



## RESEARCH PAPER

### Stylistic Analysis of the Poem "A Prayer for the Homeland" by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to examine the English translated poem "A Prayer for a Homeland" from the perspective of stylistic analysis. The Urdu origin of the poem has been written by Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi and further translated into English language by Omer Khwaja. The study aims to examine the linguistic and literary devices used in the translated text. The study adopted mixed method i.e. descriptive and exploratory design to collect, analyze and interpret the data. The sampling strategy used for this study was typical and critical case sampling technique. The poet wishes for his native country to succeed in this poem. The poet employed a variety of levels to achieve a highly effective and lucid poem. The subject, which is prayer and prosperity, is extremely obvious. He used lexical strategies and components of speech to explain his poetry. The poet hopes to see advancements in his native country. The translator did not show this poem in rhyming form. He used simple and easy language, so anyone can understand this poem. We analyzed the poem Prayer for Homeland stylistically. The poet wisely delivered his ideas by using different devices.

## KEYWORDS

Grammatical, Homeland, Lexical, Phonological, Prayer, Stylistics Analysis, Syntactical

## Introduction

Literature is concerned with using language as a structure for declaration in short stories and message distribution. Linguistics is the scientific study of dialect, including how it develops, how it is put together, and how people learn from it. The goal of linguistic stylistics is to recognize and categorize each linguistic region in a certain work. Poetic stylistics frequently examines fixed poetic works as its goal. Sometimes a computer can carry out a text analysis. Stylus is obtained from the Latin word "stylus," which means methods of effecting work. The core component of writing is style. The author uses a range of stylistic devices to convey his thoughts and ideas. Stylistic analysis is a branch of applied linguistics. Stylistic analysis is useful in providing awareness of the fundamental idea of the poem that tells us about prayer. The poet used different devices to convey his ideas clearly. It is important to note that those who teach and research the English language and literature greatly benefit from stylistics as a scientific discipline, whether English is a second, foreign, or native tongue. Stylistics can be useful for both English-language learners and international students. Beyond literary proficiency, they can acquire language proficiency.

The word style is utilized in linguistics to narrate the alternatives in which language is feasible to a wearer, greater than outside the choices imperative for a simple utterance of a sense. Style provides great identification for the writer. The term stylistics, which is derived from the word style, is used to describe the numerous ways in which language

and words are used in literary works. It seeks to describe a language used in a study. Stylistics teaches students how to analyze and comprehend the language elements of text. Stylistics, a sub-field of applied linguistics, is the study and analysis of text of all kinds and spoken language with reference to its linguistics and tonal style, where style is the specific sort of language employed by various people in various circumstances.

According to Leech (2007), "stylistics is a linguistic approach to literature, explaining the relation between language and artistic function with motivating questions such as "why" and "how" more than "what". Verdonk (2002) defines stylistics as "the analysis of distinctive expression in language and the description of its purpose and effect". The linguistic analysis of literary language is known as stylistics. 'Style' was historically used to refer to other types of language, such as the language of religion or of legal documents, so it can be confusing. These two types are now referred to as registers. While this has been happening, the terms style and stylistics have come to refer to a more specialized, limited application of linguistics to literature. Literary language is frequently atypical. Typically, particular characteristics have been foreground or accentuated, frequently by being made odd (ibid).

According to Carter and Stockwell (2008), there is a variety of styles depending on the author's preference, such as racy, formal, and informal. Additionally, they defined style as "A preference for some linguistic structures over others. Of course, saying that style is a choice does not mean that it is necessarily a conscious one. It would take a very long time to say anything at all if one had to make phonological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic decisions deliberately. "A sense of the best way to put something can be intuitive or conscious in literature, as in all discourse; the result, as far as the reader is concerned, will be much the same" (ibid.). The larger discipline of linguistics, of which stylistics is a subset, aids readers in finding the language's hidden meanings. It may serve as the screw that separates the text's components into more manageable chunks. It might be a tremendous help to interpret the meaning of a given literary work. According to Carter and Stockwell (2008), linguistics can provide readers with a perspective and a style of reading a book that aids in the development of a consistent interpretation and compels readers to inquire about the language of the text they are exposed to.

