

# GRAPHOLOGICAL VARIATIONS IN ULYSSES POEM: A STYLISTICS ANALYSIS

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## **Abstract**

*This study aims to investigate the deployment of graphological variations in Tennyson's poetry namely Ulysses. A Descriptive qualitative was used in this study. The data were graphological variations used in poetry and the data source was Tennyson's Ulysses poetry consists of 70 lines. The data were analyzed based on graphological techniques and punctuation marks. The result revealed graphological variations are found in Ulysses' poetry by Tennyson starting from capitalization, indentation to punctuation marks. Capitalization was used to indicate proper noun and used in every line as a rule of nineteenth century poetry. For indentation, it was found two lines with more indented line than others. Lastly, five distinct family of punctuation marks were used namely stops: period, colon, semi-colon, and comma, tonal indicators: exclamation mark, sign of omission: apostrophe, rules: hyphen and em-dash, and combinate-mark: commash. Those graphological variations closely related with the era of the poet wrote his poetry.*

**Keywords:** *Analysis; Graphology; Poetry; Ulysses*

## **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui penggunaan variasi grafologi dalam puisi Tennyson dengan judul Ulysses. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Data yang digunakan adalah variasi grafologi yang digunakan dalam puisi dan sumber datanya adalah puisi Ulysses karya Tennyson yang terdiri dari 70 baris. Data dianalisis berdasarkan teknik grafologi dan tanda baca. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa variasi grafologi ditemukan dalam puisi Ulysses karya Tennyson mulai dari penggunaan huruf kapital, indentasi hingga tanda baca. Kapitalisasi digunakan untuk menunjukkan kata benda yang tepat dan digunakan di setiap baris sebagai aturan puisi abad kesembilan belas. Pada indentasi ditemukan dua baris puisi yang lebih menjorok dari yang lain. Terakhir, lima tanda baca yang berbeda digunakan yaitu perhentian: titik, titik dua, titik koma, dan koma. Kemudian, indikator nada: tanda seru, tanda penghilangan: apostrof. Selanjutnya aturan: tanda hubung dan tanda pisah, dan tanda kombinasi: koma. Variasi grafologi tersebut erat kaitannya dengan zaman penyair menulis puisinya.

**Kata kunci:** *Analisis; Grafologi; Puisi; Ulysses*

## 1. Introduction

Literature employs language as an artistic medium, not just for communication, but in a variety of ways in which man's actual experience, historical, social, moral, and religious, has been reflected in literary form throughout his culture's history (Dick, 2018). Each literary form, including the poem, has its unique mode of communication. In a good literary form, language elements should interact as patterns of a system, and such patterns should be observable at multiple linguistic levels to make a significant contribution to the esthetics as well as its meaning (Fasasi, 2013).

Stylistic analysis can be used to examine the pattern. Stylistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the use of language in literary form (Turner, 1975). Furthermore, Leech (1969) defines stylistics in literature as the study of the writer's style; for example, the use of language in literature to investigate the general characteristics of language as a means of literary expressions. Because the poem is a fine and complex organism, Leech (2008) also promotes the discovery of not

only the poem's vocabulary but also the organization on many language levels toward the same objective. Furthermore, Haynes (1995) claims that patterns reinforce one another. In other words, elements at one level, such as the graphological level, must be viewed as cooperating with items at other levels, such as the phonological, lexical, and semantic levels, to reinforce the meaning projected at those other levels.

Graphology, according to Leech (1969), is the entire writing system, including punctuation, paragraphing, and spacing. According to Leech & Short (1981), graphological variance is a trivial and superficial aspect of style in terms of spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, italicization, and paragraphing. Furthermore, whether a text deviates or not, graphological elements are more "eye-catching," more attention attracting, and more visible and foregrounded. According to Babajide (2000), foregrounding is an important device in the graphological aspect of a text. Deviant graphological characteristics of a text not only highlight portions of a poetic discourse, but they are

also intended to shine light on the poet's vital messages. According to Ojaide (2016), the use of specific graphological elements in a text has semantic and stylistic implications.

According to Crystal & Davy (1969), the basic graphological techniques that can be used are paragraphing, spacing, and capitalization, in addition to the standard range of other punctuation marks. Such patterns as absence, rarity, or overuse of punctuation marks, strange patterns of paragraphing, use of sub-headings, fragmentation/spacing or cluster of words, omission of letter(s) in words, ellipsis, strange/unusual capitalization (of words or letters), underlining, using words and sentences to create shapes, unusual stanzaic patterns, and so on can be used to identify graphological deviations in poetry (Alowonle, 2016).

Capitalization is the writing of a word with the initial letter in uppercase and the remaining letters in lowercase is known as capitalization (Straus et al., 2014). Capital letters are used at the start of a sentence, for names of people,

locations, and rivers, for nations and adjectives of nationality, for names of days, months, festivals, and historical eras, for titles of persons and things, and for titles of books, plays, and works of art. According to Quirk et al. (1985), capitalization is employed to signify spoken emphasis for the terms given.

