

Durga Mahavidyalaya, RAIPUR CG Department of English B.A. Semester I

Course Code: ENGE-01

Title: Introduction to the Study of English Literature

Course Title: B A. Semester Unit I, Section A

Dr Sanjukta Roy

The Elements of Poetry

B.A. 1st Year – English Literature

1. What is Poetry?

- • In poetry the sound and meanings of words are combined to express feelings, thoughts, and ideas.
- • The poet chooses words carefully.
- • Poetry is usually written in lines.
- Poetry Elements:
 - • Rhythm
 - • Sound
 - • Imagery
 - • Forms and Types

2. Rhythm

- • It is the flow of the beat in the poem.
- • It gives poetry a musical feel.
- • It can be fast or slow, depending on mood and subject.
- • You can measure rhythm by counting the beats in each line.

3. Sound

- Writers/poets love to use interesting sounds in their poems.
- These sound devices include:
 - Rhyme
 - Repetition
 - Alliteration
 - Metaphors

4. Rhyme, Repetition & Alliteration

- Rhyme:
 - Rhymes are words that end with the same sound.
 - Eg. 'Cat in the Hat'
- Repetition:
 - Repetition occurs when poets repeat words, phrases, or lines in a poem.
 - It creates a pattern.
 - It increases rhythm.
 - It strengthens feelings, ideas, and mood.
 - Eg. 'Let it go! Let it go!'
- Alliteration:
 - Alliteration is the repetition of the first consonant sound in words.
 - Eg. 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'

5. Metaphor & Types of Poetry

- Metaphor:
 - A metaphor compares two things that are different by using the words 'is', 'are', 'was', 'were'.
 - It gives the qualities of one thing to something different.
- Eg. 'Her voice was music to my ears'.
- Types of Poetry:
 - Epic
 - Sonnet
 - Lyric

6. Epic Poetry

- • Epic poetry is a long narrative form of verse that tells the story of a hero.
- • It involves extraordinary large-than-life adventures and deeds, often involving supernatural elements or divine intervention.

7. Sonnet

- • A Sonnet is a 14-line poem written in iambic pentameter.
- • It follows a specific rhythm with ten syllables per line.
- • Shakespearean sonnet rhyme scheme: ABAB CDCD EFEF GG

8. Lyric, Ode & Elegy

- Lyric:
 - Lyrical poetry is a short songlike form expressing personal thoughts and feelings.
- Ode:
 - An Ode is a type of lyrical poem expressing enthusiasm, admiration, and deep feelings.
 - Famous examples: 'Ode to a Nightingale', 'Ode on a Grecian Urn', 'Ode to Autumn'.
- Elegy:
 - An elegy is a poem of serious reflection typically

9. Examples

- • 'O Captain! My Captain!' - Walt Whitman
- • 'When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed' - Walt Whitman
- • 'In Memory of W.B. Yeats' - W.H. Auden

10. Conclusion

- A conclusion to a poem can be achieved by a poet through techniques like repeating the first line, or a new perspective, zooming out to paint a bigger picture, or ending in the speaker's voice to create richness with the reader. The conclusion for a poem gives us the idea to analyze, especially in a comparative essay, that should have a brief information and to avoid new ideas and thoughts.