (2003: 93-104), stylistics focuses on explaining, characterizing, and recognizing what happens in spoken or written texts.

Accordingly, Osundare (2008: 15) argues that it is the results of interacted factors such as culture, ideology, social, and history.

Rhetoric dates back to Plato and Aristotle. Thus, rhetoric is the theory and practice of persuasion, whether written or spoken. Adebisi (2006: 111-124) describes rhetoric as follows:



Speech is crucial to language because humans communicate with one another through spoken language. According to Yule (1996: 48), speakers do three different types of acts:

- a. Locution: uttering expressions with a specific sense and reference.
- b. Illocution: performing in or by the mean of the performance.
- c. Perlocution: performing by the utterance.

Accordingly, the influence of religious rhetoric embedded in language of Ziarat. Oha (1994: 180-181) clarifies that this kind of power is the power to employ words or phrases away from other things and manipulating people by utilizing certain influential words.

2. Stylistic tools in religious prayers

The most prominent method utilized in religious prayers is the employment of figures of speech. These figures represent the aspects of the text that strayed from the norms. First, consider lexical and syntactic traits like parallelism and repetition. These traits illustrate the link between two words, phrases, or sentences in two sections of the text. According to Fabb (2003:462), these qualities can be classified into three categories: semantic, syntactic, and phonological. For example: *أشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له، كما شهد الله لنفسه، وشهدت له ملائكته، وأولو العلم* [19]... (لا إله إلا هو العزيز الحكيم) من خلقه.

These two examples share the same structures. It means that we have structural parallelism.

There are also some instances of repetition in religious supplications. The primary role of repetition is to emphasize and make the text more cohesive (Wales, 2011: 366). For example:

- "a rumour of invasion ... after rumours of incursions" (Sam. 23:27).

- "السلام على آدم صفوة الله من خليقته... السلام على نوح المجاب في دعوته... السلام على إبراهيم الذي حباه الله بخلته"

On the phonological level, phonemic matching occurs when two phonemes are pronounced identically at the end of a sequence of words. In English biblical prayers and Arabic religious supplications, certain words end with the same sound, such as humiliation, flame, fame, and so on.

- "... but thy word, O Lord, which healeth all things". (book of wisdom: 821).

Another trait is alliteration. According to Bussmann (2006: 42), it is the repeating of the same initial sounds in a sequence of words, such as: «السَّلَامُ عَلَى عِيسَى رُوحِ اللَّهِ وَكَلِمَتِهِ. السَّلَامُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ خَبِيبِ اللَّهِ وَصَفْوَتِهِ»^[24] Another tool used in stylistic analysis is Simile. The common connectors used to indicate simile are Like and As. It also involves some other connectors such as suggesting, resembling, as if ... etc. (Wales, 2011: 383). Consider the following examples:

- "... like the stars of heaven" (Book of Genesis, 26: 31)

وَقَدْ تَوَازَرَ عَلَيْهِ مَنْ عَزَّتْهُ الدُّنْيَا، وَبَاعَ حَظَّهُ بِالْأَزْدَلِ الْأَدْنَى، وَشَرَى آخِرَتَهُ بِالثَّمَنِ الْأَوْكَسِ، وَتَغَطَّرَسَ وَتَرَدَّى فِي هَوَاهُ، وَأَسْخَطَكَ
«وَأَسْخَطَ نَبِيَّكَ»^[74] Metaphor is a general term is utilized to indicate all types of figurative meaning. Accordingly, the most common figurative terms in rhetoric is metaphor. Consider the following examples:

وَأَطَاعَ مِنْ عِبَادِكَ أَهْلَ الشِّتَاقِ وَالْيَفَاقِ، وَحَمَلَةَ الْأَوْزَارِ الْمُسْتَوْجِبِينَ النَّارِ

