

Poetic Devices, Thematic Significance and Social Realities in Poetry: A Critical Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

This study critically synthesized the existing scholarly research on poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities. The researcher used a critical literature review and content analysis to scrutinize scientific literature. Based on the review, this study bridges the gap between poetic form and societal critique, highlighting poetry's capacity for thematic depth and social analysis. The artful use of metaphors, personification, imagery, etc., empowers poets to address complex socio-political narratives within their work, positioning poetry as a mirror of society's multifaceted issues. Poets from varied cultures have historically harnessed verse to reflect on universal themes such as mortality, justice, and human experiences, affirming poetry's role as both a narrative force and a societal barometer. Furthermore, poetry's archival value as a historical record is illuminated, capturing the spirit of different ages and contributing to our collective societal understanding. Through this synthesis, poetry is recognized as an enduring vehicle for exploring and challenging social dynamics, immortalizing the collective human psyche in rhythmic form. Through their craft, poets offer critiques and engage in the socio-political commentary that continues to shape the literary canon and our collective understanding. The study's findings underscore poetry's timeless relevance as a medium for social critique and thematic exploration.

KEYWORDS

poetic devices; thematic significance; social realities; critical literature review; content analysis

INTRODUCTION

In the intricate tapestry of literature, poetry stands out for its unique ability to condense vast emotional resonance and potent meaning into a compact form. Poetic devices are a subcategory of literary devices (StudySmarter, 2019). This is why all poetic devices are also literary devices. A poet deliberately uses devices to amplify or change literal meanings and create rhythm or tone (Kiparsky, 2019). Poetic devices can be utilized in various combinations to produce various effects (Meliyevna, 2021). The analysis begins with exploring poetic devices, the building blocks of verse that poets employ to evoke emotional responses and imbue their work with depth and rhythm. From the subtle resonance of assonance to the stark emphasis of enjambment, these devices are more than mere technicalities; they are the instruments through which poets express the ineffable, rendering the abstract concrete and the silent loudly eloquent.

Moving beyond the mechanics of poetry, the review examines thematic significance, considering how recurrent motifs and central ideas within poems encapsulate the essence of an era's zeitgeist (Tomasi, 2023). Whether it be the disillusionment following the war as captured by the Modernists or the metaphysical musings of the Romantics, the themes

explored in poetry offer a window into the collective consciousness of a period, revealing its people's hopes, fears, and preoccupations.

Lastly, this review probes the portrayal of social realities within poetry, contemplating how verse has historically served as both a mirror and a catalyst for societal change (Wajed & Saghar, 2023). From the biting satire of the Restoration poets to the Harlem Renaissance's impassioned pleas, poetry has reflected societal norms and acted as a revolutionary force, challenging conventions and advocating for social justice.

By weaving together an analysis of poetic devices, thematic significance, and the reflection of social realities, this review seeks to illuminate how poetry captures the human experience and influences and is influenced by the shifting sands of social dynamics. In doing so, it affirms the enduring power of poetry as a form of artistic expression that is timeless, timely, personal, and universal.

Objective of the Study

The study aimed to critically examine and synthesize existing scholarly research on poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities. This review seeks to elucidate the interconnectedness of form and content in poetry and to assess how poets across different cultures have employed various stylistic techniques to comment on the social issues of their time. Through the analysis, the review offers a comprehensive understanding of the dynamic relationship between poetic expression, thematic depth, and socio-political commentary in the literary arts.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a critical literature review and content analysis to scrutinize scientific literature on poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities. Sources were extracted from various research databases, including Google Scholar, directories of open-access journals, PubMed, and additional scholarly websites. Content analysis, a method well-suited for extracting textual inferences, is succinctly defined by Krippendorff (2018) as a technique "for making replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use."

The content analysis process adhered to a five-step methodology: (1) identification and selection of relevant content, (2) determination of units and categories for analysis, (3) development of a comprehensive set of coding rules, (4) application of these rules for coding the text, and (5) analysis and interpretation of the results, culminating in drawing informed conclusions (Luo, 2020). The initial search for pertinent articles using the keywords "poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities" yielded approximately 77,900 entries.

After completing the initial review, 25 articles were found to significantly contribute to poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities and, thus, were included as a study sample. The websites were selected using the following criteria: reputation, accessibility, content availability, and bibliometrics. The articles were coded in terms of content, poetic devices, thematic significance, and social realities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Poetic devices

The study of poetic devices is central to understanding the craft of poetry. Scholars have long debated the function and effect of various literary techniques used by poets to enhance the aesthetic quality of their work and to add layers of meaning. Imagery, metaphor,

personification, and the use of rhyme and meter are among the most discussed devices in the literature.

Sheki (2023) examined the poetic devices and symbolism employed by Emily Dickinson in her renowned poem 'Because I Could not Stop for Death.' Through a detailed analysis, the study explores the various literary techniques employed by Dickinson to convey deeper meanings and evoke emotional responses. The use of poetic devices such as imagery, metaphor, personification, and rhyme scheme are analyzed, along with the symbolism embedded within the poem. By unraveling the intricate layers of the poem, this study provides a deeper understanding of Dickinson's poetic craftsmanship and the thematic significance of 'Because I Could Not Stop for Death.'

