

# STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE STORY "THE LAST LEAF" BY O. HENRY

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## Annotation

This article is about the stylistic analysis of the story «The last leaf» by American short story writer William Sydney Porter (1862-1910). The writer wrote all his stories choosing O. Henry as a pen name while in the prison. He is considered as the master of his work with the surprise ending. By reading the stories of O. Henry one may feel the inner psychological feelings of the characters profoundly. The following analyzed story which is titled "The last leaf" makes the reader think and conclude deeply of the character's life. Because of the usage of the American slang and colloquial language expressions in his stories, his writing style is very simple and comprehensible for the readers. Reading the writer's stories the reader's prediction of the stories cannot coincide with the ending, at the end you will be shocked reading the last lines. It may be seemed that, you missed some important part of the story. By analyzing the story, one comes to one conclusion that the main aspect of the story is friendship, hope and willpower of the characters. The two main key points in the story contradicts one another. Johnsy's belief is the association with the last leaf of the ivy vine that is the symbol of her impending death, Behrman's belief the production of his masterpiece one day during his life.

**Introduction.** Before passing to the stylistic analysis of the literary work, the following notions should be explained. What is stylistics and what is stylistic analysis? Stylistics, a branch of applied linguistics, is the study and interpretation of texts of all types and spoken language in regard to their linguistic and tonal style, where style is the particular variety of language used by different individuals and/or in different situations or settings. [5] Stylistic analysis studies the stylistic uniqueness of the text, the functions of stylistic tools, sensitivity in students through

language units. Engaging with the stylistic analysis stylistic devices can play as the main aspect of it to show the uniqueness, emotive color of the story.

Stylistic devices that have known as literary devices can be assumed as the powerful techniques to capture the imagination of the reader's and make the writing more emotive characteristics. The writer follows the arrangement of the words in order to evoke emotional responses. By carefully selecting stylistic devices such as metaphors, similes, alliteration, and personification, writers can captivate the feelings of the reader and leaves a lasting impact on the reader [6]. Stylistic devices can serve to emphasize, clear and distinctive speech. These stylistic devices can captivate the reader's attention to the main elements of the text. The writer can impact the reader's feelings using following techniques as the repetition, imagery in order to highlight the important ideas. Long lasting memory can be left in reader's memory [7]. To enhance the clarity another stylistic device as parallelism or rhetorical questions can be used. By this way writer can make complex ideas to be understandable for the reader for the structure of his sentence. Writers can effectively convey their thoughts and ensure that the reader's attention as intended meaning. The following stylistic devices as similes, metaphors or personification can bring creative and imaginative elements to enrich the text. These can keep reader engaged and add a touch of freshness to writing. Unique writing style of the author can be ensured appropriate stylistic device of the reader.

They distinguish themselves from other authors by selecting appropriate techniques and styles. This not only allows them to express their ideas effectively but also creates an individual voice that impacts with readers. Stylistic devices have a profound impact on the quality of writing. The writers can be differed from other authors with their own distinct voice creating a sense of uniqueness and individuality. The author can evoke emotions, create memorable characters, and captivate reader's attention using vivid and captivating words by employing the stylistic devices effectively.

## **Analysis**

“The last leaf” by O. Henry is an example of literary work. Writer in his story of faith and hope in human life revealed how necessary it is. In the story the incurable disease is cured with the hope to the life. Johnsy is the character who is surrounded by loyal and kind friend to support her in any difficult situation. Jonesy's roommate Sue is always with him, she cares for her very much.

In Henry's story, Johnsy is a simple person from California who is living and working in Washington, D.C. Johnsy as a character is a weak young lady. Henry also described her in his story as "absolutely intolerant of suffering from a disease called Pneumonia and begins to lose hope to live". That is why according to the Dr's opinion despite her friend's many attempts, his condition worsened day by day. The character is described as the weak- willed person.

There are two most important aims of stylistic analysis: firstly, it aids readers in comprehending the text and second one is, in general, enlarge the understanding and recognitions of the language. In most cases these aims are beneficial for students to read and study literature with perfect language practices. When it comes to the literary studies, stylistic analysis is typically done for the intention of analyzing quality and meaning of a literary text. The study of stylistics helps researchers investigate the hidden meanings in a literary text. There are diverse tools of stylistic analysis to analyze the literary works. These stylistic tools can be used in teaching field and also in language classrooms. Style itself is the presentation or expression of thoughts in a particular way. Every person has own style to express his thoughts through the use of language. O. Henry's writing style and his language are simple to the readers. Mostly he used colloquial expressions and American slang in his short stories to describe his characters more believable. The reason is that, O. Henry is considered to be a great master of irony and humor. The endings of his all stories are always confusing, twisted, unexpected, and surprising. Stylistic devices refer to any of a variety of techniques to give an additional and supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling. Also known as figures of speech or rhetorical devices, the goal of these techniques is to create imagery, emphasis, or clarity within a text in hopes of engaging the reader [4]. Having read the story we can easily understand how this

