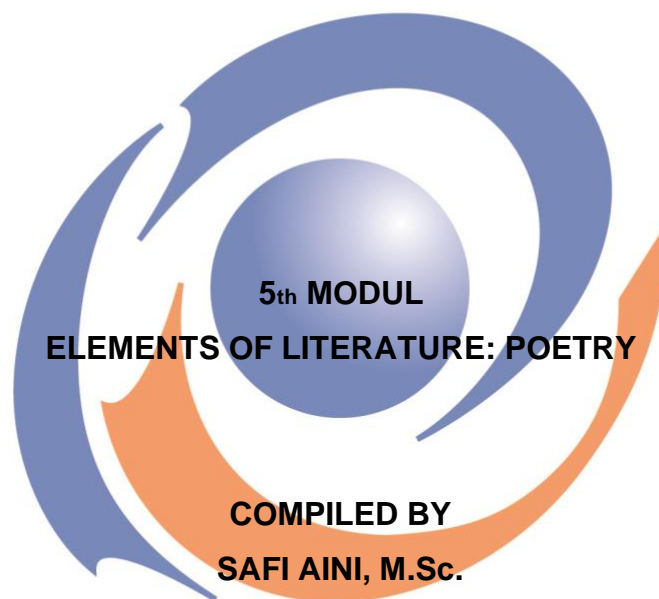


**MODUL INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS
(PBI 321)**



Universitas
Esa Unggul

**UNIVERSITAS ESA UNGGUL
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ELEMENTS OF LITERATURE: POETRY

A. Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students are expected to be able to identify, classify, and elaborate the elements of literature specifically poetry.

B. Explanation

Poetry is kind of literature in which sound and meaning of words are combined to express feelings, thoughts, and ideas. While prose is written in term of sentences and paragraphs, poetry is produced in lines and a group of these is called stanza. **The element of a poetry covers rhythm, sound, imagery, and form.**

1. Rhythm

Rhythm can be described as the **beat and pace** of a poem created by the pattern of **stressed and unstressed syllables** in a line or verse. Rhythm can help to strengthen the meaning of words and ideas in a poem. Rhythm is the flow of the beat in a poem which gives poetry a musical feel. Rhythm can be fast or slow, depending on mood and subject of poem. Rhythm is created by the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line or verse. You can measure rhythm in meter, by counting the beats in each line. Rhythm can help to strengthen the meaning of words and ideas in a poem. Here are the term in rhythm:

- **Syllables**

When we speak in ordinary conversation, we pronounce different parts of words, or syllables, separately. For example, table has two beats, or two syllables - **ta-ble**, chair has only one syllable – **chair**.

Some syllables seem to have a long or short sound when they are pronounced. Take the word, 'table'. The first part of the word is emphasised when we say it /**ta**-ble/, the second part of the word sounds shorter. We can call this different syllable emphasis stressed or unstressed. In the word 'banana', for example, the central syllable is longer, or stressed, when you say it naturally - ba-na-na. Try saying it out loud to hear where the natural emphasis falls.

Poets make use of these natural stresses in language in order to create rhythm in poetry. It can be helpful to think of rhythm in poetry as being like a beat in music. In poetry, this pattern of the stressed and unstressed parts of words is called the metre.

- **Metre**

The metre in a line of poetry is identified through the stressed and unstressed pattern of words. Poetic rhythms are measured in metrical feet. **A metrical foot usually has one stressed syllable and one or two unstressed syllables.** Different poets use the pattern of the metre to create different effects.

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Writers love to use interesting sounds in their poems. After all, poems are meant to be heard. These sound devices include:

- **Rhyme**

Rhymes are words that end with the same sound. (Hat, cat and bat rhyme). Rhyming sounds don't have to be spelled the same way. (Cloud and allowed rhyme). Rhyme is the most common sound device in poetry. Rhyme is predominantly a function of sound rather than spelling; thus, words that end with the same vowel sounds rhyme, for instance, *day, prey, bouquet, weigh*, and words with the same

consonant ending rhyme, for instance *vain, rein, lane*. The **rhyme scheme** of a poem, describes the pattern of end rhymes. Rhyme schemes are mapped out by noting patterns of rhyme with small letters: the first rhyme sound is designated *a*, the second becomes *b*, the third *c*, and so on.

AABB Rhyming Pattern

First Snow

now makes whiteness where it falls.
The bushes look like popcorn balls.
And places where I always play,
Look like somewhere else today.

By Marie Louise Allen

ABAB Rhyming Pattern

Oodles of Noodles

I love noodles. Give me oodles.
Make a mound up to the sun.
Noodles are my favorite foodles.
I eat noodles by the ton.

