



**Abstract:** *Figurative language reveals meanings and analyses. Therefore, the researcher focuses on this analysis in Taufiq Rafat's poem "The Time to Love." This research analyses language features and establishes meaning. There are three research problems: What are the kinds of figures of speech used in Taufiq Rafat's poem? What are the lexical categories indicated in Taufiq Rafat's poem? What are the content meanings of figurative language revealed in Taufiq Rafat's poem entitled "The Time to Love"? The study explores answers using a multilevel approach to the first and second research problems. Both are analyzed and based on two language levels: figures of speech and lexical categories. The third problem was answered by connecting the language features to reveal meanings in the poem. The findings are the answers to the research problem. The figures of speech used by the poet include alliterations, assonances, consonances, metaphors, personifications, and symbols. The lexical categories consist of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. The third research problem is to link each other to deliver the meaning that love, nature, and human life experience in the poem. From the two analysis levels, figurative language contributes the most to constructing the meaning.*

**Key Words:** Figurative Language, Multilevel Approach, The Time to Love

## Introduction

Poetry as a literary genre has connotative and expressive meaning, which is relatively uncommon in drama and prose. Wainwright (2004) states that the words that are used every day are considered part of poetry that performs gesturing and functioning.

There is no similarity between diction in poetry and everyday language expression because it has both literal and lexical meanings. The language used by the poet in poetry is more complex in meaning. Common people cannot understand the hidden meaning of the poetic language that is used in poetry.

Poets express feelings and ideas in poetry, which is considered rhyme, rhythm, diction, and figurative language. Human experiences and imaginations are dealt with by the feelings and thoughts of the poets. In their work, poets use metaphoric expressions and words with implicit meaning.

Figurative language is used for figures of speech, and it is different from literal meaning. The writers use figures of speech for emphasis and freshness, which are separate from the denotative meaning of the word (Kennedy, 1979).

Risdianto (2011) states that the comparison between two unlike things, for instance, similes and metaphors, constitutes figurative language. The different meanings conveyed by a figure of speech may not be expressed exactly, but they are conveyed in a shorter time. The figures of speech convey the

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allegorical meanings rather than expressing it theoretically (Potter 1967). The figures of speech use imagery instead of words in their literal sense (Hedges 1984).

Potter (1967) states that the figure of speech used to create figurative language, which contains imagery with a narrow sense of visual phenomena, is metaphor. In addition, it covers the sense of impression. The process of metaphor is to make a comparison between two unlike things that have some common characteristics.

The words used in figurative language imply a new meaning. Besides that, the poet expresses and describes his feelings by using different styles of figurative language. According to Wellek and Warren (1956), a poet is considered a literary artist. He further states that language is used as a source of material in his paintings. It means the poet plays with language to create a poem. Perrine and Arp (1963) state that figurative language is different from ordinary language. In his view, the twelve types of figurative language are: irony, simile, symbol, personification, metaphor, metonymy, apostrophe, paradox, allegory, hyperbole, synecdoche, and understatement. Keraf (2008) posits that figurative language consists of many kinds, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, irony, synecdoche, metonymy, parable, paradox, oxymoron, antithesis, repetition, and symbol.

Kennedy (1979) opines that the figure of speech that is untrue is not included in such devices. In fact, he states that truths are factual because language cannot converse. He concentrates on such truths and emphasises them. Recently, linguists have examined figurative language on a large scale in literature. It includes the essence of beauty and style. It gives a more effective way of saying something that we imply rather than a direct statement. In a more specific form, figurative language can take different kinds of figures of speech. It is used in all forms of communication, such as poems, novels, advertisements, articles in newspapers, etc.

Literature includes figurative language. It is a literary device that is used to express and evoke feelings and produce a sublime effect by creating interesting comparisons. The author uses figurative language, which is a collection of literary devices to guide the reader through writing. They use literary devices, which mean that the literal meaning differs from what is being said. It helps to give a clear picture of what is happening or is used to entertain and motivate the reader.

There should be certain reasons why we use figurative language in different kinds of literature, such as prose, poetry, non-fiction, and fiction. Figurative language not only makes the sounds of language more beautiful but also has different ways of saying something (Perrine and Arp 1963). Figurative language is not only to make the sounds of language more beautiful, but it also includes imaginative pleasure to convey attitude along with information in literary works.

The purpose of the current study is to analyse figurative language in the Taufiq Rafat poem *The Time to Love*. It is based on the observation of the researchers that most students find difficulties when studying or reading a poem. Hence, any difficult vocabulary or expression in it is either explained or given special attention.

