METAPHORICAL LANGUAGE IN IQBAL’S POETRY “AK PAHAR AUR GULEHRI” “A MOUNTAIN AND A SQUIRREL”

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ABSTRACT
The term metaphorical analysis is not confined to merely the element of metaphorical analysis rather it means figurative analysis or metaphorical language. It is also known as figurative language. This study comprehensively deals with the figurative elements carried out in Iqbal’s poem “A Mountain and a Squirrel”. The researchers practiced descriptive method. All of the required materials of data were portrayed from the poem as primary source. The analysis of the study would be fruitful in critically comprehending how figures of speech bring about the poem more effective.

KEY WORDS: metaphorical language, figure of speech, element, analysis, data, material

1. STUDY BACKGROUND
The study is mainly concerned to the deep and profound analysis of Iqbal’s poetry particularly “Ek Pahar Aur Gulehri (A Mountain and a Squirrel)” in the view of metaphorical analysis. Here the mentioned term metaphorical analysis is not confined to merely the element of metaphorical analysis rather it vividly means figurative analysis. In other words, metaphorical language is known as figurative language (Antara, 2010). In short, it is also called as metaphor.
The word, here, metaphor has been derived from a Greek word metephereien which means to convey meanings beyond their literary senses. However, the most and foremost function is to bear meaning mainly from literature to the figurative stage (Reninger, 1963).
This research aimed at exploring the intended meaning of the researchers by dint of metaphorical language.

2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM
Problem is the key to research task to be carried out smoothly in terms of achieving the desired goal. Here, the main problem what the researchers want to seek out is “what sort of metaphorical
language has been practiced in Iqbal’s renowned intellectual poem (named A Mountain and a Squirrel).”

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
In the light of the entire study, the main aim is to find out the metaphorical language that has been carried out in Allama Iqbal’s famous poem “A Mountain and a Squirrel.”

4. METHODOLOGY
A sound set of mechanism or method carried out in a specific circle of activity (Hornby, 1995). It is the context or situation that decides which type of methodology needs to be used mostly. However, the present study has been conducted in the lens of certain three dimensions:

4.1 TOOL OR SOURCE OF DATA
The well-known intellectual poetry of Allama Iqbal (R.A) particularly his famous poem “A Mountain and a Squirrel” has been used as the primary source for data collection. It is quite sufficient to portray the desired point what a true primary source has to play the drastic role, as the above mentioned poem of Iqbal (R.A) is enormously saturated with plenty of metaphorical language that enriches its meaningfulness and core essence.

4.2 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION
A research grubs out the craved topic from a critical and scholastic point of view. Is it not a simple and easy task for the researchers to launch research task on any topic. Unlike it, the researchers have to do much toil and struggle. They have to conduct research in a real sense, as they have to prove the word what they aim at, on the basis of research, critical investigation and exploration. To prove and support their opinions and perceptions, they have to collect the germane data and materials while preceding the practical task so systemically and meticulously. The researchers also had to come across all the mentioned challenges and tough procedure, in terms of gathering data regarding the poem. For the purpose of collecting materials, the researchers went through the entire Kulyat-e-Iqbal time and again. They had to probe into the mentioned collection of poetry and carefully selected the desired poem “A Mountain and a Squirrel” when they came to know that entailed opulence of figurative language. For the purpose of comprehending the essence and spirit of the poem, the researchers had to take much more help from internet and dictionary. However, after going through intensively as well as repeatedly while jotting down the important points, the researchers could make out the gist of even both deep and structural meanings of the poem. Thus, data for the research were collected through the mentioned method and procedure.
4.3 DATA ANALYSIS
In terms of analyzing data, the effective elements of the poem that identify and describe the metaphorical language were thoughtfully jotted down and the gathered data were descriptively analyzed in the light of findings and result of the research.

