A CORPUS BASED STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED CHILDREN'S POEMS

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Abstract

Children's literature holds a special place in literary and educational discourse. This research seeks to contribute significantly to both corpus stylistics and children's literature studies. It aims to uncover and analyze the thematic elements and linguistic expressions in Young World Magazine and V shine magazine with the goal of shedding light on the role of children's selected poems in shaping young minds. The study uses corpus technique merging with a descriptive qualitative methodology to identify themes and expressions. A thematic analysis was performed to determine recreating themes in the selected children's poetry. Data for this study is collected from two popular English magazines, Young World and Vshine, known for their diverse selection of children's poetry. The process of data collection includes the acquisition of data in soft form. These magazines provide a rich source of contemporary children's literature, spanning various themes, styles, and cultural backgrounds. After collection, data was added in PakLocCorpus data sets for further analysis. Data consists of 232 files and a 16850 number of words. It was developed under the category of poems. PakLocCorpus consists of more than 10 million words of Pakistani English.

Key words: Corpus-based stylistic analysis, selected Children Poems, thematic analysis, Magazines.

Introduction

 The corpus-based stylistic analysis of children's poems has indeed become a promising research trend in the field of stylistics. The application of computational tools to the study of children's poems is very essential because such research would overcome human limitations such as the propensity of researchers to subjective interpretation and evaluation of texts and the inability of researchers to handle large volumes of texts and extract meaningful patterns from these texts. Majak (2014) emphasizes that the elements of stylistics, such as phonological features, typography, and graphology, are important in the analysis of children's poems but it is unfortunate that researchers have tended to conduct manual analysis of individual poems. He affirms that it is through corpus-based analysis that a researcher can identify possible trends and patterns within a given genre or subgenre by looking at how certain linguistic and literary elements manifest in the poems.

Children's poetry, with its origins deeply embedded in ancient oral traditions, folk poetry, and nursery rhymes, stands as one of the oldest artistic expressions. Children's literature holds a unique position in literary studies, offering not only entertainment but also serving as a crucial tool for education, socialization, and the development of language and cognitive skills. Within the vast landscape of children's literature, poetry occupies a distinct place, characterized by its condensed language, rhythmic patterns, and often playful or imaginative themes. Children's poetry, in particular, reflects the rich cultural heritage, linguistic diversity, and socio-political context of the region, making it a fascinating subject for literary analysis. (Stephen, 1992)

The present study aims at scrutinizing themes and stylistic representation in two popular children's magazines, "Vshine" and "Young World" magazines respectively. This study attempts to answer what thematic distributions and linguistic expressions can be identified in both magazines by using the corpus techniques. The present research will be a descriptive qualitative approach focusing on identifying common themes in children's literature. This study analyzed prominent linguistic patterns and literary elements that characterize children's

literature by making use of corpus data and corpus tools. It will not only enrich our comprehension of how authors craft their poetic expressions but will also shed light on the intricate ways in which children's selected poems' impacts its readership.

The research focuses on the poems of Pakistani poets, these poems are taken from the magazine's young world and Vshine respectively. The researcher is inspired to do her research on these magazines for a number of reasons. The first is that both are well known for their children's poems and as a result they established a good reputation in the trend of English literature. Secondly, although they are well known for their outstanding and charming poems the researcher believes that their English poems are not adequately studied. Thirdly, since these poems are contemporaries, (the poems are published almost in the same decade) and the issues reflected in their poems have some thematic connection, therefore, the works of Pakistani poets are chosen.

Research Questions

What linguistic expressions are conveyed in selected children's poems by Pakistani Poets?

1. What common themes emerge from stylistic analysis of selected children's poems?

Literature Review

There have been a limited number of studies that have specifically focused on stylistic or thematic analysis on children's selected poems. Children's literature holds a special place in literary and educational discourse. Nodelman (2008) emphasizes the importance of exploring themes that resonate with children's experiences and cognitive development. Researchers such as Nikolajeva (2012) highlight the significance of archetypal themes and cultural elements that shape the readers' understanding of the world.

