
Poeticsymbols in “Nature” of “Dreams in the Desert”, By Lehr Niazi

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ABSTRACT:

Poetry is an aesthetic expression of the poet’s conscience and mind through symbols. Every poet establishes an analogy between the words which have semantic distance and by this literary technique he or she selects his or her own poetic symbols. A poetic symbol has an associative property which can expose the hidden reality to the readers and it can also be helpful to comprehend the targeted theme. Poetic symbols perform very important role in literature. The use of poetic symbols is one of the main parts of the figures of speech. These poetic symbols can be the personal way of conveying the truth to the readers. Sometimes these personal symbols get universal touch. Through these symbols the writer portraits his or her inner feelings or hidden thought to the readers in a concrete shape. Symbolism in poetry creates delight and freshness. Poetic symbols used in the poem “Nature” of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi have universal touch. These poetic symbols have also pictorial quality. So these create attraction and uniqueness. Through the analysis of the poetic symbols used in “Nature” of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi, the researcher would try to find out the real message and beauty of the poem, so that the readers can get easily the central idea and enjoyment out of the symbols used in it.

Key words: *Aesthetic expression, Poetic symbols, Nature, Delight, Freshness, Message.*

INTRODUCTION:

The undergoing research is to analyze the use of poetic symbols in “Nature” of “Dreams in the Desert”. This poem is analyzed from the perspective of the central idea given by the help of poetic symbols in it. This research article observes the research questions, objectives, research methodologies and literature review in the field of symbolism. After the analysis of poetic symbols used in the poem and central idea of the poem, findings are given. This poem is written in lyrical couplets. The diction of this poem is very simple as well as attractive. The use of poetic symbols in this poem creates freshness and delight.

The poet Lehr Niazi was born on 28th April 1977 in a village named “Mochh” in district Mianwali, Punjab (Pakistan). His first collection of poems, “Dreams in the Desert”, was published in 2015. The poet used very simple and common images as well as simple words in it. All his poems highlight the importance of the human values and humanity. He himself wrote in the Preface of the book as “We are living in the global world where we have lost ourselves

and ignore the human values. I hope we all give the value to the human values (07 March 2015)".

Research Questions:

What is the beauty of the poetic symbols used by the poet?

What is the connection between poetic symbols and main idea?

What are the poetic symbols used in "Nature"?

OBJECTIVES:

Figures of speech are the basic component of poetry and symbolism is one of them. Poetic symbols play the very important role in the transmission of the main idea in a poem. Poetic symbols in "Nature" have freshness as well as simplicity.

The main target of the analytical study of poetic symbols used in "Nature" of "Dreams in the Desert" is to highlight the mentioned aspects of the poem. So that reader would be able to get full delight out of the study of this poem.

METHODOLOGY:

This research study focuses on the use of poetic symbols in "Nature" of "Dreams in the Desert". This research is qualitative, analytical and descriptive in nature. The researcher utilized the above mentioned approach to get the effective results through supporting published material for this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

As a poetic style every poet selects his own poetic symbols and images. It is the easiest way to convey the main idea to the readers. By the selection of proper poetic symbols the poet creates aesthetic quality in his piece of poetry. In this way the common objects are coated in a new fashion. The poet knows very well the art of infusing the meanings to his selected common objects. These symbolic meanings create originality and freshness in a piece of poetry. Every poetic symbol adds its own impression as well as quality to the poem.

Angelou, Maya (1928-2014) used symbol of cage to show the physical barriers of life. The caged bird symbolizes those people who have not freedom. Here freedom is symbolized by the caged bird's beautiful song.

*"But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage,
Can seldom see through his bars of rage.
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied,
So he opens his throat to sing."*

Australian Oxford Dictionary (1994) defines symbol as "A thing conventionally regarded as typifying, representing, or recalling something, especially an idea or quality". The poetic symbols recall the image which the poet plans to create in the minds of the readers.