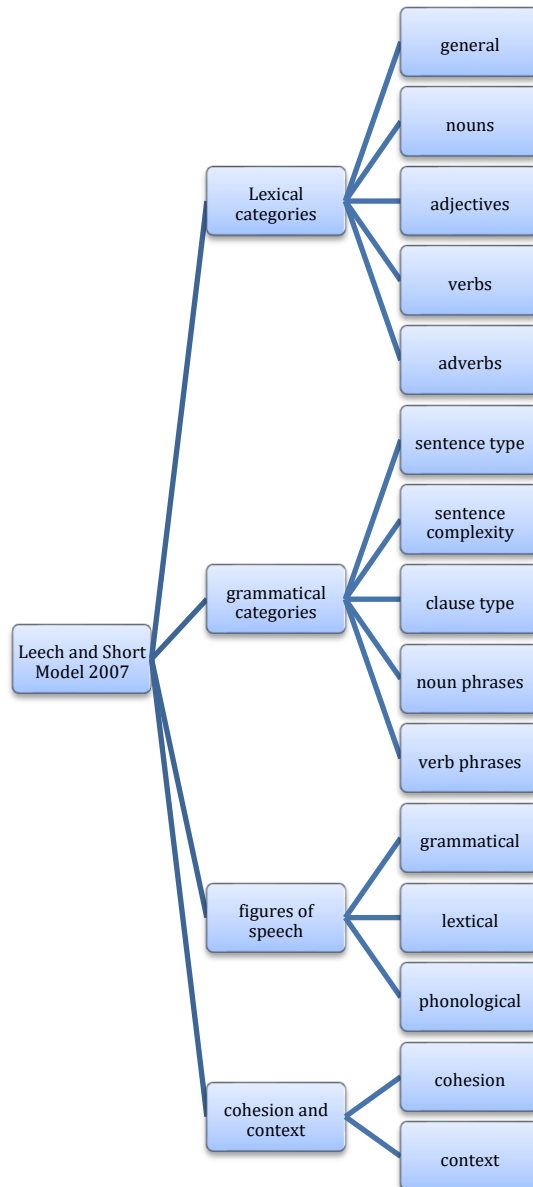
Shepherd alludes to God, who protects and guides people to their rightful place. In the second example, the terms أبواب and خزائن signify something other than the literal meaning. The metaphor underlying the first word is that the speaker makes a general plea to Allah to grant him all he desires, whereas the second term relates to a more specific request from Allah, which is knowledge.

3. Data Analysis and Description

3.1. Data Description

The data in this study is presented by one religious prayer of Imam

Al-Hussein (peace be upon him) entitled اللهم والي الله ومن الله وبالله The study adopts Leech and Short framework 2007. This framework includes a check list of categories and subcategories (as described in the model), such as lexical categories, grammatical categories, figures of speech, coherence, and context. The study uses the figures of speech category to determine the grammatical, phonological, and lexical categories, as follows:



3.2. Method of Analysis

3.2.1 A Stylistic analysis of Imam Al Hussein's Ziyara

The first device is parallelism. Parallelism used in this ziyara is classified into three types: structural, phonological, and semantic.

Phonological parallelism is used in two ways: consonance and alliteration. Alliteration helps to make the words of prayers memorable and easy to read. In the above text, the example of alliteration is as follows:

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَارِثَ مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرِ اللَّهِ ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا وَارِثَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلِيِّ اللَّهِ

The example of consonance as follow:

- فَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ أُمَّةً قَتَلَتْكَ وَلَعَنَ اللَّهُ أُمَّةً ظَلَمَتْكَ "

Consonance is a stylistic element utilized in numerous literary works. In prayers, consonance is used to boost emotions or enhance an image. The use of consonance in prayers, particularly the usage of specific consonant sounds, has a clear connotation. For example, in several lines of the aforementioned paragraph, the last sound /s/ is repeated. The recurrence of the /s/ sound results in words that sound like whispering. Whispering noises in prayer suggest that the supplicant wishes to keep his or her discourse private and not share it with anybody else.

Another type of parallelism is structural parallelism. Structural parallelism is the repetition of the same structure. In the biblical text, one can find some examples of structural parallelism as follow:

، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّكَ مِنْ دَعَائِمِ الدِّينِ وَأَرْكَانِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ

Parallel patterns provide several advantages when composing literary works. They can clarify the text. Structural parallelism can result in patterns that are easy to follow. They can also improve the reading of literary writings.

Repetition is another stylistic device employed to generate style in literary works. Repetition is the duplication of the same word or synonym for stylistic reasons. There are many repeats in Christian writings, as shown in the instances below.

:

- السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا بَنَ خَدِيجَةَ الْكُبْرَى ، السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا تَارَ اللَّهِ وَابْنَ تَارِهِ وَالْوَتَرَ الْمُؤْتَوِرَ

In the speech of ziyara, there is an example of metaphor as in the following:

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ الْأَيِّمَةَ مِنْ وَلَدِكَ كَلِمَةُ التَّقْوَى وَأَعْلَامُ الْهَدَى وَالْعُرْوَةُ الْوُثْقَى وَالْحُجَّةُ عَلَى أَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا

The advantage of using metaphor is that it allows the reader to connect with a complex situation. Metaphors help us understand abstract concepts by converting them into tangible, real-world examples. In the preceding comparison, Jesus The Imam wants to say that Imams are from Allah's descendants. The word of piety, signs of guidance, the most reliable protection, and proof against the people of the world.

