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Symbolism in “Global Man” of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi

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Abstract

There are many figures of speech in literature. Symbolism is one of them. Symbols in “Global Man” of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi are personal as well as universal. The poet belongs to a middle family that’s why he has deep insight in society, so he used his firsthand knowledge and experience in symbolism. In writing, symbols are utilized to achieve the main purpose. These symbols can be of many types. Every writer selects his or her symbols, keeping in view of the main idea behind his or her writings. Symbolism always creates attractions and charm.

Through symbolism, it is very easy to convey the message to the reader. The use of symbols creates variety and beauty in the piece of literature. It is very easy to convey the hidden message to the reader. Through the analysis of symbols used in “Global man” of “Dreams in the Desert”, by Lehr Niazi, the researchers would try to highlight the real message and beauty of the poem, so that the reader can get the real message and enjoyment out of it.

Keywords: Symbolism, Symbols, Global man, Dreams in the Desert, Attraction, Beauty, Message and Enjoyment

1. Introduction

This research is to analyze the use of symbols in “Global man” of “Dreams in the Desert”. This poem is analyzed from the perspective of the message given by help of use of symbol in it. This research article observes the research questions, objectives, research methodologies and literature review in the field of symbols. After analysis of the main idea of the poem and use of symbol in it, findings are given. This poem is written in lyrical form and there are three stanzas, each on abcb pattern. The words used in this poem are very simple and attractive. The use of symbols in this poem, gives it beauty and attraction.

The use of fresh symbols in the poem highlights the message as well as beauty of the poem. The poet’s real name is Gulistan Khan and pen-name is Lehr Niazi. He was born on 28th April 1977 in a village named “Mochh” in district Mianwali, Punjab (Pakistan). His first poetry book “Dreams in the Desert”, a collection of poems, was published in 2015. The poet used common and personal images as well as simple words in it. The hidden message of all his poems is to give the importance to the human values and humanity. He himself wrote in the Preface of the book as “When someone is lost in the desert of the world, one wishes to be home. We are living in the global world where we have lost ourselves and ignore the human values. I hope we all give the value to the human values (07 March 2015)”.

Research Questions:

What are the effects of symbolism?
What is relation between symbols and message?
What are the symbols used in “Global man”?

Objectives:

Literature has two main types, prose and poetry. In poetry every poet tries to convey his message through many ways. Use of symbols is one of them. Symbolism used in “Global man” had personal as well as universal touch.

The main target of the analytical study of symbols used in “Global man” of “Dreams in the Desert” is to highlight the mentioned aspects of the poem. So that readers would get the benefits from the study of this poem.

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Methodology

This research article focuses on the use of symbols in “Global man” of “Dreams in the Desert”. This research is qualitative, analytical and descriptive in nature. The researchers utilized the mentioned approach to get the effective results through supporting published material for the mentioned study.

Literature Review

Use of symbols in literature, gives a new touch to the common objects. In this way the poet gets originality and freshness in his every piece of poetry. The literature is decorated with symbolic meanings. These symbols give the variety to the words and thought alike. Every symbol adds its own impression to the poem.

Frost, Robert (1874-1963) used beautiful symbols in his poem “The Road not taken” as
“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as for I could
To where it bent in the under growth;”

Housman, A.E. (1859-1936) made use of symbols beautifully in his poem, “Loveliest of Trees, the Cherry Now.” The cherry leaves, flowers and fruit symbolize nature in all.
“Loveliest of trees the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough
And stands about the wood land ride
Wearing white for Easter tide.”

Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (1998) defines symbol as “(of something) an image, object, etc that suggests or refers to something else: the cross is the symbol of Christianity. The lion is the symbol of courage.”

Oxford Essential Dictionary (2012) defines as “a mark, sign or picture that has a special meaning: o is the symbol for oxygen. A dove is the symbol of peace”.

The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (1999) defines symbols as “It is an object, animate or inanimate, which represents or ‘stands for’ something else”.