In addition, the analysis of Emily Dickinson's poem 'Because I Could not Stop for Death' revealed many poetic devices and symbolism employed by the poet. The poem utilizes vivid imagery to paint a picture of the speaker's journey with Death, engaging the reader's senses and evoking emotional responses. Metaphors and similes are intricately woven throughout the poem, creating layers of meaning and providing insights into the themes of mortality and the afterlife. Personification is a prominent feature, as Death is personified and portrayed as a gentle companion leading the speaker through different stages of life (Sheki, 2024).

On the other hand, the scholarly exploration delves into the intricacies of Emily Dickinson's timeless poem, "Because I Could not Stop for Death." Through a comprehensive analysis of poetic devices and symbolism, the study aims to unravel the layers of meaning woven into the verses. Dickinson's unique use of language, metaphor, and symbolism invites readers on a journey beyond the conventional understanding of life, death, and the passage of time. The abstract seeks to illuminate the poet's nuanced exploration of mortality and eternity, offering insights into this literary masterpiece's enduring relevance and artistic brilliance (Sheki, 2023).

The comprehensive analysis of Emily Dickinson's "Because I Could Not Stop for Death" yields profound insights into the poem's poetic devices and symbolism. Through a meticulous examination of the text, the study unveils the intricacies of Dickinson's unique style, characterized by rich metaphors, symbolism, and carefully chosen language. Identifying poetic devices such as alliteration, imagery, and personification adds depth to our understanding of how Dickinson crafts a narrative that transcends the boundaries of mortality and explores the theme of eternity (Sheki, 2024).

Achebe (1) examined the theme of corruption in contemporary Nigerian poetry through a qualitative content analysis of selected poems. The study sample comprises poems that explicitly address the theme of corruption in Nigerian society. The research design involves a close reading of the poems to identify the different poetic devices used to address the theme of corruption and any recurring themes and motifs in the poems. The content analysis findings reveal that contemporary Nigerian poets use various poetic devices, including satire and metaphor, to express their frustration with the level of corruption in Nigerian society and to call for change. The article concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings and the significance of the theme of corruption in contemporary Nigerian poetry. This study highlights the role of poetry as a medium for social critique and adds to the ongoing discourse on corruption in Nigeria.

Similarly, Bilhana's historical narratives employed a variety of literary and rhetorical devices, such as imagery, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and allusion, to create engaging and evocative texts that appealed to his audience's emotions and imaginations. These devices helped to enrich the narratives and contributed to the lasting impact of his works on Indian literature and culture (Bhat et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the evolution of escapist poetry has been marked using literary devices such as palilogy and narrativity, which have helped poets create alternate worlds that allow readers to escape from the harsh realities of their own lives. Ezra Pound played a crucial role in developing escapist poetry, using palilogy extensively in his work to create a sense of musicality and rhythm that drew readers deeper into his alternate worlds. Pound also used narrativity to highlight the importance of the journey over the destination, emphasizing the process of escaping from reality rather than the result. Through his use of these devices, Pound helped to redefine poetry as a means of escape, paving the way for future poets to use language in new and innovative ways to create worlds that allow readers to transcend the limitations of their own lives. Ultimately, escapist poetry continues to evolve as poets use new devices and techniques to push the boundaries of what is possible in poetry, inspiring readers to dream and imagine beyond the confines of their own reality (Abed, 2023).

Moreover, the excerpt provided examines various literary devices employed to discuss code-switching within a particular text. Metaphorically, code-switching is framed not merely as a linguistic function but as a "valuable stylistic device" and a "resource" for bilinguals, indicating its enriched and multifaceted nature. This metaphorical framing elevates the act of code-switching from a mere communication tool to an artistic and expressive medium.

Contrast is used effectively to highlight the disparity between the general public's stigmatization of code-switching and the more appreciative perspective of the academic community. This dichotomy underscores the complex social dynamics surrounding bilingual language usage and the nuanced understanding of language professionals.

Repetition is a structural backbone throughout the text, anchoring the discussion in scholarly research and historical precedent, as seen through repeated citations of studies and specific references like "the work of Gumperz." This technique emphasizes the depth of scholarly engagement with code-switching and its significance in linguistic studies.

Historical allusions enrich the discourse, particularly with references to "mixed Romance–Arabic kharjas," situating the practice of code-switching within a broader, historical, and cultural context. This allusion provides depth to the discussion and anchors it within a tradition of linguistic interplay that spans centuries.

Imagery vividly paints the evolution of rai music, bringing to life its cultural significance through descriptive language that immerses the reader in its "vivid cultural backdrop." This use of imagery transports the reader, allowing them to experience the cultural richness that rai music embodies and the role of code-switching within it.

Lastly, *personification* subtly animates code-switching, portraying it as an active and intentional element within lyrical composition rather than a background or accidental feature. This personification encourages readers to view code-switching as a deliberate and dynamic facet of language imbued with intent and creativity by the user.