By Lucia and James L. Hymes, Jr.

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ABBA Rhyming Pattern

From "Bliss"

Let me fetch sticks,
Let me fetch stones,
Throw me your bones,
Teach me your tricks.

By Eleanor Farjeon

ABCB Rhyming Pattern

The Alligator

The alligator chased his tail
Which hit him in the snout;

He nibbled, gobbled, swallowed it,
And turned right inside-out.

by Mary Macdonald

- **Repetition**

Repetition occurs when poets repeat words, phrases, or lines in a poem. It creates a pattern, increases rhythm, and strengthens feelings, ideas and mood in a poem. Examples: Two lines from “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll

Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

- **Alliteration**

The repetition of the same consonant sounds in a sequence of words, usually at the beginning of a word or stressed syllable: “*descending dew drops*,” “*luscious lemons*.” Alliteration is based on the sounds of letters, rather than the spelling of words; for example, “*keen*” and “*car*” alliterate, but “*car*” and “*cite*” do not. Example: Sally sells sea-shells.

- **Onomatopoeia**

Words that sound like their meaning, for example: buzz, swish, hiss, gulp.

3. IMAGERY

Imagery is the concrete representation of a sense impression, feeling, or idea that triggers our imaginative. Images may be visual (something seen), aural (something heard), tactile (something felt), olfactory (something smelled), or gustatory (something tasted). Imagery may also refer to a pattern of related details in a poem. Some poetry employ this kind of language:

- **Precise Language** – the use of specific words to describe a person, place, thing, or action. Example: Notice how Paul B. Janeczko uses proper nouns in his poem “Reverend Mona”:

When the elders said she was too old, Reverend Mona
surrendered her tabernacle next to Fast Frankie’s Pawn Shop.

- **Sensory Details** – the use of descriptive details that appeal to one or more of the five senses. Example: Notice the sensory details in the following lines from “The Sea” by James Reeves:

The giant sea dog moans,
Licking his greasy paws.

- **Figurative language**

is a form of language use in which the writers and speakers mean something other than the literal meaning of their words.

- **Simile** – a comparison of two unlike things, using the words like or as, sometimes involves a comparison between unlike things using *like* or *as*. For instance, “My love is *like* a red, red rose.”
Example: “I read the shoreline like an open volume.”

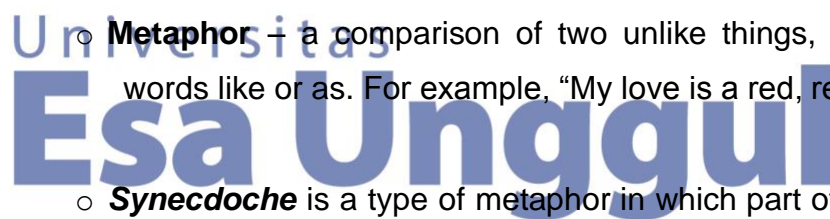
- **Metaphor** – a comparison of two unlike things, not using the words like or as. For example, “My love is a red, red rose.”

- **Synecdoche** is a type of metaphor in which part of something is used to signify the whole, as when a gossip is called a “wagging tongue.”

Example: “Ribbons of sea foam / wrap the emerald island.”

- **Personification** – to ascribe human traits to non-human or non-living things.

Example: “The unfurled sailboat glides on / urged by wind and will and brilliant bliss.”



- **Symbolism** – a person, place, thing, or action that stands for something else.
Example: In “From Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes, a set of stairs symbolizes life.
- **Hyperbole** – the use of exaggeration to express strong emotion or create a comical effect.
Example: “I’m so hungry I could eat a hippo.”
- **Verbal Irony or Sarcasm** – when you mean the opposite of what you say.
Example: “My darling brother is the sweetest boy on Earth,” she muttered sarcastically.
- **Situational Irony** – when the outcome of a situation is the opposite of what is expected.
Example: After many years of trying, Mr. Smith won the lottery - - and immediately died of a heart attack.
- **Idiom** - a cultural expression that cannot be taken literally.
Examples: She is the apple of his eye. He drives me up the wall.

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4. Form

Form is the way a poem looks. It is the way poems are written, may or may not be sentences, but in lines. Stanza is lines of poetry which are grouped this way, but not looks like a paragraph.

C. Exercise

1. What is poetry and what are its characteristics?

D. Answer Key

1. Poetry is kind of literature in which sound and meaning of words are combined to express feelings, thoughts, and ideas. While prose is written in term of sentences and paragraphs, poetry is produced in lines and a group of these is called stanza. **The element of a poetry covers rhythm, sound, imagery, and form.**

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