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Abstract

The poem is arrhythmic and conveys the scenario of a wedding held in the period in which flood usually comes, concentrating on tiny pictorial details as witnessed by the sight of the folks became my selection for the stylistic analysis for several reasons. The aim of this paper is to analyze Taufiq Rafat's poem "Wedding in the Flood" from the viewpoint of stylistic analysis. This analysis is helpful in understanding the basic concept of poetry and complexity through figures of speech. Not only is there complexity in the verses, but also, their confines are stylistic by concentrating on the figurative devices employed in the poem by the poet.

Keywords: Stylistics, Terms, Wedding in the Flood, Complexity of Verses, Figurative Devices

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Abstract

The poem is arrhythmic and conveys the scenario of a wedding held in the period in which flood usually comes, concentrating on tiny pictorial details as witnessed by the sight of the folks became my selection for the stylistic analysis for several reasons. The aim of this paper is to analyze Taufiq Rafat's poem "Wedding in the Flood" from the viewpoint of stylistic analysis. This analysis is helpful in understanding the basic concept of poetry and complexity through figures of speech. Not only the complexity of the verses but likewise their confines in a stylistic way by concentrating on the figurative devices being employed in the poem by the poet.

Keywords: [Stylistics](#), [Terms](#), [Wedding in the Flood](#), [Complexity of Verses](#), [Figurative Devices](#)

Introduction

The study of the style is generally recognized as stylistics. Style is a primary aspect of any

literary piece of writing. It gives unique recognition to the writer. The idea or thing discussed by many other writers, by using stylistic

devices and dignified style a writer presents the same idea or thing with a new color. Therefore, style is the basic thing that gives uniqueness to every writer. Leech (2014) in his book "A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry" defines style as the way of speaking, writing, or performing something. To make the literature effective, a writer practices



diverse skills to make it stylish and remarkable which is known as "Stylistics" (Miller, 2023). In this regard, this present research is conducted on the style to explain the relationship between artistic role and particular language. It is an exercise to describe the usage of language and how language can be used to convey ideas and thoughts in a different way. Style means how something is said. It is based on changes in context which the reader or hearer can understand easily. Stylistic gives proper understanding after fetching ample interpretation from text. It doesn't own any existence and has only a relation with linguistics and criticism. Literature is the preferred object of stylistic studies which is not confined to high literature; it even includes forms of advertising, Religion, Pop Culture, or Politics. According to (Haynes, 1989) in his book "Introducing Stylistics" says that the study of style is the study of distinctions; looking at what was said against what might have been said. Style can also be called variety. In various contexts, style refers to the manner of expression. Due to the multipurpose field of style, it is used according to one's field of study. Modern stylistics utilizes riggings of formal proper linguistic analysis; it isolates characteristic uses as well as functions of rhetoric and language instead of patterns and perspectives rules (Davis, 2024). The traditional concept of style as properly adding something to views clashes with the later derived philosophies from Charles Bally, The Austrian literary critic Leo Spitzer, and Swiss Philologist. According to followers of these thinkers, style is created by choosing words like youth, youngsters, children, and kids. The theory highlights the link between linguistics

& style, just like the Edward Spair theory that shows literature that tends to be based on form (Charles Swinburne, Paul Verlaine, & Horace) and literature that tends to be based on content.

(William Shakespeare, Dante, Homer, Plato) and almost untranslatability of the earlier. Widdowson (1975) in his book "Stylistics and the Teaching of Literature" defines stylistics as "The study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation. Historically, studying style dates back to the Roman and Greek Literary scholarships in the 5th Century BC which posted rhetoric as the dominant art. Style sets such discipline to encompass ideas to orators to speak well in other

words you can say in fully decorated by considering which kind of audience is present. Style can also display a mark of character. Seasoned writers can depend on the strength of choices of words, sounds, and syntactic patterns that are somewhat habitual, to present his or her personality or elementary point of view. Stylistics also tries to present rules capable of elaborating the specific adoptions acquired by people individually and in communal crowds in their languages' utilization, for instance, socializing, the making and response of definitions, literary criticism, and critical discourse analysis. People communicate in verbal and nonverbal devices. It is principally the linguistic features that make him different in stylistic distinctiveness eventually as a scientific study of style. The word style refers to a unique or characteristic way of expressiveness in language. By identifying and analyzing both the effects and processes in employing the devices in languages such as rhetorical figures as Active Rhetorical Means and syntactical patterns, as Passive Rhetorical Means, stylists lay stresses on the analyses of the style of eventually-composed texts or discourses. Style means how something is said i.e. "the science of literary style". In words altered, stylistics is the philological examination of a literature-related text, regarding the choice of motives, tone, phrases, words and mode, etc made by the writer. Style explains meaning along with context without comprehending style in detail it is very hard to get meanings. Stylistic study cultivates real meaning and causes a better way of meaning to be understood.