Corpus Stylistics

Although stylistics is an empirical field that relies on the collection and descriptive analysis of literary data, a large corpus can serve as a testbed for theories and provide a quantitative element to many linguistic studies. Huston (2006) suggests that among the various methods for doing stylistics, corpus stylistics is a promising one. Simply put, because of its focus on quantitative analysis, corpus linguistics is a helpful addition to stylistics. Additionally, the integration of stylistics and corpus linguistics is further encouraged by the shared interest in the relationship between form and meaning.

According to Fialho & Sonia (2014) there are two branches of Since the text makes it obvious that, the characters are speaking directly to the reader and the reporting clauses surrounding the actor's turn are absent. Studying drama is the best context in which to apply corpus methods to voice analysis. Play scripts generally have clearly formatted stage directions that make them easy to distinguish from one another. This text format makes it simple to extract a character's whole speech and compare speakers as demonstrated by Culpeper (2009). Likewise, the structure of easily accessible TV scripts is advantageous to Bednarek's (2010) study of conversation in television programs. Conversely, unless a text exhibits extremely particular qualities, other narrativized genres and literary styles are more challenging for corpus stylistics. As distinct chapters of Julian Barnes' talking it over are recounted by the points from the perspective of various first-hand storytellers. Semino and Short (2004) examine how the discourse presentation categories are distributed throughout the sub-corpora of fictional, journalistic, and autobiographical/biographical narratives from the 20th century which amounts to approximately 250,000 words. They base this comparison on the divisions between direct speech, indirect speech, free indirect speech, and other categories made by Leech and Short (1981). The revision and extension of the Leech and Short (1981) model—namely, the addition of a writing presentation scale alongside speech and thinking presentation—is one of the

study's conclusions. Busse (2010) extends the paradigm by using a corpus of literature from the nineteenth century, while McIntyre and Walker (2011) concentrate on news journalism and prose fiction from the Early Modern English period. Manual annotation is necessary for corpus linguistic investigations in this field due to the characteristics of the discourse presentation scales. Three corpus methodologies are used inthe stylistic analysis of most corpus stylistics studies: keywords, collocations, and clusters (Biber, 2011).

Corpus stylistics can be viewed as a means of connecting literary criticism to "close reading" (following Richards, 1929) in literary criticism, particularly when concordances are utilized. Nonetheless, in literary studies, Moretti (2013) has argued more recently that a "distant reading" approach is better, putting broad themes and patterns that cut across novelties ahead of the tight texture of literary works. Additionally, Moretti (2013) highlights general developments and traits in various texts with computational approaches to create visualizations. The study aims to find these two stylistic elements and meanings conveyed in the science fiction The
Time Machine in a quantitative manner by combining the corpus approach with the literary theory of
Leech and Short (2007), which focuses on the examination of lexis and rhetoric. Verifying the explanatory potential and adaptability of fiction style theories in science fiction is another goal of this research. The project also intends to inspire early science fiction enthusiasm and improve the empirical study of corpus stylistics.

Corpus annotation and norm analysis are two further sub-approaches to corpus linguistics that Wynne identified. According to Wynne (2006), a benchmarking pattern for corpus annotation pertaining to literature, speech, and writing can be presented. Semino and Short (2004) expanded and improved upon Leech and Short (1981) widely accepted model of the mind and speech. After that, a modified version of the Speech, Writing, and Thought Presentation (SW & TP) model was applied. Three text genres were fiction, news reports, and biographies. These were included in the written language corpora they constructed. Every representational category within the corpus underwent manual classification and annotation. The pattern is helpful in analyzing the text meaning even though the annotation is tedious and time-consuming.

