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2.0 OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this unit is to talk about the elements of poetry and the many forms of poetry. The learner ought to be aware of by the conclusion of the chapter:

- Components of poetry
- Types of poetry

2.2 INTRODUCTION

The preceding lesson introduced the fundamental concepts of poetry by talking about its numerous meanings, various forms, and brief history. Poetry's definitions miss out many times its components or what is many times known as elements of poetry. You might be surprised but 'form' about which we have already discussed in the last chapter is also one of the components or elements in the study of poetry. As we continue with present chapter, we'll talk about a few components and genres of poetry to round out the picture of poetry as a whole.

2.3 COMPONENTS OF POETRY

Understanding the meanings in poetry is arduous task for anyone specially if does not understand how this intricate form incorporates sound pattern, poetic devices, images, figurative language, and many other substances. Following are the components that present unit takes up for the discussion.

- ❖ Rhyme and Rhythm:
- ❖ Form and Structure
- ❖ Figurative Language and Poetic Device
- ❖ Subject and Speaker

2.2.1 Rhyme and Rhythm

Poetry often uses rhyme, which is a pattern of repeated sounds. They are applied to strengthen a rhyme or pattern. The rhyme system is a crucial component of some types of poetry, including ballads, sonnets, and couplets. Let's discuss in brief about some of the rhymes:

Masculine and Feminine Rhyme: Rhyming between stressed syllables at the end of verse lines is usually known as masculine rhyme whereas within the same situation unstressed syllables is called feminine rhyme.

An example of masculine rhyme is:

"The dog barked *loud*, in a *crowd*"

An example of feminine rhyme is:

"The stars twinkle in the *night*, so *bright*"

End Rhyme: when the last word of two or more lines rhyme in poetry, it is called end rhyme. It's very popular type of rhyme especially with Children Literature. A famous poem 'Maggie and Millie and Molly and May' by E.E.Comings is one such example.

"may come home with a smooth round stone

as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)

It's always ourselves we find in the sea."

Imperfect Rhyme: It is a type of rhyme that do not have an identical sound.

Internal Rhyme: It occurs in the middle of lines in poetry.

In poetry or prose, the placement of stressed and unstressed syllables, as well as the length of the syllables, convey movement or a sense of the movement known as rhythm. Let's understand some rhythm with **examples:**

Iamb: It is an extremely common rhyme pattern with one unstressed followed by one stressed syllable.

Trochee: It is a rhyme pattern with one stressed syllable followed by one unstressed syllable which is just reverse process from Iamb.

Spondee: In spondee rhythm pattern, you find two or more consequent stressed syllable.

It is significant to note here that the rhythm and rhyme in poetry become perceptible specially while reading them aloud.

2.2.2 Form and Structure

As discussed in the prior chapter in detail about various forms of the poetry and each form following the special structure, the repetition of the same would be needless here even though some highlighted points that is preferable to discuss with you are: various structural elements are stanza, verse and canto whereas based on it some forms of the poetry are sonnet, haiku, limerick and others.

2.2.3 Figurative Language

Figurative language deviates significantly from what speakers of a language typically understand as the standard meaning to convey a unique message or effect. Here are some figures of speech for our basic understanding.

Simile: Here a comparison between two completely different things gets possible using the words such as 'As' or 'Like'. For ex. My love is *like* a red red rose.

Metaphor: Here a phrase or expression that in its literal sense refers to one sort of item is used to describe another kind of thing that is clearly different from the first without making a comparison.

For ex. Someone with a heart of a gold or life is a stage. Shakespeare's famous sonnet 130 provides an example of metaphor
"If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun"

Metonymy: Metonymy, which means "a change of name" in Greek, is the application of the literal name of one item to another that has become close to it as a result of a frequent association in shared experience. For Ex. Crown represents the king. Metonymy has the effect of creating

concrete and vivid images in place of generalities. A familiar Shakespearean example is Mark Antony's speech in *Julius Caesar* in which he asks of his audience: "Lend me your ears."