Each of these devices—metaphor, contrast, repetition, allusion, imagery, and personification—interlock to weave a complex portrayal of code-switching, elevating it from a linguistic phenomenon to an art form worthy of both scholarly and cultural appreciation (Davies & Bentahila, 2008).

Thematic Significance

Thematic significance refers to the importance of a theme's broader meaning within a literary work, film, artwork, or any other creative content. It is about how a particular theme contributes to the deeper understanding of the overarching message of the piece. Themes are central ideas, subjects, or issues that recur throughout a work and are often critical to character development and plot progression. The thematic significance is the impact of these

themes on the reader or audience's interpretation, understanding, and appreciation of the work.

The thematic significance of Emily Dickinson's poem "*Because I Could not Stop for Death*" lies in its contemplative approach to the subject of mortality. Dickinson personifies *Death* as a courteous suitor, which allows her to explore the concept of death in a more nuanced and approachable manner. The thematic essence of the poem is the serene acceptance of the inevitability of death and the subsequent journey into the afterlife (Sheki, 2023).

In this approach, the major themes that anchor everything are identified. Other minor themes are also identified, and how these themes, characters, and the stanza, in the case of a poem, relate to the major themes is identified. The themes may be more than one, but they are all connected, and how these themes are presented is the concern of the thematic approach. Settings, characters, and situations can be trappings of the themes. These contribute to its values (Fakeye David, & Amao, 2013).

Thematic significance in poetry emerges through its reflection and critique of societal issues like hardship and corruption, using satire to engage and broaden its impact. The power of poetry to elicit empathy lies in its realistic emotional portrayals, while the strategic use of language devices enhances the themes' accessibility. A sombre tone underscores the severity of these issues, and the poets' creative artistry infuses the work with life, emphasizing the thematic heart of realism and emotional resonance (Okafor, 2020).

Exploration of Societal Issues. The themes of hardship and corruption are significant as they reflect critical social and political issues prevalent in the context of the poems. This thematic significance lies in the ability of literature, specifically poetry, to comment on and critique societal problems.

Satire as a Literary Tool. The use of satire in these poems is thematically significant as it allows for a nuanced and often powerful way to criticize and examine these serious issues. Satire can make the critique more palatable and engaging, thereby reaching a broader audience.

Emotional and Realistic Portrayal. The mention of "*realistic and emotional*" poems signifies the depth with which these themes are explored. This aspect of thematic significance is crucial in connecting with the reader and evoking a deeper understanding and empathy toward the issues presented.

Language Devices Enhancing Understanding. Using idioms, similes, ideophones, and code-mixing is significant in making the themes more accessible and relatable to the reader. These linguistic elements enrich the text and enhance its thematic depth.

Tone Reflecting Seriousness of Themes. The use of a sombre tone in the poems underlines the seriousness of the themes of hardship and corruption. This tonal choice reinforces the thematic significance by creating an appropriate mood for the subject matter.

Also, the thematic significance of Vihang Naik's poems in his collection "Poetry Manifesto," as described in your text, revolves around several key elements that define his poetic style and the impact of his work on the reader. These elements include the autonomous nature of his poetic language, the simplicity and economy of his expression, the balance between involvement and detachment, and the avoidance of overt philosophizing or cultural showcasing (Kala, 2021).

Autonomous Poetic Language. Naik's use of poetic language that is both varied and autonomous suggests a theme of individuality and originality in expression. His work does not conform to standard poetic conventions or expectations, which could be seen as a commentary on the nature of artistic freedom and personal expression.

Simplicity and Relatability. The simplicity of his poems, which range from recognizable to elusive phenomena, and their capacity to resonate on a level beyond their structure and immediate content point to themes of universality and the depth of human experience. The poems encourage readers to engage their imagination and delve into contemplation, suggesting a theme of the interpretive nature of human experience.

Economy of Expression. Naik's characteristic economy of words and structure, along with the economy of images, highlight's themes of minimalism and the power of succinct expression. This style can be seen as a thematic exploration of how much can be conveyed with so little and the potency of concentrated language.

Spontaneity. The spontaneity in his poetry, which is described as never labored, introduces a theme of naturalness and authenticity in expression. This could be interpreted as a thematic reflection on the importance of genuine, unforced creativity in art.

Avoidance of Philosophizing and Cultural Showcasing. Naik's deliberate avoidance of philosophizing or showcasing Indian culture, unlike some of his contemporaries, brings forth themes of universality and a focus on the human condition that transcends specific cultural or philosophical boundaries. This might reflect a thematic preference for exploring more personal or existential aspects of experience rather than cultural or philosophical doctrines.

Balance Between Involvement and Detachment. His exercise of balance between being involved in and detached from his subject matter is thematically significant. It suggests a theme of objectivity and emotional balance in poetry, highlighting the poet's role as both a participant and an observer in the experiences and ideas they convey.

