

## **The Functions of Suspense in Creating Linguistic and Editing Ambiguities by Emphasizing on Nima Yooshij, Shamlou and Mousavi's Poetry**

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### **Abstract**

Ambiguity is one of the characteristics of some prominent contemporary poems and it is achieved by inducing original and preconceived concepts. One of the functions of such ambiguity is to create a sense of suspense. Suspension is a form of waiting in which the narrator puts the audience in a conscious and purposeful state of doubt and ignorance of the result of the narration, but with the help of linguistic elements, provides the possibility of thinking, predicting and discovering the missing link in poetic propositions. Creating a sense of suspense for the audience for understanding the meaning and purpose of the narrator creates a passion for reading. The reader's curiosity, along with the presuppositions, preconceptions, and possibilities that occur during the suspension, reproduces the meaning.

In this article, after examining linguistic and editorial factors of suspension, such as unfamiliar words, multilingualism, the existence of new terms, the use of new and native words, archaism, specialized terms, deletion, pronoun displacement, editorial aberrations, etc. we will analyze how do contemporary poets use these factors to create

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suspension with functions such as highlighting, defamiliarization, modernity, semantic development, polysemy, brevity, conveying the themes of indigenous culture, linguistic development and richness, so that they can engage the audience in the narrative.

**Keywords:** *Ambiguity and suspense in contemporary poetry, linguistic and editorial ambiguity in contemporary poetry, ambiguity in Nima's poetry, ambiguity in Shamlou's poetry, ambiguity in Mousavi's poetry.*

### ***Extended Abstract***

#### **1. Introduction**

Some authors and poets combine their works with elements and components of linguistic and editing ambiguity and hide their main ideas in this way, to improve the artistic level and semantic complexity of their works. It is as if they believe that a speech expressed clearly and contains meaning and concept is far from the ornament of literature and cannot influence, last in the mind, and ultimately create literary taste. Hence, contrary to the approach of the predecessors who considered ambiguity as a kind of defect, contemporary poets tend to ambiguous words and use them to create artistic value and permanence of their words. "Essentially, the artistic value and the secret of the longevity of unforgettable works depends on the degree of ambiguity hidden in it." (Fotohi, 2008: p. 17)

Perhaps it is possible to consider "interpretability" as one of the functions of ambiguity and one of the motivations of contemporary poets for creating ambiguity, which leads to polysemy. Although sometimes the use of ambiguous words, phrases, and images is beyond the will of the poets, in most cases, it is the product of their conscious art. To achieve this purpose, they use techniques such as norm avoidance, norm-breaking, and linguistic and editorial games, to obscure the meaning in ambiguity or consciously cause it to be interpretable and ambiguous and make the audience think and in simpler language, they keep the meaning in suspension or postponement, and by addressing the secondary meanings of words, they defamiliarize the communicative function of language. Consequently, some people believe that we should release language

from the shackles of habits and patriarchal syntax structures that rule it. (Brahani, 2008: p. 16)

The use of linguistic and editorial measures to create ambiguity and multi meanings causes the suspension and delay of the narrative action. Ambiguity resulting from linguistic and editing factors can occur in the field of unfamiliar words, creating new words and combinations, archaism, native words, multilingualism, specialized terms, ambiguity in pronoun reference, deletion, the substitution of sentence components, proper nouns, and punctuation marks. Contemporary poets apply these factors to create artistic functions of suspense such as defamiliarization or alienation, modernization, highlighting, development and richness of language, localism, semantic development, polysemy, and brevity.

Indisputably, refraining from expressing the meanings causes a meaningful silence, a conscious search, and finally, the audience's companionship with the speaker and their literary satisfaction. The discovery and analysis of ambiguous elements can help the audience in reading and understanding the text as well as the creation of the text. Therefore, this article tries to analyze the functions of suspense resulting from linguistic and editorial ambiguity in contemporary poetry.