Poetry Review (Autumn 2011) defines as “Imagination spontaneously selects sights, sounds, thoughts, images and so forth, and organizes them into pleasurable formal relations that draw out their deeper significance, expressing fundamental truths beyond the machinery of conceptual thought”.

Rich, Adrienne (1929-) took the tigers as symbol of freedom of spirit as:
“Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;

Stallworthy, Jon (1935-2014) used symbols in the poem, “In the Street of the Fruit stalls.” The piled fruits become symbols of weapons of war.
“Wicks balance flame, dark dew falls

In the street of the fruit stalls
Melon, guava, mandarin,
Pyramin-piled like cannon balls,
Glow red-hot, gold-hot, from within.”

The Sterling Dictionary of Literary Terms (1998) defines as “A set of related symbols to represent objects or ideas, by giving them an associated or symbolic character and meanings”.

Data Analysis

The poet used very common objects for his symbolism in his poetry. By the use of these symbols he created the attraction and beauty in his poem. He very successfully conveyed his message to the readers by the help of such common objects. As in first line, the racing cat symbolizes the people who ignore the humanity and want to become rich by hook or by crook. The rat symbolizes here the unnecessary wishes.
“Racing cat behind the rat,”

The poet satirized the modern man in these next lines. In the third and fourth line, living in the water symbolizes extra facilities and luxuries which make the modern man un-satisfied and bored. “Living in the water” symbolized here the mundane luxuries which made modern man spiritually hollow (Much thirsty). By these symbols the poet advised the modern man to avail the best opportunities which we already have. In this world of machine the modern man ignored the spiritual needs because of much busy life. That’s why the modern man is unsatisfied.
“Living in the water,
Much thirsty, our souls”.

In the following lines the poet symbolized the cheating of the people in achieving their goals. In this way they are actually cheating themselves (Global-man cheats himself). The modern man always tries to get the more benefits out of the available sources and does not care for the others. The profit that was got by illegal means always creates unsatisfaction.

“Global-man cheats himself,
And forgets enjoying the rest;”

The poem is concluded on hopeful note. The symbol of lonely flower is used here. Lonely flower symbolizes the man who bears the difficulties of life alone but never loses the hope. He also never cheats anyone but keeps smiling to please the others.

“Learn the lesson from the life,
Keeps smiling, the lonely flower.”

In this poem the poet beautifully used common objects for symbolism and created attraction and charm. The effects of symbolism were obvious here. These symbols successfully highlighted the main idea of the poem. Through symbolism the whole poem got liveliness and color. Symbolism used in “Global man” had personal as well as universal touch. The relation between symbols and message was very close. Every symbol added meanings to the theme of the poem. In this way the poet very easily conveyed his message to the readers.

Message of the poem:

We are living in the global world where we have lost ourselves and ignore the human values. Always give the value to the humanity and never ignore and cheat the others.

Delimitations of the Study

The researchers tried to highlight the symbolism used in “Global man” of “Dreams in the Desert” and the message given in it. This research included the analysis of only one poem selected from “Dreams in the Desert”.

Recommendations

The researchers suggest the stylistic analysis of this poem for new researchers.

Conclusion

Through the use of different symbols the poet achieved all his objectives. He created beauty and attraction in his poetry and highlighted moral and aesthetic aspects of the poem. In this poem, he very successfully gave the very beautiful message to the world. “Giving the importance to the human values” was the central theme of this poem. The poem was simple but had a unique charm. Aesthetic sense was successfully served by the use of symbolism in this poem. All the symbols were quite appropriate to the both aspects of this poem. He very successfully connected the main idea of the poem to the symbols and created unique environment of the poem. He developed the thought with the help of suitable symbols. He gave these symbols personal as well as universal touch. Here every symbol added layers of meanings to the poem. The flight of imagination was supported by the common objects of life.

Appendix:

“Global Man”

Racing cat behind the rat,
We'r chasing our goals;
Living in the water,
Much thirsty, our souls.
Global-man cheats himself,
And forgets enjoying the rest;
Give full time whom you love,
Never lose what is the best.
Our moods always change,
White clouds and the shower;
Learn the lesson from the life,
Keeps smiling the lonely flower.

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