The thematic significance in Vihang Naik's "Poetry Manifesto" is multifaceted, focusing on themes of individual expression, the power of simplicity, the depth beyond the apparent, and a unique approach to poetic creation that emphasizes authenticity, universality, and a balanced perspective.

In addition, the thematic significance of "*The Lunatic*" by Devkota can be inferred to revolve around several key themes, with a particular emphasis on the complexity of the poem and the depth of its philosophical insights (Sharma, 2022).

Complexity and Depth of Theme. The poem is described as intricate, indicating that its themes are complex and layered. This complexity suggests a thematic exploration of deep and possibly challenging concepts, requiring careful and thoughtful analysis to understand fully.

Philosophical Insights. Devkota is noted as a humanitarian poet with fastidious philosophical insights for average readers to decipher. This aspect of the poem's thematic significance points towards themes of existential or humanitarian philosophy that are intellectually demanding and thought-provoking.

Challenge in Understanding. The fact that the poem is difficult for average readers to understand highlight's themes related to the accessibility of profound philosophical ideas. It suggests a thematic exploration of the gap between complex intellectual concepts and the general public's understanding.

Rebellion Against Injustice. Devkota's use of diction to reflect his "resilient abhorrence and rebellion against fixity, cruelty, and viciousness" suggests themes of resistance and opposition to injustice, cruelty, and rigid systems. This thematic aspect of the poem indicates a critique of societal or systemic flaws.

Artistic Craftsmanship. The mention of Devkota's "singular craftsmanship" in employing diction implies a theme of the power and importance of artistic expression. This suggests a thematic exploration of how language and poetic techniques can effectively convey complex and powerful ideas.

Usefulness for Thematic Analysis. The statement that the article will benefit those interested in dealing with the themes of literary texts suggests a meta-theme regarding the value of thematic analysis itself. It points to the importance of understanding and interpreting literary themes, highlighting how thematic analysis can offer deeper insights into literary works.

The thematic significance of "*The Lunatic*" by Devkota appears to revolve around the intricate exploration of philosophical ideas, the challenge of deciphering complex themes, the poet's rebellion against societal injustices, and the power of poetic expression. Additionally, it underscores the importance and value of thematic analysis in understanding and appreciating literary works.

On the other hand, the thematic significance of Bābā Farīd's poetry and its scholarly examination is multifaceted and deeply rooted in cultural, linguistic, religious, and historical contexts (Jamal & Khan, 2022).

Multilingual and Cultural Impact. Bābā Farīd's role as a multilingual poet and founder of Punjabi poetry and the ashlok genre underscore's themes of linguistic diversity and cultural synthesis. His work reflects a confluence of different cultural and linguistic traditions, highlighting the richness of cultural interchange in the Indian subcontinent.

Authorship and Historical Accuracy. The discussion about the true authorship of "Ashlok-i Shaikh Farīd" and the incorrect attributions in various texts highlight themes of historical authenticity and the complexities of literary heritage. This theme is significant in understanding the transmission and preservation of literary works overtime, especially in oral traditions.

Preservation of Literary Works. The mention of Bābā Farīd's poetry being preserved in Gurmukhi script, despite his preference for Punjabi, and the reliance on oral traditions for memorization and transmission underscore the themes of literary preservation and the challenges faced in maintaining the integrity of literary works across generations.

Sufi Philosophy and Spirituality. Bābā Farīd's identity as a devoted Sufi is thematically significant. His poetry and life reflect themes of profound devotion, renunciation of worldly desires, and the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment. These themes are central to understanding the essence of Sufism and its expression through poetry.

Social Harmony and Equality. His teachings advocating love, peace, and equal treatment regardless of religion or class introduce universal harmony and social equality themes. This aspect of thematic significance is crucial in understanding the role of spiritual leaders and poets in promoting social and religious harmony.

Meditational Practices and Contemplation. The emphasis on Bābā Farīd's engagement in rigorous meditational practices and contemplation brings forth themes of self-discipline, spiritual rigor, and the quest for inner peace and enlightenment.

Impact on Religious Traditions. Bābā Farīd's poetry, becoming a substantial part of the Jasnathi religious tradition, transferred orally from generation to generation, highlights the theme of the interplay between religion and literature and how literary works can become integral to religious practices and beliefs.

In addition, the thematic significance of Bābā Farīd's work encompasses cultural and linguistic diversity, historical authenticity, preservation of literary heritage, Sufi philosophy, social harmony, spiritual discipline, and the influence of poetry on religious traditions. These themes provide a comprehensive understanding of his contributions as a poet, a spiritual figure, and a cultural icon. The thematic significance of Alamgir Hashmi's poem "*Children at Lesson*" reflects a blend of cultural, educational, and existential elements (Ajmal et al., 2022).

Mundane Life and Complex Themes. Hashmi's focus on nature and everyday elements to explore complex themes like happiness and life indicates a thematic significance in finding depth and meaning in the ordinary. This approach suggests that even the most common aspects of life can offer profound insights into human experiences and emotions.