5. ANALYSIS OF THE METAPHORICAL LANGUAGE IN THE POEM
By profession, Iqbal (RA) was a lawyer but he was widely known as a renowned poet of the east than a lawyer. According to William Wordsworth, a spontaneous overflow is called poetry. It is because of his strong and profound feelings and sympathy that he expelled through his distinguished and God-gifted skill of poetry. That’s why Iqbal’s poetry has another literary and philosophical taste to read and avail of. Most of Iqbal’s poetry is in Persian and Urdu version. The poem which was selected for research named “A Mountain and a Squirrel” has been chosen from Urdu version with English translation (version). Before describing English version and analyzing and concluding its findings, the poem in Urdu version is presented as:

“AK PAHAR AUR GULEHRI”
Koi Pahar Ye Kehta Tha Ek Gulehri Se
Tujhe Ho Shram To Pani Mein Ja Ke Doob Maray
Zara Si Cheez Hai, Iss Pe Garoor, Kya Kehna
Ye Aqal Aur Ye Samajh, Ye Shaur, Kya Kehna!
JuBaat Mujh Mein Hai, Tujh Ko Vo Naseeb Kahan
Bala Pahar Kahan, Janwar Gareeb Kahan!
Kaha Ye Sun Ke Gulehri Ne, Munh Sambhal Zara
Ye Kachi Baatai Hain Dil Se Inhain Nikal Zara
Jo Main Bari Nahin Teri Tarah To Kya Parwa
Nahi Hai To Bhi To Aakir Meri Tara Chotta
Jo Tu Bara Hai To Mujh Sa, Hunar Dikha Mujh Ko
Ye Chaliya Hi Zara Tor Ker Dikha Mujh Ko

The above mentioned lines are some selected stanzas of the poem that pertain metaphorical language. For the sake of smooth evaluation and better understanding, English translation (version) of the selected lines has been mentioned as under:
A MOUNTAIN AND A SQUIRREL

A Mountain Was Saying
To A Squirrel

Commit Suicide If You Have Self-Respect
You Are Insignificant, Still So Arrogant, How Strange!
You Are Neither Wise, Nor Intelligent! Not Even Shrewd!
The Grandeur Of Mine Does Not Fall To Your Lot
The Poor Animal Can’t Equal The Great Mountain!
On Hearing This, The Squirrel Said, Hold Your Tongue!
These Are Immature Thoughts; Expel Them From Your Heart!
I Don’t Care If I Am Not Large Like You!
You Are Not A Pretty Little Thing Like Me
If You Are Large Show Me Some Of The Skills I Have
Show Me How You Break This Beetle Nut As I Can

After reading and evaluating both versions of the poem, it is clear and vivid that various sorts of figurative elements have been practiced by the poet in the selected lines of the poem to make it more meaningful and forceful. Some of the teeming metaphorical elements are:

5.1 IMAGERY

Imagery has been spontaneously practiced in the mentioned poem “A Mountain and a Squirrel” by the poet. Iqbal (R.A) is one of the skillful and technical poets who are expert in using imagery to create mental picture for the purpose of making the poetry much more effective. In the poem, the imagery of speaking, listening and even face to face debating between the mountain and the squirrel trying to prove their words with forceful and logical prove and arguments is living example of imagery. The most thrilling and startling sentences produced by the squirrel “If You Are Large Show Me Some of the Skills I Have; Show Me How You Break This Beetle Nut As I Can” produced by the squirrel show the forceful and aggressive tone to suppress the mountain. Apart from this, the mental pictures of “Chotti or small”, “Bari or huge” and “Chaliya or beetle” were also used. In another word, the entire poem is imaginary that is full of imagery. In short, it is a bitter fact that neither a mountain nor a squirrel can talk and debate in a real situation but it is only the imaginative power of the poet that generates a real life like situation.