According to Wynne (2006), the other method, norm analysis, examines literary effects in text by utilizing linguistic norm evidence from a reference corpus. Disturbances from the reference corpus can be identified by comparing the study subject with the language use standards. According to Stubbs (2005), quantitative corpus data can offer exactly the comparative information that is needed to understand particular texts in the context of what is typical and expected in general language use. Focusing on the use of language, including words, phrases, grammatical structures, rhetorical devices, etc., is often an essential corpus-stylist approach. In other words, we may do word frequency statistics, theme word retrieval, indexing, word category distribution, and other tasks based on the annotated literary texts. The theme of literary works, the growth of characters, the narrative style, and the writers' techniques may all be studied using these methods. The corpus stylistics papers are productive. Since the 1980s, a growing number of studies have been conducted. Certain literary masterpieces were chosen by some academics for empirical study.

Mahlberg carried out a corpus-stylistic analysis of Dickens writings in 2007. Word clusters associated with anatomical parts were frequently hints to advance the main plots, he discovered by examining high frequency word clusters in the corpus. In his analysis of the distinctive linguistic style of particular articles or writers, Biber (2010) concentrated on keywords, keyword clusters, and word collocation. Woolf's novel The Waves features a monologue that Balossi (2014) contrast-analyzed in terms of word class and semantic field

utilization. The evident linguistic style disparities among the six characters were displayed. A specific factor served as the foundation for each study.

By contrasting a play featuring a corpus that includes every play written by Shakespeare, Culpeper (2002) utilizes keywords to describe the main characters in Romeo and Juliet. The author observes that the employment of both singular and plural first-person pronouns provides information about the characters' socioeconomic standing and personality. In order to further his Romeo and Juliet study, Culpeper (2009) examines the speech-related semantic categories for terms and sentence fragments made by each character. He employs the WMatrix software tool (Rayson, 2008) to achieve this, which relies on putting a semantic domain to every syllable within the corpus.

Approach for Corpus Analysis

In corpus-driven approach, also known as "data-driven learning" (Johns, 1991), the corpus is an empirical basis which is used by the researchers to extract linguistic data as evidence to linguistic phenomena without having any previous hypotheses, assumptions or expectations (Tognini-Bonelli 2001). Corpus-driven approach is criticized for taking a staunch stance regarding linguistic evidence, whereas, there is multiple evidence where it fails to provide reliable and agreeable objective results which do not need human interpretation, one such example is that it cannot provide description of paradigmatic relations and structures. For such reasons, the Corpus-Based approach becomes a strength. The corpus-based uses corpus as a reservoir of language which is used to extract appropriate and relevant evidence to test and verify the expectations and hypotheses about a language phenomenon. It is used to quantify the linguistic phenomenon and test the existing theories or find the validity of the data according to the theories. The approach is used to find examples to study the already existing explanations and assumptions in the given circumstances and contexts. According to Tognini-Bonelli (2001, p. 66) in corpus-based approach corpus evidence is not a determining factor of a linguistic phenomenon instead it helps the researchers to validate the already existing theories or view the corpus through the lens of the existing theories, the result can amend, add, refine or modify the existing assumption or can nullify in the given context but cannot challenge their existence they have not originated from the same corpus in the same context.

Thematic Analysis

Mahlberg (2007) uses Wordsmith methods to extract eight-word clusters from a corpus of twenty-three Dickens books. Next, she examines the regional textual roles of groups of five words with a focus on Bleak House. Five functional cluster groupings, specifically, time and location clusters, speech clusters, body part clusters, labels, and as if clusters are found to be unique to Dickens' style when matching 5-word clusters from a reference corpus of 29 novels by 18 authors from the nineteenth century with 5-word clusters, which appear in the Dickens corpus at least five times. These groupings correlate to five overarching functions: temporal and spatial references, character references, character interaction, character movement descriptions, and the creation of a literary environment through comparison. Generally, in studies that concentrate on specific texts, the local functions of clusters are thoroughly examined. In contrast, when two texts are compared, the functional distinctions between the two texts are sketched by probing clusters.

Mahlberg (2012) demonstrates those clusters are viewed as building pieces for texts by examining regional text roles in Dickens's stories. The process of interpreting meaning in literary contexts is aided through the local textual functions that have been identified. For example, Mahlberg links the development of themes and personalities, character relationships, body language, the voice of the storyteller, and the references to time and place to the functionality of lexical bundles by looking at Dickens' 5-word clusters. First, the functionally

important word clusters are identified using the clusters; a concordance study of these clusters then aids in fine- tuning the patterns associated with certain local textual functions.

