



A stylistic study of deviation in Certain Selected Poems
by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

دراسة أسلوبية لانحراف في بعض القصائد المختارة لألفرد تينيسيون

Asst. Lec. Fatima Hussein Al-Zubaidy (M.A. in English Language and
Linguistics)

E-mail: hum.fatima.hussein@uobabylon.edu.iq

Abstract: This work aims to elucidate deviations in poetic form. This study tries to deal with deviation in poetry style. Figurative language is known as a privilege status from the olden time and till now it is still commonly used by some speakers and writers. From different perspective , it is regarded as a magnificent and peculiar from all other sorts of language; which is deviant. The types of stylistic deviation found in the poetry find in this research have all analysed and tackled in different perspective . With this kind of deviation phenomenon whose data are based on selected samples from classical work in English poetry. This paper is limited to deal with deviation in English poetry, in particular, by the poet's Alfred Lord Tennyson by analysis some selected poems of him. The present study tries to answer the following questions: 1. What is meant by deviation in English Language? 2. What are the types of deviation that are used in the selected data? 3. What is the most used types of deviation that are found in the data? The following answers are set: 1. Identifying the meaning of deviation in English Language. 2.Exploring and revealing types of deviation the selected data. 3.Clarifying the most used types of deviation that are found in the data.



الملخص: يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة الانحراف الأسلوبي في الشعر، مع التركيز على تحليل كسر القواعد اللغوية والأسلوبية في أعمال ألفريد لورد تينيسون. فقد اعتبرت اللغة الأدبية منذ القدم متميزة وسامية، لما تحمله من سمات فريدة تجعلها مختلفة عن الأنواع اللغوية الأخرى.

يعتمد البحث على تحليل مجموعة مختارة من قصائد تينيسون، للكشف عن أنواع الانحراف الأسلوبي وفهم أثرها في البنية الشعرية والبلاغية للنص. كما يسعى للإجابة على الأسئلة التالية: ما المقصود بالانحراف في اللغة الإنجليزية؟ وما هي أنواعه في النصوص المختارة؟ وأي هذه الأنواع الأكثر شيوعاً؟ نتيجة لذلك، يقدم البحث توضيحاً لمفهوم الانحراف، ويكشف عن أنواعه في البيانات المختارة، مع تحديد أكثرها استخداماً.

1.1 Introduction

Cook (1989:74) claimed that this term refers to the act of moving away from what is anticipated or acceptable. Thus, any departure from the ordinary and acceptable conventions of language is regarded as a deviation. Lexical deviation happens when a writer deviates from syntactic rules. It is a departure from the normal rules of grammar. It constitutes a deviation from standard grammatical conventions. It is a sort of deviance wherein poets disregard the conventions of syntax and sentence structure. As Crystal (2003:134), stated that "deviation is a sentence, or another unit, which violates the rules of the normal use of language and appears grammatically, phonologically, or even semantically ill-formed".

1.2 Scope of the Study



The deviation is regarded as a print or authorisation for poets and writers to express or articulate what individuals in conventional linguistic contexts cannot. Poets, use deviation at multiple linguistic levels to achieve specific artistic goals and effects by doing with words what ordinary language cannot do to deliver the message they want. According to Leech (1969), linguistic variation is required to create an artistic work. A poet may push the boundaries of language to study and express new feelings and effects through the words he uses and the strategies he devises to impress his readers.

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study aims at exploring and dealing with all the types of deviation that are tackled in this paper and it is an attempt to inform to those who are interested in this study, in particular, students of English, in general.

1.4 Research Questions

This present paper is interested in finding out the answers for the following questions : 1.What is meant by deviation in English Language? 2. What are the types of deviation that are used in the selected data? 3. What is the most used types of deviation that are found in the data? The following answers are set: 1. Identifying the meaning of deviation in English Language. 2.Exploring and revealing types of deviation the selected data. 3.Clarifying the most used types of deviation that are found in the data.

Stylistics refers to the relation between linguistics and literature. One of the technique that is found in stylistic and applied in literature is a deviation, attends to , set , neglecting some of the rules of a language in a piece of literary work. This sort of neglecting



offers a space of freedom for the writer to deal with the manipulating ideas he/she wants to put forward.

2.1 Deviation in General

Stylistics refers to the relation between linguistics and literature. One of the techniques that is found in stylistic and applied in literature is a deviation, attending to, setting, neglecting some of the rules of a language in a piece of literary work. This sort of neglecting offers a space of freedom for the writer to deal with the manipulating ideas he/she wants to put forward.