Synecdoche: Synecdoche is the Greek word for "putting together," and it refers to the use of a part of anything to represent the whole or, less frequently, the entire to represent a part. For ex. Using synecdoche, Milton in his work *Lycidas* narrates corrupt and greedy clergy as blind mouths. One should realize that synecdoche is an important poetic device for creating vivid imagery. An example is Samuel Taylor Coleridge's line in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," "The western wave was all aflame," in which "wave" substitutes for "sea."

2.2.4 Poetic Device

The poetic devices are those literary devices which we use in the poetry for various purpose such as to enhance the meaning or to intensify the feeling and so on. Repetition refers to the usage of the same words, phrases, and imagery again throughout a poem. Enjambment is when a line is broken before it reaches its natural point. Famous metaphysical poet John Donne in his poem uses enjambment in his poem "The Good-Morrow".

"I wonder, by my troth, what thou and *I/Did* till we loved? Were we not weaned till then?"

Irony happens when a result differs from what is anticipated. Usually in literature, three types of irony we come across: Verbal, Situational and Dramatic. Jonathan Swift is known for his brilliant use of irony in his writings. Let's take an example from his famous text 'Modest Proposal' which refers to the sad state of poor orphan children during his time period in this way:

... whoever could find out a fair, cheap, and easy method of making these children sound, useful members of the Commonwealth, would deserve so well of the public as to have his statue set up for a preserver of the nation.

Personification is a poetic method in which inanimate objects are given human attributes. Here is an example from Dickinson's poem:

"The Heart wants what it wants – or else it does not care"

Onomatopoeia is the imitation of a natural sound by a word. Look at this wonderful use of onomatopoeia by Shakespeare in one of his popular plays *The Tempest*

“ Hark, hark!
Bow- Wow.
The watch-dogs bark!
Bow- Wow.”

Hyperbole is when a sentence is exaggerated to achieve a particular poetic effect. Shakespeare’s sonnet 147 is an example of the use of hyperbole where the poet uses this device to deal with the subject of infatuation and desire.

2.2.5 Subject and Speaker

Different poetic forms have different themes or contents. The poem is about a certain subject. Sonnets, for instance, often discuss sadness, separation, and love and admiration for one's lover. While the themes of divine sonnets cover worship of God, enlightenment, and salvation. Elegies are written in remembrance of the deceased. So a deceased person is the subject of these poetry. The speaker of a poem is the narrator. We frequently assume that the poet is the speaker themselves when we read poetry. It's not always the case, though. Sometimes poets take on a fictional persona and write the poem from their point of view. Typically, a first-person or third-person speaker is used to tell the poem's story.

Check Your Progress: 1

Q.1 Answer the following questions.

1) Discuss types of rhyme.

2) Which poetic devices you are aware of? Explain with examples.

3) What’s the role of speaker in the poetry?

Check Your Progress: 2
Match A with B

A	B
Onomatopoeia	The White House rejected the proposal.
Metaphor	The rustling leaves kept me awake for the whole night.
Hyperbole	Your argument is a slippery slope.
Synecdoche	I'm dying of thirst.

As we have already discussed the components of poetry, now moving further, we would study various types of poetry, and, in this unit, we would discuss some of the major types of poetry.

2.3 TYPES OF POETRY

2.3.1 Lyric

The word "lyric," which means "a song rendered to the accompaniment," is derived from the Greek language. It still conserve the idea of a song that is intended to be sung. However, the term "lyric" is defined as an expression by a single speaker, which expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling in a short poem.

We must keep in mind, though, that Lyric's first-person narration (I) is not always the poet's I. Some exceptions are available in English Literature such as Coleridge's "Frost at Midnight". Mostly the speaker of the lyric utters in solitude, many times we find lyrics uttered "in a public voice on a public occasion". For ex. a famous ceremonial poem 'O Captain My Captain' by Walt Whitman.