In addition, Lennard (2005) explains punctuation marks come in fairly distinct families including stops, tonal indicators, sign of omission, rules, and combinate-mark. Stop consists of four, namely the full-stop or period (.), colon (:), semi-colon (;), and comma (,). Tonal indicators encompass the question (?) and exclamation-mark (!). Signs of omission are the apostrophe (‘), suspension-mark, and ellipsis (...). Rules are divided into three, namely the hyphen (-), the en-dash (-), and em-dash (--). Lastly, combinate-mark (,-) clearly represent a compensation.

Previous study has been conducted by Putri (2018). She analyzed a poem entitled *During Wind and Rain* by Thomas Hardy through stylistic analysis. It was found the poet uses kinds of punctuation mark to make the reader

feels the emotions that he has toward the poem. However, it only mentioned the lines which had punctuations rather than explain the meaning of each punctuation.

In addition, Maledo (2019) identified some selected poems by Tanure Ojaide through graphological device and meaning point of view. This study found the poet deviates from the use of commas and full stops. He also avoids using capital letters until actually required. The result supported that poems normally deviate from the use of punctuations. However, many kinds of punctuations are used in a poem for instance *Ulysses* by Tennyson which is needed to be investigated.

Moreover, to support the necessity of analyzing graphological devices, Alowonle (2016) proves that without graphological research, the meaning and interpretations of selected poetry cannot be comprehensive.

*Ulysses* is a well-known poem written by a Victorian poet, Tennyson, in 1833 and published in 1842. It is rich of punctuation marks that can be found in every line except four lines. According to Saleem

(2012), the graphological variations are investigated not only to highlight the various elements of the discourse, but also to shed light on the poet's numerous essential tensions and situations in life and personality. Hence, this study investigated the deployment of graphology as a device of meaning and aesthetics.

## **2. Method**

The qualitative method was used in this study to conduct a deeper analysis. Qualitative research is defined as an unfolding model that takes place in a natural setting and allows the researcher to build a level of depth through active participation in the experiences that occurred (Creswell, 1994). The element to be analyzed is data, which will be done using the descriptive qualitative method. According to Borg & Gall (1989), descriptive studies are concerned with discovering "what is" so that observations and descriptive data can be collected. The data were graphological devices taken from Alfred Tennyson's poetry namely *Ulysses*. Data sources in this study were taken from *Ulysses*. The data were collected through the library study. Library research according to George (2008) is a method of

collecting data by studying and understanding the data that has relation with the issues from documents. The data in this study were taken from internet. The data were identified and analyzed based on graphological technique by Crystal & Davy (1969) and punctuation marks by Lennard (2005).

### 3. Result and Discussion

Graphological variations found in Ulysses poetry were:

#### Indentation

Ulysses poem consists of one long stanza with 70 lines. Indentation is applied in two lines namely in line 33 and 44. These two lines are being indented more than others can result in a slightly longer pause or a delayed start, as if the poet was breathtaking.

*This is my son, mine own Telemachus, (line 33)*

*There lies the port;  
the vessel puffs her sail: (line 44)*

#### Capitalization

All lines used capitalization. This shows that Ulysses obeys the rule of nineteenth century poetry. Capitalization is used whether or not it is the beginning of the sentence.

Some lexicon positioned in the middle and in the end of line have initial capital to indicate spoken prominence for the specified words as below:

*Hyades (line 10)*

*Troy (line 17)*

*Telemachus (line 33)*

*Gods (line 53)*

*the Happy Isles (line 63)*

*Achilles (line 64)*

Those capitalized words relate to the name of a star, a war, a person, and a place. To begin with, Hyades is a star cluster within the constellation of Taurus, which is thought to bring rain as it rises with the sun. Then, Troy is ancient city, currently known as modern Turkey, setting for Trojan War, recorded in the Iliad. Next, Telemachus is Ulysses's son who will inherit Ulysses's role as ruler of the island when Ulysses dies. Gods is what Ulysses honor the most. Lastly, the term Happy Isles refers to the Islands of the Blessed, a site where legendary Greek warriors such as Achilles enjoyed continuous summer after their deaths.

#### Punctuation Marks

Punctuation marks occur in every position of word in lines. Lines that *do end with punctuation marks*

are called *end-stopped line* and those which not end with punctuation are called *enjambéd lines*. Ulysses consists of 70 lines with 27 enjambéd lines.

a. Stops

Ulysses has 70 lines and only 13 of them use period. It is found in lines 5, 17, 21, 32, 38, 43, 45, 53, 56, 57, 61, 64, and 70.

*That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me. (line 5)*

*Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy. (line 17)*

*For ever and forever when I move. (line 21)*

The period is used to show an end of thought. It stimulates the reader to think about what has been read so far after being stopped. The period is the heaviest ending classical and modern sentences.

Colon is found in 9 lines of Ulysses poetry, namely lines 6, 7, 11, 26, 44, 51, 54, 55, and 62. The poet tries to express arguments he thinks well-proportioned and wants to intrinsically attractive through the rhythm A-A-A-A particularly found in lines 54-55 respectively. The use

of these colon also known as tetrapartite periods (Lennard, 2005). The poets in the neoclassic era suggest that good periods had four colons. Tennyson in Ulysses clearly uses as recommended. Cola means part of period or sentence separated by colon.