The most frequent 3-grams, or 3-word clusters, in Jane Austen's Persuasion are examined by Fischer-Starcke (2006). Additionally, according to Mahlberg (2014), she researches 3-frames, referred to as "3-grams with a variable slot indicated by the wild card *, as in the 3-frame the * of." An analysis by Fischer-Starcke touches on themes related to character interactions and the overall mood of the book. Fischer-Starcke (2010) used the software kfNgram to extract the most frequent 4-grams and 4-frames from three corpora: Jane Austen's Northanger Abbey, Austen (a corpus that includes six of Austen's novels), and ContempLit (a 4,370,000 word corpus that includes literary works published between 1740 and 1859). A deeper understanding of the texts' hidden meanings, information structures, and textual organization can be attained by analyzing the grammatical and vocabulary trends discovered in the libraries.

Fischer-Starcke (2009) employed quantitative analysis of keywords and frequently occurring phrases In her evaluation of Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen. She came to the conclusion that the literary significance of family connections in the novel may be understood through the collocation and combination of these terms. Using the WMatrix software programmer (Rayson, 2008), Mahlberg and McIntyre (2011) additionally examine words as well as important domains of semantics in Casino Royale by Fleming. The resulting keywords are divided into two categories by them: thematic signals and fictitious worlds. These groupings can be further classified into two major categories: reader-centered and text-centered. Additionally, they do a comparison between essential semantic domains that are automatically recognised and the manually categorized keyword groups, coming to the conclusion that keywords with distinct textual goals that do not fall inside a semantic domain are regarded as reader-centered keywords.

Using Hardy and Durian's (2000) literary works as a comparison, analyze how O'Connor uses the words "see" and "saw" in his writing. They come to the conclusion that descriptions of visual perceptions are connected to themes found in the given corpus. Murphy (2015) uses WordSmith Tools to study the language of soliloquies in 37 of Shakespeare's plays. Specifically, he looks at the language forms of soliloquies using Halliday's three language metafunctions and comes to the conclusion that certain linguistic traits, such as the use of the first-person pronoun, body language and mental state, and linking adverbials, etc., are characteristics of Shakespeare's soliloquies. Shakespeare's comedies, tragedies, and historical dramas all center on the themes of love, the king, and the paranormal. In order to achieve this, they employ the Lancaster Speech,

Writing, and Thought corpus and compare it with other BNC sections in Wmatrix (Rayson, 2008). The results show that the assertion that serious fiction has a

more sophisticated syntactic structure than popular literature is unfounded. But a particular kind of popular fiction known as "Chick Lit" is syntactically easier at the phrasal level as opposed to the clausal one.

One of the most important works in corpus stylistics is Culpeper's 2009 analysis of

Romeo and Juliet, in which he classifies keywords and pieces of speech using WMatrix (Rayson, 2008), which is based on Halliday's strands of meaning (Halliday, 1994). The findings indicate that ideational keywords are used to describe Romeo's talks, textual keywords are used to describe Juliet's speeches, and interpersonal keywords are used to describe the Nurse's speeches.

Notably, Mahlberg and McIntyre (2011) offer a keyword classification for Ian Fleming's Casino Royale in order to illustrate the thematic issues of the book. In order to achieve this, they separate keywords into two groups: "thematic signals" and "fictitious world" as search terms.

Characters, scenery, and other elements of the fictional world operate as signals to construct the novel's literary universe. So, while matic signals are thought of as catalysts for the novel's thematic themes, fictional world keywords are more specific. According to Mahlberg and McIntyre (2011), the terms "reader-centered" and "text-centered" correspond to thematic signal words and fictitious world keywords, respectively.

