

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF POEMS, “THE RAVEN” AND “TO MY PEGASUS**“THE RAVEN” (KUZGUN) VE “TO MY PEGASUS” (PEGASUS) ŞİİRLERİNİN KARŞILAŞTIRMALI ANALİZİ****Assistant Prof.Dr. Serap SARIBAŞ**Karamanoğlu Mehmetbey University, Faculty of Letters, English Language and Literature, Karaman, Turkey
OCID ID: 0000-0002-4079-8024**Cite As** Sarbaş, S. (2021). “A Comparative Analysis Of Poems, “The Raven” And “To My Pegasus”, International Academic Social Resources Journal, (e-ISSN: 2636-7637), Vol:6, Issue:31, pp:1683-1685**ABSTRACT**

Each poem represents its poet's philosophy of life and perceptual patterns. While some poets adopt more emotional and human-oriented approaches, others rather focus on individualistic and materialistic themes which are free from feelings. Some poets tend to write their poems by focusing on a set of rules, others do not hold on to any definite rules. In the present study, Edgar Allan Poe's “The Raven” and Filippo Tommaso Marinetti's “To My Pegasus” were compared and used as an example to examine the distinction between well-structured poem and free verse poem. Even though these two poems seem quite different from each other, both were impressed by the ideologies of the time such as the gothic era and futurism. The themes of their poems, the definitions of poetry by both poets, the structures and themes used in the poems, and the obvious differences and parallels between them were explained in this study. While Poe believed that the essence of poetry is beauty and that this beauty can only be created through the image of a woman, Marinetti reflected this beauty in his poems as speed and technology. While the theme of “The Raven” is having gothic factors like “death, darkness, and ghosts,” the theme of “To My Pegasus” is speed. Both poets were inspired by a mythological creature in their poems. Both poems have a political background as well. Although the poets were not contemporaries and did not share the same beliefs, their works have some similarities with each other in terms of the language they use in their works and the political aspects of their works.

Key Words: Gothic Era, Futurism, Mythology**ÖZET**

Her şiir kendi şairinin dünya görüşünü ve algısal örüntülerini temsil eder. Kimi şairler daha duygu ağırlıklı ve insan odaklı yaklaşımlar benimserken kimisi de duygulardan arınmış, bireyselci ve maddesel temalara yoğunlaşır. Kimi şairler, şiirlerini bir kural bütününe sadık kalarak yazarken kimisi de herhangi bir kurala bağlı kalmaz. Bu çalışmada, iyi yapılandırılmış bir şiir ve serbest şiir arasındaki ayrım, iyi yapılandırılmış lirik şiire örnek olarak Edgar Allan Poe'nun “The Raven” adlı şiiri, serbest şiire örnek olarak ise Filippo Tommaso Marinetti'nin “To My Pegasus” adlı şiiri kullanılarak incelenmiştir. Bu iki şiir her ne kadar birbirinden oldukça farklı görünse de ikisi de zamanın gotik çağ ve fütürizm gibi ideolojilerinden etkilenmiştir. Şiirlerin teması, her iki şairin şiir tanımı, şiirlerde kullanılan yapılar ve temalar karşılaştırılmış ve aralarındaki belirgin farklar ve paralellikler açıklanmıştır. Poe, şiirin özünün güzelliğ olduğunu ve bu güzelliğin ancak bir kadın imgesiyle yaratılabileceğini savunurken, Marinetti bu güzelliği şiirlerine hız ve teknoloji olarak yansıtmıştır. “The Raven” şiirinde hâkim olan tema, ‘ölüm, karanlık, hayaletler’ gibi gotik bir tema iken, “To My Pegasus” şiirine hâkim olan tema hızdır. Her iki şair de şiirlerinde mitolojik bir varlıktan esinlenmiştir. Her iki şiirde siyasi bir arkaplan vardır. Şairlerin aynı zamanda yaşamamalarına ve aynı düşünceleri paylaşmamalarına karşın şiirlerinde kullandıkları dil ve siyasi yönler bakımından paralellikler bulunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Gotik Çağ, Fütürizm, Mitoloji**1. INTRODUCTION**

Each person understands and interprets poetry in a different and unique way. While some poets have endeavored to create poetry in a particular structure, others oppose this and write in a free verse. This paper examines the distinction between a well-structured poem and free verse poem using “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe as an example of a well-structured lyrical poem and “To my Pegasus” by Filippo Tommaso Marinetti as an example of free verse. These two poems appear quite distinct from each other yet have slight comparability between them as both were impressed by the ideologies of the time such as the gothic era and futurism.