As a term, it refers to the breaking rules that others follow. It could occur at various levels depending on the text and the context. Deviation is regarded as a poet's identity or a writer's license that differentiates his style from the others. Different levels of deviation that are tackled in this paper whether semantic, discourse, lexical, morphological, phonological, graph logical as well as external deviation.

Wales (2001: 103) defines deviation as the difference in frequency from a norm or statistical average. Such divergence may depend on, for example, the breaking of regular principles of linguistic structure (whether semantic, grammatical, lexical, or phonological) and thus be statistically exceptional in the sense of excess frequency. According to Crystal (2003:134), deviation is a sentence that breaches a rule in grammatically, phonologically, or even semantically. To him, deviation may be understood as a break in the regular communication process that makes it difficult to understand the text.

2.2 Deviation in Poetry

Deviations in figurative language, particularly poetry, help in developing the unique style that employs terminology that is not



widely tackled. Thus, it is concerned with variations in a person's voice or writing. In poetry, style refers to how a poet utilises words to tell a story or produce a poem. According to Seturaman and Peck (1995: 236), "Poets tend to have their own grammar and resort to deviation whenever they have to express a meaning which the normal language cannot". This leads to ambiguity or a lack of understanding on the part of the reader. Crystal (2003:134) said that deviation as a phenomenon refers to a sentence that breaks grammatical, phonological, or semantic rules.

Though deviation sometimes cause some misunderstanding for the readers as regard the normal process of language communication. But it shows a kind of suspense and interest to catch the attention of the reader's. Thus, it enhances the reader's awareness of linguistic tools that made them understanding the literary works.

2.3 Deviation in English Sentence

Grammatical deviation refers to the language in which a writer or speaker utilised to explicit aspects that recognize him/ her from other ones. Thus, everyone has his/ her own choice when picking words. Stylistics can be used to analyse both non-literary and literary texts. To Barry(2009 :196) literary work is to demonstrate how the technical linguistic aspects of it can contribute the meaning and effects of what is meant by.

One example of a disciplinary discourse is a grammatical structure. A writer has a sense for the way utilised in sentences in his / her creative works. This means that every writer has his /her own style (ibid.). As Budiharto (2018:86) said that grammatical deviation happens " when a sentence breaks the rules of grammar". Grammatical aberrations are often classified as either morphology (word grammar) or syntax (sentence structure). Grammatical departure is characterised by ungrammatical statements like "I do not like him" (Leech,1981:45).



Brook (1977: 146) uttered that, writers and poets ,in particular, may break grammatical rules by using suffixes and the words (more) and (most) for comparison. For instance, Shakespeare's use of "unkindest" and "most unkind" is seen in phrases like "This was the unkindest cut of all" .

2.4 Types of Deviation

2.4.1 Lexical Deviation

It is a sort of deviation that occurs when the word swerve from their regular base, or when the word is feigned in a process that is called acronym or nonce generation, for the purpose of creating greater meaning and visual appeal, for the sake of achieving a certain (stylistic) effect or fulfill a lexical demand for a single occasion. According to Crystal (2003. :260), nonce generation, is a linguistic form which is deliberately generated or accidentally used by a particular speaker on one occasion. This process is also called lexical invention or innovation (Leech, 1969: 42).

In literary work, in general, in poetry, in particular, lexical deviation is known in the form of repetition. For instance, it is clearly located in these lines by Thomas Hood.

"Work-work-work,
Till the brain begins to swim" (Stanza 3) (The Song of the Shirt: Thomas Hood)

2.4.2 Semantic Deviation

As we know that figurative language is regarded as the nucleus of poetry, this kind of deviation is seen as the most conspicuous level of linguistic deviation. (Leech, 1976) said that this type of deviation is when the word has exceptional concept that refers to the life of the writers or the poets and their cultural setting. It gives the readers the intention to search beyond the intended meaning as it forces them to get it. The meaning of semantic



deviation is known as insignificance when we regarded the literal meaning, but it actually affords non-literal meaning .Such as in (Prayer before Birth Louis: MacNeice);

"I am not yet born; O hear me"

2.4.3 Phonological Deviation

From its name, Abbas (2017: 1709) declares that it is a kind of deviation that is found in the literary work when the writers or the poets consciously alters the pronunciation of a word at the end of the line for the purpose of rhyme so as to arrange the patterns of sounds in a better and easier way. It happens when phonological rules cannot be performed effectively of language. Sadoun (2014: 21) shows this kind of deviation in the following example in "Oliver Twist" as one of the characters called Barney has been facing difficulty in pronouncing the nasal consonants /m/ and /n/ as /d/ and /b/;

*I'b dot certaid you cad, said Barney,
who was The attendant sprite; "but I'll idquire."* (Oliver Twist: Charles Dickens)

2.4.4 Syntactic Deviation

According to Nakayama (2007: 82), this type actually happens when a writer do not follow the norm or break the rule of syntax. It diverges from conventional rule of grammar. For instance, as in the coming example, the writer here did not follow the rules of grammar and sentence formation. As;

"... That's all, old chap, and don't never do it no more."