Taufiq Rafat is an Asian Romantic poet, best known for the Pakistani Idiom (2023). The selected poem of Taufiq Rafat becomes the primary source, while the secondary data source is some previous research and other references that correlate with the topic of the researcher. It was the first poem in his first collection from the book "Arrival of Monsoon." This book was published in 1985 by Taufiq Rafat. "The time to love" is a free-verse poem. This poem contains eighteen lines. The poet himself narrates it. The researchers use a multilevel approach to analyse the poem. Analyse the data by doing an in-depth reading of the selected poem, finding figurative language, and then identifying the most dominant figures of speech used in the selected poem. In order to help the readers understand the real meaning of the poem, the study sets out to achieve the following objectives:

## Research Objective

1. To identify and analyse the figurative language used in Taufiq Rafat's poem "The Time to Love."
2. To analyse the lexical features used in the poem "The Time to Love."
3. To find out the meaning of the figures of speech in the poem entitled "The Time to Love".

## Literature Review

The term "figurative" derives from the Old French word "figuratif," meaning "metaphorical." Simply put, a language that consists of figures of speech is called figurative language. Figures of speech are a form of speech that differs from usual usage. Figures of speech are a deviation from the traditional type of speech or a general sequence of ideas to produce a larger effect.

Figurative language is the use of words, phrases, or sentences in a way that deviates from the ordinary or traditional sequence. Figures of speech communicate unique and specific ideas that affect the readers. It entails a comparison between two entities, either implicitly or explicitly. Simile, metaphor, symbol, exaggeration, personification, euphemism, contradiction, and other figures of speech serve as the backbone of the figurative language. Figurative language involves grammatically and semantically indicated characteristics.

The study focuses on figurative language and supports the problem based on Leech and Perrine's theory. There are different kinds of figurative language. Examples include metaphor, apostrophe, simile, metonymy, allegory, synecdoche, hyperbola, paradox, understatement, overstatement, and irony.

## Alliteration

The recurrence of the same or similar consonant sounds at the start of adjacent words is known as alliteration. It is defined as the repetition of an initial consonant appearing in two or more words (Wales 2014). It is an important device used in poetry. Companies and individuals frequently use alliteration to make names simpler to remember. The repetition occurs at the beginning of the words in the same line (Abrams and Harpham 2014).

However, in English poetry, alliteration is mainly utilized for specific artistic effects, such as strengthening and connecting words. It creates a link to relate to and adds colour and clarity to the tone. This particular figure of speech involves repeating equal consonants.

## Assonance

Assonance occurs when repeated vowel sounds are in the same line. It is the recurrence of the same or identical vowel sounds in a sequence of adjacent words, especially in stressed syllables (Abrams 1993). It is concerned with the repetition of vowel sounds in words.

## Consonance

The repeating of consonant sounds is known as consonance. It is only when recurrences of identical consonant sounds are before and after distinct vowel sounds. It is not as widely used as alliteration.

## Hyperbole

An exaggerated remark is known as hyperbole. It is the exaggeration of reality or possibility employed for serious, sarcastic, or humorous effects (Abrams 1993). It is a satirical or ironic way of focusing on a point. It can be used to exaggerate admiration or contempt.

## Imagery

The use of imagery allows readers to experience things through their five senses. The objects and qualities of some entities in the poem and other pieces of literature are denoted by imagery. It is a collection of images put together. Image may be in visual, tactile, olfactory, kinesthetic, abstract, auditory and gustatory forms (Cuddon 1999). Imagery is the use of language to convey sensory information (Perrine 1988). It is a concrete and literal sensory experience of anything identified by one or more senses (Holman 1985). It is a component of any creative writing that engages the senses of readers (Brown and Olmsted 1962). By enhancing sensuality, imagery enlivens the context and situation of the acts.

## Simile

A simile is a rhetorical device that compares two disparate objects using comparisons. Syarwani (2017) states that a simile is a comparison between two, unlike things. It uses words: like, as, then, as like,



resemble and similar. Rika (2021) states that explicit comparison includes equations and parables referred to as similes. To sum up, the indirect and explicit comparison between two unlike things is referred to as a simile and uses words: as, like, as if, resemble and seem.

## Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes something in terms of something else. In most cases, metaphor is applied implicitly; however, in simile, it is stated explicitly (Cuddon 1999). It is a common literary device for implying something indirectly.

Similes and metaphors share certain similarities. Both of them discuss contrasts between two unlike things. Perrine and Arp (1963) state that only the connecting words set them apart. The comparison of metaphors is implicit. On the other hand, a simile consists of two words: like and then. Metaphor is the direct comparison between two unlike things. Examples include animal to human, human to human, and human to things. Metaphor is historically the most significant way of utilising figurative language. It is typically associated with literary or lyrical expression (Saeed 2011). It is similar to a simile. It is harder to define a metaphor than a simile. The most important thing to know is that whenever a poet uses a metaphor, they always think of a contrast. The use of linking words between metaphor and simile creates differences. The figurative language is associated with the literal term in a metaphor. By comparing one item to another or associating one thing with another, the metaphor alludes to a comparison between two dissimilar things that share one or more points (Sulistia 2022).

