



Metaphysical Conceit Analyses Of Selected Poems By John Donne's

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Abstract, *Metaphysical is a literary genre that combines philosophical ideas with emotional depth and deep analyses of nature. One of the famous authors in this genre is John Donne, who is known for his profound themes, distinctive style, and skillful use of conceit in his poetry. This paper aims to explore the influence of John Donne's work on metaphysical poetry and assess the contribution and striking elements of metaphysics in his selected poems by examining Donne's use of conceit. The research aims to examine how John Donne influenced the poetry of metaphysics and explore the assessment of his literary endeavors as well as metaphysical elements. The research has uncovered new perspectives from a metaphysical standpoint on religion, the universe, love, and death.*

Keywords; *Conceit, John Donne, Metaphysical poetry*

Abstrak, Metafisik adalah genre sastra yang menggabungkan ide-ide filosofis dengan kedalaman emosional dan analisis mendalam tentang alam. Salah satu penulis terkenal dalam genre ini adalah John Donne, yang dikenal dengan tema-tema yang mendalam, gaya yang khas, dan penggunaan kesombongan yang terampil dalam puisinya. Makalah ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi pengaruh karya John Donne pada puisi metafisika dan menilai kontribusi dan elemen-elemen metafisika yang mencolok dalam puisi-puisi pilihannya dengan memeriksa penggunaan kesombongan oleh Donne. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti bagaimana John Donne mempengaruhi puisi metafisika dan mengeksplorasi penilaian terhadap upaya sastranya serta elemen-elemen metafisika. Penelitian ini telah menemukan perspektif baru dari sudut pandang metafisika tentang agama, alam semesta, cinta, dan kematian.

Kata Kunci; John Donne, Kesombongan, Puisi metafisik

1. INTRODUCTION

The genre of "metaphysical poetry" originated in England, and Samuel Johnson coined the phrase in the 17th century. The humor, inventiveness, and intellectual depth of the genre set it apart. These poems often explore themes of love, life, and the essence of existence. Metaphysical poets use a unique perspective of reality along with literary devices such as simile, metaphor, imagery, contradiction, and conceit.

John Donne occupies a significant place in metaphysical poetry as a quintessential figure in the genre. One can grasp John Donne's distinct sensibilities by analyzing the themes and imagery in his poetry. Many critics criticized John Donne's works for being extravagant and unconventional. Metaphysical poetry underwent a reassessment around the beginning of the 20th century. John Donne's poems are characterized by intense emotions and immediate impact due to their use of specific and irregular rhythms, as well as colloquial language that

does not compromise meaning. Vanity serves as a significant metaphor in metaphysical poetry because of Donne's wit, which blends subtlety and well-integrated emotion. John Donne's poetry is a rich source of human expression.

In Donne's poetry, images, paradoxes, ideas, allegories, metaphors, and fantastical realities all evoke tropical literature. His writings were influenced by a profound philosophical understanding of the universe and the workings of the human spirit, employing intricate and analogous comparisons. His concepts fused emotion and reason, representing the epitome of intellectual poetry.

2. METHODS

In this study, the author will examine some poems by John Donne that describe the arrogance of the belief in life after death or the understanding of death of John Donne himself expressed in some of his poems using qualitative descriptive analytical methods. This will allow for a detailed examination of the metaphysical concepts that he employs in several of his poems to convey his thoughts on the afterlife or death itself. The analysis will be conducted through qualitative text analysis.

This study will conduct a literature review by locating and researching numerous journals and other literature publications related to the research issue to develop insights on the topic. Every study requires a method for data collection. The strategies used in research to gather and analyse data are referred to as research methods. Qualitative methodology is often employed in natural, in-depth, and exploratory research.

Qualitative research is also described as an approach to seeking meaning, understanding, concepts, characteristics, phenomena, symbols, or descriptions of a phenomenon. This approach focuses on multi-methods, is natural and holistic, prioritizes quality, uses various methods, and is presented in narrative form in scientific research (Sidiq & Choiri, 2019).

3. THE METAPHYSICAL CONCEIT IN JOHN DONNE'S POETRY

1. The Dynamic Images of Death

The topic of death is present in almost half of John Donne's poetry collections. John Donne has a very positive outlook on death compared to other poets. According to John Donne, death is like experiencing a fresh birth; it may lead to a person becoming eternal. His perspective on death is reflected in the dynamic nature of his imagery. Death is

portrayed as having both dynamic and static conditions in John Donne's poetry. The author of the thesis emphasized the changing nature of death in this section.

Death Be Not Proud (Poem)

As part of a longer series of Holy Sonnets, "Death Be Not Proud" is one of Donne's most well-known poems on death. In this poem, Donne personifies death as a despot who can never fully subjugate a believer's soul. He argues that death is merely a transition from this world to the next and should not be feared or revered. Through a series of contradictory remarks and striking visuals, Donne conveys the idea of death as a spiritual transformation. He asserts that death holds no power over the soul and is simply a temporary separation of the body and soul. In his conclusion, Donne triumphantly declares that those who trust in Christ are immune to death. In *Death Be Not Proud*, John Donne writes: "From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, Much pleasure, then from thee, much more must flow, And soonest our best men with thee do go, Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery." —*Death Be Not Proud* (lines: 5-8)

John Donne expresses his fearless attitude toward death in this poem by comparing death to "rest and sleep." Death is only a momentary pause, but the joy that follows is eternal, according to John Donne, who sees it as a brief period of rest and slumber. The soul can be liberated after death, while the body experiences only a temporary respite. There is no need to fear death as it can strip away everything. The poet's perspective on death is cleverly transformed by the dynamic phrases "rest and sleep."