(Great Expectation: Charles Dickens)

One of the characteristics of syntactic deviation that should be tackled is the parallelism or parallel sentence structure. As Leech (1969) claims that parallelism can be shown as unexpected regularity, in other words,



it is the periodic occurrence of a selected grammatical structure. The syntactic here is function as the sameness of structure reflects the sameness of content and marks rhythmical language. The repetition of the parallel phrase *Then, came + (the) + noun* as its clear in the example below:

*"Then, came the Teetotal Society, who complained
That these same people...
Then, came the chemist and druggist, with other
Tabular statements...
Then, came the experienced chaplain of the jail...
Then, came Mr. Gradgrind and Mr. Bounderby, the
Two gentlemen..." (Hard Times: Charles Dickens)*

2.4.5 Morphological Deviation

As Crystal (2003: 134), stats that any type of abnormal morphological form is a sign of incomplete forms. Thus, it is a kind of deviation that is commonly used in literary work, it is associated with how the words are constructed. Morphological deviations cover multiple things, such as the insertion of affixes to words that they typically do not take or eliminating of their normal affix. A frequent instance of this kind of grammar is the utilisation of the er and est suffixes (for comparative and superlative), but with adjectives such as (grateful, ungrateful, and thankful). (Brook and Ichikawa, 1954: 239)

2.4.5 Graphological Deviation

One of the elements of deviation in poetry is graphological deviation which is symbolized as an umbrella that covers all the aspects of linguistics as spelling, punctuation marks, typography, and paragraphs. It plays an important role in leading the meaning of the words, phrases, and sentences in one way or another. Leech (1969: 52) indicates that graphological deviation is "a type of deviation that is related to the poet's disregard of the rules of writing. It is the line-by-line arrangement of the poem on the page with irregular margins". While Saleem (2012: 91)



states that it is where the rules of readable writing are eliminated or rejected. This certainly happens when words are written without any boundaries in lines, space, or punctuation marks. Occasionally, poets and novelists write without putting full stops at the end of sentences.

3.1 Data Analysis

This present study is restricted to a selection of poems by Lord Alfred Tennyson, in which he distinctly employs deviation as a stylistic device. This study will analyze four poems from lexical and syntactic perspectives, with the aim of demonstrating the poet's deliberate deviation from conventional linguistic norms. These poems are carefully selected because they exhibit deviation in a clear manner.

Poem one: Break

Break – Break – Break ,

On the cold grey stones , O sea

Break – Break – Break ,

At the foot of thy crags , O sea

(The poem of the break : Alfred, Tennyson)

The Analysis:

Lexical Deviation

Lexical deviation in poetry is realized in the form of repetition. A typical example is found in these lines by *Alfred Lord Tennyson* . The word break is repeated 6 times in two stanzas of the poem . In the lines below, the word break is repeated Three times only in first stanza .

In accordance with this type of deviation, an ordinary word can have an extraordinary meaning depending on the poet's, novelist's or writer's life,



and cultural background . It is an irrational element that forces the reader to search the meaning beyond the dictionary meaning.

Syntactic Deviation

Alfred Lord Tennyson violated the usual order (SVO) many times as (V V V) The poet has deliberately reversed the usual word order for requirements of rhyme.

Poem Two: Blow , Bugle , Blow

Blow, bugle, blow, set the wild echoes flying,

Blow, bugle, answer, echoes , dying , dying , dying,

(Blow , Bugle , Blow : Alfred, Tennyson)

The Analysis:

Lexical Deviation

A typical example is found in these lines by Alfred Lord Tennyson The repetition of the word "dying" seems to imitate the echoes that the speaker is describing.

Syntactic Deviation

The poet violated the usual order (SVO) many times in last stanza as (V V V) He has deliberately reversed the usual word order for requirements of rhyme.

Phonological Deviation

The sublimation of the voice plays major role in creating musicality intensity. The obvious example of this is the repetition of the words "blow, bugle, blow" The alliterative /b/ sound creates a resonant, echo-like effect that mimics the sound of the bugle itself.



Poem three: Locksley Hall

“Yet it shall be; thou shalt lower to his level day by day,

What is fine within thee growing coarse to

Sympathize with clay.

As the husband is, the wife is: thou art mated with

A clown,

And the grossness of his nature will have weight to

Drag thee down.”