According to Keraf (2008), a metaphor is the kind of parallelism that swiftly and immediately compares two things. When there are certain similarities or connections between two ideas, a metaphor is a declaration of understanding of one notion about the other.

## Personification

The attribution of human traits to non-human things is known as personification. It is connected with literary, particularly poetic language (Wales 2014). Giving human attributes to non-human entities amplifies the comparison.

Perrine and Arp (1963) state that personification is a literary device that attributes human characteristics to non-human entities. According to Keraf (2008), it is a form of figure of speech in which dead objects are personified by living entities. Personification is the substitution of human traits for animals, objects, and unique thoughts. According to Cuddon (2013), personification is a technique that gives the appearance of animate objects to the non-living, much like people. Like most humans, they are capable of speaking and moving. It is a sort of metaphor, an implicit comparison, in which the subject of the comparison is always a person (Dewi 2020).

It relates to the personification of a quality or attribute to strengthen perception (Werdiningsih 2021). "Personification is the act in which an inanimate thing refers to human characteristics" (Abrams and Harpham 2014; Hasanah 2018).

## Symbolism

The use of symbols to represent ideas or attributes is known as symbolism. A symbol is a living or inanimate object that represents something else (Cuddon 1999). Symbols help to clarify the meaning of the words.

## Symbol

The term "symbolism" only refers to words or phrases that refer to other things or have a broader range of meanings. In communication, meaning is a crucial component. Without meaning, language would not exist. A language is a tool for conveying meaning (Abrams and Harpham 2014).

Perrine and Arp (1963) state that symbols are something that signifies more than it does. It could imply that symbols are words, signs, or cues. It may suggest that symbols are words, such as significance, quality, abstraction, ideas, or objects that have meaning. Another explanation for understanding a symbol is that

it reflects or describes a form. The sign can use to identify an object. An item, person, circumstance, or action that shows something more abstract is known as a symbol.

## Free Verse Poems

The poet arranges lines of poetry that are either rhymed or unrhymed in a random metrical arrangement. It includes irregular line patterns and unrhymed poetry. Poets do not use constraints and rules of poetry to express feelings in their hearts (Werdiningsih 2021).

Language is one of the elements of poetry. The use of language in poetry enhances its value and power. It generally attracts the reader by using original, significant, and attractive words. Imagery, diction, and figurative language are elements of poetry's language. The researcher also focuses on figurative language in the current study. Some linguists have different viewpoints on how to classify figurative language.

According to Perrine (1983), synecdoche, personification, metaphor, simile, metonymy, allegory, symbol, paradox, exaggeration and irony are types of figurative language. Rozakis (1995) states that allegory, ambiguity, connotation, denotation, apostrophe, conceit, contrast, metaphor, irony, litotes, irony, hyperbole, metonymy, onomatopoeia, sarcasm, simile, oxymoron, personification, symbolism, synecdoche, understatement, synesthesia and transferred epithet are kinds of figurative language. Keraf (2008) outlined numerous forms of figurative language and divided them into four groups: Comparisons, contrast, repetition and relationship.

Figurative language is not deviant. It is not a type of communication that needs unique or extra cognitive processes to comprehend and only occurs in unusual conditions. Figurative language is used more frequently to convey severe emotional states rather than milder ones.

Christophersen and McArthur (1992) divided figures of speech into two main groups; they are:

- a. Phonological figures which consist of alliteration, onomatopoeia and assonance.
- b. Lexical figures, they broaden the conventional so as to entertain or surprise.

Even though other linguists classify figures of speech differently, the principles and concepts are almost identical. According to Perrine and Arp (1963), figures of speech are a way of expressing one thing while implying another. She further claimed that figures of speech should not be regarded literally and that they fulfill the purpose of providing additional meaning to words, phrases, and sentences beyond their original meanings. She also suggested that figures of speech, rather than plain assertions, might be more effective ways of expressing what we intend. She goes on to add that figure of speech is a manner of conveying something that is not conventional. Figurative language may sometimes give a hidden meaning or a sense of comedy.

Generally, figurative language, such as idioms and metaphors, has been regarded as derivative and more difficult than simple language. However, a common belief is that figurative language employs the same grammatical and pragmatic procedures as ordinary, literal language (Glucksberg and McGlone 2001). In a particular sense, the figurative language has a distinct style. The clarity of someone's figurative expression is affected by their language style. It is referred to as figurative language or figurative style.

This introduction to figurative language explains and develops additional knowledge for grasping various concepts, including metonymy, metaphor, blending and simile. Figurative language serves the artistic worth of writing, particularly poetry. Figurative language assists in communication in a more beautiful and high-quality language. Word choice, diction, phrases, clauses, sentences, and even the entire discussion are all included in figurative language. Perrine and Arp (1963) define figurative language as a way of expressing things in a non-traditional way.

