



## A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF ROBERT HERRICK'S *TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME*

Dr. Wisam Al Shawa

(Al Quds open University, Palestine)



### ABSTRACT

Stylistics as a science analyzes the choice of words, the pattern of the sentence and the figurative language that a poet uses in his poetry. This paper presents a stylistic study of Robert Herrick's "*To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time*" and provides an interpretation of figurative use of language to create a mood, feeling and emotions. The aim of this paper is to analyze, explain and expose to everybody that comes across this write up and to guide them how to analyze. The analysis covers four different levels: graphological, morphological, lexical and phonological level. The paper concludes that these devices have identifiable functions which contribute heavily to the effective meaning and understanding of the poem.

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### PRELIMINARIES

A poet's style is of great significance in order to understand the meaning of any given text by him/her because it deals with content and form. "Style" in poetry involves the technique that a poet uses to convey meaning, tone, feelings and passion in his/her poem. Musical devices such as rhythm and rhyme scheme are essential parts of a poet's style. Also words are usually chosen for sound as well as for meaning. The arrangement of these words in a verse line as well as the arrangement of lines in the whole

poem both contributes heavily to a poet's style. Learning about a poet's style is referred to as stylistic.

### STYLISTICS: A CRITICAL OVERVIEW

The potential for linguistic contribution to literary text is examined under the category of stylistics. Stylistics is a science that provides us with the necessary background to understand and appreciate the literary work. Stylistics explores the text and analyzes its important language forms for the sake of interpretation. Wellek and Warren (1995)



assert that Stylistic is a part of literature, and will be an important part because the only method that can describe style special feature of the literature. Wales (2001) says that the goal of most stylistics is not simply to describe the formal features of texts for their own sake but in order to show their interpretation of the text, or in order to relate literary effects to linguistics causes where there are felt to be relevant. Stylistics can provide a way of mediating between two subjects: English language and literature. Clark and McRae (2004) said that stylistics has always caused controversy: there are those who deny its usefulness, and those for whom it is an essential branch of applied linguistics. This is partly because it has proved notoriously difficult to define, since it functions as an umbrella term, covering a range of different stylistic approaches to the study of text. Short (1996) said that stylistic analysis is used to explicate how our understanding of a text is achieved, by examining in detail the linguistic organization of a text and how a reader needs to interact with that linguistic organization to make sense of it. He said that the main purpose of stylistics is to show how interpretation is achieved, and hence provide support for a particular view of the work under discussion. Verdonk (2002) sees that stylistics is concerned with the study of style in language. Style arises from the unique and individualistic use of words and expressions of the author that are later to be decoded by the readers. So stylistic analysis is considered as an approach to analyze any literary work and this analysis involves a detailed systematic account of their linguistic characteristics and the readers' understanding of the texts. The understanding of the term style influences the characteristics given to stylistics as one of several linguistic disciplines.

#### **HERRICK'S TO THE VIRGINS, TO MAKE MUCH OF TIME: THE TEXT**

The literary work to be analyzed in this paper is a famous poem by Robert Herrick entitled "*To the Virgins, To Make Much of Time.*" The purpose behind choosing this interesting and fabulous poem for the data analysis is its magnificent usefulness in order to understand Herrick's poetry and carpe diem

genre. The following is the poem that is the focus of the stylistic analysis:

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying:  
And this same flower that smiles today  
Tomorrow will be dying.

The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,  
The higher he's a-getting,  
The sooner will his race be run,  
And nearer he's to setting.

That age is best which is the first,  
When youth and blood are warmer;  
But being spent, the worse, and worst  
Times still succeed the former.

Then be not coy, but use your time,  
And while ye may, go marry:  
For having lost but once your prime,  
You may forever tarry.

#### **RESEARCH PROBLEM**

It is noted that the stylistic analysis of Herrick's *To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time* has not been done so this paper will address itself to analyzing this poem stylistically and examining the uniqueness of stylistics as it combines both linguistics and literary studies. It also addresses itself to examine how words are put together in transforming the message to the reader of the poem.

#### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. How to explore the poem at graphological level?
2. How to analyze the poem at morphological level?
3. How to assess the poem at phonological level?
4. How to evaluate the poem at lexico-syntactic level?

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To investigate the poem at graphological level.
2. To investigate the poem at morphological level.
3. To examine the poem at phonological level.



4. To evaluate the poem at lexico-syntactic level

#### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This paper shall be stylistic and the analysis will be conducted through the use of the following levels of analysis: graphological, morphological, phonological and lexico-syntactic levels.

#### JUSTIFICATION

Robert Herrick's poetry is over the offspring of a rich and exuberant. His style and choice of words have made the researcher to embark on this research. This paper will be of great benefit to the learners of English language and those who are interested in stylistic analysis.

#### 2. LEVELS OF LANGUAGE IN STYLISTIC ANALYSIS

The levels of stylistic analysis are defined as :

- **Graphological level:** This level deals with language's writing system, punctuation and paragraphing.
- **Phonological level:** This level deals with the study of sound system. It also discusses the rules of pronunciation, rhyme scheme and utterance of the words in the sentence. Phonological devices include alliteration, consonance, rhyme elements and assonance.
- **Morphological level:** This level studies how the words are formed, where they originate from, what their grammatical forms are, what the function of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of words are, how system of gender, number, plural etc. morphological devices include affixes and coinage.
- **Lexicon –Syntax level:** It is the combination of two words Lexis and Syntax. Lexis means vocabulary which is used in language. Syntax means sentence construction. Lexico-syntactic devices include simile, personification, irony, tone, hyperbole, anastrophe, imagery, allusion, metaphor, natural words, old English words and anaphora.