story is full of stylistic devices. We have found that the author had a colorful and vivid language of writing analyzing the story. O. Henry brilliantly used stylistic devices such as: epithets, similes, metaphors, interjections in order to help the readers to reveal characters' nature and imagine the atmosphere and mood of the story. Narration and dialogues are served as the type of the speech. The story begins with the narrator's description of the city, its streets: -"In a little district west of Washington Square the streets have run crazy and broken themselves into small strips called "places.". "Mr. Pneumonia was not what you would call a chivalric old gentleman." (p:142).

It is known that personification can serve for giving human attribute to the things, ideas and thoughts. The author used this stylistic device in order to show the state of the city and street. Johnsy fell with serious illness called Pneumonia and old man called Behrman died of it. Epithet as a stylistic device expresses the quality of the person and the thing. The writer used wide range of epithets in this story in order to give the emotive color. For instance: a fierce little old man, a horrid old – old flibbertigibbet, the lone ivy leaf, a confounded vine, silly ivy leaves, skeleton branches, an old, old ivy vine. Oxymoron is one of the stylistic device serving contradictory traits, in this story "magnificent scorn" is used. Simile is one of the stylistic device comparing two different objects' features using with the help of "like" or "as". In the story the following similes used in order to indicate Johnsy's inner feelings and state: "lying white and still as a fallen statue", "go sailing down, down, just like one of those poor, tired leaves", "light and fragile as a leaf herself". "She is very ill and weak," said Sue, "and the fever has left her mind morbid and full of strange fancies." [3] - It can be seen with these examples three sentences connected with the conjunction "and". Rhetorical questions are these kinds of questions the answer is not required. Using these kinds of questions writer can express the emotional feelings of the characters: "Didn't you wonder why it never fluttered or moved when the wind blew? ", "What would I do?", "Who said I will not bese?", "What have old ivy leaves to do with your getting well?", "Paint? - bosh! » Ellipsis can be explained as the omission of the word. In the following sentence - Behrman,

his name is - some kind of an artist, I believe.",- the omission of the word did not effect the meaning of the sentence. Metaphors are as the identification of the hidden similarities between two different ideas used to create analogy and likeness. In the story the following metaphors are used such as: "The cold breath of autumn had stricken its leaves" and "An old, old ivy vine, gnarled and decayed at the roots, climbed half way up the brick wall." In the story German words in the speech of old Behrman can give emotional color: "is dere", "mit", "bose", "der", "vill", "vy". Some interjections used in order raise the emotional amazement in his speech: "Vass!", "Ach!", "Gott!" The author used hyperbolic metaphor in order to make that word more emphatic. For instance: "The loneliest thing in all the world is a soul". In the story zeugma can be found for the application to two other words in different senses: "found their tastes in art, chicory salad and bishop sleeves so congenial that the joint studio resulted". As it was mentioned before the unexpected ending can surprise the reader's attention: An old Behrman fell ill because of painting of an ivy vine leaf to give hope to live to Johnsy. The fate of characters changed. This stylistic color is called situational irony [5].

In conclusion, in the analysis of the story we can say that the great short story writer O. Henry excellently using metaphors, epithets, symbols with his surprise endings. The writer reveals artfully the crucial idea of the text and unexpectedly impresses the reader to make optimistic conclusion. We can say that the writer described the feelings of hope and faith as the most important motivation in our life with different details as the portrait of sick woman, explaining the characters with the seasons, choosing the suitable name for the people. O. Henry excellently portrayed the feelings of the weak and sick woman's feeling with deep emotions. The writer chose the most common theme and application of the artistic skill of the writer impress the reader to make optimistic conclusion.

### **Literature**

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## **BULUTLI PROVAYDERINING JISMONIY VA ATROF-MUHIT XAVFSIZLIK JAVOBGARLIGI**

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Bulut provayderining javobgarligi jismoniy xavfsizlik va atrof-muhit xavfsizligidan boshlanadi. Xavfsizlikning ushbu darajasi yuqori darajadagi darajadir, chunki u bulutni birlashgan axborot tizimi sifatida boshqarilishi bilan bog'liq. Ma'lumot markazlarining jismoniy serverlarini boshqaradigan bulutli xizmat ko'rsatuvchi provayder, shuning uchun mijoz odatdagi ma'lumotlar markazida bo'lgani kabi quyidagi asosiy fikrlarni ko'rib chiqishi kerak: xodimlarning serverlarga va tarmoq infratuzilmasiga jismoniy kirishi, yong'in signalizatsiyasi va