Language is taken as the object of study in both linguistics and stylistics. The only difference is that linguistics is focused on the universal and theoretical side of Literature, i.e. langue, whereas stylistics focuses on specified usage of the language, i.e. parole/speech, along with specified the effect realized. The ability to apply linguistics to literature education is Stylistics. Stylists mainly focus on specifics of the linguistics utilized by specific authors or perhaps poets in a specific text, they concentrate on the significance of details in it. Among the main responsibilities of stylistics is to validate and check insight and insights via thorough examination, but it perhaps also tends to be a certain dialogue concerning a linguistic spectator and literary writer, and the purpose of this discourse is subjective understanding instead

of being objective. The linguistic study tends not to substitute the reader's instinct, further significantly; it may even direct, prompt, and form an understanding. The style contains selections taken from a range of linguistics. This choice is confined to the parts of choice of language usage that are relevant to substitute ways of expressing the same thing (Roberts, 2023).

The use of phrases, sentences, or even single words in a manner that is non-literal is generally referred to as figurative language. Writers and poets now and then utilize the figurative aspect of linguistics to orchestrate unacquainted substances, surroundings, and circumstances relevant to the reader or relatable to the listener. (Garcia, 2023) The short stories and free pros, specifically, depend majorly on figurative linguistics—for instance, hyperbole, metaphors, similes, and personification—to paint the character in the reader's imagination. Nowadays, literary works are not as common as before, because of the hectic routine of life. People fail to think that literature has its roots in one of the most human needs, i.e. the desire for pleasure. Literature gives us aesthetic pleasure. There are many literary works. One of the literary works is a poem used to deliver human imagination.

Figurative language has the ability to alter the attitude or mood of the script. The mood is necessarily the feeling that engulfs a reader and provokes specific emotions. Although both poets and writers tend to illustrate a certain mood for pages a poet's free space is relatively confined.

The Figurative tone polishes the characterization in the stories. The way an author/writer unveils a character's shortcomings, qualities, and personality is referred to as characterization. Proper usage of Figurative devices can enhance and polish everyday speech. Correct utilization of similes, imagery, and metaphors enhances the experience of the user just as figurative language polishes layman language. By the usage of figurative language, a writer or poet pulls his reader into the world he has generated and inspires the reader to take part in it actively—to empathize with a character. Under stylistics, figures of speech are one of the language style aspects commonly discussed. Here language style can be seen in figurative language through figures of speech. (Thomas, 2024)

Literary language is the concern of stylistics. It is usually concerned with elaborating the relativity amid style and literary or artistic purposes, it distinguishes between features of one writing piece from another. The poem "Wedding in the Flood" is written by Taufiq Rafat. He was a writer and poet of Pakistani Origin. Poets in Pakistan are influenced by his work; (Ahmed, 2024). he is also well known for introducing the "Pakistani Idiom" to English Literature. The best-known collection of poems by him is Arrival of the Monsoons. He translated quite some works of Punjabi writers into English. He is somewhat of an unorthodox poet among the Pakistani authors and poets. He introduced a new pattern of writing poetry. A lot of work is done around his poetry for instance language, symbolism, themes, etc. (Henderson, 2024). The subject poem in this study will be examined and analyzed with a focus on the figurative language used by the poet.

Problem Statement

Any discourse can be interpreted on both surface and deep level. The surface meaning is easy to understand, but it is always tricky and difficult to understand the intended or deep meaning of any literary discourse. A number of factors can become a cause of the issue. One of the most prominent factors is the lack of knowledge of figurative language, students are unable to describe and analyze the exact tone and nature of discourse. Furthermore, it is not sufficient to move towards the intention of the writer, just to deal with its deep and surface meaning but it is also important to make sure of the rising and falling intonation of the poem. In short, they are having trouble interpreting the poem stylistically.

