



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STYLISTIC DEVICES IN LITERARY WORKS (NOAH GORDON'S "THE PHYSICIAN")

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ABSTRACT

Stylistics is a branch of [applied linguistics](#) concerned with the study of [style](#) in [texts](#), especially, but not exclusively, in literary works. Also called literary linguistics, stylistics focuses on the figures, tropes, and other rhetorical devices used to provide variety and a distinctness to someone's writing. It's linguistic analysis plus literary criticism.

Key words: Stylistics, linguistics, literary criticism, plot, style, irony, juxtaposition, colloquialisms

According to Katie Wales in "[A Dictionary of Stylistics](#)," the goal of "most stylistics is not simply to describe the formal features of texts for their own sake, but in order to show their functional significance for the interpretation of the text; or in order to relate literary effects to linguistic 'causes' where these are felt to be relevant." Basically, studying a text closely helps to unearth layers of meaning that run deeper than just the basic plot, which happens on the surface level.

Elements of style are the characteristics of the language used in the written work, and stylistics is their study. How an author uses them is what makes one writer's work distinct from another, such as Henry James from Mark Twain from Virginia Woolf. An author's way of using the elements creates his or her distinct writing voice.

Elements of style studied in literary works are what are up for discussion in any literature or writing class, such as:

- **Big-Picture Elements** (irony: an occurrence that's the opposite of what's expected)
- juxtaposition: putting two elements together to compare or contrast them
- mood: the atmosphere of a work, the attitude of the narrator
- pacing: how quickly the narration unfolds
- point of view: the narrator's perspective; first person (I) or third person (he or she)
- **Line-by-Line Elements** (alliteration: close repetition of consonants, used for effect)
- assonance: close repetition of vowels, used for effect
- colloquialisms: informal words, such as slang and regional terms
- diction: the correctness of the overall grammar (big picture) or how characters speak, such as with an accent or with poor grammar
- jargon: terms specific to a certain field
- metaphor: a means to compare two elements (can also be big-picture if an entire story or scene is to laid out to show a parallel with something else)

- repetition: using the same words or phrases in a short amount of time for emphasis

According to the aforementioned information and analysis a literary work by Noah Gordon “The Physician” can be analyzed with the help of different approaches which are handful to see and feel the way how the work was released. If we consider the period, the work reveals it gives several exact clues to the reader. The author tried to use stylistic devices which can express the setting (time and place) of the work, “The Physician”. A simple expression of the events occurring in the work appear to be expressed with the help of diverse stylistic devices. For instance, the scenes of the book give an exact impression which can be felt by the stylistic devices that are used skillfully. Words and expressions such as “a spring had flowed with blood”, “like rain on a drought” can easily show how the lifestyle of the people of that period was harsh and unbearable.

As it is known each stylistic device shows implied meaning which can be seen after only deep analysis. As other different literary works we can come across with the expressions of the people where we can analyze the personality of the character in the work. Here we can see an example of one the main characters, Master Egglestan: “His face was ruddy and his stomach bloomed before him as fully as her own. His corpulence didn’t repel; on the contrary, it disarmed and charmed and told the viewer that here was a friendly and convivial spirit too fond of the best things in life.” By the simple expression of the character a reader can analyze how people with a high status differ from the crowd. The expressions “a friendly and convivial spirit”, “the best things in life”, “his stomach bloomed” can be a sign of the mentioned situation.

To recapitulate, every single work of literature can be seen as a work of art for the reason that it brings the time and place of the work into reality by using stylistic devices which make the literary work priceless. Noah Gordon’s “The Physician” appears to be one of the best examples of the fact that stylistic devices can express the whole situation as real in life.

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