Language makes it easy for people to communicate with each other because it is an essential part of human life. Without language, we are unable to communicate successfully. Language is a system of vowel symbols created by humans. It divides into two categories: figurative language and literal language. It indicates that when someone uses the figurative word, they do not mean it literally. Speakers and writers can express a variety of meanings in several ways with the aid of figurative language. They frequently communicate clear truth that language cannot; they pay attention to such facts on which they want to



place stress. According to Barnet, Berman et al. (1963) definition of figurative language, the word "figuratively" deviates from logical usage and cannot be interpreted literally. According to Longman III and Enns (2008), Figurative language is the ability of a speaker to persuade an audience with a particular idea or term that does not have the usual literal meaning or connotation.

Figurative language may be used when a statement or piece of writing has more than one meaning. Abrams and Harpham (2014) state that figurative language is a diversion from what language speakers typically understand to be meaningful or the standard language or word order to create specific effects.

Figurative language is a medium of communication that includes ideas, thoughts, and feelings conveyed implicitly instead of explicitly. It includes implied meanings that are not complex. Figurative language consists of different means of communication: poems, articles, novels, songs, short stories, daily conversations, and advertisements. There are two types of figurative language in linguistics: figures of speech and schemes. These figurative words have more meaning than their actual forms. Paradigmatic is related to tropes, which are part of figurative language. The syntagmatic relates to a schema. It changes the word pattern into sentences.

According to Huda (2013), instead of using the figurative word in the literary language, for instance, in drama, poetry, and prose, it is also used in ordinary story writing or linguistic studies. Meanwhile, most people relate figures of speech to literary style. The reason is that the field of literature is essential in analysing language form. To write a story, a novelist may also use figurative language.

For a better understanding of figurative language, the reader needs to pay attention to their imagination. According to Perrine and Arp (1963), the language that is not comprehended in the literal sense is called figurative language. Cuddon (2013) states that figurative language is different from literal language. It uses figures of speech instead of literal meaning. The composition of words does not reveal the meaning of figurative language.

Figurative language is mostly related to literary works. It manifests itself in newspapers, novels, songs, advertisements, and poems. Imagination is required to understand the meanings of figures of speech. Figurative language is manipulated in poetry and enhances literature. The ultimate aim is to let the reader imagine or comprehend what the author means by a statement or expression. Generally, when someone speaks or writes anything, they utilise figurative language to convey numerous meanings. Kennedy (1979) states that it is a cause of emphasis and freshness. The writer uses figurative language to reveal the implied meaning instead of literal language.

According to Arifah (2016), figurative language has meaning and merges the desire of the speaker's emotions, convinces others, and causes surprise. It discusses the various implications of the literal interpretations. As a result, he can convince the audience to accept concepts or expressions that are not obvious or literal. To create a specific effect, meaning is also a deviation from what language speakers understand to be a theory, standard, value, or sequence of words.

According to the above definitions and explanations, figurative language includes spoken and written expression to convey thinking, ideas, and sentiment while also containing implied meaning. The reader is forced to think harder about how to interpret the text because of the author's use of unusual terms and language affected by her personality. Thus, figurative language can be used in a completely different way from other types of language; its distinctiveness comes from the words that the writer or speaker chooses to use.

Language plays a significant function as a way of communication in all facets of human life. But occasionally, when individuals interpret a language literally, misunderstandings develop and meanings change. The writers generate a variety of literary works, including poems, plays, short tales, and novels. Poetry is one form of literature. One artistic effort that elevates a text to poetic status is poetry. The meanings of poems are determined by the choice of language (Mulyani 2016). It uses figurative language to communicate a message through poetry.

"Figurative language is a type of language that uses words or sentences with a deeper meaning than their literal meanings" (Adkins 1968). Figurative language can be used in various kinds of studies that

psychologists, linguists, and other language experts commonly study. The volume of this research has concentrated on significant, unanswered problems about how individuals interpret situations like this, where the speaker's intentions and the language employed are distant in several ways (Colston 2020). Furthermore, according to Christophersen and McArthur (1992), metaphors and other figures of speech freely occurs in figurative language. He adds that figures of speech are tools that employ words in specific ways to get a particular effect.

Literature has a unique vocabulary, and language makes a significant artistic contribution to literature. Language style affects literature's artistic quality (Endraswara, 2003). The study of applied linguistics uses textual analysis for the construction and function of language. It implies that style refers to the method by which text is structured, particularly when it comes to poetry. The style describes that language is utilized for a specific audience, goal, setting, message, etc. Some branches of language analysis distinguish between literal and figurative language. Words that do not vary from their intended meaning use literal language. Words and word clusters that exaggerate or change the conventional meanings of the component words are known as non-literal or figurative language (Rahmawati 2019).