2. The Reconstruction of Sun's Image

The defamiliarization feature in John Donne's poetry exceeds expectations in terms of its conceit. In the English Renaissance, most poets depicted the sun as the personification of the gods, revered as their supreme ruler and the source of all light in the cosmos. The sun is revered and admired in many works.

The Sun Rising (poem)

The opening of "The Sun Rising" is quite informal. Donne refers to the sun as a "busy old fool," the source of all life on Earth, yet also the reason for its disregard. The first sentence alone challenges traditional poetic conventions, where the sun is typically revered as a symbol of love and life.

The first stanza identifies the group of individuals the sun disrupts by awakening lovers. In the second stanza, Donne questions the sun's perception of itself. The third stanza conveys the idea that all the wealth in the world pales in comparison to love. Donne's exceptional wit and ingenuity shine through in "The Sun Rising," sustaining a tone of human

respect throughout. The poem's cleverness is particularly engaging for intellectuals, as it combines humour and originality with a casual tone.

In *The Sun Rising*, John Donne gave the sun an unconventional interpretation, referring to it as the busy old fool and unruly sun, which challenged the traditional view of the sun. In this poem, John Donne described: "Busy old fool, unruly Sun, Why dost thou thus, Through windows, and through curtains, call on us? Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run? Saucy pedantic wretch, go chide —" *The Sun Rising* (lines: 1-5)

In this poem, John Donne portrays the sun as an unruly and intrusive force. The sun that disrupted the couple's sleep was the main source of annoyance. Everything else seemed inconsequential as the pair was deeply in love and exploring the world together. The lovers felt the need to scold the sun for disturbing their peace. John Donne described the sun as an uncontrolled entity that shattered his lovely dreams of being with his beloved. Despite being a symbol of power and illumination, the sun failed to fulfil its duty by disturbing the lovers unexpectedly.

3. The Innovative Image of Flea

The famous poem by John Donne describes love by using fleas as a symbol rather than pretty things. The word "flea" used in a rather pompous manner reflects the distinctive features of Metaphysical poetry. This poem is a dramatic monologue that features a man who is stubbornly rejected by his lover. The speaker of this poem tends to be silent, so others cannot hear the voice of the woman in question. Fleas, which are usually considered unattractive insects, are used as a metaphor to show how strong and unshakable the bond of love is in Donne's poem.

The Flea (Poem)

John Donne's famous English metaphysical poem, "The Flea", describes the physical intimacy between two people as well as the spiritual love that unites them. Fleas are also used as a metaphor.

"Mark but this flea, and mark in this, How little that which thou deniest me is; It sucked me first, and now sucks thee, And in this flea our two bloods mingled be; Thou know'st that this cannot be said A sin, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead, Yet this enjoys before it woo, And pampered swells with one blood made of two, And this, alas, is more than we would do." (lines: 1-9)

John Donne shows that physical behavior only happens to both by using the illustration of a flea biting itself and then biting its lover as an analogy. He argues that people should not feel ashamed or guilty if they come into direct contact with a flea. In this way, the poem

“The Flea” elevates the theme of closeness and love above physical relationships and discusses it from a metaphysical and philosophical point of view.

4. The Mystery of Geometric Circle

The geometry of circles plays an important role in John Donne's poetry and often has mysterious meanings related to philosophy. In his poetry, circles often reflect an enigmatic character and give a deep and subtle impression. The circle is considered a symbol of perfection and integrity in the West as it always returns to the starting point, reflecting its endless and cyclical nature. John Donne often associated the circle with the compass, especially in the poem “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning.”

A valediction: Forbidding Mourning (Poem)

The most famous English metaphysical poem is John Donne's “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”. This poem uses metaphors explained through complex analogies and illustrations to convey spiritual and metaphysical themes. Donne sees love as something that transcends the physical and emotional world, making it a metaphysical and spiritual experience. Examples of excerpts from the poem are:

"As virtuous men pass mildly away, And whisper to their souls to go, Whilst some of their sad friends do say, 'The breath goes now,' and some say, 'No:' So let us melt, and make no noise, No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move; 'Twere profanation of our joys To tell the laity our love." (lines:1-8).

This poem shows that the love of two people is more than just physical distance. Here John Donne describes how a righteous person leaves the world in peace. This poem shows how deep and lasting their love is that is not interrupted by physical distance, although physically they are very far away but their bodies and souls will always remain together.

4. CONCLUSION

With its profound similes and metaphors, John Donne's poetry is often associated with metaphysical elements. These metaphysical conceits compare things that seemingly have nothing in common in an intricate way. Based on the results of data analysis using a qualitative descriptive approach, John Donne manages to reveal a new understanding of religion, the universe, love, or death through his extraordinary and profound incorporation of abstract concepts.

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