Educational and Cultural Reflections. The poem's rich portrayal of children's studying norms reflects educational themes and delves into cultural aspects, particularly Pakistani culture. This suggests a thematic exploration of how education and cultural practices shape the experiences and perspectives of children.

Complex Narrative Structure. The mention of the poem's complex narrative structure highlights themes of artistic and literary craftsmanship. This complexity may mirror the intricate nature of the explored themes, suggesting that understanding life's nuances requires a careful and nuanced approach.

Thematic Meaningfulness. As mentioned, the poem's thematic meaningfulness indicates that it goes beyond mere storytelling to engage with significant and resonant themes. This could involve a deep exploration of cultural identity, the process of learning, or the broader aspects of human existence.

Unique Diction. The use of unique diction in the poem suggests a theme of linguistic innovation and creativity. This aspect of thematic significance may point to the power of language in shaping and expressing complex ideas and cultural concepts.

Artistic Beauty. The combination of all these elements – cultural representation, complex narrative, thematic depth, and linguistic uniqueness – contributes to the overall artistic beauty of the poem. This implies a thematic significance in appreciating poetry as an art form that encapsulates many human experiences and emotions.

Representation of Pakistani Literature. Lastly, the poem's embodiment of Pakistani culture and its place within Pakistani literature highlight themes of national identity and the role of literature in representing and exploring this identity.

"*Children at Lesson*" by Alamgir Hashmi is thematically significant for its deep engagement with everyday life and complex themes, cultural and educational insights, intricate narrative structure, and contribution to Pakistani literature. The poem serves as a medium to explore broader themes of life, happiness, cultural identity, and the power of education, all while showcasing literary artistry.

Furthermore, Nahal's poems, as described, lie in their exploration of both personal and broader societal issues, reflecting a deep engagement with individual experiences and global concerns (Samantarai, 2023).

Personal Turmoil and Experience. The dimension of Nahal's poetry that revolves around her own turbulent life indicates themes of personal struggle, emotional turmoil, and perhaps self-discovery or resilience. This aspect of her work suggests a thematic focus on the individual's journey through challenging personal circumstances and the introspective insights that emerge from such experiences.

Global Issues – Confusion, Bias, Injustice, and Mayhem. The second dimension, which deals with the confusion, bias, injustice, and mayhem she observes in the world, introduces social and political critique themes. This aspect of her poetry points to a thematic concern with the complexities and challenges of the contemporary world, encompassing issues of inequality, social justice, and the chaos of modern life.

Empathy and Thoughtful Expression. Nahal's use of her experiences in a thoughtful and empathetic manner suggests themes of compassion and understanding. It highlights the significance of empathy in interpreting and responding to both personal and global challenges, indicating a belief in the power of poetry to foster understanding and emotional connection.

Artistic Representation and Diversity. The description of her work as a "large canvas in myriad hues" suggests themes related to the diversity of human experience and the richness of emotional and intellectual expression. This implies a thematic focus on the vastness and variety of life experiences and the role of art in capturing and reflecting this diversity.

Interplay Between Personal and Universal. Her poetry's coexistence of personal and global themes underscores a thematic exploration of the interplay between individual experiences and broader societal issues. This duality suggests that personal struggles often reflect larger, universal challenges and vice versa.

The thematic significance of Nahal's poetry lies in its dual focus on personal turmoil and global issues, articulated through a lens of empathy and thoughtful expression. Her poems navigate the complex territory between individual experiences and broader societal concerns, offering a rich tapestry of emotional and intellectual exploration encompassing a wide range of human experiences and perspectives.

Moreover, the thematic significance of the Post-resettlement Bhutanese Poetry revolves around two primary aspects: the representation of the lives of Bhutanese people post-resettlement through poetry and the use of Natural Language Processing (NLP) as a tool for analyzing literary texts in Nepali (Gautam et al., 2023).

Social, Cultural, and Contemporary Aspects of Bhutanese Lives Post-Resettlement. The interpretation of Bhutanese people's experiences after resettlement reflected in poetry suggests a thematic focus on displacement, cultural transition, identity, and adaptation. This aspect of the paper highlights the role of literature in capturing and expressing the complexities of social and cultural changes experienced by a community, particularly in the context of resettlement. The themes may encompass the challenges of maintaining cultural identity, the nuances of integrating into new environments, and the emotional and psychological impacts of such significant life changes.

Use of NLP in Literary Analysis. The application of NLP as a methodological technique in analyzing Nepali literary texts introduces themes related to the intersection of technology and humanities. This aspect is significant as it suggests a thematic exploration of how modern computational methods can enhance our understanding of literature. It points to the evolving nature of literary analysis, where technological advancements supplement or transform traditional methods. The use of NLP in this context may also highlight themes related to language processing challenges, especially in dealing with languages with less digital presence or resources than more widely spoken languages.

Cross-Cultural and Linguistic Insights. Given that the paper deals with Bhutanese poetry written in Nepali, there is an inherent thematic significance in the cross-cultural and linguistic dynamics at play. This aspect may explore themes of linguistic diversity, cultural expression through language, and how language shapes and is shaped by cultural and social experiences.