Literary writers' choice of specific figurative language is based on the context of a text. There are many uses of figurative language. They are used to make content clearer, give specific instances, underline a point, arouse associations and feelings, and give inanimate objects a playful or artistic aspect and emphasis. Figurative languages can help us improve our speaking, reading, and writing abilities. Someone who is interpreting anything will almost certainly want to read it. So that they can express what is in their thoughts without actually seeing what the meaning is. It can improve thinking skills to determine whether a word has the intended meaning or whether there are additional hidden meanings (SPYRI).

The stylistic aspect of this resides in choosing words that do not explicitly state their true meaning. A crucial component of language style is the use of beautiful and functional terms. The author has a significant impact on the words chosen. Because each author uses a unique language style to create artistic and creative language, literary works will differ from other literary works in terms of language style.

## Methodology

The current study employs qualitative and descriptive methodology. We chose Leech and Short's model for the analysis. A multilevel approach is included in this model to analyse figurative language. We selected two levels of multilevel approach in the present research: figures of speech and Lexical categories to unravel the meaning of the selected poem. In the lexical categories, we figure out the parts of speech that occur in the poem. In figures of speech, we explore alliteration, metaphor, assonance, consonance and symbol, etc.

## Data Analysis

The analysis of the poem is related to figurative language that covers two levels. This study analyzed figures of speech: alliteration, consonance, symbol, assonance and metaphor. In alliteration, the researcher paid attention to the repetition of the initial consonant sound per line. Consonance is the opposite of alliteration, which is the repetition of the final consonant. Meanwhile, assonance is the repetition of a word. Metaphor is the direct comparison between two, unlike things. After identification of these figures, the study figures out the meanings of the poem by connecting the sentences.

At the lexical level, we observed parts of speech that give particular meanings to the poem. Thus, the first part of the analysis is about the figurative language of the poem. The second part investigates how the meanings of the poem figure out through figurative language. Using a multilevel approach, this study analysed the figures of speech and lexical categories details of which are given below:

## Figures of Speech

The researcher finds figures of speech in the poem "The time to love". It consists of alliteration, consonance, assonance, symbol and metaphor.



Firstly, the researcher analyses the alliterations in the poem. Alliteration is the repetition of consonance sounds at the beginning of adjacent words (Hashmi, Mahmood et al. 2019). Table 1 gives a detailed description of the instances of Alliterations found in the poem.

**Table 1**

Alliterations in the poem "The time to love"

No	Alliteration	Example	Meanings
1	/s/	Is when the heart s <u>ays</u> s <u>o</u>	The consonant sound /s/ is a voiceless alveolar fricative that gets repeated in the word "says" and "so" in the line "is when the heart says so" that describing the condition of the heart that one cannot love at a particular time.
2	/t/	The <u>t</u> ime <u>t</u> o love	The first line "The time to love" employs the repetition of voiceless /t/ sound in the word "the", "time" and "to" which means that there is no time for love because it has its own accord and time. It is not bound with time because it is timeless. Time for love is universal and can happen at any time.
3	/i/	If it <u>i</u> s muddy aug <u>u</u> st	In this line "If it is muddy august" retains the repetition of the short vowel /i/ sound "if", "it" and "is". This recurrence deals with the condition of a particular month of August when everything is muddy. Nobody cares about the hot month like August. Love knows no time because it can come to anyone and is not fixed by the weather or months.
4	/v/	From <u>v</u> antage to <u>v</u> antage Line 8)	The voiced sound /v/ employs the repetition of "vantage" and "vantage" in the line "From vantage to vantage". This recurrence deals with the spontaneous reaction because no one says that someone will love a specific occasion. Love blossoms in one's heart without someone's own accord.
5	/w/	<u>W</u> hile <u>w</u> e sing	In the line "While we sing" employs the repetition of the voiced bilabial semi-vowel /w/ in words "while" and "we". Love has great importance for the poets and singers that they need to sing a song for love and sit on any branch to talk about love matters. Songs show powerfulness, universality and feelings of love.

After Alliteration, the study finds assonance in the poem "The time to love". According to Bradford, assonance is the repetition of similar vowels within the individual and across the line (Bradford 2005). In short, assonance is the repetition of the vowel in the same line. The instances of assonances that the researcher found in the poem are displayed below in Table 2:

**Table 2**

Assonances in the poem "The time to love"

No	Assonance	Example	Meanings
1	/i/	To the wait <u>i</u> ng salt- <u>l</u> ick	The repetition of the short high front vowel /i/ in the line "To the waiting salt-lick". "Salt-lick" relates to the month of spring. It is a month of beauty and comes with the taste of love. Love makes no noise because it comes peacefully.
2	/ʌ/	L <u>o</u> ve is c <u>o</u> untry	In the line "Love is country" retains the repetition of the short vowel /ʌ/ sound "love" and "country". It suggests the vastness of love by saying that love is a big country or state. Love surpasses all emotions. Love in itself is a whole world with its climate. It shows the power of love which makes its timing and place.
3	/a: /	From <u>v</u> antage to <u>v</u> antage	There is the repetition of the back long vowel sound /a: / in the word "vantage" and "vantage". It means that love is available at any time or place. Love goes to the highest or most beautiful points because it walks everywhere.