To answer the question of what poetry is, Poe states in “The Philosophy of Composition” that “a poem is something which “should suit at once the popular and critical taste” (Poe, 715). Life is immaterial and what the poet produces is noteworthy, Thus, Poe directs his readers to center on his text rather than his being. He indicates that a poem should not be too long and complex and that the essence of a poem should be beauty and that beauty can be only created by the image of a woman. For this reason, Poe uses the image of a beautiful woman in his poem “The Raven.” This beautiful woman represents death, making her the most beautiful woman in the world.

Although Poe uses the female image, the reader hears no female voice in the poem. The woman Lenore is silent and deathly. Silence in a woman is important in the poem as this leads the male voice to become

inventive. Only a woman can be the image of inspiration like Lenore in this poem. A connection can be made between the character of Lenore and Muse, the daughter of Zeus and the goddess of inspiration. What Lenore might have been when she was alive, whether a mother or wife, is irrelevant in the poem. She inspires the speaker, like Muse. The core idea is a beautiful woman should die for a man. This is an attempt to analyze the character from the feminist perspective. Poe preferred that his works were not evaluated based on his manner of living; however, in "The Raven" some aspects of his life can be seen. And the image of the woman can be manifested as an illustration. Poe could not understand contentment even though he had opportunities to be content. Poe's mother died when he was very young, and he married his cousin. He could not gain the respect of his father-in-law, John Allan, and he lived in poverty. Witnessing his mother's death affected him so deeply that it can be said he had a melancholic life and was predominantly despondent.

2. "THE RAVEN"

Poe's most prominent work is "The Raven", published in 1845 during the Gothic era. While Poe is typically considered a Romanticist in American literature, he earned his living writing in the Gothic style. As a gothic poem, "The Raven" includes darkness, death, isolation from real life, haunted places, and of course ghosts. The poem takes place in December, and winter can be seen to symbolize death. The black raven symbolizes bad luck and the room where the poem takes place exudes a Gothic feeling. The poem was also influenced by the political climate of the times where slavery was still a topical issue. The poem reflects a universal melancholic theme: the speaker loses his ideal woman and cannot overcome the despair he feels. That is the rationale behind why he acknowledges his grief rather than getting rid of it. He has a sick soul and wants to hold on to the memories, emotions, imagination, and trauma.

Poe's poem "The Raven" is composed of 18 stanzas of six lines each. The meter is generally trochaic octameter with a feminine rhyme consisting of eight trochaic feet per line in which each foot has one stressed syllable followed by one unstressed syllable. The rhyme scheme is "ABCBBB". Every stanza ends with the word "Nevermore" and this word rhymes with the "B" lines. In the poem, Poe uses many dissimilar poetical structures, but the use of alliteration is seen throughout. For example, "Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered *weak* and *weary*" (Raven, 1), and "*Doubting, dreaming dreams* no mortal ever dared to dream before" (Raven, 26). There are also internal rhymes which sound the same but where the first syllables are divergent in the same line such as *dreary, weary* and *napping-tapping*. Another type of rhyme is the eye-rhyme which seems the same but sounds different such as "'Prophet!' said I, 'thing of *evil*!- prophet still, if bird or *devil*!" (Raven, 85). Poe also utilizes onomatopoeia, which means use of a word that sounds approximately the same as the thing imitated in the sentence. The 13th line of the poem, can be used as an illustration: "The silken, sad, uncertain rustling of each purple curtain" (Raven, 85) where "rustling" represents the sound the curtains make.

"Nevermore" is a principal word in the manner of Poe as it was a requisite for him to have a refrain to close his stanzas. "Nevermore" was chosen because of the melancholy of the poem and this word keeps the melancholy of the lyrical "I" and enables the poem to be lyrical, as well. "The Raven" constantly emphasizes there is no hope, which the reader perceives through the repetition of "nevermore". Poe also utilizes ancient language and decorates his poem with biblical and mythical allusions. For instance, "Nepenthe", in the 82nd line, is a type of painkiller or drug that decreases emotional pain, grief or sorrow. "Balm in Gilead" is irony and also a biblical reference as "Gilead" is a mountainous place east of the Jordan River. Similar to "nepenthe", balm references a healing cream. In the 93rd line, the speaker talks about "Aidenn" which is of the Arabic version of "Eden". "Plutonian" in the 98th line is the imaginary world of dead people and is related to "Pluto", the god of the underworld in Roman mythology. The last reference is "Pallas" in the 104th line, who is the goddess of wisdom and warfare in Greek Mythology.

