

POETRY AND ITS GENRES

1-Introduction

What is poetry? It sounds like a simple question with a simple answer, but the answer is actually quite complex. So what exactly is poetry? Everyone seems to have their own description of what it is. Even if you ask three different poets, they will all give a different explanation than the others. However, there are always some similarities between definitions. Moreover, defining poetry is an ambiguous task like defining literature, very vague and open.

2-Definition

A poem is more than just rhyming. In point of fact, poetry need not even rhyme. Sound and movement are the primary components. A definition of poetry that is somewhat dysfunctional includes these two things and "feeling." Poetry is considered to be part of literature because it refers to the poetic works of a particular author, group, nation, or type. It includes literary works written in meter; verse implying beauty and harmony among words, emotions, and concepts.

“All good poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility”

William Wordsworth

Poetry is an art form that gives writers the freedom to express their imagination and creativity in a way that other forms of literature do not. You are given access to a significantly broader selection of elements, styles, and techniques. In any case, you should utilize them cautiously, remarkably, and admirably. Although it is a difficult act to perform, many artists enjoy it.

Poetry, according to many authors, is both the most challenging and rewarding form of literature. In the world of prose, there are an infinite number of elements, methods, and creative ideas. Poets put a lot of pressure on themselves to produce work that adheres to a particular rhythm and style. They consider every word that should be used for countless hours. The poetry community generally agrees that, regardless of its length, a poem ought to take the same amount of time to write as a novel or short story.

According to **Reed** (1946:92) in **Barnet, Berman, and Burto** (1961); *“Poetry is attempts to put into words feelings and thoughts. Poetry also attempts to do this in a manner which will make a memorable impression; it uses memory, devices, and ideas, such as figure of speech, rhyme, and rhythm. Poetry was chosen either because of its documentary importance for a full understanding of the period and the works of the major poets, or because of its intrinsic excellence. It means that poetry is describing feelings, reactions, and attitude of the writer about daily life of human beings or poetry can also talk about the fact of social life which will make a memorable impression”*. According to **Landy**(1984:413): *“Poetry is musical or at least rhythmic speech. It is also usually a harmonious speech employing words whose sounds echo each other or blend well. It may even be set to music, to be chanted or sung rather than simply spoken”*.

3-Devices of Poetry

1-Content: It is what the poem is all about; the ideas, themes and storyline that it contains. One way of approaching a poem is by getting a general idea of what it is about and this is sometimes called the surface meaning of the poem on which to build more complex ideas that form the analysis of it.

2-Poetic Voice: It is also known as the speaker, mask, or persona (Latin for mask) refers to the voice that speaks a poem; this speaker is not usually identical to the author who writes the poem. The author assumes a role, or counterfeits the speech of a person in a particular situation.

3- Structure: The structure of a poem: **Stanzas**

- **Stanza:** a group of lines in a poem.

- **Verse (=line):** It refers to the one line. **Roger Fowler** defines verse as: *“It is the minimal condition of poetry if poetry is to mean anything even as a metaphor. The degree of expressivity of language depends upon the frame of mind in which we approach it and that frame of mind is in turn determined by conventions of presentation, lay-out, etc”* (2006: 249)

- **Run-on line (=Enjambment):** A line that ends without a pause and continues into the next line for its meaning. (# **End-stopped line**)

- **Refrain:** The repetition of the same line or lines regularly in a poem.

-A stanza can be a:

* **Couplet:** 2 successive lines which rhyme with each other;

* **Triplet:** 3 lines;

* **Quatrain:** 4 lines (especially lines that rhyme alternatively);

* **Cinquain:** a five-line stanza.

- **Blank verse**

It is a non-rhyming **iambic pentameter**, usually stichic. Under the influence of Shakespeare it became a widely used verse form for English dramatic verse, but it is also used, under the influence of Milton, for nondramatic verse.

- **Free Verse**

There is no particular stress pattern or number of syllables per line in Free Verse. A sort of stanza has been broadly utilized exclusively since the 20th 100 years. Free refrain can be coordinated around syntactic units, word or sound reiterations, or the musicality made by a line break.

4-Genres of Poems

Throughout its long history, poetry has relied on evolving rules about what a poem is, with new kinds of poetry building on earlier kinds to create greater possibilities of expression. Actually, poems can be narrative, lyrical and dramatic.

a- Narrative Poetry

In verse, narrative poetry conveys a series of interconnected events and guides characters through a plot. A narrator always tells the story. The actions of a hero or heroine, a love story, a father-son relationship, or a love story are all examples of narrative poems. Examples of narrative poetry subcategories are: ballad, mock-epic, or epic.

Epics usually have a lot going on, both in terms of length and subject, like Milton's *Paradise Lost* or Virgil's *Aeneid* about the beginning of a nation. They also tend to use higher language, and supernatural beings are involved in the action. The mock-epic deals with completely insignificant occurrences by employing epic conventions, such as the elevated style and the assumption that the subject is of great importance

A ballad is a poem that tells a story and was originally told orally. It is an important type of folk poetry that was used in literature starting in the 16th century. The stanza of a ballad typically consists of four lines that alternate between tetrameter and trimeter.

b- Lyric Poetry

A verse sonnet is a nearly short, non-story sonnet in which a solitary speaker presents a perspective or a profound state. Verse holds a portion of the components of tune which is supposed to be its starting point: The lyric was a song performed by the lyre for Greek writers.

The lyric's subcategories include, for instance, elegy, ode, sonnet, dramatic monologue, and most poetry on occasion:

Nowadays, an elegy is a formal remembrance of a deceased person. In a more general sense, the term "elegy" also refers to solemn meditations that frequently address issues related to death.

An ode is a lengthy lyric poem written in an elevated style about a serious subject.

The work was initially an adoration sonnet which managed the sweetheart's sufferings and expectations.

In a dramatic monologue, a speaker who is not the author makes a speech to a silent audience at a crucial moment in a specific situation. Without meaning to do as such, the speaker uncovers parts of his disposition and character. Poetry written for special occasions is called occasional. a wedding, also known as an epithalamion (such as Spenser's *Epithalamion*), or the king's return from exile.

C-Descriptive and Didactic Poetry

Descriptive and long-winded descriptions (dramatic poetry) and direct-speech scenes (lyric poetry) are examples of both types of poetry. A didactic poem's primary objective is to instruct readers. This can take the form of very specific instructions, like Alexander Pope's *Essay on Criticism's* advice on how to write good poetry. However, it may also be intended as general instruction. Prior to the twentieth century, it was assumed that all literature served a didactic function, i.e., to impart moral, theoretical, or even practical knowledge; Famously, Horace demanded that poetry incorporate *prodesse*, or learning, and *delectare*, or pleasure. Literature as a teaching tool was more secretly promoted in the 20th century.