After Assonance, the researchers analyzed consonances in the poem "The time to love". Cuddon (2013) states that consonance is the repetition of identical consonant sounds after dissimilar vowels. Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in multiple words at the middle and end. It is not as common as alliteration. Consonances that the researcher found in the poem "The poem to love" are presented below in Table 3.

**Table 1**

Consonances in the poem "The time to love"

No	Consonance	Example	Meanings
1	/e/	The <u>ti</u> me to <u>lo</u> ve	There is the repetition of the front short vowel sound /e/ in the word "the", "time" and "love". Love needs no particular time because there is no limit to the time for love. It is not fixed with time because love shows vastness, universality and powerfulness.
2	/dʒ/	From <u>van</u> tage to <u>van</u> tage	In the line "From vantage to vantage", there is the repetition of the front short vowel sound /e/ the words "vantage" and "vantage". Love moves everywhere because it is available at any time. It dissolves peacefully at any place because love has its sweet taste.
3	/e/	While <u>w</u> e sing	There is the repetition of the front short vowel sound /e/ in the word "while" and "we". It shows the feeling of power and universality through singing because love sits at any branch and discusses the matters of love. Singing a love song has importance for singers and poets to sing it beautifully.
4	/z/	<u>I</u> s when the heart <u>s</u> ays so	The repetition of voiced alveolar fricative /z/ in words "is" and "say". It describes the feelings of love. Nobody cares about the condition of the heart to love or not. There is no fixed time to love because it can move everywhere and has its seasons to love.
5	/t/	If <u>i</u> t is muddy <u>a</u> ugust	There is the repetition of voiceless alveolar plosives /t/ in the words "it" and "august". It describes that love has its time and nobody cares about the weather in august when everything is muddy. Love comes there at any time. No one cares whether the season is hot or cold.

The researcher analyzed metaphor in the poem "The time to love". A metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two, unlike things. The simile is explicit: comparison is implicit (Cuddon 1999). The metaphors in the poem "The time to love" are presented in Table 4.

**Table 4**

Metaphor in the poem "The time to love"

No	Metaphors	Meanings
1	For love's <u>infallible feet</u>	In the line "For love's infallible feet", it shows the metaphorical expressions that love has infallible feet. Love is a saintly feature. In our life, love comes peacefully and calmly. It does not create any noise.
2	Love <u>is country</u>	In the line "Love is country", love shows metaphorically in a vast way that love is a big state or country. It suggests that love in itself is the whole world.

After similes, the researchers analyzed personification in the poem "The time to love". Personification is the attribution of human qualities to non-human objects (Wales 2014). The personification in the poem "The time to love" is presented in Table 5 below.



**Table 2**

Personification in the poem “The time to love”

No	Personification	Meaning
1	For love’s <u>infallible feet</u>	The poet personifies love with human qualities, such as infallible feet. Infallible feet characterize that love comes peacefully like a saint in the sixth line.

The next on the list of analysed figures are symbols in the poem. Symbolism refers to signifying ideas or qualities. It is an object, animate or inanimate, that stands something for something else (Cuddon 1999). Symbols give deep meaning to the poem. Table 6 presents the symbols used in the poem “The time to love”

**Table 3**

Symbols in the poem “The time to love”

No	Symbols	Meanings
1	If it is <u>muddy august</u> Or <u>tepid april?</u>	These lines “If it is muddy august” and “Or tepid april” symbolize the images of culture by using "muddy august" and "tepid april". Love has no particular time or season. It comes in the hot month like august but the most suitable month for love is april. april is a month when love matters a lot. So, these lines highlight the importance of language by using small letters of months like "august" and "april".

**Lexical Category**

Next, we analysed the lexical items in the poem. It includes parts of speech which manipulate the scheme of words. The poet makes use of nouns like April, august, spring and climate. He also utilizes adjectives to qualify the degree of nouns very easily. Prepositions, verbs and adverbs are also present. Here, the researchers has drawn Table 7 comprising of parts of speech utilized by the poet in the poem.

