

**THEORETICAL FOUNDATION AND MULTIFACETED  
EXPLORATION OF POETRY**

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**Rakhmatova Mehriniso Musinovna**

*Bukhara State University English Linguistics Department*

[m.m.raxmatova@buxdu.uz](mailto:m.m.raxmatova@buxdu.uz)

**Botirova Nilufar Furkatovna**

*Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute*

*English language and literature Department*

[nilufarbotirova777@gmail.com](mailto:nilufarbotirova777@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

Defining poetry proves a surprisingly elusive task, a testament to its inherent complexity and adaptability across cultures and time periods. While a simple definition, such as "language divided into lines" [1], offers a starting point, it fails to capture the richness and diversity of poetic expression. The very nature of poetry resists rigid categorization; it is a genre "always in flux" [2], meaning different things to different people across various times and places.

**Key words**

poetry, complexity, category, parallelism, metapragmatic symbols, intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

**1. Introduction.**

Some scholars emphasize poetry's inherent qualities, suggesting it arises from "the fusion of intellect and imagination" [3], a harmonious manifestation of thought and creativity. Others highlight its function as a medium for expressing feelings [4], a more intense and evocative use of language than everyday conversation. This intensity, this unique beauty inherent in the very word "poetry," is what makes it valuable to humankind [4]. Furthermore, the concise nature of poetry, stating "more in a few words", often relies heavily on cultural context, making translation a complex, and sometimes seemingly impossible, endeavor [5].

**Literature review.**

The inherent ambiguity in defining poetry is further underscored by the diverse approaches taken by researchers. Some, like Eftichia Matalon [6], propose theoretical schemes to analyze poetry's inherent qualities and their usefulness to humanity. Others, such as those involved in the POEMO project, focus on the aesthetic emotions elicited in the reader, moving beyond basic emotion categories

to encompass more complex and subtle responses. This focus on the reader's experience emphasizes the interactive nature of poetry, where meaning is not solely determined by the text itself but also by the reader's interpretation and engagement [7]. The lack of a universally accepted definition, however, doesn't diminish poetry's significance; rather, it reflects its ever-evolving and multifaceted nature.

## 2. Materials and Methods.

Poetry across Cultures and Time: Shared Traits and Unique Expressions. Despite the challenges of establishing a singular definition, certain common threads weave through poetic traditions across the globe. Nigel Fabb's work, referencing over 130 literatures, highlights the universality of poetry as "language divided into lines," suggesting a fundamental connection between poetic form and the limitations of human working memory. The book explores how meter, rhyme, alliteration, and parallelism are all dependent on the line and processed within the confines of working memory [1]. This suggests a biological basis for the appeal and structure of poetry, regardless of cultural context. However, the specific forms and expressions of poetry vary significantly across different cultures. Jake Young's work aptly points out that poetry does not have a single history but rather many histories, contingent upon the various rhetorical situations of its production [2]. The concept of poetry itself, therefore, is not static but rather dynamically shaped by cultural and historical contexts.

The performative aspect of poetry is another recurring theme, particularly evident in the study of oral poetry traditions. The oral delivery of poetry, often accompanied by music or other elements, creates a unique dynamic that transcends the written word. The analysis of such performances reveals shared traits such as the use of parallelism, analogy, and metaphor, along with musicality. These elements contribute to the emotional impact and memorability of poetry, reinforcing its role as a powerful means of cultural transmission and expression. Furthermore, the study of poetry across different cultures and time periods reveals the use of poems as "metapragmatic symbols that reflect the values of their cultural production" [2]. This highlights the intrinsic link between poetry and cultural values, with poetic forms and themes often reflecting the beliefs, customs, and social structures of the societies that produce them.

## 3. Results.

Intrinsic and Extrinsic Elements: Shaping Poetic Expression. The creation of a poem involves a complex interplay of intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements refer to the internal features of the poem itself, such as theme, imagery, figurative language, diction, and structure. These elements contribute to the poem's

overall meaning and aesthetic effect. Extrinsic elements, on the other hand, refer to the external factors that influence the poem's creation and reception, such as the poet's personal experiences, social context, and cultural background [8]. These factors shape the poem's content and meaning, often reflecting the larger historical and social forces at play. Salsabila Qurotu'ain's study on the intrinsic elements of poetry for class IV students highlights the importance of understanding these internal components. The research demonstrates that while students might successfully incorporate intrinsic elements into their poems, additional guidance might be needed in areas such as vocabulary management. This emphasizes the importance of both technical skill and creative expression in the writing of poetry. The study also implicitly acknowledges the role of extrinsic elements, as the poems created by the students inevitably reflect their own experiences and perspectives. The interaction between intrinsic and extrinsic elements is crucial in shaping the overall impact and meaning of a poem, with a poem's success often depending on the skillful integration of both internal and external influences. The role of cultural context in shaping poetic expression is further highlighted in studies on the translation of poetry. Suad Abdulaziz Khalil Al-Kadery's research on the translation of Imr-ul-Qaiss Muallaqa demonstrates the difficulties involved in translating cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions. The study examines three different translations, highlighting the varying strategies employed by translators in navigating the linguistic and cultural divide. The choices made by translators regarding domestication versus foreignization significantly impact the final product, affecting the accessibility and fidelity of the translation [5]. This underscores the interconnectedness of poetry and culture, with the meaning of a poem often inextricably linked to its cultural origins and the assumptions it makes about its audience.