*The lights begin to twinkle from the rocks:*

*The long day wanes: the slow moon climbs: the deep*

*Moans round with many voices. Come, my friends,*

Semi colon is found in 11 lines of Ulysses poetry, namely lines 11, 13, 15, 18, 28, 44, 49, 50, 59, 65, and 67 to connect two independent clauses in a verse to make clearer connection in parallel meaning. In reading poetry, it indicates an audible pause as the second lightest stop after full stop.

*Vext the dim sea: I am become a name; (line 11)*

*For always roaming with a hungry heart (line 12)*

Semi colon in line 11 has two semi colons which positioned in line 12. It reveals the parallel meaning; he became famous all around the

world as an explorer who was always traveling and wanting to learn more.

*Much have I seen and known;  
cities of men (line 13)*

*And manners, climates,  
councils, governments, (line 14)*

In line 13, semi colon functions to connect with its parallel meaning namely Ulysses reflects on how much he has seen and learned about all the areas where people live, their lifestyles, cultures, and methods of self-government. In line 59, semi colon functions to reveal the reason for pushing away from the shore is because of Ulysses's goal.

*Push off, and sitting well in  
order smite (line 58)*

*The sounding furrows; for my  
purpose holds (line 59)*

Comma is found in 26 out of 70 lines. The comma is used to show a separation of ideas or elements within the verse. In a poem, it is used to remove unnecessary words. It is also used in verse to divide two or more entire, independent phrases. Commas customarily indicate a brief pause; they are not as final as periods.

*By this still hearth, among  
these barren crags, (line 2)*

*That hoard, and sleep, and  
feed, and know not me. (line 5)*

*How dull it is to pause, to  
make an end, (line 22)*

*To strive, to seek, to find, and  
not to yield. (line 70)*

In line 2, the comma is used to indicate a brief pause between two prepositional phrases. In line 5, the comma is used to eliminate excess word twice, namely 'that' before 'sleep' and 'feed'. Moreover, the comma in lines 22 and 70 is used to separate ideas as independent clause in a verse.

#### b. Tonal Indicators

Exclamation mark is found in lines 23 and 24.

*To rust unburnish'd, not to  
shine in use! (line 23)*

The exclamation mark in line 23 is used to express a sudden outcry as Ulysses complains that staying in one area and stopping doing the activities that defined his life is uninteresting and disappointing, comparing himself to a blade that has been let to rust uselessly away rather than being used brilliantly in battle.

*As tho' to breathe were life!  
Life piled on life (line 24)*

The exclamation mark in line 24 is used to add emphasize that being alive does not imply that you are actually alive.

#### c. Sign of Omission

Ulysses uses sign of omission quite often namely apostrophe in lines 3, 7, 8, 10, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 37, 46, 57, 65(2).

*Match'd with an aged wife, I  
mete and dole (line 3)*

*Thro' scudding drifts the  
rainy Hyades (line 10)*

*'Tis not too late to seek a  
newer world. (line 57)*

Apostrophe in Ulysses is used to omit a letter or letters in a word. In line 3, it omitted letter 'e' in 'matched'. In line 10, it omitted three letters 'ugh' in 'through'. In line 57, it omitted letter 'h' in 'this'.

#### d. Rule

Hyphen is found only in line 35 and em-dash is in lines 46 and 49.

*Well-loved (line 35)*

Hyphen here showed compound words from well + loved. It is an adjective which means loved by many people or very popular. Its earliest use found in Cursor Mundi: a

Northumbrian poem of the 14th century.

*Souls that have toil'd, and  
wrought, and thought with me— (line  
46)*

*Free hearts, free foreheads—  
you and I are old; (line 49)*

Em-dash is used within a verse or at the end. In line 46, it took place at the end of line and in line 49 it was within the line. Even though it is within the line, it functioned to break in thought. At first, Ulysses reminds his people to face every obstacle with resolution and bravery. After the em-dash, Ulysses acknowledges that they are old.

#### e. Comminate-mark

Commate is found in line 34.

*To whom I leave the sceptre  
and the isle,— (line 34)*

Commate embodies slowing, or can catch closely at revealing rhythms of speech. In line 34, Ulysses speaks highly but also patronizingly of his son's capabilities as a ruler. The use of commate also peppers the nineteenth century poetry.



#### 4. Conclusion

Graphological variations are found in Ulysses' poetry by Tennyson. Ulysses uses capitalization in every line as a rule of nineteenth century poetry. Moreover, he also uses it to indicate proper noun. For indentation, it was found two lines with more indented line than others. Lastly, punctuation marks based on Lennard (2005) five fairly distinct families were used namely stops: period, colon, semi-colon, and comma, tonal indicators: exclamation mark, sign of omission: apostrophe, rules: hyphen and em-dash, and combinate-mark: commash. Those graphological variations closely related with the era of the poet wrote his poetry.

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