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Higher Institutions.

Igbongidi Binaebi Paul

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**ABSTRACT**  
 This paper talks about the uses of stylistics. The definitions of stylistics have been critically examined before the analysis of the uses of stylistics. The uses of stylistics have been seen as; providing artistic justification for any linguistic breaches, making literary interpretation. Furthermore, stylistics has been said to be useful to identify individual's style in a piece of work, and there is no aspect of language which style does not exist. To buttress these points, the stylistics analysis of different texts have been explained, and a critical stylistics analysis of "The dry season" has been analysed by the writer of this paper.

**INTRODUCTION**

Before delving into the uses of stylistics, it is pertinent to explain and give the definitions of stylistics. Therefore, a meaningful discussion of the meaning of stylistics will be useful. Stylistics is simply defined as the study of style. It is the study of the social function of language and is a branch of what is now called sociolinguistics. It aims to characterize texts as pieces of communication. Stylistics works on data provided by others, therefore, it can be regarded as the technological aspect of scientific form. Stylistics has been defined by different scholars. According to Crystal and Davy (1969), stylistics is the study of the awareness of the kind of structure language has and the kind of feature expected to be of stylistics significance, the awareness of the kind of social variation which linguistic features tend to be identified with. The new Lexicon Webster's Dictionary of the English Language (1994) defines stylistics as "the study and art of the selection of language characteristics created by a situation, especially a literary language". Stylistics is basically concerned with the interrelation between linguistic structures and the message of the text. (Enkvist, 1964). Let us use this extract as an illustration for the foregoing definitions.

*All the elders in the village*

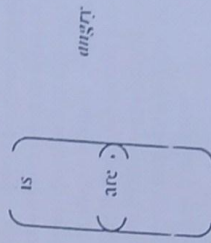
Okpala-uku

Okuru

Odogwu-abi

Onotu-uku

All the elders  
 ALL-THE: NOTU



There is syntactic repetition of **vp** in the above text which is foregrounding. This is because, the normal language code, the use of a single expression, "All our elders in the village" would serve the same purpose of the **VP** being repeated six times. These definitions of stylistics are very necessary in the uses of stylistics. The uses of stylistics are very numerous to mention. These are seen in the analysis of text or any piece of writing. Stylistics provides artistic justification for any linguistic breaches we may find. The analysis that will be given in this paper will buttress this statement. Stylistics makes artistic sense out of semantic nonsense. For instance, in Chomsky famous nonsense sentence 'colourless green ideas sleep furiously' is semantically meaningless, but when MacGuire puts the nonsense sentence into verse, it becomes meaningful (Akwanaya 1996) Thus; "Colourless, Green ideas, Sleep, Furiously". The foregoing verse is meaningful in stylistics. One of stylistics central concern is the contrast of the language system of a literary work of art with the general usage of the time (Welek and Weren, 177). Stylistics gives analytical techniques in the study of a text for example, Butler, (1985) states that in Robert Graves' Poem, "The legs", the structures of sentences, clauses, nominal, verbal and adverbial groups are all examined in some detail. In addition, the verbs of the poem are classified as 'general', 'specific' or 'rare', and the use of definite article is investigated. These features in the text are discussed and are related to the public meaning of the poem. (Butler, 194). The use of stylistics can also be seen in the integration of linguistic technique and literary interpretation in Carter's analysis of Heningways' short story, "Cat in the Rain" (Butler Carter states 'that

reinforced by the occurrence of three redraft speeches, a device which allows the reader to see style and character view point on the dialogue. Stylistics that helps to identify individual style and work. For instance, Soyinka's style is different from the style of Achebe, but a powerful method for understanding the ways in which a writer of literature "uses" language." (Butler, p 208). Let us use some illustrations for the foregoing statement. For example:

The driver will probably know that he is asked to slow down because, the company "firm" is the road. Also, when one is trying to park he can slow down because, the company "firm" is driver's attention has been drawn by the jagged line which will make him not slow down, so he is going to make announcements and convey messages to the person affected. Even to the villages which the villages understand. As mentioned earlier, that one of the uses of stylistics is to foreground any piece of writing. Kwesi Brew's poem, "The dry season" will be used as an illustration in this paper.

The year is withering, the wind  
 Blows down the leaves.  
 Men stand under eaves.  
 And over hear the seccorn  
 Of the cold dry wind.  
 Of the half bare trees.  
 And soon, soon the flies,  
 The flies will begin to hum,  
 The hawk will flutter and turn  
 On its wings and swoop for the mouse.  
 The dogs will run for the bone,  
 The hare for its little life.