2.3.2 Ballad

Ooriginated and narrated orally, ballad is a song telling a story. This oral traditional song has no specific poet. Talking about the characteristic of popular ballad, Abrams writes:

Typically, the popular ballad is dramatic, condensed, and impersonal: the narrator begins with the climactic episode, tells the story tersely by means of action and dialogue (sometimes by means of the dialogue alone), and tells it without self-reference or the expression of personal attitudes or feelings. (18)

Romantic Age is known for the composition of some of the finest ballads in the history of English Literature. Walter Scott's "Proud Maisie," and Keats' "La Belle Dame sans Merci" are some of the examples.

2.3.3 Blank Verse

The term "blank verse" refers to lines of iambic pentameter (five-stress iambic verse) that are not rhymed. It was introduced by the Earl of Surrey when he translated the books 2 and 4 of *The Aeneid* by Virgil. Later, Elizabethan and other poetic drama adopted this form. Some popular examples of blank verse in English literature are *Paradise Lost* by John Milton, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *Idylls of the King* and Robert Browning's *The Ring and the Book*.

2.3.4 Elegy

The present meaning of the term elegy means a lament song on someone's death or demise usually ending with consolation; However, the present meaning came into existence during 17th century. Originally, Elegy was a kind of poem written in Elegiac meter in Greek and Roman literature. Even in Old English, this form refers to the poems on "transience of all worldly things". Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *In Memoriam* is one of the famous elegy written on the death of his best friend Arthur Hallam; W. H. Auden wrote "In Memory of W. B. Yeats". Dirge, is also a kind of elegy poem but is less formal than elegy.

2.3.5 Epic

The epic, usually referred to as a "heroic poem," is a type of lengthy verse narrative with a serious subject matter, rendered in grand style, and primarily telling the tale of a heroic individual, on whose actions the fate of a tribe, nation, or humanity depends. Two types of epics are usually available in literature: traditional and literary where traditional epics mostly are the oral poems about the tribe or a national hero and his chivalric fights. For example, Homer's the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, *Beowulf* from the Anglo-Saxon Period, *The Ramayana*, and *The Mahabharata* in Indian Literature. Literary epic is a type of deliberate imitation by a specific poet. Milton's *Paradise Lost* is one of the examples of the literary epic.

- **Check Your Progress: 3**

Q.1 Fill in the gaps with an appropriate answer/word.

- 1) Ballad form mainly flourished during _____ age.
a) Romantic b) Victorian c) Neo Classical d) Puritan
- 2) _____ type of poetry highlights the element of singing.
a) Free Verse b) Ballad c) Lyric d) Epic

3) Robert Browning's *The Ring and the Book* is an example of

a) Epic b) Free Verse c) Blank Verse d) Lyric

4) _____ is an example of Anglo Saxon epic.

a) Beowulf b) Paradise Lost c) Ramayana d) Paradise Regain

2.4 LET US SUM UP

Overall, this chapter gets converged with the previous chapter to build up an entire construction of poetry as a concept. Now you understand not only about various definitions of poetry but also understands its nuances, its technicalities and of course its history. Now learning the devices and forms and types of poetry would make your reading of poetry more interesting and sensible in your future course.

2.5 SUGGESTED READINGS

A Glossary of Literary Terms by M.H.Abrams

Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory by J.A.Cuddon

Understanding Poetry by Cleanth Brooks

<https://org.coloradomesa.edu/~blaga/Theory/poetry_elements.html>

Answers:

Check Your Progress: 2

Match A with B

A	B
Onomatopoeia	The rustling leaves kept me awake for the whole night.
Metaphor	Your argument is a slippery slope.
Hyperbole	I'm dying of thirst.
Synecdoche	The White House rejected the proposal.

Check Your Progress: 3

- 1) Romantic
- 2) Lyric
- 3) Blank verse
- 4) Beowulf