



## Stylistics analysis of the poem “You start dying slowly” by Pablo Neruda

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### Abstract

The core aim of this article is to analyze the text of poem "You start dying slowly" by Pablo Neruda on three different levels of stylistics: Pragmatic, Grammatical and Morphological level. This is a masterpiece by an amazing poet. It has a motif of the theme CARPE DIEM. It describes the beauty of life. It has, in its dearth, robust optimism, vigor and zest for life. Every line is a gospel of wisdom. It is an advice to live a better, more rewarding and fulfilling life. This poem is a brilliant creation of an eminent poet. This magic is apt enough to be even made a life mantra. Stylistics is one of one the branches of applied linguistics dealing with the study of style in texts. Katie Wale in dictionary for stylistics writes that the goal of stylistics is not only to describe the text and formal features of the text but to relate interpretation of literary texts with linguistic causes where they are fit to be relevant. The findings of this study will help the readers to understand the basic concepts of poem which writer has conveyed by using different stylistic devices. And to understand the structure and style of Pablo Neruda's poetry.

**Keywords:** stylistic analysis, level, pragmatic level, grammatical level, morphological level, Pablo Nerula

### 1. Introduction

Pablo Neruda was born 12 of July 1904 in Spain his real name is Ricardo Eliécer Neftalí Reyes Basoalto. He was Chilean poet-diplomat and the social servant called position. Pablo started writing when he was only 13 years old, he introduces and used different styles like surrealist, political manifesto, historical epics, and autobiography and love poems. In 1924 he collected love poem and songs, in 1971 he got Nobel Prize literature. On July 18, 1917, he wrote his first essay which is "enthusiasm and perseverance" in the newspaper, in 1920 he wrote a poem "my eyes". The letter he started participating in literacy programs. He declared as one of the greatest and prominent writers of twenty century, in his works he reflected the materialistic instincts, political influence and intellectual concerns of humanity in the western culture. His whole literature is written in the Spanish language. He had the ability to give voice to inanimate and animate nature but still, he is not among the poet of nature. He is the man who wanted justice and equality that is why he spoke against the injustice and inequality. He wanted to see a man at such a place where he must be in peace and harmony. His vision of humanity and peace enable him to become a social poet. He was embedded in his surroundings of twenty century. In 1924 his first publication of twenty poems which were the love based poems in between 1924 to 1934 these were the year of isolations because he started working as diplomat assignment in the east. He spent his decade in Colombo and Rangoon. During this time period, he wrote collections of the poem with the name of "residence on earth". The poem dying slowly translation of the Spanish title "Muere lentamente". At first, this poem was uploaded on the internet which was spread like wildfire. In Spain, this used more as verses form not complete poem and form as year's greeting. In 2009 this poem spread all over the globe the problem was no Chilean poet have written down any poem, he was one who wrote it. Stylistics is one of one the branches of applied linguistics dealing with the study of style in texts. Before modern time's stylistics was only dealing with literary texts, but after the

20th century, it also deals with non-literary texts. Katie Wale in the dictionary for stylistics writes that the goal of stylistics is not only to describe the text and formal features of the text but to relate interpretation of literary texts with linguistic causes where they are fit to be relevant. The stylistic analysis provides the reader with commentary which is scientific and objective based on quantifiable and concrete data utilized in a systemic way. Levels of stylistic analysis include phonetic level, phonological level, graph logical level, the grammatical level, and the lexical level. The purpose of this article is to stylistically analyze the poem "You start dying slowly" to provide readers with more scientific knowledge of style in the poem, so the reader may understand the style and linguistic components at different level utilized in the depiction of this great masterpiece.

### 1.2 Research Questions

1. How to analyses the poem at pragmatic level?
2. How to evaluate the poem at grammatical level?
3. How to evaluate the poem at morphological level?

### 1.3 Research Objectives

1. To explore the poem at pragmatic level.
2. To examine the poem at grammatical level.
3. To examine the poem morphological level.