A number of linguistic idioms are examined as part of stylistic analysis to ascertain the intended meaning or theme of a document. It was necessary to highlight the various ways that poets, writers, and creators of artistic works convey their beliefs through a secret, unintended design. The goals of stylistics are to analyze, define, and in some circumstances, improve linguistic methodology. We can analyze stylistics on a variety of levels. As an illustration, consider the phonological, grammatical, syntactical, and lexical levels. The most effective way to evaluate a writer's effort and personality is through stylistic movement. This poem exhibits the poet's personality rather than just being a poem. Students are taught to recognize and evaluate stylistic elements in texts using a stylistics method. The creation of meanings and the art of communication are topics that students must study. Students are taught about the distinctions between literary language and common language, if there are any.

This essay aims to artistically analyze Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi's poem "A prayer for the Homeland" in order to highlight its literary elements and identify the linguistic elements that best capture the subcontinent's culture. The goal of the study is to draw attention to the poet's beautiful language and writing style. Additionally, the study is conducted to reconnoiter specific characteristics of the poem and compare his poetry to determine how it differs from his other works.

## Literature Review

Ogidefa (2008) defines style as “reed” which refers to a writing stick. A stylus is a pen-shaped input device used on a display screen in computer science to enter commands or handwritten text. Style was defined as a writing or expressing technique. The term "style" in linguistics refers to the decision a language makes in order to be used by its users. The user chooses according to his communication goal, the situation, or the genre from this language resource. Crystal(2003), gives a comprehensive definition of stylistics: “A branch of linguistics which studies the feature of situational distinctive uses (varieties) of language , and tries to establish principles capable for accounting for the particular choices made by individual and social groups, literary stylistics deals with variation characteristic of literature as a genre and of the ‘style’ of individual authors”

The phonological, grammatical, lexical, and semantic aspects of a text are the primary emphasis of stylistic study. It explores the creative applications of language. Our comprehension of literature is expanded by the stylistic process, which looks at the inventiveness of language use. Simpson (2004) defines the system of languages. It attempts to draw parallels between literary criticism and language analysis. It improves our comprehension of literature and the text's underlying meaning. It aims to develop theories, such as socialization, the creation and reception of meaning, critical discourse analysis, and literary criticism, that may account for the decisions people and social groups make while using language. According to Katie Wales (1989) in *A Dictionary of Stylistics*, the purpose of stylistics is simply stated the style of any text; however, it goes beyond describing a text's formal features for their own sake by highlighting their literary effects in the language realm or demonstrating their functional importance in the text's interpretation.

Literary stylistics covers a wide range of topics, from the study of textual phenomena like metaphor, speech presentation, and point of view to the analysis of the language of specific texts, authors, and genres. Additionally, stylistics are interested in matters like the connection between the function of language, both literary and nonliterary of linguistic analysis in language and literary instruction (Batool & Lodhi, 2023; Betti et al. (2013). It is important to note that studying and teaching English language and literature can greatly benefit from the scientific field of stylistics regardless of whether English is a second, foreign, or native tongue. Stylistics can be useful for both English language learners and international students. Beyond literary proficiency, they can acquire language proficiency. Stylistics and its tools and procedures of linguistics can now aid a rational and scientific interpretation of literary texts based on linguistic data. According to Leech (2014), style refers to the manner in which a literary text is written and delivered. The writers' use of artistic, lyrical, and figurative language is limited to their style. To express their sentiments, emotions, and thoughts to readers and listeners, authors employ a variety of word choices, sentence structures, and creative poetic methods. Lawal (2004) has multifaceted views about style. He says that style is a type of different linguistic expression, which covers different features of a language (Lawal, 2004).

### Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi as a Pakistani Poet

This poem, “A Prayer for the Homeland,” was written by Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi and then translated into English by Omer Khwaja. Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi was a Pakistani poet. He was a poet, literary critic, playwright, and short story writer from Pakistan. He published 50 books on poetry, fiction, criticism, and journalism. He was very famous in Urdu literature. On August 8, 1982, Omer Khwaja was born. He was of Pakistani ancestry and was born in Saudi Arabia. He was employed in manufacturing when he was a child in New York. The theme of this poem is prayer and prosperity. In this poem, the poet

compared his homeland to flowers. The theme of the poem is the main thing to understand. He always prayed for his homeland. Additionally, he wants to see everyone succeed in his country. He always prayed to God that his country would be honor everywhere.

On November 20, 1916, Qasmi was born in Koranga, in the Khushab Tehsil of Sargodha. His name was Shah Ahmad. His early schooling was provided in his village. He received his M.A. from Punjab University in 1935. In 1936, he began working as a scribe in the Reform Commissioner's Lahore office. In 1941, after working at several locations, he met Manto in Delhi. Unfortunately, none of the films for which Qasmi penned the songs was ever released. He wrote the dialogue for three films after India was divided: Aghosh, Do Rastey, and Lori. After arriving back in Lahore from Delhi in 1942, he began editing the periodicals Phool and Taleem-e Niswaan, written by Imtiaz Ali Taj and published from Darul Ishaat, Punjab, Lahore. After the partition of India, he briefly worked in Peshawar, Pakistan, as a scriptwriter for Radio Pakistan. He was chosen as the Progressive Writers Association of Pakistan's Secretary General in 1947 and joined the editorial board of the reputable publication Savera. . He was arrested and held in prison for seven months because of his anti-establishment views. He started his own publication, Funoon, in 1963, and it quickly became well-known. He served as the Director of Majlis-e Tarraqi Adab in Lahore from 1974 to 2006. Qasmi died in Lahore in July of 2006.

### Material and Methods

The study adopted mixed method i.e. descriptive and exploratory design to collect, analyze and interpret the data. The sampling strategy used for this study was typical and critical case sampling technique. The sample was drawn from the English translated poetry of Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi who wrote poetry in Urdu origin in the famous poetical scenario of Pakistan. Bhandari (2020) suggests exploratory framework to be used for the studies related to content analysis. The poem consists of 16 lines poem. The poem has been translated by Omer Khawja from Urdu to English and was named as "A prayer for Homeland". Researches adopted observation and codification method as data collection tools, and content analysis technique for the purpose of qualitative and quantitative analysis.