**Table 4**

Lexical items in the poem “The time to love”

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives	Adverb	Prepositions
Time	Waiting	Muddy	Daintily	To
Love	Sing	Tepid		For
Cares	Salt-lick	Infallible		From
August		Step		On
April		Rhymesters		with
Daintily		Salt-lick		
Vantage				
Waiting				
Spring				
Significance				
Need				
Abough				
Sing				
Climate				
Country				
Heart				
Feet				
Rhymesters				
Perch				

**Discussions and Conclusion**

This section provides a discussion of findings from data analysis. The data analysis presented in the previous section has tables, allowing the researcher to identify the answers to research questions. As the tables above show, the poem entitled "The Time to Love" by Taufiq Rafat utilises six types of figurative

language. They are simile, metaphor, personification, consonance, assonance, and alliteration. Moreover, there are eighteen lines written by the poet using figurative language. The result of the data analysis revealed the meanings of figurative language using a multilevel approach.

Firstly, the study analysed the alliterations in the poem. Five alliterations occur in it. The alliterations are /s/, /t/, /i/, /v/, and /w/. The first alliteration is the consonant sound /s/, which is a voiceless alveolar fricative. The example of alliteration /s/ can be seen through the words "says" and "so" in the line "is when the heart says so." The second alliteration, /t/, is a voiceless sound. It can be seen through the words "time" and "to" in "The time to love." The third alliteration is the short vowel sound /i/. "If it is muddy August," it can be seen through the words "if," "it," and "is." The fourth alliteration, /v/, is a voiced sound. It can indicate

through the words "vantage" and "vantage." The fifth alliteration is the voiced bilabial /w/ sound. The alliteration /w/ can be seen through the words "while" and "we."

Secondly, we found assonances in the poem. Three instances of assonance occur in the poem. The first assonance, /i/, is a short, high-front vowel. It can be seen from the words "waiting" and "salt-lick." The second assonance, /ʌ/, is the short vowel sound. In the line "love is country," it can be seen through the words "love" and "country." The last assonance, /a:/, is the backlong vowel sound. It can be seen from "vantage" and "vantage."

Thirdly, the study found consonances in the poem. Five consonances occur in it. The first consonance, /e/, is a front short vowel sound. In the line "The time to love," it is obvious in the words "the," "time," and "love." The second /dʒ/ is a front short vowel sound. The reader can see from "vantage" and "vantage." The front short vowel /e/ is present as the third consonance. The "while" and "we" are instances. The fourth z is the voiced alveolar fricative sound. It occurs in "is" and "says." The last is the voiceless alveolar plosive /t/ sound. It occurs in "it" and "august."

Fourthly, we noticed metaphors in the poem. Metaphor is a direct comparison between two unlike things. The first metaphor is "infallible feet," which refers to saintly features in the sixth line. The second metaphor is "love is country," which metaphorically shows the vastness of the whole world.

At fifty, we analysed personification. It gave non-human qualities to human qualities. In the line, "for love's infallible feet," which personifies love with a human quality, Lastly, the researcher finds symbols in the poem. "If it is muddy August" and "Or tepid April?" show the Pakistani cultures.

The second part of our analysis focused on the lexical categories. It includes parts of speech and consists of nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions.

Firstly, the study analyses the most frequently used parts of speech, such as nouns. It is the name of a person, place, or thing. The current research mainly focuses on three types of nouns. Abstract nouns are those nouns that include ideas, feelings, and emotions. For example, time, love, cares, August, April, daintily, vantage, waiting, spring, significance, need, abough, sing, climate, and country. Concrete nouns refer to physical things. Examples include the heart, feet, and perch. Collective nouns are those nouns that show collections of a group of people or things, such as rhymesters.

Secondly, the researcher finds verbs that show action. It consists of waiting, singing, and salt-licking.

Thirdly, we found adjectives that refer to the qualities of nouns or pronouns. They include muddy, tepid April, infallible, and salt-lick. Fourthly, the adverb that modifies a verb or adjective, such as daintily, is used in the poem. Lastly, prepositions that refer to linking words used consist of to, for, from, on, and with.

As for the analysis of the poem's meaning, i.e., the third level of investigation, Rafat wrote the poem uniquely using strong figures and parts of speech and formed the meanings around them. The researcher finds meaning by connecting the language features analysed in the previous section.

The poem "The Time to Love" is about love, nature, and human life experiences. Figurative language is used to reveal the meaning of the poem.



Rafat makes profuse use of the figures of speech, viz., alliterations, assonances, consonances, metaphors, personifications, and symbols, to emphasise the meaning of the poem.

Alliteration occurs in the lines "The time to love," "time," and "to." This line is the poem's title as well. It means that this is a question, a statement, or a message. The main message of this line is that, by asking, do you think that there's time for love or not? There is no particular time for love because it is timeless and universal. In the second line, "Is when the heart says so?" using alliteration in "says" and "so," Raffat wants to emphasise the timeless nature of love. This line reveals the condition of the heart and passion for love. Love has no time. A person cannot love at a particular time. So, this line shows the vastness and power of love.