3. "TO MY PEGASUS"

Beyond Poe's interpretation and his poem, "The Raven", Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, an Italian poet, editor and also the founder of the Futurism, wrote the "Manifesto of Futurism" in 1908. Futurism merged in Italy in the early of 20th century and determines the value of the mechanical age, accentuating machine technology, speed, and power. Marinetti is concerned with jeopardy, thence, the theme of his Manifesto is aggressiveness, violence, and the love of machines. These themes affect his poem, as well. The principal concept of the Manifesto is that the meaning of life should be explored in what is yet to come, not through history. Contrary to "The Philosophy of Composition" by Edgar Allan Poe, Marinetti "celebrates the speed of modern technology" and presumes that the world has a new apprehension of beauty which is the beauty of

speed. He thus replaces Poe's ideal of women and beauty and correlates beauty with technology and speed instead.

"To my Pegasus" is a poem dedicated by Marinetti to a race car. The poem describes the race car and its speed using a structure that is not as well-organized structure as "The Raven". As it is a free verse poem, the reader feels the speed of the words while reading. It can be said that the words are in harmony with the theme of speed as the author's choice of words makes the reader want to read faster and faster. The first stanza is made up of 11 lines and stops only twice, with every line being continued into the next. The poem has utilized poetical devices. For instance, there are metaphors such as "What is the matter, *handsome demon*?" (To my Pegasus: 17), where "handsome demon" refers to the car. The poem uses lyric poetry in that the speaker is expressing personal feelings and emotions related to the vehicle. The language used is passionate and sexual in nature. For example, the 4th stanza clearly indicates sexual desire through the language used:

"It's your alluring distant arms that draw me!
this wind, it's your engulfing breath,
fathomless Infinity absorbing me with joy!
Ah! Ah! suddenly the gangling black windmills
seem to be running
on their whale boned canvas wings
as if on gigantic legs..."

The speaker is enchanted by the technology of the car and the fast flow of language is orgasmic in nature. From the 5th line, it is understood that this not a passion based on gentle love, but rather aggression and sex. The speaker reveals the gratification taken from speed; one can only have delight with speed. Marinetti argues in his Manifesto that "art, in fact, can be nothing but violence, cruelty, and injustice." Without aggressiveness, he reflects that a masterpiece cannot be created. Poe's style is much calmer than Marinetti's as he uses melancholy and female imagery to represent beauty while Marinetti opposes the female image says they will "scorn for woman." "Shadowy plains! I pass you at full gallop on this racing monster..." (To my Pegasus: 45). Another metaphor is the word "gallop". The car is likened to a horse, an animal known for speed and endurance. In addition, "racing monster" likens the race car to an invincible machine, a formidable beast of technology.

4. CONCLUSION

Poe and Marinetti both referred to mythological characters such as Muse in their poems. In "The Raven", the female image becomes an inspiration to the speaker, similar to the inspiration provided by Muse. In Marinetti's poem, "To My Pegasus", the mythical allusion appears from the very beginning, the title. Pegasus is the winged horse of the muses in Greek mythology which is used to symbolize the speed of the race car. The political background of this "To My Pegasus" is capitalism: workers and nationalists protest modern capitalism. Nationalists believe that the richer capitalists become, the more they lose their identity. The classic belief is that the workers get poorer while the capitalists get richer. Unlike "the Raven", Marinetti's poem is neither about slavery nor emotions nor something related to nature; it is all about speed and technology. Marinetti encourages youth to celebrate the speed of technology, productivity, power, and control in his Manifesto and consolidates these same ideas with this poem. Similarly, Poe published "The Philosophy of Composition" and then "The Raven". Two pieces of work that are very in harmony. Although Marinetti and Poe were not contemporaries and did not hold the same beliefs, there are some parallels in the language, forms, and political aspects of their poetry.

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