The grasses are all dead.

Some good food of worms.

And the concluding sentence.

Of the cold dry wind

Of the half bare trees.

And soon, soon the flies,

The flies will begin to hum,

The hawk will flutter and turn

On its wings and swoop for the mouse.

The dogs will run for the bone,

The hare for its little life.

Brew has drawn an attention to all the and separation. The poem is a descriptive one, and for a punctuation marks have not been properly applied. This is aberration. The aberration obscures the radical nature of dry season, humanism. The punctuation marks are radical in the way they suggest radical season itself. The effect of this is the loss of movement of the poem. The very repetition of 'the' also makes the poem to be flat. This is due to the speed of the humanism which moves without obstruction. There is a preponderance of occurrence of both voice and success abstruse humanism. There are 4 stanzas one, 12 in stanza two, and 16 in stanza three which makes it a figure of 30 stanzas. This foregrounds because the frequency occurrence of these phenomena draws attention itself. These phenomena represent whispering sounds of humanism wind. The nature of the poem is all because of the same phrases that. This gives an impression of a humanist effect. The poem has a low line, high volume. The low volume which starts at stanza one reminds the reader about the humanism. At the end, with the blow, down and seccorn support low volume. Also, the low volume is a very effective way of conveying level terms, ghost and charming, suggest this. In stanza three, the volume goes high in emphasis in activities are laid up especially the ones that involve attending danger such as "the flies beginning to hum", "the creatures running for their dear life", "A hawk can also be observed in the poem". These clanging of "the creatures running for their dear life" and "3 leaves and trees, two food 4 - appear" sounds are seen in colours (fractive and abstruse) in lines 3 and 5. There are two more quality of sound in the poem and two lines, and lines 14 and 15 - burn and turn. These sounds most aesthetic quality of sound in the poem. In the last stanza, the words in lines 15 and 16 are unrepresentative, which is even uncommon. The equal stress and rhythm are attributed to the descriptive nature of the humanism. Furthermore, that sentences are used in the syntactic arrangement of the poem. There is also the use of hyper-substitution. For example, men stand under eaves

6 of the half bare trees, qualification in S 6 are Secret. This equivalence. into.  
or the ad' noun.

Syntactic equivalence occurs in the three stanzas in the poem. Other examples are in lines 1 and 82. with  
pools of colourful leaves  
v. ith ghost of the dreaming year.

And their breaking down are;

With + of + adj  
With + NE" + of + det + NP'

This is called pattern repetition. The stylistics effect in this pattern is that it gives stress isochrorasm and invest aesthetic value to the poem.

There are also violation or collocational order in the poem. For instance.

The year is withering (in line 14)

Pools of colourful teavcs (in line 11)

The verb "withering", has selected the  
NP year" as its subject. Y car has a semantic  
features; + abstract — animate.

Whereas. withering would have selected semantic features, + NP + concrete + animate. Also, the NP<sup>2</sup>.

"leaves" has selected "Pools" NP' As its subject. which has semantic features, flow +  
liquid — planet. Leaves should select its subject with semantic features: +NP  
— liquid + plant.

## CONCLUSION

The uses of stylistics have been critically examined. And this in different authors and a major analysis of "the dry season" by the made in this paper will be very useful for teachers and students general. This is because. all the levels of linguistics - stylistics analysis of the texts.

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Category rule violation has been employed with the use of "a-scatter", The word 'scatter' belongs to a particular class, verb, and 'a' has been prefix to it' to act as an adverb which is another class. This is done in order to maintain a rhythm in the poem.

Moreover, the grammatical use of determiners in the poem, for example, the year, the wind, the secret. "the" used in 18 places shows constancy and irreversibility of the dry season. Also, co-ordinating conjunction 'and' has been used in four places. The stylistic effect is to glue together the features of harmattan, human and animal activities. The lexical items in the poem have been carefully selected. Some are monosyllabic, such as wind, rain, fine, year. They give a kind of similarity action. Also, majority of these lexical items have 's' and 'ing' inflection. Examples are withering, dreaming, dogs, trees, and fires. This is to show continuity of harmattan in the season. Consequently there are hyphenated words, such as half-bark in line 6, a-scatter in line 10. The use of morphological derived words like colourful in the poem is to give the audience a vivid description. Finally, the linguistic-arrangement in the dry season has been given a stylistic analysis to bring to focus a number of direct aspects shown one of the uses of stylistics.

done through the use of stylistics analysis of writer of this paper. The stylistics analysis of English in particular and linguistics in analysis have been carefully applied in the

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