Methodology

The primary aim of this research is to examine how themes and linguistic features intertwine in children's selected poems. The study aims to decipher the thematic elements embedded within the selected texts and to analyze the linguistic choices employed by authors to convey these themes effectively (Nasef, 2010). Data would be collected from 2 magazines and would build a corpus. One is Young World magazine and one is Vshine magazine. Both are popular English magazines. This study will adopt a descriptive qualitative approach with the use of corpus methodology to uncover the themes and linguistic expressions. Thematic analysis would be conducted to identify prevalent themes within the selected children's selected poems. The current study follows the corpus stylistic model of Leech &Short. This model enables the exploration of thematization and categorization in literary works with the help of corpus tools. The corpus will consist of a diverse range of children's selected poems spanning different genres, time periods, and cultural backgrounds (Scott, 2016).
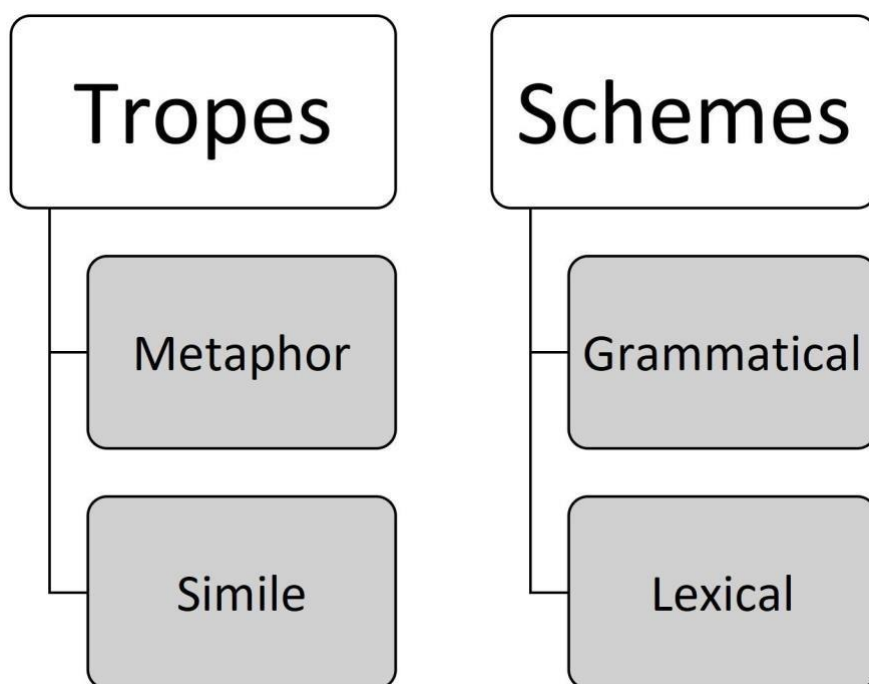

Figure 1 shows Leech and Short (2007)

Limitations or delimitations

The study's delimitations serve to provide clarity and focus to the research endeavor. By specifically concentrating on selected children poems from Vshine and Young world magazine, the study ensures specific and frequently used themes. This study is delimited to selected levels of Leech and short models. Additionally, the study focuses exclusively on selected children's poems by Pakistani writers.

This study's limitations stem from several factors, primarily the scope and focus of the research.The current research limits its sample to Pakistani English discourse only. The main purpose is to analyze themes and stylistic devices of Pakistani English writers. The study

focuses exclusively on poems from two popular magazines Young World and V shine respectively. Time constraints further exacerbate these limitations, as a more extensive and comprehensive analysis may not be feasible within the confines of the research time frame.

Data Analysis

The data analysis section of this qualitative research presents a detailed exploration into the conceptual underpinnings of experiences and themes depicted in selected children poems from Vshine and young world magazine. In the realm of corpus based stylistic analysis of selected children's poems, researcher delve into the intricate details of literary texts using computational tools and linguistic methodologies. The subsequent sections provide an in-depth analysis of the identified themes, patterns, and narratives. It involves the application of linguistic frameworks, theories, and models in analyzing texts.