(Locksley Hall: Alfred Tennyson)

The Analysis:

Lexical Deviation

Consider the following lines from *Tennyson’s Locksley Hall*. These include, among other things, the following: hie (hurry), thou (you-subject), thee (you-object), thy (your), thine (yours), hence (away), ere (before), doth (does), didst (did), art (are), hath (has), shalt (shall), liveth (lives), anon (right now), hark (listen), wherefore (why).

Syntactic Deviation

The inversion in word order is another famous type of syntactic deviation in which it deviates from normal word order; In the second stanza of the poem, the poet uses compound sentences until the end of the stanza .The poet has contrasted the usual word order for the requirements of rhyme. Another instance of syntactic deviation is found in lines 3 and 5 (in the following stanza) where an interrogative (with subject-verb inversion: *Did*



we hear/watch) is used within a declarative statement instead of the normal structure: *We heard/we* .

Poem four: in Memoriam

Doors, where my heart was used to beat

So quickly, waiting for a hand,

A hand that can be clasped no more.

(In Memoriam: Alfred Tennyson)

The Analysis:

Lexical Deviation

This is found in Tennyson's masterpiece In Memoriam where the words doors and hand are parts which are used by the poet to refer or represent a whole: house and friend (*respectively*)

Syntactic Deviation

In the first part, this sentence is not independent and it needs another sentence in order to complete its meaning. So the poet used the structures of complex compound sentences

4.1 Conclusions

When saying that poetic language is different from other text in more effective ways. It's the language that carries the various emotions and feelings. Knowing that English language has its own syntactic features, semantic and graphology as well as lexical deviation , thus poets deviate from them for poetic purposes, one of them is attracting the attention of the readers and sometimes even creating ambiguity and raise the suspense . Literary style has had a unique standing from ancient times.



Deviations in literary language, particularly poetry, aid in the development of a unique style that employs terminology that is not commonly used. This present study come to the conclusion that the first fact is such phenomena which is called deviations is used as a tool to provide the poets to transmit their ideas and thoughts effectively which ending this to lead to the success of delivering their thoughts in an impressive way as in the case of our poets Alfred Lord Tennyson . Second, they use such tools differently in understanding and analysing their poems. The occurrence of lexical deviations in it. It has been found that the literary style, mainly in poetry, has many deviations (at different levels) that characterize this type of style. The researcher tried to investigate and reveal kinds of lexical deviations in the poems of literary texts. The most common types of deviation that are found in the analysis are lexical and syntactic ones.

References

1. Abbas, S. (2017). Exploring types of linguistic deviations in Abrams, M. C., & Harpham, G. G. (2009). A Glossary of Literary Terms. Wadsworth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers
2. Barry, Peter. (, 2009). Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory. 4th Edition. Manchester: Manchester University Press. Print.
3. Betti, Mohammed Jasim and Al-Jubouri, Chasib Fannokh (2009) A Structural and Intonational Study of theme and Rheme in Iraqi Advanced EFL Learners' language Repertoire. Alilbayt Journal,



4. Brook, G. L., & Ichikawa, S. (1954). *Studies in English Grammar*. Kenkyusha. Boston, USA: Cengage Learning.
5. Brook (1977). *A History of the English Language*, London: London University Press.
6. Budihart, R. Agus. (, 2018). Grammar Deviation in president Jokowi's Speech to the APEO summit. *Studies in English language and Education*
7. Crystal, D. (2003). *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of English Language*. 2nd ed. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
8. Crystal, David. (, 2003). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
9. Leech, G. (1969). *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*. London: Longman
10. Leech, G. (1976). *Principles of Pragmatics*. London: Longman.
11. Leech, G. and Short, M. (1981) *Style in Fiction*. Harlow: Longman.
12. Mansoor, M. S. (2013). *A Course in English Literature*. Erbil: Publication of Cihan University.
13. Mansoor, M. S. (2013). *Varieties of English*. Erbil: Publication of Cihan University



14. Nakayama, M. (2007). Multiple Negation in Nineteenth-Century English; as Seen in Victorian Novels. (pp.79-97). Research in Modern English No. 23
15. Rahman, F., & Weda, S. (2019). Linguistic deviation and the rhetoric figures in Shakespeare's selected plays. XLinguae.
16. Saleem, M. (2012). An analysis of semantic deviations in T. S. Eliot's Poem Ash-Wednesday. Interdisciplinary Journal of Contemporary Research in Business.
17. Seturaman, V. S., & Peck, J. (1995 .236). Practical Criticism. Madras: Macmillan. Leech, G. (1969). A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry. London, New York: Longman.
18. Wales, Katie. (, 2001). A Dictionary of Stylistics. London: Pearson Education.