### 2. Literature Review

The rapid growth of linguistics into an independent discipline and its application to the study of literature opened new horizons in the field of literary criticism in the twentieth century. —There are a number of recent developments in and around linguistics which deserve to be better known to literary critics for they point to the original ways of reading and analysis and literary criticism, as a discipline has always welcomed innovation! (Fowler, 1971:9) <sup>[5]</sup>. Stylistics is a field or study of clarification of literary text in connection with linguistic and tonal style. It is not an independent area rather it connects linguistics and literary criticism and it can

be applied to empathetic of journalism, literature, and linguistics as well. As of Wikipedia (modified on 15 March 2010), Stylistics is recognized as the branch of linguistics, it deals with the study of properties, principles, and varieties of language behind dialogue, accent, choice, register, and length. H.G. Widdowson (1986, p.4) states that Stylistics is the study of literary discourse from linguistic orientation. Gabriela Miššikova (2003) Stylistics is the study of selecting and implementing methods of linguistics, expressive means or extra linguistics elements in the process of communication. Short (1996), is of the view that stylistics is one of the linguistic approaches to literary texts. In other words, it can be stated that stylistics analyzes literary texts by using linguistic descriptions. Short, further states that Stylistics sometimes may look like either literary criticism or linguistics, depending on the lens it is looked upon. For Leech (1985), Stylistics is the study of style that can be applied to both non-literary and literary texts. In the non-literary text it is applied when it is required to explain something, while in literary texts, it explains the relation between artistic function and language.

The levels of stylistics analysis are as following:

- **Phonetic level:** It is the stage of sound testing in which we study the features as well as the role of sounds within a literary piece of work.
- **Phonological level:** this stage deals with the study of the sound arrangement of any particular language. It copes with the acknowledged set of laws of articulation. Phonological devices include rhyme components, consonance, similar sounding word usage, as well as sound similarity and so on.
- **Graph logical level:** this stage is familiar with the writing scheme of a language and examines the academic set of laws of capitalization, logography, structure, the orderly arrangement along with punctuation within the sentence.
- **Grammatical level:** this level consist of both syntactic as well as morphological levels and talk about the internal formation or arrangement of the sentence along with their function in series. The clauses, phrases, words, nouns, verbs, etc are recognized in this.
- **The lexical level:** This level monitors the method in which particular words along with phrases incline to draft in a varied linguistic context, on the semantic level in place of stylistics. It explores words related to internal eloquence.

Stylistics investigates the content and breaks down its huge dialect shapes for elucidation, it comes near useful feedback. Even in the reader response theory criticism or reception theory stylistics has a role to play. Stylistics, in fact, has a great effect in almost every kind of critical approach. According to various dictionaries, the term —stylistics| means —the science of literary style| or the —art of forming good style in writing|. Leech and Short (1981:13) also define it as —the linguistic study of style|. Widdowson (1975:4) <sup>[16]</sup> defines stylistics as follows:

“By stylistics' I mean the investigation of abstract talk from a phonetic introduction and I might take the view that what recognizes stylistics from artistic feedback from one viewpoint and semantics on the other is that it is basically a method for connecting the tw. Stylistics, notwithstanding, includes both scholarly feedback and etymology, as its morphological make-up proposes: the style segment relating it to the previous and the istics' part to the later”. “One of the contributions of stylistics, apart from linguistic insights and

linguistic tools of modern criticism, is its objective way of analysis. —Language-oriented theories try to develop an objective methodology of analysis and interpretation by focusing on the literature entity independent of an author's intentions| (Kumar, 1987:40) <sup>[7]</sup>. Verdonk (2002:4) <sup>[13]</sup> characterizes stylistics as —the examination of unmistakable articulation in dialect and the portrayal of its motivation and effect|. Bradford (1997:1) <sup>[11]</sup> says that stylistics is — a tricky and dangerous point each committed to the huge, multifaceted train of abstract examinations will include a commitment with style. With its objectivity, insights from linguistics and useful terminology, stylistics makes our interpretation valid and enhances our enjoyment of literature. Since stylistics has become an inseparable part of contemporary criticism, no serious student can simply ignore it. This is one of the reasons why literary critics do not always separate stylistic study from a wider theory of literature. “The fabrication of situations and resulting moral evaluation are the writer's purpose and this purpose cannot be entirely separated from the style which is its means and its fine texture. The linguistic and literary patterns fuse as color and compositions in a painting” (Carter & Stockwell, 2008: 44) <sup>[2]</sup>. “The linguistic analysis of literary language is known as stylistics. This is a somewhat misleading term: the word 'style' was once applied to different varieties of language, such as the language of religion, or of legal documents. Both these varieties are now known as registers. Meanwhile, the words style and stylistics have acquired the somewhat specialized, narrow usage of linguistics applied to literature. Literary language often deviant. Typically, certain features have been highlighted, or foregrounded, often by making them strange” (ibid)

According to Wales (1989:435) <sup>[14]</sup>, the word style is quite difficult to define. The reason behind this difficulty is related to the way how can readers understand it. This might affect the features related to stylistics, which is part of linguistics. Moreover, she has listed the most common features of the term style which are summarized below:

1. Style means the way of expressing oneself in writing and speaking, putting it in a similar way, there is a distinctive style for every person in doing things such as in playing games or thinking in as a special way of a solution for a certain problem, there are also styles in speaking one can make jokes, and the other may be more serious, also style can be good or bad (ibid).
2. Wales (1989:435) <sup>[14]</sup> pointed out that each person has his own way of doing an action or writing about the same theme or even describing the same painting. She ascertains that style can be different in various situations and according to the degree of formality what she called “style shifting” (ibid). Furthermore, the genres of literature also differ in their style whether fiction, poetry or any other type of literature. Wales (ibid) also mentioned style can vary through time, for example, the style of modern and metaphysical poetry is quite different.
3. Another important point is mentioned in Wales' dictionary is that style is measured by the number of linguistic features. The personality of each writer, for instance, can be reflected in his works. His way of choosing words and combining them is really distinguished. If a keen reader reads Jane Austen's novels, e.g. Persuasion and Pride and Prejudice he can notice the similarity in the style of the writer of the two texts (Wales, 1989:435) <sup>[14]</sup>.

According to Carter and Stockwell (2008: 44) <sup>[2]</sup> (there is a wide range of styles as indicated by the style of the author e.g. racy, formal and colloquial one. Further, they defined Style as: “A choice of certain structures over others available in the language. To claim that style is a choice is not, of course, to claim that it is always a conscious choice. Indeed, if one had to make all phonological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic choices consciously, it would take a very long time to say anything at all. In literature, as in all talk, a feeling of the most ideal method for putting something can be natural or cognizant; the outcome to the extent the peruse is concerned will be much the same.” (ibid). Linguistics which represents the broader discipline and stylistics is a part of it, helps readers to discover the hidden clues about the language. It can act as the screw that dismantles the pieces of the whole text into smaller understandable parts. It can be a great help to interpret the meaning of a certain literary work. Carter and Stockwell (2008: 39) <sup>[2]</sup> pointed out linguistics can give readers a perspective, a method for taking a gander at a content that causes perusers to build up a predictable examination, and urges them to make inquiries about the dialect of the content that they come through.

**3. Methodology**

This study is pure qualitative in nature. This research is a stylistics analysis of the poem "You start dying slowly" by Pablo Neruda. The nature of this study is analytical. The researchers have analyzed the poem at pragmatic, phonological and morphological levels. The text of the poem is analyzed from the methods of stylistic analysis given by Leech (1985).

**4. Data analysis**

**4.1 Pragmatic level**

Pragmatics is the investigation of undetectable importance in a bit of content talked or composed. It talks about how we perceive the imperceptible implications in a content. It is the setting based investigation including linguistic context, thematic context, pre-existing knowledge and physical context of the text.

The pragmatic featured found in the poem " You start dying slowly" by Pablo Neruda are as following:

**4.1.1 Anaphora:** it is the literary device called repetition of sentence, word and phrase. Such as in this poem writer has repeated the words and sentence. For instance, “you start dying slowly”, “If you do not”.in this poem writer has repeated “you start dying slowly” five times at the starting of each stanza and poet also has repeated “if you do not” 12 times, approximately in each line.

**4.1.2 Abstract Diction:** it is literacy device which is used in this poem, Writer has used abstract diction Firstly, in title abstract concept is highlighted. Whenever reader reads this title “You start Dying Slowly” he unable to understand meaning related to title of poem. But it conveyed actual meaning in relation to real life.

**4.1.3 Antimere:** it is literary device which is used in this poem, it stated that when a part of speech played role as another word class. For instance: You start dying slowly: here dying worked as adjective. Which under the category of open class and other word slowly act as an adverb.

**4.1.4 Aposiopesis:** it literary device which is used in poem, it means when writer unable to continue speech. It is middle breakage in between poetry or any literary text. For example: dash (-) and ellipsis (...) these were known as Aposiopesis. Similarly, this device used twice in the poem.

**4.1.5 Circumlocution:** this device used by writer to highlight or described effortless and laziness of a person. When, man created hopelessness in life. He/ she no more existed. This device mostly used in this poem because writer wants to keep people away from hopelessness, decrease laziness etc.

**4.1.6 Repetition:** it is one of the prominent literary devices; repetition put emphasis on ideas of poetry, sounds, words, etc. in order to emphasize more. It intensifies expression of poetry, in whole poem there are few phrases, and sentences which are repeated. Like “you start dying slowly”, “if you do not”.

**4.1.7 Tension:** this is literacy device depicted tension between inner world and outer world. There is conflict among outer and inner world. In this poem writer has shown the both sides of common people by showing them both inner and outer world.