This is a religious prayer by Imam Hussein (Peace Be Upon Him). Parallelism, sound patterns, and repetition are common stylistic aspects of this form of prayer. The prayer begins with praising prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him and His Family) by saying: "اللهم صل على محمد وال محمد" -

If one observes Mohammad and his family's prayers, he would notice that they begin with praising Prophet Mohammed and his family (Peace Be Upon Them), as if this is required for the prayer to be accepted.

Another stylistic element is parallelism. Parallelism can be divided into some types: structural, semantic and phonological. Structural parallelism is obvious in the prayer of Imam Al-Hussein (PBUH) as in the following example:

- "اللهم اني اسلمت نفسي اليك , ووجهت وجهي اليك , وفوضت امري اليك"

Structural parallelism is the repetition of similar sentences or clauses structure. The advantage of the repetition is for the purpose of emphasis. The emphasis on the essential idea or theme the supplicant wants to convey. In this line, Imam Hussein (PBUH) wants to convey the idea that Muslims should have faith and make Allah handle everything in their lives.

Another kind of parallelism is utilized in Imam Hussein's prayer (PBUH) which is lexical parallelism. It is the repetition of words that have the same parts of speech. The following examples in the prayers of Imam Al-Hussein illustrate lexical parallelism:

- "فاكفني من كل احد ما اخاف واحذر , واجعل لي من امري فرجا ومخرجا ,
انك تعلم ولا اعلم , وتقدر ولا اقدر"

Lexical parallelism is very important in prayers for its effect in balance and order in supplicant's prayer. It is also helpful to clarify the point of the supplicant and the audience need to remember something which is repeated. In these lines, Imam Al-Hussein (PBUH) wants to deliver a message that Allah knows everything and can do everything that human beings cannot. Allah is superior to everything in life. Accordingly, Allah deserves to be worshiped.

Imam Al-Hussein, in his prayer, utilizes a very effective device which is consonance. Consonance is the repetition of the same final consonant sounds. Alliteration has a benefit which is to create mood and rhythm. It makes the prayer more rhythmic. The following examples illustrate the utilization of consonance:

"اللهم اليك اسلمت نفسي واليك وجهت وجهي واليك"

Imam Al-Hussein's (PBUH) prayer also has semantic parallelism. Semantic parallelism is the repetition of synonym and antonym words to form parallel types of words. Semantic parallelism is used to create a motivational and emotional environment for the audience. The balance of semantic parallelisms makes complex ideas easier to understand for readers and listeners. Imam Al-Hussein's prayer serves as an example of the use of semantic parallelism.

وَقَدْ تَوَازَرَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ عَزَّةِ الدُّنْيَا، وَبَاعَ حَظَّهُ بِالْأَزْدَلِ الْأَذْنَى، وَشَرَى آخِرَتَهُ بِالَّتَمَنِ الْأَوْكِسِ، وَتَعَطَّرَسَ وَتَرَدَّى فِي هَوَاهُ،
وَأَسْخَطَكَ وَأَسْخَطَ نَبِيَّكَ،

Imam AL-Hussein's prayer is full of alliteration examples. Alliteration is the repetition of similar initial sound in the line. Alliteration is important because it makes the readers or listeners concentrate on a particular section or part of the text. The following examples illustrate the use of alliteration in Imam AlHussein's prayer:

- صَلَّوْا لِلَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَعَلَى أَرْوَاجِكُمْ وَعَلَى أَجْسَادِكُمْ وَعَلَى أَجْسَامِكُمْ] .. وَعَلَى شَاهِدِكُمْ وَعَلَى غَائِبِكُمْ وَعَلَى ظَاهِرِكُمْ وَعَلَى
بَاطِنِكُمْ."

The Imam emphasized that they, peace be upon them, in all conditions, phases, ranks, and places. Their actions, manners, appearances, manifestations, and motions are deserving of prayer. Greetings from their Creator, for in all these circumstances, they are still feeble. Ascension of proximity, following the roads of attraction, approaching the carpet of permanence, through total slavery.

4. Conclusion

After making the analysis on Islamic ziara, the researcher reaches the following conclusions:

1. The following stylistic devices have been widely used such as parallelism (structural, phonological and semantic) alliteration and metaphor.
2. The texts make use of parallelism. This kind of stylistic tool used to unify the text and to highlight certain ideas and thoughts the supplicants want to achieve.
3. Other stylistic tools implemented are consonance and alliteration. They are used to make rhythm and connection for the prayer.
4. Metaphor is adopted and implemented in the ziara. Thus Husayn ('a) was not after power and wealth, but he saw that a despot was spreading corruption in the land, wreaking havoc, making permissible what God forbade and transgressing His limits. So he rose up against Yazid in Karbala, with his faithful group which welcomed his call for bidding the good, forbidding the bad, reinstituting what is right, and extirpating what is wrong

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