Research Objectives

- To find out the function of figures of speech applied in the poem "Wedding in the Flood".
- To investigate the types of figurative devices used in the poem "Wedding in the Flood".

Research Question

- What is the purpose of the use of figurative language found in the poem "Wedding in the Flood"?
- What types of figurative devices are used in the poem "Wedding in the Flood"?

Significance of the Study

This research article attempts to examine the distinctive characteristics of the poem to have a more in-depth understanding of the content and form of this poem. The aim is to analyze Taufiq Rafat's poem from a viewpoint of stylistic analysis. The analysis is done under the traits of phonological, grammatical, syntactical, and figurative language. It intends to analyze the effective presence and functions of the level of stylistics. The stylistics encompasses hyperbole, metaphor, simile, oxymoron, alteration, assonance, and consonance.

Delimitation

The current research covers the exploration of figurative devices in the poem "Wedding in the Flood" by Taufiq Rafat. The researcher will include figurative devices such as simile, hyperbole, metaphor, alliteration, and personification. In this research, it is tried to stylistically analyze the poem through figurative language according to the heuristic checklist proposed by Leech and Short. The researcher has delimited this topic on this particular point.

Literature Review

In South Asian poetry, works of Pakistani writers have maintained an important place. Many writers like Ahmed Ali, Daud Kamal, M. Azhar Tahir, Hina Babar Ali, and Taufiq Rafat have achieved a milestone in literature. There were also some influential stories written by Aamer Hussein. *Meatless Days* was written by another Pakistani writer Sara Suleri. (Choudhury, 2023)

In this research paper, research analyses a poem by Taufiq Rafat's *Wedding in the Flood*, stylistically to highlight the figurative language in it. Madam Sumera Batool, Sir Maratab Ali, and Fatima Birlas (2015) conducted research that aimed to highlight the Subh-eAzadi's stylistic features, a poem by Faiz Ahmad Faiz. The choice of words and style used by the poet to highlight the theme is analyzed critically. Five Levels are involved in the stylistic analysis i.e. phonetic, grammatical, graphological, phonological, and lexical levels. It shall aid the readers to comprehend the complex syntactic patterns and poetic devices utilized by the poet efficiently. Metaphors, figures of speech, similes,

and anaphora are used often in the poem. The unique point of view of separation of the Sub-Continent is proved dramatically by the poet through deeper imagery and meaning-laden metaphors. Hafsa Zaid (2017) did research on "Ode to Nightingale" by John Keats. She has analyzed the poem from the stylistic perspective with the use of different software for the analysis in order to generate the corpus for understanding a poem. The stylistic analysis mainly consists of 8 levels that are Graphitic Level, Phonetic Level/Phonological Level, Grammatical Level, Graph logical Level, Semantic Level / Discourse Level, Lexical Level, and Pragmatic Level. This stylistic analysis revolves around related stylistic devices of these major levels. For tagging the parts of speech of this poem and representation of stylistic devices the software used are MAT TAGGER, SPSS, Free CLAWS TAGGER, and COMPLEAT LEXTUTOR.

Muhammad Rashid (2017) researched the poem *EID BY Aurangzeb Alamgir Hashmir*. He brings the poem into the light of stylistic perspectives such as grammatical, graph-logical, Phonological, and syntactic. It was useful to understand the culture of Pakistani society, themes, and structure. The meaning of the poem is made very clear through stylistic analysis. It is right to state that stylistics is a helpful instrument for the interpretation of poetic words and to analyze them.

Huma Iqbal, Sadaf Iqbal, and Aqsa Kanwal (2014) did research on W.H.Auden by

"O Where are you Going". This paper focuses on analyzing the poem on 3 levels of stylistics: Phonological, Pragmatics, and Morphological. The purpose of the study is to fetch the literal and concealed meanings and to have a better recognition of the poem is to find the literal and hidden meanings the aim is also to analyze and comprehend the poem at various stylistic extents to present better recognition of synonyms.