**Table 1**

Anaphora	Abstract diction	Antimeria	aposiopesis	circumlocution	repetition	tension	tone
You start dying slowly(5), If you do not(12),	Title (you start dying slowly)	Dying,	In 3rd stanza	Passion, emotion, glisten	Start dying slowly		Advice based

**4.2 Grammatical level**

The grammatical level is actually a scale of measure the words, there are scales “morphology level” “syntactical level”, parts of speech a few are given blow. The Grammatical level used for bringing out the material which is related to grammar. This sought of material is useful to know the grammatical terms used in the literary piece.

Usually grammatical level bring out the parts of speech, that what are the parts of speech used in the piece of literature. There could be more objects like bringing out the number of sentences, number of phrases, prominent words used, use of tense if present, usually tense would be less important, because, poet is not bound to follow the rules and regulations of grammar.

Table 2

Noun	Pronoun	Verb	Adverb	Adjective	Preposition	Conjunction	Article
Sounds	You	Start	Slowly	Dying	To	If	The
Life	Yourself	Travel	Not	Same	Of	When	A
Self-esteem	Your	Read	When	Different	On	and	
Slave	Everybody	is	Away	Turbulent			
Habits	Those	Listen	Once	Fast	To		
Paths	Which	Appreciate	Least	Safe	With		
Routine	other	Kill		Uncertain	In		
Colour		Let		sensible	from		
Passion		Become					
Emotions		Walking					
Eyes		Change					
Heart		Wear					
Love		Speak					
Risk		Do					
Dream		Feel					
Lifetime		Glisten					
Advice		Beat					
		Allow					
		Run					

4.3 Morphological Level

Morphology is the study about structure and formation of words is known as morphology. In Morphology there are few different terms which are useful like “word inflections” and “word derivation”, within that there are morphemes like “free morphemes”, “ bound morphemes”, “root”, “prefix” and “suffix”. A few morphemes from the poem are given blow. These morphemes represent linguistics terms which are very important in the field of linguistics. The morphological terms like bound morphemes represents the such morphemes which are very much attached with other morphemes e.g., dying, slowly, sounds etc., roots are the such words which free to

stand at every stage, they are called free words or the words which could use alone, usually roots words carry morphemes in order to work like other functions of words, so these roots could be very strong in words series. Prefix and suffix these are attached forms of words which stand with roots, or root carry them to work as other function. Prefix are bound morphemes which used at beginning of the words, suffix are bound morphemes which are used at the end of the words, these are also stand to work as functioning the roots to stand. We can say that they are helper of roots.so there could be more functions but these are important.

Table 3

Free	bound	Root	Prefix	Suffix
Start, You	Dying	Dye	Self esteem	Dying
If, Do	Slowly	Slow	Everyday	Slowly
Not, Travel	Sounds	Sound	Uncertain	Sounds
Read, Listen	Yourself	Other	Yourself	Others
Life, Appreciate	Self-esteem	Habit	lifetime	Habits
When, Kill	Others	Certain		Walking
Your, Let	Habits	Walk		Paths
Help, Become	uncertain	Path		Colours
Slave, Same	Walking	Colur		Emotions
Change,	Everyday	Emotion		Eyes
Routine	Paths	Eye		Satisfied
Wear, Different	Colours	Satisfy		
Or, Speak	Don't			
Know, Avoid	Emotions			
Feel, Passion	Eyes			
Turbulent,	Satisfied			
Which				
Make, Glisten				
Heart, Beat				
Fast, Change				
Life, Job				
Glove				
Rise				
What, Is, Go				
After, Dream				
Allow, At				
Least, Once,in				
Sensible, advice				

## 5. Conclusion

When poet use variety of words it help the reader to understand the message that poet is trying to deliver. The reason of this study was to discover the methods that how the use of language is blended in the poem. Also in order to fully understand the meaning of poem it is analysed at different levels.

Parts of speech come in the category of lexical as well in the morphological level and few from the grammatical level. In throughout the poem, there are 27 lines, where 174 words have used. In this poem there are eight possible devises, thorough that researcher have understood the different ways of judging the particular piece of work. Throughout the research writer has used many grammatical forms and morphological forms which identify the linguistic variations in the poem.in this poem, the writer has explained very well about life and its hurdles which we face. But in this, we have to bring out the linguistic elements which are hidden in this poem. This study will play significant role and help the future researchers in related field. To build a meaning the selection of words by poet play very important part, the difference between poetic and non-poetic language is shown by stylistic analysis of poem.

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