## **2. Literature Review**

Numerous books and studies were written about ambiguity and its factors; But so far, no independent research has been conducted about the factors of ambiguity and its functions in the poems of Nima Yooshij and the representatives of the poetic trends after him. Apart from a few articles, no independent work has been done in the field of suspension, as well. The following examples are some of the works that have a common ground with this essay:

### **Books**

- Qahreman Shiri has written a book titled "Ambiguity, the Continuous Cry" (2012), in which various kinds of ambiguity are mentioned and illustrated his point by providing examples are given from the works of poets such as Sanai, Khaqani, and Nizami Ganjavi. He also investigated the political, social, and economic contexts of ambiguity in the Seljuk period.

- In the book "Journey in the Fog" (2012), Pournamdarian analyzed several of Shamlu's poems from different perspectives, including examining and describing the language and expression of his poetry and indirectly pointing out some of the elements that create ambiguity in his poetry.

### **Articles**

- Behzad Khajat in an article entitled “Factors of Ambiguity in Contemporary Persian Poetry” (2008), described the factors of ambiguity in contemporary Persian poetry, and divided ambiguity into 3 types: temporary, intentional, and unintentional, and described the types of natural ambiguity in poetry.

- Mohammad Reza Rouzbeh and Hadis Bahmani in their article entitled “Analysis of Ambiguity Aspects in Shamlou’s Poetry” (2017) investigated the ambiguity in three semantic, linguistic, and visual areas to show the structural and semantic existence of Shamlou’s poetry to the audience. In this article, after defining and explaining ambiguity and its relationship with poetic language, they examined its most important examples; That is, the poetic images and deviations from the norm in Shamlou’s poetry.

- Zahra Rajabi, in an article titled “the study of the relationship between time and suspense in the narrative of ‘The King and the Maid’” (2009), concluded that the element of time is the main factor in creating a sense of suspense in this story. She examined it in two parts: special time applications and proper use of order, continuity, and frequency.

- Mohsen Batab Akbarabadi in his study titled “suspension mechanism in Maghamat Al Hariri” (2012) discusses that suspension in Maghamat Al Hariri is not specific to the narrative and story field, but the special quality of the language and highlights its literature, while increasing the delay in the level of meaning and progress has created a kind of language suspension.

### **3. Methodology**

The descriptive-analytical method of research is used and for information gathering, the library method is used. In this research, after the preliminary study of the ambiguity factors in the works of Nima Yooshij, Shamlou, and Mousavi - as representatives of the poetic mainstream - the suspense resulting from the linguistic and editing ambiguities was studied and the examples and samples of these factors were stated.

### **Results**

In contemporary poetry, contrary to conventional poetic habits that the audience has become accustomed to the repeated concepts of poets, some vague concepts are formed due to belonging to the modern world, multilingualism, the existence of new terms, language deviations, the use of new and native words, archaism, specialized terms, deletion,

replacement of pronouns, deviations editing and, etc., that cause double and sometimes multiple understanding and interpretations of the same poem. Through linguistic and editing arrangements, the author disturbs the conventional process of language and overshadows the reader's way of understanding. As a result, the reader's action slows down with the text, and by expressing information in a small way, the author presents the final meaning of the narrative with a delay; But the audience is allowed to guess the flow of the narrative. By reading each sentence, the knowledgeable reader anticipates the next possibilities, and the result of this curiosity is suspense.

The prominent contemporary poets use suspense with functions such as accentuation, alienation, elements of native culture, modernism, polysemy, brevity, development, and richness of language to keep the reader in sync with the poet during the narration.

Examining the artistic functions of suspension concerning linguistic and editing factors shows that Nima Yooshij, Shamlou, and Mousavi tried to break the predetermined conventions and escaped from the usual norms of language, with the difference that in Nima Yooshij's poems, there are a lot of linguistic factors including localism. ; While Shamlou causes suspense with his desire for archaism; It is as if his modern content is trapped in the archaic linguistic torus; But in Mousavi's poems, the suspension is caused by editing factors, various types of deletion and use of foreign words and expressions.

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