Abdul Bari Khan, Madiha Ahmad, Sofia Ahmad, and Nadia Ijaz (2015) did a stylistic analysis of the short story A.R.Tabsassum's "The Last Word". Leech and Short (2007) presented linguistic and stylistic categories and researchers based them on the stylistic analysis of short story stylistically from different perspectives. The aim of the researchers was to discuss the elements of the short story. Data was collected from the short story and it was divided into four levels that were lexical categories.

The researchers concluded that the address is presented in an allegorical way that is actually the consoling discourse of a person who is at the last stage of his life. The researcher found out the use of alliteration, use of rhyme and apostrophes, and rhetorical questions.

Shenli Song (2009) conducted research on the short story *Miss Brill* by Katherine Mansfield. The aim of the researcher was to analyze the style of the writer that was used in the short story. The researcher used the theory of Leech and Short (2007) for the stylistic analysis of the short story. The researcher divided the analysis into four levels. The researcher concluded that the writer had used distinctive linguistic features as she compared it with Jane Austen and Dickens's writing. The writer was found more conscious by the researcher after the analysis of the short story. In the poem "A Poison Tree" by

William Blake's research was done by Ahmed Rameez Il Huda, Roshan Amber Ali, and Shoaib Mahmood (2014). The purpose of this article is to examine according to the stylistic perspective. The analysis is done under the characteristics of syntactical, Graphical semantic, and phonological patterns used in the poem. The not only portrays the variation in style itself but also the impact of this variation on the reader.

Sidra Hanif, Mumtaz Ahmed, and Maria Aftab (2015) did research on the poem "Leisure" by William Henry. The purpose of this paper is to examine the stylistic perspective of the poem by William Henry Davies.

At first, figures of speech exist as devices to compare or find similarities with their reference in the traits. In figurative language, the figures of devices are linguistic elements that have non-literal meaning. Figurative language includes strategy. There are some categories of schemes, i.e. phonological schemes, grammatical schemes, and lexical schemes.

(Leech and Short, 2007: 63).

Phonological structures consist of such models of alliteration, rhyme, and assonance whereas syntactic and lexical structures are composed of structural repetition such as parallelism and anaphora. In addition, tropes also contain traditional poetic figures of speech and their special interpretation. a. The Types of Figures of Speech have many types. In this section, the researcher

uses twelve kinds of figures of speech based on Perrine's theory (1977: 64-167). In his book—*Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*, Perrine classifies twelve kinds of figurative devices into three levels such as figures of speech by association and comparison and contrast. The most suitable study that has been taken as a role model for the analysis of the vernacular words, customs, and traditions used and highlighted by Rafat in his writings in general and in the subject poem in particular.

Research Methodology:

Theoretical Framework

In this article stylistic analysis of the poem "Wedding in the Flood" is analyzed stylistically in terms of figures of speech, followed by the checklist of linguistics and stylistics categories proposed by Leech and Short (2007). The list gives a methodical basis for the gathering of related linguistic details from the manuscript for the stylistic assessment and offers the level for examining the group-like figures of speech. The poem consists of diverse themes and stylistic characters. The study aims to contribute to the examination and exploration of stylistic devices. In this stylistic analysis, the verses are examined in terms of figures of speech, and also the empirical list of linguistic and stylistic groupings as per the technique proposed by Leech and Short. Characteristics of repetition, metaphor, simile, consonance, and assonance are fixated on.

Research Design

This research will be handled through qualitative methods. This research involves intensive reading of the poem and discovering the figurative device in the poem. The research article attempts to examine the distinctive structures of the poem to have a profound comprehension of the content and shape of the poem. The aim is to analyze Taufiq Rafat's poem from the point of view of the literary stylistic analysis. The examination is done while keeping in mind the features of the language grammatically, syntactically, phonologically, and figuratively. It intends to analyze the effective presence and functions of the level of stylistics. The stylistics encompasses hyperbole, metaphor, simile, oxymoron, alliteration, assonance, and consonance so that the exaggerations and delimitations of the

overall insight may be avoided that take place in other means and approaches used for the same.

Research Method

The method of textual analysis will be utilized by the researcher to examine the given poem. A textual analysis is done by following the heuristic checklist given by Leech and Short (2007); *A linguistic introduction to English Fictional Prose* 2nd Edition.