Black, William(1757-1827)selected the “sunflower” as a symbol for human being and the “sun” as a symbol of life in his poem,“Ah! Sun flower.” He selected a natural phenomenon for his symbolism to convey the message.

“Ah sunflower! Weary of time,

Who countest the steps of the sun.
Seeking after that sweat golden clime,
Where the traveler’s journey is done.”

The Cambridge Guide to English Usage (2004) explains the poetic symbol as “The symbols created by writers are different altogether. They are focal images which carry significance beyond themselves by being developed steadily through the language and substance of a literary work. Symbols often begin unobtrusively in a poem or the narrative of a novel, grounded in its physical world. But they reappear in successively different contexts and take on a complexity of values which help to give the original physical image its greater power.”

Encyclopedia of Creativity, (2011) defines symbols as “A sign that refers to or stands for another thing, usually abstract.” It further defines that “Poetic symbol shows a relationship between the thing and the readers.”

Frost, Robert(1874-1963) in “Fire and Ice” highlighted two different sides of human-nature (passionate and rational) by using the symbols of “fire” and “ice”. These opposite symbols are creating the variety here as well as highlighting the main idea.

“Some say the world will end in fire,
Some say in ice”.

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary(1998) defines symbol as “(of something) an image, object, etc that suggests or refers to something else.” Poetic symbols always represent unknown identity to the readers.

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (1989) explains poetic symbols as “Use of symbols to represent things, especially in art and literature.” Literature is always rich in literary symbols. These are representatives to any hidden truth.

Oxford Essential Dictionary for Elementary and Pre-intermediate Learners of English(2012) defines the symbol as “a mark, sign or picture that has a special meaning: o is the symbol for oxygen. A dove is the symbol of peace”. Symbols are given a new identity. This identity can be of world fame or any individual property limited to one idea.

The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory(1999) explains symbolism as, “A literary symbol combines an image with a concept (words themselves are a kind of symbol). It may be public or private, universal or local.” “As for as particular objects are concerned, this kind of symbolism is often private and personal. Another kind of symbolism is known as the ‘transcendental’. In this kind, concrete images are used as symbols to represent a general or universal ideal world of which the real world is a shadow”. 3333

Rich, Adrienne (1929-) selects the tigers as symbol of freedom of spirit in “Aunt Jennifer’s tigers” as she writes:

“Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

Shelley, P.B. (1792-1822) in a poem, “Time” use symbols of ‘deep sea’ for time and ‘waves’ for years. As he says:

“Unfathomable sea! whose waves are years,
Ocean of time, whose waters of deep woe
 Brackish with the salt of human tears!
Thou shore less flood, which in thy ebb and flow.”

Stallworthy, Jon (1935-2014) used common objects in a new sense in the poem, “In the Street of the Fruit stalls.” The piled fruits become symbols of weapons to destroy the world.

“Wicks balance flame, a dark dew falls

In the street of the fruit stalls

Melon, guava, mandarin,
Pyramin-piled like cannon balls,
Glow red-hot, gold-hot, from within.”

The Sterling Dictionary of Literary Terms (1998) defines poetic symbols as “A set of related symbols to represent objects or ideas, by giving them an associated or symbolic character and meaning”.

Teasdale, Sara Trevor (1884-1933) in her poem, “Wild Asters”, selects the words “spring” and “daisies” which symbolize the “youth”, and further “brown” and “barren” are used as symbols of transition from “youth to old age”. “Bitter autumn” symbolizes death here.

“In the spring I asked the daisies
If his words were true,
And the clever, clear-eyed daisies
Always knew.
Now the fields’ one brown and barren
Bitter autumn blows,
And of all the stupid asters
Not one knows.”

Webster’s New World College Dictionary (1997) defines poetic symbol as “An object used to represent something abstract; emblem.” Poet’s mind is always full of ideas. To express his ideas through his poetry, he selects objects from his surroundings and gives them a new identity.