Broader Implications for Literary Studies. By presenting NLP as a tool for literary analysis, the paper also touches on themes of interdisciplinary approaches in academic research. It suggests a growing recognition of the benefits of combining literary studies with computational techniques, which can lead to new insights and perspectives in the field.

The thematic significance of this paper lies in its exploration of the social and cultural dynamics of Bhutanese resettlement as expressed through poetry and the innovative use of NLP in literary analysis. These themes highlight the intersection of social change, cultural expression, technological advancement, and academic research methodologies.

Social Realities

Social realities are the norms, values, beliefs, expectations, and meanings created through social interaction and collectively shared by society. These are the "realities" that people agree upon and act within, and they can be quite distinct from biological reality or individual cognitive perceptions. Social reality is maintained through language, symbols, and social practices, and it includes institutions like family, government, and education systems, as well as concepts like gender roles, democracy, and justice.

The social realities reflected in the study of pre-Islamic poetry, particularly in the context of Jāhili society as represented in the classic odes or Mu'allaqat, can be summarized as follows: (Brown, 2023).

Feuding as a Social Mechanism. The analysis suggests that feuding was a significant aspect of social relations in Jahili society. Unlike the disruptive connotations it might carry in modern perspectives, feuding in these societies could serve to explain and maintain social relations. It was a structured part of the societal fabric, potentially playing a role in the balance of power and community dynamics.

Extreme Generosity and Honor. The poetry sings of a society where extreme generosity was seen as a hallmark of honorable men. This could reflect a cultural value placed on generosity and hospitality, which were highly esteemed virtues. However, the study also suggests that in the context of poverty and famine, such acts of generosity might have been more aspirational or rhetorical than practical.

Food-Sharing in Nomadic Societies. The study indicates that in poor, nomadic societies, food sharing, while idealized in poetry, may have been more a matter of survival and cooperation than a practice of generosity. This reflects a social reality where resource scarcity influences social practices and norms.

Comparison with Historically Documented Societies. By comparing Jahili society with other historically documented nomadic societies that share socio-economic, climatic, linguistic, and cultural characteristics, scholars can better understand the social context of the era. This comparison suggests that the social realities of Jahili Arabia might have been like those of other nomadic societies, focusing on survival, cooperation, and structured social relations like feuding.

Literary Product vs. Social Reality. The study emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between the literary portrayal of a society and its actual social realities. While poetry and literature offer valuable insights into society's values, ideals, and self-perceptions, they may not accurately reflect practical daily life and social practices.

The social realities of Jahili society, as extrapolated from pre-Islamic poetry and comparative studies with other nomadic societies, suggest a complex interplay of feuding, honor, generosity, and survival in a context of resource scarcity. These realities challenge and refine our understanding of the societal norms and values portrayed in the classic odes of the period.

In addition, the social realities reflected in Ushie's poetry are deeply intertwined with the political and economic context of post-military and democratic Nigeria. His work is characterized by a strong resistance to oppressive sociopolitical systems and the economic hardships imposed on the Nigerian people (Aboh, 2013).

Tension Between Military Dictatorship and Democratic Despotism. Ushie's poetry reflects the social reality of a nation grappling with the aftermath of military rule and the challenges of a fledgling democracy that may not have lived up to its promises. This tension is a central theme in his work, indicating a society in a state of political flux and uncertainty.

Language as a Tool of Social Construction and Resistance. The statement, "Language is not a mere tool in the social construction of everyday life, nor is it a subservient instrument..."

but language is centrally involved in the organization of society," highlights how Ushie views language as an active, powerful force in shaping social realities. His use of language is seen as resistant and revolutionary, aligning with the struggles against the oppressive forces represented by the military and its collaborators.

Pronominal Selection and Discourse Strategies. Ushie's strategic use of pronouns in his poetry constructs identities and distinguishes between 'us' (the in-group) and 'them' (the out-group). This linguistic technique reflects the social realities of division, conflict, and resistance within Nigerian society, especially in the context of oppressive governance.

Critique of Sociopolitical and Economic Policies. The poetry is described as a discourse of resistance against "*decadent sociopolitical and brutalizing economic policies and programs.*" This reflects the social reality of widespread dissatisfaction with the government's handling of socio-economic issues, further highlighting the struggles of the Nigerian people under these systems.

Historical Resonances and Identity Construction. Ushie's poetry recreates historical resonances and uses linguistic strategies to construct identities, reflecting the poet's consciousness of being in a period marked by dictatorship, democratic euphoria, institutional failure, and mass disillusionment. This shows how historical and current events shape his poetry's content and form.

Capitalist Social Order and the Masses. The poetry provides insight into how those in power impose a capitalist social order on the masses, showcasing Nigerian society's economic disparities and struggles.

Ushie's poetry vividly depicts the social realities in post-military, democratic Nigeria, characterized by political unrest, economic struggle, and a strong undercurrent of resistance. Through his linguistic choices and thematic focus, Ushie's work serves as both a critique of and a response to the sociopolitical and economic challenges faced by the Nigerian people.