### Content-analytic Framework

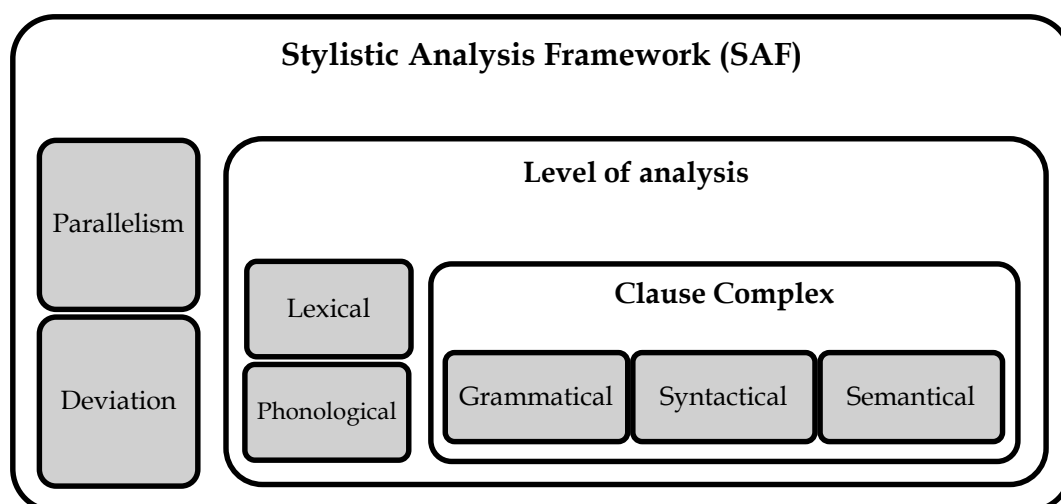


Figure 1: Content analytic framework

## Results and Discussions

### Content Analysis

**Table 1**  
**Content Analysis**

Category	Sub Category	Further Types
<b>Graphological</b>	Written text	Punctuation Capitalization Rhyming scheme
<b>Grammatical</b>	Morphological Syntactical	Prefix/suffix Types of sentence
<b>Semantic</b>	Figure of speech Literary Devices	Simile, Metaphor, personification, Alliteration, Assonance, Assonance, Repetition
<b>Lexical</b>	Noun Verb Adjective	Proper, Common, Material, Abstract Main, Helping, Linking qualitative, Descriptive

#### Analysis at Graphological Level

At Graphological we study the written text and reference of punctuation or capitalization. Rhyming scheme also include in this level. Nevertheless, the writer did not write this poem in rhyming form. The translator followed the rules of punctuation but into some extent. They deviate from the rules on the end of verse.

#### Capitalization

##### God grant that on my pure land should alight

God word is written in first, nine, thirteen, and fifteen lines. In word God G is capital.

#### Punctuation

##### That no one be unhappy, no one live in distress

In this line coma shows punctuation without period at the end.

##### Should be an ordeal, affliction, or crime

The writer also used punctuations in this line. So total three commas used in this poem.

#### Apostrophe

##### God grant that my country's honored head may never bend

This word country shows possession and it shows contraction.

#### There is no rhyming scheme in this poem

#### Analysis at Grammatical level

At grammatical level we study morphological or syntactical structure.

### Morphological analysis

Prefix and suffix used in underlined given words.

#### that even stones become verdant and fruitful

Fruitful and stones have 'ful' & 's' as suffix respectively.

#### that no one be unhappy, no one live in distress

unhappy and distress words have prefixes. This poem has two prefixes.

### Syntactic analysis

Structure arrangements of sentences are given according to Subject, Predicate, Complement, and Adjunct (SPCA) order as postulated by Halliday in Systemic functional grammar.

**Table 2**  
**Syntactic Order**

No	Lines	Syntactic Order SPCA
1	God grant that on my pure land should alight	SPCACP
2	A harvest of flowers that fears no decline	ASPC
3	the flower that blossoms here may bloom for centuries	ASPAPC
4	and autumn has never to pass this way	ASPC
5	the green that sprouts here may remain forever green	ASPAPC
6	and such a green it is without compare	ASPC
7	heavy clouds may bring down such rains	SPCA
8	that even stones become verdant and fruitful	ASPC
9	God grant that my country's honored head may never bend	SPCSPC
10	And its beauty have no dread of passing time	ASPC
11	that each person arrive at the summit of art and culture	ASPC
12	that no one be unhappy, no one live in distress	ASPC
13	God grant that for not one of my compatriots	SPCA
14	Should life be an ordeal, affliction, or Crime	PC
15	God grant that on my pure land should alight	SPCACP
16	A harvest of flowers that fears no decline	ASPC

Data indicates that most commonly repeated structure was ASPC having adjunct before subject, predicate and complementizer. The lines are having enjambments but no caesuras.

### Sentence Complexity

**Table 3**  
**Sentence complexity**

Frequency	Simple	compound	Complex	Complex compound	Total
T1	2	2	4	4	12

## Clause Complexity

**Table 4**  
Clause complexity

Frequency	Independent	Dependent	Total
T1	11	5	16

## Analysis at Lexical Level

There are 16 line and 140 words pertaining two types of lexical level. Open class and close class. Open class are given below:

**Table 5**  
Frequency of words

Noun	Verb	Adjective
God	Is	Unhappy
Flowers	Has	Beauty
Clouds	Have	Distress
Rain	Grant	Green
Stone	Fear	Honored
Land	Arrive	Affliction
Autumn	Bring	
Person	Live	
	Sprouts	

Data shows only one proper noun "God" and eight common nouns used in the poem. Here are nine verbs in this poem in which three are linking verbs remaining five are main verbs. Six words are adjectives in this poem. Close words are two types one is determiner and another is Preposition.