DATA ANALYSIS:

The word “Nature” here symbolizes man’s personality. Personality is the combination of some habits, ideas, feelings, likes and dislikes etc. The poet here chose very common objects for his

poetic expression. These poetic symbols created novelty and a sense in this piece of poetry. By the use of these poetic symbols he also highlighted the beauty in this poem. He very beautifully made his poetic symbols to contain suggested meanings in this poem. As in first line, 'petals' symbolize many aspects of the personality of a man. "Color bright" is the symbol of a good personality. It can be the good aspects of the character. In the next verses 'scent' symbolizes individual fame of a person in a society. Everyone's personality creates one's image which is felt by the people around him. "Breezes" are the symbol of the discussions which are always going on in the streets by the neighbors and friends about somebody whom they know very well.

"They attract every sight,
Petals with color bright,
Breezes carry the scent, very well,
On the way you can smell."

In the third and fourth stanzas, the poet symbolizes nobility and goodness of the man. The poet says that the goodness and generosity of the man is like the flower whose goodness is for all. It is not bound in a specific time period. Such a good man is always ready to do good for anybody in the society. In these lines 'Butterfly' and 'Birds' symbolize the good man's innocence and harmlessness. Such people are always beneficent to others. They are colorful as butterflies and free of bias like birds. They sing the charming songs for the comfort of others like the singing birds.

"For all, is the scent of a flower,
Never fix, in any hour.
On the land we see butterfly,
Birds are seen across the sky."

In the following lines the poet gives detail of his philosophy by the help of poetic symbols. The poet says that the nature is beautiful because of such good men. Good people are like the rainy drops which are the blessings of God for the humanity. Here "sand" is the symbol for needy people.

"Nature is the beauty of the land,
As the rain is a gift for the sand."

In the last lines the poet concludes his subject through very beautiful poetic symbols. Symbol of "seed" shows growth. When good deeds are done, their results remain ever. These good deeds keep growing like the seeds. "Weather" and "Season" symbolize the behaviors of man's personality. These behaviors keep changing by the passage of time. These behaviors are the basic components of the character.

"Every action has the seed,

Like the perfume is every deed,
Changes the weather by any reason,
Man's nature has every season."

Through poetic symbols the whole poem got attraction. Symbolism used in "Nature" had universal touch. The relation between poetic symbols and main idea was very close. Every poetic

symbol added layers of meanings to the theme of the poem. Through his poetic symbols the poet very successfully conveyed his message to the readers.

Message of the poem:

The message of the poem is that this world is full of problems, but those who have the sources; they must help the needy and the poor. Always be polite and have constructive role in a society.

Delimitations of the Study:

The researcher tried to highlight the poetic symbols used in “Nature” and the message given in it. This research included the analysis of only one poem selected from “Dreams in the Desert”.

Recommendations:

The researcher suggests the stylistic analysis of this poem for new researchers.

CONCLUSION:

“Nature” is very symbolic poem. The poet developed the thought with the help of suitable poetic symbols. The poetic symbols used here were deeply connected to the main theme of the poem. The poet cashed all his poetic symbols to achieve his objectives. He created direct relevance of the poetic symbols to the main idea and got attraction in his poetry. In this poem, he very successfully delivered the very important message to the world. “Constructive role of a man in a society”, was the central theme of this poem. The poem was simple but had an attraction. Aesthetic sense was also served by the use of poetic symbols in this poem. These poetic symbols were quite appropriate to the subject of the poem. He very successfully connected the poetic symbols to the main idea of the poem.

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Appendix:

"Nature"

They attract every sight,
Petals with color bright.
Breezes carry the scent, very well,
On the way you can smell.
For all, is the scent of a flower,
Never fix, in any hour.
On the land we see butterfly,
Birds are seen across the sky.
Nature is the beauty of the land,
As the rain is a gift for the sand.
Every action has the seed,
Like the perfume is every deed.
Changes the weather by any reason,
Man's nature has every season.