

LINGUISTIC LIBERATION: A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF SOUND AND
FIGURATIVE DEVICES IN KATE CHOPIN'S THE STORY OF AN HOUR

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Abstract

This study conducts a stylistic analysis of Kate Chopin's The Story of an Hour using Leech and Short's model to examine how linguistic devices convey the protagonist's emotional transformation and feminist themes. Focusing on phonological patterns and figurative language, the analysis reveals how Chopin's stylistic choices mirror Louise Mallard's journey from oppression to momentary liberation. Harsh consonant repetitions ("storm of grief") reflect tension, while soft vowel sounds ("spring days") and rhythmic repetitions ("free, free, free!") capture fleeting joy. The study demonstrates how third-person narration and allegorical elements critique 19th-century marital constraints, with metaphors like "elixir of life" symbolizing self-discovery. Findings show that sound patterns and lexical repetitions intensify the narrative's emotional impact, making Louise's abrupt tragedy more poignant. By connecting form to meaning, this analysis highlights how Chopin's craftsmanship - from phonological schemes to symbolic imagery - challenges societal norms while compressing profound psychological change into a single hour. The research ultimately illuminates how stylistic devices serve as powerful tools for feminist expression, transforming a brief story into a timeless commentary on freedom, identity, and patriarchal oppression.

Keywords: Kate Chopin, The Story of an Hour, phonology, stylistic, leech and short

Article Details:

Received on 27 April 2025

Accepted on 22 May 2025

Published on 25 May 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This article investigates the relationship between the writer's stylistic decisions and the creation of specific meaning in the text. The purpose of the stylistic analysis of "*The Story of an Hour*" by Kate Chopin. Her writing had a significant influence on American literature. She was an American author known for her pioneering feminist writing. Chopin's work explores the life experiences of women and highlights their struggles and their desires. *The Story of an Hour* highlights their personal experiences and observations about women's lives." *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin is being analyzed for its theme and literary significance. "*The Story of an Hour*" explores the women's lives and human experiences. Chopin explored themes of marriage and identity. She examines freedom, identity and human emotions. Her ability to capture human emotions and societal pressure to the narrative. Some scholar suggests that in that story we found semi-autobiographical elements. Chopin faced societal expectations and challenges as a woman in the late 19th century.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To investigate how phonological schemes in *The Story of an Hour* reflect Louise Mallard's emotional transformation.
- To explore how figurative language reinforces themes of freedom versus societal constraints in *The Story of an Hour*.

RESEARCH QUESTION

1. How do sound patterns stylistically convey Louise's shift from oppression to fleeting liberation in *The Story of an Hour*?
2. In what ways do figurative language is employed to identify Feminist Resistance in *The Story of an Hour*?

METHODOLOGY

This analysis involves a stylistic examination of "*The Story of an Hour*" by Kate Chopin focusing on the author's considered language choice. Using the leech and short model (2007), this study systematically explores the texts, lexical, grammatical, figurative and cohesive elements to uncover the specific features of chains writing style. The analysis of "*The Story of an Hour*" will focus on Kate Chopin's use of figure of speech, and examine grammatical, lexical and phonological schemes. Specifically, it explores parallelism and lexical repetition as grammatical and lexical devices. This analysis will ultimately reveal how literary devices such as metaphor, allegory and personification contribute to the narrative's depth and meaning in "*The Story of an Hour*".

In this study we focused on the level of figure of speech, taking into consideration the grammatical, lexical and phonological schemes. The grammatical and lexical schemes of lexical repetition refer to the repetition of a word or phrase to support meaning or poetic effects. Anaphora is the repetition of a word or phrase that emphasises the clauses or sentence. Parallelism includes reporting grammatical structure to maintain rhythm in a sentence. It is helpful to highlight the ideas and make writing more delightful. The phonological patterns of rhyme such as grammar, alliteration, repetition and rhyming words will be discussed under the phonological schemes.

Literary significance highlights the writer's linguistic choices, the discussion and analysis of the story through metaphor, allegory and personification. These all elements help to offer deeper layers of meaning and readers understanding of the themes and convey the message.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Linguistics deals with the Phonic phenomena of speech with regard to their respective functions. Phonology is the study of linguistics and patterns of sound which produce sound systems in language. How your ideas are constructed in your mind to deliver messages phonologically have a physical property of sound and how sound is constructed and used in different/Natural languages. Including some phonological schemes as follows

ALLITERATION refers to a stylistic technique involving the harmonious repetition of identical or closely related sounds within a single narrative voice. It creates a rhythmic and melodic cohesion that reflects the writer's intent, particularly within poetry and elevated prose. Typically, it is the key lexical items in a sentence that are aligned through this device. The article underscores that for alliteration to achieve its intended effect, the pattern must remain coherent; an overabundance of unrelated or non-matching words disrupts its impact, rendering the technique ineffective. Within this framework, the article explores the formal and aesthetic roles of alliteration in literary expression.

CONSONANCE is a literary device characterized by the recurrence of comparable consonant sounds within language. Writers employ consonance to convey a sense of rhythm, tone, vowel echoes and fluidity in their work. A specific form of consonance, alliteration, involves the repetition of consonant sounds at the initial position of words that are situated near each other.

ASSONANCE Although the term assonance is relatively modern, the technique itself has been present since the earliest poets took pleasure in the sound of their language. Currently, assonance is defined as the repetition of stressed vowel sounds—excluding the consonants that follow—in syllables positioned closely enough to create an auditory effect. This internal and often irregular pattern was favored by classical poets such as Aeschylus, Virgil, and Lucretius. During the middle Ages, it was commonly used by romance writers as an alternative to end rhyme. Despite its prevalence, poets have rarely commented on their intentional use of vowel repetition, and literary critics have largely neglected the topic.