**Table 6**  
Closed lexical categories

Determiner	Preposition
The	On
A	Of
	To

The determiner "A" is used two times and "The" is used three times. In prepositions "on" is used two times, "of" is used two times and "To" is used only one time.

## Analysis at Semantic Level

Meaning of words, phrases are included in this poem. In this poem, no simile is used.

## Alliteration

### a harvest of flowers that fears no decline

Flowers that fears is Alliteration

### God grant that on my pure land should alight

God grant is Alliteration

**God grant that my country's honored head may never bend**

Honored head is Alliteration

### **Repetition**

**God grant that on my pure land should alight**

This line is repeated two times in whole poem. This is repetition.

### **Assonance**

It is the repetition of same vowel sounds.

**the flower that blossoms here may bloom for centuries.**

**God grant that for not one of my compatriots**

“O” is repeated in both lines so this is assonance.

### **Imagery**

**heavy clouds may bring down such rains**

**that even stones become verdant and fruitful**

In these lines, the poet use imagination while using words clouds and rain. He has great imagination that rain is a source of happiness and because of rain my homeland will become more fruitful.

### **Personification**

**a harvest of flowers that fear no decline**

fear is the nature of human being so this is personification. Personification means a human quality or nature related with any object or animal.

### **Anaphora**

**that each person arrive at the summit of art and culture**

**that no one be unhappy, no one live in distress.**

Both lines start with word “that” so this is anaphora each line start with same word at the beginning.

### **Polyptoton**

**A harvest of flowers that fears no decline**

**The flower that blossoms here may bloom for centuries**

Flower or flowers this is polyptoton originating from root words



### **Justification of Research Questions**

**Lexical Deviation:** The poets produce this deviation by utilizing words in a unique way that is different from how they are typically used such as by giving words a deeper meaning in order to express meaning and demonstrate an aesthetic value in the poem.

**Semantic Deviation:** This deviation demonstrates how a seemingly basic, everyday word may have an amazing significance. The meaning of a word might occasionally change depending on the poet's background and way of life.

**Phonological Deviation:** This deviation relates to sounds that are intentionally produced in order to produce music that considers rhyme.

**Grammatical Deviation:** In this type of deviation, poets disregarded sentence construction conventions. They purposefully omit using full stops in their phrases. Furthermore, they employ incorrect sentence tenses, among other things.

### **Conclusion**

The poem prayer for the homeland consists of full of ideas. In this poem the poet wants prosperity for his homeland. The poet used many levels for making his poem very efficient and clear. Theme is very clear and the theme is prayer and prosperity. He explained his poem by using parts of speech and lexical devices. The poet wants to see his homeland in progress. He prayed to God that his country always was honored. He resembled his homeland with the beauty of flowers. He wants that everyone spend his life without any stress. He always prayed to God that his homeland always bloom like flowers that no one could harm his beautiful homeland. The poet used different devices for making clear everything. Omer khwaja the translator of this poem Prayer for the homeland and Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi wrote this poem in Urdu then Omer has translated in English from Urdu. The poem has a deeper meaning inside. The findings of the study reveal that the translator of the poem did not show this poem in rhyming form. The findings resemble with the conclusion disseminated by Batool & Lodhi (2023) while doing analysis upon the English translated poems of Hafeez Jalahari. He used simple and easy language so anyone can understand this poem. We analyzed the poem Prayer for Homeland stylistically. The poet wisely delivered his ideas by using different devices. Literary criticism and stylistics are closely related fields that study how language and textual meanings are communicated. By outlining the various levels of the poetry, the stylistic analysis aids readers in better comprehending the poem's contents. The figure of speech and rhetorical devices tells us clear meaning that increase the charm of poem.

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