



The Fall of The House of Usher: A Stylistic Study

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ABSTRACT

"The Fall of the House of Usher" is one of Edgar Allan Poe masterpiece. It has a complex structure that leads to different interpretations and analysis. This story has been seen as shrouded in mystifying atmospheres references to obscure texts and hints of enigmatic events. As a gothic tale, it has always been examined in terms of gothic literature which depends on supernatural elements and mysterious atmosphere as main factor to create and developed events. Some pointed that the source of gothic and horror in this tale is based on structuring a conflict between reason and irrationality. However the complex structure of this story rises from a special use of language has led and readers to disagree over its exact meaning. Poe confesses that he is master of language that he believes that truly imaginative literature locates its deepest meaning in an undercurrent for this reason, Poe redirects our attention to the he terms and general manner of the narration. This sentence drags our attentions to the language in "The Full of the House Usher" as a reflection of the meaning hidden there in the text. Because of this, in this paper, will examine the style of Edgar Allan Poe in terms of sentences, structure, terminology and symbolism.

KEYWORDS

Stylistic, Gothic, Complex Structure, Edger Allan Poe, Symbolism



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1. Introduction:

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. "Stylistics focuses on the figures, tropes, and other rhetorical devices used to provide variety and a distinctness to someone's writing. It is linguistic analysis plus literary criticism. Stylistics is a discipline that studies style by using and employing modern linguistic theories and methodology. It is literary stylistics that has a closed tie with linguistic and literature teaching.

Absolutely speaking, literary stylistic is a kind of literary criticism which is established on the basis of linguistics; it is an approach to the study of literary texts through linguistic theories and methodology. Literary stylistics is an inter-discipline which serves as a bridge between literary criticism it enables us to better understand and appreciate the thematic meaning, and aesthetic value of literary texts by describing and analyzing the language components, the author chooses and their specific stylistic effects. Thus, the stylistic process, examining the creativity of language use and how the linguistic concepts and categories develop our understanding of literature.

Consequently, studying a text closely helps to unearth layers of meaning that run deeper than just the basic plot, which happens on the surface level based on the literary stylistic theories which examine dialogue, pacing, mood, juxtaposition, point of view, structure, symbolism, assonance alliteration and other elements.

2. Data Analysis:

This paper attempts to discuss the necessity of applying these theories literary criticism. It attempts to analyze one of Edger Allen Poe's masterpieces *The Fall of the House of Usher* from the following aspects: point of view level, lexical level and rhetorical features.

2.1. Point of View Level:

First of all, it is the analysis of point view in this fiction. Different from Poe's usual first – person narrating with I protagonist, the first-person narrator of this fiction is only witness, a participant He witnesses the fall of the House and the disappear of the family, and that makes his narration believable. The unnamed narrator is very loyal and enigmatic character. Poe's description which bring the readers right into the scene successfully plays up the gloomy and horrific aura of the story began with the moment the narrator arrives at Usher's house.

"The horrible white of his skin, and the strange light in his eyes, surprised me and even made me afraid. His hair had been allowed to grow, and in its softness, it did not fall around his face but seemed to lie upon the air. I could not, even with an effort, see in my friend the appearance of a simple human beings." (5).

2.2. Lexical Level:

Then this paper analyzes and shows the lexical characteristics of the fiction. Poe utilizes many negative and depressing words and expressions to reinforce the gloomy and horrific urea of this controversial fiction. And meanwhile, he precisely uses a large number of concepts and curative literary words to depict and play up the grave and majestic atmosphere of this fiction through the quantitative and qualitative analysis, this paper shows that *The Fall of the House of Usher* is descriptive style and analyzes the stylistic feature of nouns and adjectives in it.

Finally, rhetorical features of the fiction are analyzed. Any reader can note how the author uses a wide range of figures of speech in this short story, for example oxymoron, metonymy besides hyperbole which is reflects exaggeration, emphasize and evokes strong feelings to create strong impressions, among which, symbolism and alliteration are distinctive stylistic feature. *The Fall of*

the House of Usher a story of mysterious family the dark romanticism very clear in this story because the centered around the concept of evil human nature such as death and darkness. Main character Roderick and his sister they were twins and they were sick, Roderick had mental disorder and Madeline had physically sick Poe manipulates the language and recruits it in "revealing the truth by way of concealment" (Silverman 46).

In the first paragraph of the story, the narrator describes his long exhausting journey to the Usher house, the verb passing "reflects the length of his journey. He uses lengthy embedded sentences to depict the atmosphere. Rendering infant number of passive adjectives such as "dull", "dark", "soundless", "sternest natural images and "bleak walls" (Poe 3), Poe paints a gloomy picture to the mansion. The picture he visualizes is lifeless just like an autumn¹ which represent death in life. The clouds that hang low on the sky oppress the narrator as well as the readers in the prison of mystery and isolates them from their own atmosphere. The idea of isolation is highlighted in the first paragraph.