In the line "If it is muddy August" of the poem, using words like "if," "it," and "is," Raffat further elaborates on the timeless nature of love, the idea he established in the line "is when the heart says so." Love is not

fixed by the weather or restricted by months like August, which is a "muddy" and hot month. It does not matter because love comes to everyone at any time or month. So, this shows Pakistani culture as well.

In the line "From vantage to vantage" of the poem, the words "vantage" and "vantage". It shows a spontaneous reaction. Love is available everywhere because it arises in someone's heart of its own accord. It is possible to continue to walk because it can go to the highest and most beautiful points.

In the line "while we sing," the researcher reveals the meanings by using words like "while" and "we." The poets sing a love song and sit on any perch to discuss love affairs. The song shows the strength, freedom, peace, and power of love.

The line "to the waiting salt-lick" shows meanings by using the words "waiting" and "salt-lick." It relates to the month of spring, when beauty comes with a sweet taste that everybody likes. When love is available, it takes no time because it is timeless and universal.

The line "Love is country" of the poem "The time to love" reveals the meaning by using the words "love" and "country." "Love is country" shows the vastness of love; it is a big state or country. Love is a force or power that finds its place and time. It has no boundary because it can be felt at any moment.

The "From vantage to vantage" line shows the repetition of the words "vantage" and "vantage." It means that love is available at any time. It walks everywhere, moves to the highest peak, and steps daintily. Love is a powerful feeling because it has its own climate and accord.

The poem means that love is not fixed with time because it is universal. It is compared to time, and no one cares if there is time to love or not. Love is available at all times.

In the line "From vantage to vantage," there is a repetition of the words "vantage" and "vantage." It shows love is available at any time because it dissolves peacefully. It makes no noise. Love may arrive in the month of spring, which shows its beauty with a sweet taste. Spring is the sign of rebirth and hope.

In the line "While we sing," the inclusive "we" demonstrates the strength of humanity. Love sits at any branch and discusses love matters. Love songs show hope and powerfulness.

In this line, "is when the heart says so," the words "is" and "says" reveal the meaning. It describes the feelings of a heart's condition. No one cares whatever the weather or time is because it is timeless. It has no fixed time for love because it is universal.

The line "If it is muddy, August" describes the weather using words like "it" and "August." August is hot and muddy, but no one cares about it. The poet has been indicating that April is more suitable than August, but lovers don't bother about it. Love does not need a month, time, or space because it moves freely.

Using the metaphor "infallible feet" in the line "for love's infallible feet, the poet makes a comparison between two non-similar things. Love has infallible feet, which means it moves silently. Love is a saintly feature. It does not make any noise. In the line "Love is a country," the poet metaphorically compares love

with a country. It shows that love is a big state. The poet compares this line in a vast sense. Love in itself is a whole world. It means that love is a force and power with its climate, place, and time.

The poet personifies feet by using the expression "infallible feet" with love in the line "for love's infallible feet." It means that love walks everywhere and comes peacefully, like a saint. Lastly, the researcher finds symbols in the lines "If it is muddy August" and "or tepid April?". The words "muddy August" and "tepid April" It shows the image of culture. The poet says April is more suitable than August, but love has no particular time or month. So, the poet highlights the importance of language by using the small letters of the months.

The second part of lexical categories reveals the meanings. Nouns are the most frequently used expressions in the poem, which play a huge role in the formation of figures of speech. The nouns in the poem consist of time, love, cares, august, april, daintily, vantage, waiting, spring, significance, need, abough, sing, climate, country heart, feet, rhymesters, and perch. After the nouns, another part of speech is the verb that shows action. Examples include waiting, singing, and salt-licking. Thirdly, the researcher finds adjectives and describes the qualities of nouns. It consists of muddy August, tepid April, infallible feet, step daintily, rhymesters, and salt-lick. The adverb modifies the verb and an adjective, such as step daintily. In the last, the

researcher finds prepositions. It is a group of words used before a noun or pronoun to show time, place, and direction. An example includes to, for, from, on, and with.

The research explores how the role of figurative language at different levels contributes to revealing the meaning of every part of the poem. However, the ways of understanding a poem may be different for every reader. The most important thing is to convey the author's message to the reader. The reason is that the researcher analyses a poem to deliver a particular meaning to the reader. In this research, "the time to love" can be achieved by breaking down the figurative language and evaluating it to construct the meaning.

The first problem is finding the figurative language in the poem. The researcher answered the problem using two language levels: figures of speech and lexical items. In figures of speech, it includes alliteration, assonances, consonances, metaphor, personification, and symbols. The researcher explores five parts of speech in the lexical categories, which contribute to revealing meanings just as figures of speech do because figures of speech are composed of parts of speech.

By analysing Taufiq Rafat's "The Time to Love and how it utilises such figurative language, this research also proves that the meanings of a poem can be successfully obtained and understood by figurative language.

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