5.2 PERSONIFICATION

Personification is the act of assigning human qualities or characteristics to inhuman things, Antara (2010). Khan (2011) also has the same opinion regarding personification. He is of the view that it a figure of speech which is used to give human or living characteristics to non-living object. In soothe,
his very act of giving the living characteristics to non-living things has been skillfully performed by the poet that actualize the entire poem. It is the true genius of the poet who serenely presented the entire poem into a face to face debate infusing human like qualities into both the mountain and squirrel. The poem is not only full of the element of personification but completely based on it. In another word, particularly in the poem, personification is the spirit. If the spirit is expelled or subtracted nothing will remain other than the soulless ugly shape. If the entire process of an effective face to face communication carried out in the poem is critically analyzed then there are certain key factors that play vital role in terms of making the communication more productive and energetic. Some of the factors are personal pronoun (particularly all of its cases such as subjective or nominative like as I or You, possessive or genitive like as My, Mine or Your as well as accusative or objective case like as Me or You etc.), demonstratives like as This or These, adjectives (like as immature thought, large, pretty, little, arrogant, strange, insignificant, shrewd, wise and intelligent), and verbs (particularly action verbs like as commit (suicide), expel (from your heart), show (me), hear, say or hold (your tongue) etc. clearly indicate of containing personification in the above mentioned poem. Apart from these, the unique phrases and sentences produced by both the mountain and squirrel infuse the living spirit into the face to face dialogue (between both of them) in the poem. For example, the phrases produced by the mountain for the squirrel like as “commit suicide”, “if you have self-respect”, “you are insignificant”, “still so arrogant”, “how strange you are”, “and you can’t be equal of me” vividly show the spirit of personification. Some of the phrases and clauses produced by the squirrel in the reaction of the mountain such as “hold your tongue”, “these are immature thoughts”, “expel them from your heart”, “I don’t care if I am not large like you!”, “you are not pretty little like me”, “show me some of the skills I have, if you are large” and “show me how you break this beetle nut as I can” etc. also denote the presence of personification in the poem. However, the crux of the lesson lies in the last statements of the squirrel like “I don’t care, if you are large and you are not pretty little like me then show me some of the skills I have and also show me how you break this beetle nut as I can.”

5.3 HYPERBOLE
A figure of speech that is practiced to express exaggeration is considered as hyperbole, Christopher (1966). According to Antara (2011), hyperbole is a tool by which exaggeration can be felt. Like as, in the above mentioned poem, the phrases “how strange, and still so arrogant you are; in line no.3”, “not even shrewd; in line no. 4”, “the grandeur of mine; in line no.5”, “the poor animal; in line no.6” and “the great mountain; in line no.6” produced by the mountain while the phrases “so large and a pretty little thing; in line no.9” produced by the squirrel are some vivid examples of hyperbole. A mountain is more huge and large than a squirrel. The mountain exaggerates of being
very huge and so large than the pretty little squirrel. This sense of exaggeration can be portrayed from the statements produced by the mountain, like “You Are Insignificant, Still So Arrogant, How Strange!; In line no.3”, “The Grandeur Of Mine Does Not Fall To Your Lot; in line no.5” and “The Poor Animal Can’t Equal The Great Mountain!; in line no.6”, in the poem.

6. CONCLUSION

After analyzing and evaluating the gathered data, the research work can be concluded that the entire poem is imaginary that is full of imagery. It is clear that neither a mountain nor a squirrel has intelligence or intellectual power to thing, talk and debate in a real situation but it is only the self-generative and imaginative skill of the poet that generates a real life like situation. For instance, the mountain says to the squirrel, “You are insignificant, not wise and shrewd but still so arrogant. You can’t be equal the Great mountain. “But the squirrel also briskly replies, “Hold your tongue. I don’t care, if I am not huge like you but you are not pretty little like me. If you are huge and great then show me some of the skills I have and also show me how you break this beetle nut as I can etc.” In others words, the poet smoothly practiced certain elements and factors. Some of the crucial factors are imagery, personification, hyperbole, personal pronoun, demonstratives, adjectives and action verbs etc. In short, though all of the above mentioned figurative elements were used but imagery and personification are the most prominent ones.

REFERENCES