Using words like "alone" singularly "distant" and myself detaches the narrators from his real world into the border of madness. This atmosphere effects the narrator as well as the reader that his reason is confused and suffered from an "utter depression of soul which I can compare to no earthly" sensation more properly than to the after dream of the reveler upon opium" (9). The sounds also play a significant role in creating the scene Poe's use of alliteration of the 'd' sound in the words like "dull, dark, day decayed" as well as the repletion of the 's' sound in the words as "sickness, sinking, iciness, soundless once again creates a mood of isolations and

weirdness. Also, he uses the Ekphrastic tools that the readers can smell the rotten fungi and miasma of the tarn. These waves of long sentences overloaded with passive adjectives, suffocating images and sounds entraps and prisons the narrator as well as the reader in an inferno between the reality and the imagination that they cannot recognize what they see. Poe envelops the atmosphere and the mansion with mystery. Poe is a master of language, believes that "truly imaginative literature locates it deepest meaning in an undercurrent" (Silverman 46). That is why he uses the language of possibility. His narrator is uncertain. To communicate his feeling about, his thought and describing his relationship with Roderick He cannot realize what is the atmosphere that it" (4). He is also uncertain about Roderick that he "really knew little of ...[his]friend" (4). Using such as terms of uncertainty, leaves the readers wandering in between the world of imagination and that of reality. All meanings are hidden under a complex structure sentence. They are repressed and hidden in the text just like humans' desire and pain repressed deep in the unconscious.

Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" is also complex story in term of using symbolism. The story is considered as a "document of repression" (Meindle 58). Poe use symbols which are "closely related to repression" (Wiel49). The most important symbol is the house itself which become the most dynamic characters in the story affects and develops actions. According to psychologist, outer space is a reflection of the inner self. Bachelard analyzes" houses' 'as" "extensions of our bodies" (Bachelard147). This means that Usher the house is an embodiment of the Usher the family. The gloomy vision of the mansion reflects the disorder mentality of inhabitants. This fact is frankly by declared Roderick Usher who characterizes the mansion that it "obtained over his spirit" (10) he believes that their house is the evil in carnet. Psychological speak, the language of the text suppressed some sorts of evil. In the human unconscious leads to the destroying human reason once it transcends the

limits. It might be reference to the sharp line between what is real and what is imagined and hidden in our unconscious. Freud climes that "the essence of repression lies simply in the turning something away and keeping it at distance from conscious" (Rowman 84).

¹ TS: Eliot uses the image of "soundless autumn" to represent the idea of the death in life in dray salvage".

The lake which reflects the image of the house and in which the crack ends is also very symbolic. Water, according to Carl Jung is "the commonest symbol of the unconscious" (Jung 18). Thus, the house which is the source of "evil" in the Usher family will be swallowed by the lake. Thus, the mystery that envelops the characters as well as the setting is a kind of repression that communicates itself in forms of symbols. According to this it is logical to assume that repressed feelings and desires may swallow our reason or conscious once it released just like the lake that swallows the mansion and its inhabitants. The relationship between the Roderick and Madeline also, can be analyzed in term of symbols that they can stand "id" and "ego". The relationship between this twin is very enigmatic. These two are the last generation of the Usher's family which "lay in the direct line of the descent" this quotation may be suggest a hidden, repressed and forbidden relationship between Roderick and his

sister that is incest. Once again according to Freud concept of repression. This relationship for Roderick is something devilish and pain full that he tries to keep secret; this is why he buried her alive. Jocelyn Dupont states that "terror is not much caused by an external threat but instead internal one"(52). Roderick Usher becomes a prisoner of his fears that he "feel[s] that the period will sooner or later arrive when ..[h] must abandon life and reason together ,in some struggle with the grim Phantasm, Fear"(10). //Or the reader may note dissociation \\To conclude, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" is story woven from complex structure, careful use of language and deep symbols. Poe has wittingly adopting visualizing, invoking images and suggesting symbols to communicate the complexity and the darkness of the hinterland of human mind.

3. Conclusion:

Stylistics analysis involves the analysis of various styles used in language and narration to derive the desired meaning. Stylistic study focuses on the figures and rhetorical devices in order to show their functional significance for the interpretation the text. This paper examines The Full of the House of Usher closely in order to unearth layers of meaning that run deeper than just the basic plot. It is worth mentioning that Edgar Allan Poe possessed a talent in his writings and he owned a simple and effective style which is easy to be understood but not easy to be interpreted. The Full of the House of Usher a well written horrible text embodies Poe's ability of narrative and technique. He draws the readers immediately in to his text. The present study has attempted to give an overall survey on the style and mood of Edgar Allan Poe in The Full of the House of Usher. And it also provided a general survey on the most common figures of speech in the language of this text. Poe's pay much attention to the word selection and sentences construction in order to create a good atmosphere with many details and descriptions. This text is full of stylistic devices such as simile, places, actions, emotions imagery and symbols expressed by Poe. These devices suggest many interpretations in the story, and really makes it interesting we notice the frequent use of gothic and dark words in the story such as, terrible, horror, dull, dark, depression, torture, terror, gloomy and malady the language plays a good role from the beginning to the end it helped Poe to unveil more feeling of Gothicism. The deeper the narrator travel into this structure, the more mysterious and eerie everything that dwells inside of it become Gothicism is evident throughout this text due to the narration and language technique sentences which show the supernatural themes.

Along with that, the use of the first point of view in narrating the story is a strategy used by Poe to conduct the reader's interpretations into the writer's intention. Edgar Allan Poe used the narrator as the teller of the story to make the story seems real as if we lived those moments of fear with the narrator. Thus, Poe uses the 'I' narrator to influence the reader. This prominent feature of Edgar Allan Poe's style, and as we have seen this is used for a purpose make the reader close to the writer or sympathizing with the read. The mysterious text and unknown narrator

serve the specific impact of Gothicism that he wants to achieve. Finally, the stylistic study expands the awareness of the text and help to discover a meaning interpretation of The Full of the House of Usher.

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