RHYME

Rhyme is the repetition of the same or similar sound at the end of lines. For Example, in A Kind of Intention or Cruel Intention, the line word intention shows an identical sound in line. The writer uses rhyme in their writing to make the text musical and produce pleasing sound effects.

SIMILE

As stated by Abrams (1999:97), "In a simile, a comparison between two distinctly different things is explicitly indicated by the word 'like' or 'as'. A simile is a kind of figurative language used in literature contrasting two important, unlike things by using as and like the writers use this technique to make text more engaging and make vivid descriptions.

METAPHOR

A study conducted by Fajardo (2023) that a metaphor is employed to compare two things directly in order to create strong imagery and ideas to express in a more interesting way.

A metaphor is a way of speaking or writing where one thing is described as if it were something else, even though it isn't actually that thing. This helps us show a connection or similarity between them.

Writers use metaphors to make their ideas clearer, more interesting, and easier to understand, especially when talking about deep feelings or complex thoughts.

PERSONIFICATION

According to Abrams (1999:99) "Personification, in which either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings".

Personification is a term of metaphor which describes abstract things or non-living things, animal objects in human form. Personification defines non-human objects' characteristics in human form. writer used personification to create a vivid and sense to the reader with recognizable human behaviour, emotions through non-living objects

ABOUT THE STORY

POINT OF VIEW

The Story of an Hour is narrated from a third-person limited omniscient point of view. That means the narrator is an outsider, he is not a character and has access to the actions, thoughts and feelings of Louise Mallard. Mallard is the main character but also observes the actions of the other characters. Most of the story focuses on the experiences of Mallard. The narrator gives us information about the characters and tells us what happens inside his mind. The author discussed every character to show that every character contributes to the plot.

- "A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial"
- "She sank upon the nearest chair in physical exhaustion and then she wept"
- "She looked from one to another with questioning eyes"

CHARACTERS

The Story of an Hour has many characters. Louise Mallard is the main character of this story. She is a woman with a heart condition and told her husband's death in a train accident. Brently Mallard is a kind loving man. He is the husband of Louise Mallard. Josephine is the sister of Louise. She informs Louise about the death of Brently. Richard is the friend of Brantly. He learns about the train accident and Brantly's death at the newspaper. He tells the news to Louise.

ALLEGORY

"*The Story of an Hour*" allegory to explore themes of marriage, freedom, and societal expectations. This story allegory revolves around the unexpected joy and freedom Mrs. Mallard experiences when hearing of her husband's death. This allegorical journey exposes traditional marriage and societal women's independence.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Kate Chopin skillfully uses literary devices in *The Story of an Hour* the uses of alliteration, assonance, consonance rhyme to create a soft tone and atmosphere.

ALLITERATION

- Great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible" (repetition of "g")
- "Storm of grief had spent itself" (repetition of "s")
- "Feverish triumph" (repetition of "f")

In Alliteration the writer uses such **g** to create a soft tone and reflect the gentle manner. Differentiating the repetition of **s sound** develops an intense situation and the writer purposefully chose sound to intensify and reflect the emotional effect on the Narrative.

ASSONANCE

"Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own" (repetition of the long "a")

"She was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window" (repetition of the short) this line *elixir of life* shows the sense of renewal and happiness that Louise feels as

she considers her future without her husband's *open window* represents Louise feels independence and freedom from her marriage.

Kate's uses of assonance in the story such as spring days and summer days (the repetition of *a*) create a sense of freedom she experiences and the repetition of *I* illustrates Mrs. Mallard feels free from oppression.

CONSONANCE

- She sat with her head thrown **n** back upon the cushion of the chair" (repetition of "n")
- "She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long" (repetition of "t" sounds)
- "She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same" (repetition of "m")

The consonant sounds such as *n* develop senses that Louise gets freedom and relaxation. And the repetition of **the** sound tells the silent nature of that moment. The repetition of **m** sound tells when she receives the death news of her husband she is not shocked not react violently as other typical women hear the same with shocked and react violently.

RHYME

A kind **intention** or a cruel **intention**" (repetition and internal rhyme with "intention")

"Spring **days**, and summer **days**" (repetition of "days" creates a rhythmic effect)

"**Free!** Body and soul **free!**" (repetition of "free" has an internal rhyming pattern)

The use of rhyme and repetition **intention** means she is going to be free, and happy and to know about her husband's demise so this is like a crime to her.

Spring **day** and summer **day** informing (the passing of time) represent she is imagining what going to happen in the upcoming days without the inference of her husband she feels free and wants to live long without any oppression.

Free body and soul **free** its physiological aspect where Louise's body speaks freely which means she is free from societal norms where women get limited rights.

The story has multiple meanings that readers are allowed to interpret in any way the story reflects the complexity of human experiences and emotions. The story starts forms Louise Mallard who has a heart disease her husband is Brently Both are loyal to each other but Louise feels she is being suppressed by marriage when her sister is in from about her husband's death. She feels free and sense of freedom. The story highlights women have restricted rights after marriage in society.

CONCLUSION

In this story, we have discussed stylistic terms where grammatical, lexical, and phonological schemes are founded and feature alliteration assonance, and consonance and then find the writer uses metaphor and imagery. In this story, we explore themes of self-discovery, freedom, feminist critique, and societal expectations *The Story of an Hour* title talks about happening occurred within one hour the way Louise's life changed from a happy life into an emotional one. Complexities of human desire. The story has an unexpected tragic ending.

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