On the other hand, Stubley (2023) explored in the article *Social Poetry*, the transformative power of human imagination, consciousness, and language in perceiving and interacting with social systems.

Imagination as a Tool for Understanding Social Systems. The article emphasizes the role of individual and collective imagination in perceiving and understanding complex social phenomena. This suggests a social reality where creative and imaginative processes are crucial for comprehending the dynamics of societal systems.

Perception of Interconnectedness in Social Phenomena. The concept that social phenomena are not isolated, but part of a dynamic, interconnected system is a significant aspect of the social reality discussed. This perspective challenges conventional views of social issues as independent phenomena and encourages a more holistic understanding.

Responsibility for Social Phenomena. The article posits that increased awareness and understanding of social systems can lead to a heightened sense of responsibility for their continuation and development. This implies a social reality where individual and collective consciousness can impact the direction and nature of social changes.

Transformation, Imagination, Consciousness, and Language. The interrelation of these elements reflects a social reality where change (transformation) is deeply connected to how people imagine, think (consciousness), and communicate (language). This relationship suggests that societal transformation is not just a structural or policy-driven process but also a cognitive and linguistic one.

Reflective Practices and Nature Connection. The mention of journaling and spending time in nature as part of a reflective process indicates a social reality that values introspection and connection with the natural world. These practices are seen as ways to foster a deeper understanding and perception of social phenomena.

Development of Perceptual Organs Through Metaphors. The idea that working with metaphors can develop organs of perception to understand the transformation process of social phenomena points to a social reality that values metaphorical thinking and creative language use. This approach suggests that complex social dynamics can be more effectively understood through creative and non-literal forms of expression.

Impact on Civilization and the Earth. The article's perspective that individual and collective perception and language can influence the future development of civilization and the Earth reflects a social reality that recognizes the profound impact of human thought and action on the broader world.

The social realities discussed in the article revolve around the transformative power of imagination, consciousness, and language in understanding and shaping social systems. It highlights the interconnectedness of social phenomena, the importance of reflective practices, and the role of creative expression in perceiving and impacting societal and global changes.

However, the social realities explored in William Blake's poetry reflect the significant historical and political upheavals of his time and his critical response to the societal changes and challenges of 18th-century England (Wang, 2022).

Era of Political and Social Upheaval. Blake lived through a period marked by the American War of Independence, the French Revolution, and the Industrial Revolution. These events signified monumental political, social, and economic shifts, profoundly impacting people's lives in England and beyond.

Impact of the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution, in particular, brought about rapid industrialization and urbanization, leading to significant social and economic changes. This period was characterized by the growth of factories, changes in labor dynamics, and the rise of a new industrial class, alongside the suffering of the working class due to poor working conditions and urban poverty.

Social Injustices and Industrial England. Blake's work often reflects the dark side of industrial England, highlighting social injustices such as exploitation, oppression, and the grim realities of urban life. His poetry critiques the dehumanizing aspects of industrialization and the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

Condemnation of Oppression and Exploitation. Blake was vocal against the oppression and exploitation perpetuated by authorities, tyranny, and the church. His poetry denounced the systemic injustices and called for resistance against the ruling class's control and manipulation.

Shattering the "Mind-Forged Manacles." The phrase "*mind-forged manacles*" from Blake's poetry symbolizes the psychological and intellectual constraints imposed by the ruling class. Blake's emphasis on breaking free from these constraints reflects his advocacy for mental and spiritual liberation from oppressive societal structures.

Revelation of Social Reality in Poetry: Blake's poetry captures the essence of his time and delves deeply into the underlying social and historical contexts. His use of rhetorical devices and thematic exploration in poems reveals and interprets the complex social realities of his era.

Historical Contexts Underlying Poetry. Blake's work is deeply intertwined with the historical context of the 18th century, providing insights into the societal impacts of significant events like the revolutions and industrialization. His poetry reflects the changing landscape of his time and his response to it.

William Blake's poetry provides a profound commentary on the social realities of 18th-century England, characterized by political and social upheaval, the impact of the Industrial Revolution, social injustices, and the struggle against oppressive structures. His work is a

blend of sharp critique, visionary imagination, and a deep understanding of his time's historical and social context.

Also, Wajed and Saghar (2023) emphasized the role of poetry and the poet's mission in awakening society. The social realities explored in the study of poetry are centered on its role as a tool for societal transformation, intergenerational communication, and articulating the human condition.

Intergenerational Communication. Poetry is presented as a medium that bridges generations, conveying the intricacies of human existence across time. This function underscores the enduring nature of poetry as a form of communication that transcends age and era, allowing for the sharing of experiences, wisdom, and insights between different generations.

Articulation of the Human Condition. The study highlights poetry's ability to adeptly capture and express the multifaceted dimensions of the human experience. Poets delve into the complexities of emotions, thoughts, and experiences, providing a nuanced understanding of what it means to be human.

Analysis of Social Attitudes and Behaviors. Poets are described as skilled artists who use their craft to reflect and analyze prevalent societal attitudes and behaviors. Through their work, they offer insights into the social fabric, revealing both its virtues and vices.