Data Generation Tools

By utilizing different rhetorical tools and tropes, figures of speech, as a tool, can be utilized to reveal or present meaning other than that of the literal meaning of words. By the utilization of unique valuations, the figure of speech can perhaps be seen as elaborating some concept. This usually is done to illustrate concepts and ideas in the mind of a reader in a way that is more fun and entertaining and also makes certain things clearer than just simple explanation by words; it helps to captivate the interest of the readers. In a similar fashion, the use of figure of speech comes in handy when trying to communicate ideas that are beyond the literal meanings and physical projection of words even though they are not literally true in most cases. We can see them in prose and poetries and even in everyday spoken language to elaborate rather abstract concepts or pictures in the reader or listener's mind. It makes communication more abstract and interesting. In this research, the same is applied.

Data Analysis

This chapter is based on the style Taufiq Rafat used in his poem "Wedding in the Flood". The text is studied and investigated concerning the method of heuristic checklist for the exploration of the style of Taufiq Rafat, used in his poem "Wedding in the Flood". The figure of speech adds extra flavor to writing or speech. Imagery is a critical part of any literary writer's imaginative writing style. It gives elaboration and project and saves it in memory in the form of animation. The poem, as stated above, has no rhythm. When one looks at the title it appears that a wedding is taking place in the flood season, to show the sense of closeness, the present tense is used. In monsoon, everything has been destroyed by pathetic weather conditions as nature

has peace in itself but the worst aspect of nature is discussed here in the poem. Different characters are present with dissimilar judgments on the bride's dowry and wedding. Everyone looks weird and jumbled up from bride to his related people for e.g. her mother and father-in-law and her own mother and ferryman. We will see sarcasm at customary weddings in Pakistan for which people have formed certain concepts and ideas and they entirely emerged with them. It necessarily mocks conventional marriages in Pakistan. By the use of a Pakistani proverb, Rafat has juxtaposed the wedding event. He mentioned that rain is caused on marriage ceremonies and weddings by girls who are licking the pots in the kitchen.

Data Analysis of Poem

The poem "Wedding in the Flood" has four stanzas; each consists of seventeen lines. The poem has been written in free verse. Much has already been elaborated through the paraphrasing and analysis of the poem. Using a stylistic and figurative approach opens a new window toward a better way of understanding a given research design.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that utilizes great overstatement to make a point or show importance. It is the reverse of understatement. It means overstating an object's characteristic used to magnify a fact.

For examples:

Crying of the bride's mother that her in-laws are taking her daughter forever

Rafat mentioned "slipping feet" while the bride leaves the home.

"swollen river to cross "

The mother is grief-stricken as her daughter leaves her home, which is possibly a sign of a deep relationship between the bride with her parents. The insecurity depicted by the wrath of the river is reestablished through the equilibrium condition of the palanquin carriers. Relevance is shown between the danger of marriage and the river.

showing off the dowry (a bed, a mirror, a trunk

in grey and blue color

The culture of Pakistan holds great importance for dowry as it is related to family name and privilege in society. The mother of the bride counting dowry shows the pitiable materialism and simplicity of rural areas.

Symbolism

Symbolism is a literary device that utilizes symbols, might they be words, marks, people, locations, or abstract ideas to signify something outside the literal meaning.

Use of "foursome" (four people are leading the way)

Holding the deceased (who actually is the bride) on their shoulders

The writer has used some other type of depiction for a palanquin with a pair of four people, portraying the resemblance of a funeral, the dead body is carried by four people. The writer is trying to compare the marriage of the girl when the girl is married, she is assumed to have broken off from her family members, it seems like she is no more now, and the only concentration is on her in-laws.

4) now the entire thing is dependent on the boatman.

The writer in the poem mentions a ferryman to the Charon boatman a person who drives the boat from one place to another.

The bride thinks that the buggy (palanquin) is dark.

The shadow of blackness refers to palanquin gloominess or darkness that is linked to the dark shade of a coffin and her freezing body seems like a dead body. Moreover, a stereotypical societal force is making her worried that the rain will ruin her dowry.

In the recent past in Pakistan, the use of palanquins for transporting the bride was very common. The palanquin presents a special look and implication on the eve of the wedding. The palanquin of the bride shows that the bride is gold and flower-like. She is a gift or treasure for the husband and his family. She ought to be transported to the husband's house as if she is something marvelous.

Metaphor

The Indirect comparison of two objects is a metaphor.