Thematic Analysis of Keyword "Mother"

Table 1

Thematic Analysis of Keyword "Mother"

139.txt	your mum, About how much love you have for her.	s Day is only for mothers, We will Mother' always
NWP-139.txt	baby, Who can help her, Whenever she needs it. Happy	s Day To all the fantastic mothers out there.
NWP-072.txt	and pistachios. My father gave a diamond ring to my	My mother bought a perfume for my mother, father. We
NWP-005.txt	My	My mother is a housewife, She is mother very happy
NWP-059.txt	made me what I am. I love you, my sweet	mother.
NWP-072.txt	My father gave a diamond ring to my mother, My	bought a perfume for my father. We mother went to
NWP-203.txt	in a hurry. I can also make rice, But my	I don't buy rice, Because of its high mother price.

The above table shows the role of mothers in teaching children about kindness, empathy, resilience, and other essential virtues. It is characterized by its depth of emotion, its celebration of the maternal bond, and its exploration of the universal experiences shared between mothers and children.

Table 2

Right Collocates of theme Mother

Target Word	Right Collocates
Mother	Fantastic
	Bought
	Housewife

	Perfume
Rice	

The above table shows the right collocates of the theme mother in selected children poems by Pakistani poets that are analyzed from the Antconc corpus tool. The theme of motherhood in children's poetry is a rich and deeply emotional subject that resonates with readers of all ages. These Children's poems often explore the bond between a child and their mother, celebrating the nurturing, caring, and unconditional love that mothers provide.

Table 3
Left Collocates of theme mother

Left Collocates	Target word
Happy	Mother
Diamond	
Sweet	
Ring	
Hammer	

The above table shows the left collocates of the theme mother in selected children poems by Pakistani poets that are analyzed from the Antconc corpus tool.These children's poems depict mothers as nurturing figures who provide warmth, comfort, and care to their children. These poems often highlight the maternal instinct to protect and support their offspring through both joyful and challenging times.

Table 4
Findings of keyword Mother

Type	Rank	Frequency	Range
Mother	1	28	13

The above table shows the frequency of keyword mother in selected children's poems by Pakistani poets from Antconc corpus tool. Mothers are depicted as wise and nurturing guides who impart important lessons and values to their children. Poems celebrate the role of mothers in teaching children about kindness, empathy, resilience, and other essential virtues.

Conclusion
Throughout the research, there has been an attempt to characterize the nature of the poems and to indicate an approach to their understanding which allows access to the significance of these two magazines. The reason for choosing two magazines is to make clear that corpus based stylistic analysis can be more clarified by choosing different styles because each poet has his own style distinguishing him from the others. Thus, stylistic analysis would be more explicit. In this way, from a humble researcher's point of view, stylistics gives us in one way the opportunity to enjoy the creativity of English literature, especially English poetry. In another way, stylistics uses the scientific and the objective look of linguistic analysis. Corpus-based

stylistic analysis utilizes computational approaches to study children's literature, providing insights into translation challenges and specific linguistic techniques like keywords analysis (Lathey, 2006).

This analytical process aims to reveal the aesthetic qualities of the poems while considering readability, naturalness, and ideological alignment with the target audience. By employing linguistic tools and methods, researcher can gain a scientific understanding of literary texts, benefiting both poets and readers in enhancing their linguistic and literary competence. Furthermore, corpus analysis allows for comparison between different poets or periods in children's literature. By examining word frequencies and stylistic features across a larger dataset, we can identify trends and variations in how children's poems are written. Corpus-based stylistics sheds light on the intricate web of linguistic choices that make children's poems so effective. Data for this study is collected from two popular English magazines, Young World

and Vshine, known for their diverse selection of children's poetry. The process of data collection includes the acquisition of data in soft form. These magazines provide a rich source of contemporary children's literature, spanning various themes, styles, and cultural backgrounds. After collection, data was added in PakLok Corpus data sets for further analysis. Data consists of 232 files and 16850 numbers of words. It was developed under the category of poems.

PakLocCorpus consists of more than 10 million words of Pakistani English.

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