Promotion of Social and Societal Consciousness. Poetry is seen as a vehicle for promoting societal consciousness, awakening individuals to the truths of their society and inspiring virtuous actions. This aspect points to the transformative potential of poetry in shaping social norms and values.

Mechanism for Societal Transformation. The study posits that poetry can initiate and drive societal change. By presenting the realities of existence in a way that highlights their fragility and aesthetic appeal, poetry encourages people to rethink and potentially alter their perspectives and actions.

Connection Between Material and Ethereal Realms. Poets are credited with infusing life into the physical form and establishing a link between the tangible world and the more abstract, ethereal, or celestial realms. This aspect of poetry points to its capacity to transcend the mundane and connect with deeper, more spiritual aspects of existence.

Role of Poetry in Facilitating Societal Awareness. The study aims to elucidate poetry's role in enhancing societal awareness, emphasizing its importance in educating and informing society about its own condition and potential paths forward.

Poetry as a Reflection and Catalyst for Change. The poet's role is to reflect on society and act as a catalyst for change, inspiring others to transform their societal environment actively.

The social realities conveyed in this study of poetry encompass its role in intergenerational communication, the articulation of the human condition, the analysis of societal behaviors, the promotion of societal consciousness, and the potential for societal transformation. Poetry is portrayed as a powerful medium that connects the material and spiritual realms and serves as both a mirror and a motivator for societal change.

Moreover, the social realities explored in the poetry of Anglophone West African countries, with a focus on Ezenwa-Ohaeto's work, revolve around the themes of communal values, social consciousness, political dislocation, and the socio-political and economic challenges of post-independence Africa (Asigbo & Maduiké, 2023).

Projection of Communal Values. The poetry from Anglophone West African countries often reflects and projects the communal values of their respective societies. This suggests a thematic preoccupation with cultural norms, traditions, and shared societal beliefs.

Social Consciousness Post-Independence. The period following independence in African countries brought about heightened social consciousness, characterized by a keen awareness of societal changes and challenges. This period was marked by a shift in poetic focus to address these emerging realities more directly.

Political Dislocation and Disillusionment. The poetry reflects the political dislocation and disillusionment that accompanied self-rule. This indicates a thematic exploration of the complexities and often unmet expectations in the postcolonial era, where the initial euphoria of independence gave way to realizing self-governance challenges.

Socio-Political and Economic Problems. A significant focus of the poetry is on the perennial socio-political and economic problems that emerged in the wake of independence. This includes issues like corruption, inequity, and the struggles of nation-building in the postcolonial context.

Personal Narratives to Examine Social Issues. The poets use personal experiences as a narrative tool to examine broader social and political dislocations. This approach suggests a thematic significance in connecting individual experiences with larger societal trends and issues.

Sensitizing Public Conscience. The poetry serves to sensitize the public's conscience about the happenings in their societies. This role of poetry as a medium for social commentary and awareness indicates its significance in shaping public opinion and fostering societal understanding.

Sociological Approach and Postcolonial Theory in Analysis. The sociological approach and postcolonial theory used in analyzing these poems suggest a focus on understanding the societal structures, historical contexts, and cultural dynamics that influence the themes and styles of the poetry.

"Through the narration of private experiences, these poets can examine the social and political dislocations in their societies, thereby sensitizing the public's conscience on the happenings in their societies." This statement highlights how personal narratives in poetry are used to reflect and critique the broader social and political realities of post-independence West African societies, emphasizing the role of poetry as both a reflective and an educative tool in shaping social consciousness.

CONCLUSION

The study's findings emphasize the nuanced relationship between poetic form and societal engagement, suggesting that poetry transcends mere artistic expression. It is a conduit for deep thematic exploration, enabling poets to weave complex socio-political issues into their work. This interplay allows poetry to serve as a form of social commentary, providing unique perspectives on cultural and historical events. The analysis within the study indicates that through the strategic use of poetic devices—such as metaphor, imagery, and personification—poets can offer multifaceted insights into the human condition, echoing the triumphs and tribulations of society. The research highlights the thematic significance of poetry as it unravels the depth and breadth of poets' engagement with societal issues. It underscores how poets, across different cultures and times, have used their work to reflect on themes such as mortality, injustice, corruption, and the human experience. The thematic significance in poetry is not just in its narrative or emotive power but also in its ability to serve as a reflective surface for the human condition, revealing the fabric of society through the lens of personal and collective consciousness.

Furthermore, the research underlines the importance of poetry as a historical document that captures the zeitgeist of different eras, reflecting the evolving nature of societal norms and challenges. By doing so, poetry contributes to a collective understanding of our world,



offering a critical lens through which we can examine the complex tapestry of social realities. It underscores the poet's role not only as a creator of beauty but also as an observer and critic of the social order, whose work can inspire reflection, conversation, and, potentially, social change. Through this artistic medium, the essence of being part of a society—its struggles, values, and collective consciousness—is chronicled and immortalized in verse.

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