Getting a pot-licking wench was my luck.

Nobody has ever seen such a brown and annoying river

The poet hints at folklore which is usually popular in Pakistani tradition concerning about forecast of the day of marriage, that if there is stormy weather or rain on the wedding day, people point fingers towards the girl or the boy that is his/her fault because he/she licked pots in childhood.

However, this poem is concerned with the efforts of the bridegroom's side and further we can say that the bride has been charged with bringing the rain. Personification is used to define both the annoying river and the ship that comes out of its freight; I feel like the look of the ship, is no less than a monster that throws out his suffering. Both the ferry and the river stop dead and acquire specific identifications. The man who is riding the ferry is suggestive of Charon, who took the deceased through the river Styx to Hades.

Exaggeration

It means describing something and overstating it compared with what it actually was.

Not even one face is familiar

As I look out through the curtains. I feel cold and I am scared

The dowry will be ruined by rain

Touch is the main sense used here; the girl is in the palanquin which is dark and gloomy and her feet are wet and feeling frozen and afraid.

Rhetorical Question

Rhetorical devices are such linguistic tools that employ a precise sort of assembly in a sentence or text by the sound or meaning pattern to generate a particular effect for spectators.

Communication of feelings is difficult to express without utilizing these devices.

What type of a man my husband will be?

The poem has enlightened us about him in an unfavorable technique that we are unable to predict a response for her.

1. It's a heavy load? The clarinet is filling with water

2. Oh what who is talking

I have been convinced that this is about death we can say the final journey. Moreover, the palanquin can be seen as the dead body, that is carried by relatives. The whole wedding, in the end, dies in this reading due to a flood. The imagery of sex is still there even though death and sex are always related to literature, but it is illuminative of death instead of being a conclusion in itself.

Personification

It means giving human qualities to an inhuman object or object.

Who has seen a brown and angry river?

Parallelism

Parallelism is found via the reappearance of several sounds either vowels or consonants.

1. "hennaed/ hand"
2. "Familiar/ face"
3. "river /rising
4. Heaved/ heaving tide

Metaphor is a figure of speech as well, used to describe certain indirect comparisons between things and objects that can be and are entirely different.

1. They could give a bullock at least
2. anger shown by the bridegroom's father because there were no oxen in the dowry

The bride's father-in-law complains, out of annoyance, over an insignificant dowry that is unusable for him but useful to the bride only. He states that if the bride's parents had given a bullock, it could have been useful in the next season of sowing. He complains that they have been burdened with it for nothing in this cruel weather. Such types of demands or requirements are very common in the culture of Pakistan and are generally the basic root of spoiling marital union and a lot of worry for women.

Paradoxical Statement

It means using a statement that is seemingly self-contradictory but on closer examination exposes the truth generally hidden.

1. Everything is ruined by rain.

Repetition

1. Too many pots" licked by girl
2. The writer has repeated the phrase two times in the poem "Been licking too many pots".
3. "looking glass" is also repeated twice in two phrases in the poem.

Alliteration

The use of the same sounds or letters at the beginning of closely connected words.

- Tin trunk is alliteration in the poem.
- Rain will ruin is alliteration in the poem.
- The river rising is an alliteration in the poem.
- Bridegroom and Bride is alliteration in the poem.
- Like the look is alliteration in the poem.
- The things are alliteration in the poem.
- The look and her hennaed hand are alliterations in the poem.
- Difficult day is alliteration in the poem.

Conclusion

This study is conducted to examine the writing style of Taufiq Rafat in his poem "Wedding in the Flood". The poem focuses on the small visual details as seen with the help of figurative language in the poem. The poet uses various figurative devices like metaphor "They might have given a bullock at least" in order to show the myths of Pakistani tradition about the rain being caused by girls who lick pots in the kitchen. The main objective of this study is to explore the poem at the stylistic level in order to enhance the understanding of meanings. The choice of words by the poet plays a very important role in meaning-making. The poet with the help of his unique writing style portrays a true picture of cultural representations of the Pakistani marriage traditions. The concept of dowry is exaggerated by emphasizing on dowry items like a "cot, trunk, and looking glass". The cultural environment which the writer had discussed, demonstrates both the beauties and biases that are associated with the marriage institution in Pakistan which is obvious through figurative devices.

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