**The Role of Semiotics in Interpreting Poetry.** The interpretation of poetry can be enhanced by the application of semiotics, the scientific discipline that analyzes signs and their meanings. Iskandarsyah Siregar's work suggests that semiotics provides a valuable analytical method for examining the signs contained within a poem and uncovering its underlying meaning. By identifying keywords and thematic elements, semiotic analysis can help to unlock the poem's essence and reveal deeper layers of meaning. This approach complements other methods of literary analysis, providing a structured framework for interpreting the symbolic and metaphorical language often found in poetry. The semiotic approach highlights the multi-layered nature of poetic language, where words and images function as signs that evoke multiple meanings and interpretations. The analysis of these signs reveals not only the poem's explicit content but also the implicit assumptions, cultural references, and emotional

undercurrents that contribute to its overall impact. This approach emphasizes the active role of the reader in constructing meaning, as the interpretation of a poem is not a passive act but rather an interactive process involving the reader's own background, experiences, and understanding of the signs employed by the poet. The combination of semiotic analysis with other literary methodologies offers a more comprehensive approach to understanding the complexity and richness of poetry, revealing the intricate interplay between language, meaning, and cultural context.

#### 4. Discussion.

While the aesthetic qualities of poetry are undeniable, its functions extend beyond mere artistic appreciation. Barialay Azizi, Seyed Aga Musafar, and Fahim Rahimi highlight the pedagogical value of poetry, particularly in English language instruction. They argue that poetry's authenticity, capacity to express emotions, cultural significance, and ability to enhance language proficiency make it an effective instructional approach. This perspective underscores the practical applications of poetry, demonstrating its potential to serve educational and communicative purposes. Moreover, poetry's role in shaping social and political consciousness cannot be overlooked. Many poets use their work to address contemporary issues, challenging societal norms, and advocating for social justice. M. Randall's work explores the potential of poetry to bring about lasting peace, nurture hope, and inspire action. The question of whether poetry "can matter" is not merely an academic one but rather a question of its social and political relevance. Poetry's ability to evoke strong emotions, challenge perspectives, and inspire change makes it a powerful tool for social commentary and activism. The enduring power of poetry to shape human lives is evident in the continued impact of diverse poets throughout history [9], demonstrating its capacity to transcend time and cultural boundaries. The potential of poetry to serve as a historical record is also significant. Poetry often captures the spirit of a time, reflecting the experiences, beliefs, and values of its creators and audience. The study of poetry can provide insights into the social, cultural, and political context in which it was produced, offering a valuable window into the past. Furthermore, the use of poetry in different languages and cultures allows for a cross-cultural understanding of human experience, revealing common themes and expressions across diverse societies. The multifaceted nature of poetry, its ability to serve both aesthetic and practical purposes, and its potential to shape social and political consciousness, underscores its enduring relevance and importance. The Evolution of Poetry and its Technological Integration. The history of poetry is intertwined with the evolution of technology and its means of dissemination. From oral traditions to the



printing press and now to digital platforms, the way poetry is created, shared, and experienced has constantly evolved [10]. Jinyi Hu and Maosong Sun's work on generating Chinese classical poetry using a GPT-2 based framework highlights the potential of artificial intelligence in creating and analyzing poetry. This marks a new chapter in the history of poetry, where technology plays an increasingly significant role in its creation and study. The development of computational tools for analyzing poetic elements, such as those described by Komal Naaz and N. Singh for Hindi poetry, further demonstrates the intersection of technology and literary analysis... These tools offer new methods for studying the structural and aesthetic features of poetry, enabling quantitative analysis of previously qualitative aspects such as rhyme schemes and figures of speech [11]. This technological integration broadens the scope of literary study, providing new avenues for research and interpretation. The ongoing development of these tools will undoubtedly continue to shape the future of poetry studies, offering new possibilities for understanding and appreciating poetic expression across various languages and cultures. The integration of technology into the study of poetry also raises new questions about authorship, originality, and the very definition of poetry itself. As AI-generated poetry becomes increasingly sophisticated, the boundaries between human and machine creativity will continue to be explored and debated.

### **5. Conclusion.**

In conclusion, the question "What is poetry?" remains open to interpretation. There is no single, universally accepted definition, as the very nature of poetry resists rigid categorization. However, by examining poetry across cultures and time periods, analyzing its intrinsic and extrinsic elements, and exploring its functions and purposes, we can arrive at a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of this multifaceted art form. The integration of semiotics and technology into the study of poetry further enhances our ability to analyze and interpret poetic expression, revealing new layers of meaning and significance. The ongoing dialogue surrounding the definition and interpretation of poetry reflects its dynamic and evolving nature, ensuring that this ancient art form remains relevant and engaging for generations to come. Further research is needed to explore the complexities of poetry across different cultures and time periods, to develop more sophisticated computational tools for analyzing poetic elements, and to address the ethical and philosophical implications of AI-generated poetry. The study of poetry is a continuous process of discovery, a journey of exploration that reveals the enduring power and beauty of human expression.

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