#### THE POET AND THE POEM

##### ROBERT HERRICK

Robert Herrick (1591- 1674) is one of the most prolific names in English poetry. He has been

styles as a propagandist for the received standards of his own time. Also he was known as the most famous of the "Sons of Ben", a poetic movement among the Cavalier poets. He contributed heavily to English poetry when he wrote over 2500 poems, a marvelous number of distinct poems that mostly cover the idea of Carpe Diem, meaning "seize the day".

#### IMPORTANT FEATURES OF HERRICK'S POETRY

The Victorian poet A.C. Swinburne once called Robert Herrick as the greatest English songwriter ever born to the English race. No doubt that he was applauded by many critics for his poetry's lyricism, but there were others who condemned his poetry for its obscenities. Herrick's early work which was full of frequent references to lovemaking and the female body was not appreciated and he was considered as a minor poet. But when he published his later works which were more of spiritual and philosophical nature, he started to gain appreciation and value.

Robert Herrick's poetry is both graceful and witty. His poetic style is colored by directness of speech and simple presentation of thought. He introduced the Greek style of lyrical poetry to English literature that why he was famous of his lyrics that preserved the learned allusions of classical literature and mythology that had been a landmark of Jonson's works. Herrick's main themes tend towards the pastoral, addressing topics such as wondrousness of nature and the fleetingness of love. The predominant message of Herrick's poetry is that life is short, the world is beautiful, love is brilliant, and we must use the short time we have to make the most of it. His lyrics were colored by eminent rhyme, distinguished sound and great imagery. His poetical works reflect a measured intellectual and emotional attitude to the complex forces which were vogue during his time.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE POEM

*To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time* is the most famous poetic work of Robert Herrick. The poet was inspired to write this poem by a line from Ausonius who is a Latin poet: "Maidens, gather roses, while blooms are fresh and youth is fresh, and be mindful that your life-time hastes away". It revolves around one idea where the poet gives instructions and advice from a much older wiser perspective.



Herrick encourages the virgins to take advantage of time and use it wisely and enjoy life. The main theme of the lyric is about the ravages of time. The poet wants the young ladies to make use of their youth while they are young. It is about making the most of one's time on earth.

#### THE TITLE'S IMPLICATIONS

The title of the poem is *To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time*, it is an address to the virgins. To "make much of time" is both to make something happen while time is passing and to pay attention to its passage – the obvious hint is "Time and tide is wait for none" and it is wise to keep rhythm with the pulses of Time. It is the key to understand the poem itself. It reflects the Carpe Diem ideas and thoughts. In this lyric, the poet as an old man addresses directly the young ladies to use their time wisely and not to waste it and go and marry. Actually the poet is not calling the young ladies to make love directly but he combines between Christianity and carpe diem motif. The poet wants young ladies to be happy and marry when they are young.

#### THE POEM AS A LYRIC

Robert Herrick was the most original of the sons of Jonson who revived the spirit of the ancient classic lyric.

Herrick's lyrics are distinguished for their technical mastery and the interplay of thought, rhythm, and imagery that they display. Herrick's "To the Virgins" is a *lyric* poem that falls into the carpe diem genre.

#### WHAT IS A LYRIC POEM?

The word "lyric" comes from the Latin "lyricus" meaning "of or for the lyre". A lyric poem expresses the thoughts and feelings of the poet and is written in a simple and direct style. The term lyric is now commonly referred to as the words to a song. Lyric poetry does not tell a story which portrays characters and actions. The lyric poet addresses the reader directly, portraying his or her own feeling, state of mind, and perceptions.

#### TYPES OF LYRIC POEM

There are two main types of lyrical poems:

1. Classical lyric: it has meter, rhyme and stanza.
2. Free verse: it contains no fixed meter

#### COMMON FEATURES OF LYRICAL POEM

- The poet portrays own feelings and perceptions
- It is often about love but there are other themes as war, peace, nature, nostalgia, grief, loss, spirituality
- When nature is present, often a reflection or contrast of poet's mind
- Refrain is a common feature

#### THE THEMATIC IMPLICATIONS

The theme of the poem revolves round the theme of time and the youthful charm which is subjected to fade its luster with the advent of old age. The first stanza depicts the thought that the flower must be made use of before they are full bloom, because time passes so quickly that soon new flower will be withered on the vine. The idea of the passage of time reflects a new image as the second stanza describes the movement of the sun. The juxtaposition of the ideas of gathering in the first stanza and the reference to the sun in the second echoes the well-known injunction to "make hay while the sun shines". In the third stanza, the idea of the passage of time is cast in human terms: The "first" or youthful period is "best", energetic, productive, "warmer," more active. Just as heat is expended by the sun, however, the heat that makes youth warm is also "spent" and diminishes from "best" to "worse" to "worst." The passage from youth to age in this stanza is parallel to the progression of bud to bloom to death of the flowers in the first. The fourth is directly addressed to the virgins. They are admonished not to be "coy", that is, "to shrink from familiarity," in two senses: in modesty or flirtatiousness. They are further instructed to marry before becoming a bloomed one.

#### STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF THE POEM

In the following lines, stylistic analysis will be presented of Herrick's *To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time*. The graphological, phonological, morphological and lexico-syntactic levels are going to form the basis of the analysis.

#### GRAPHOLOGICAL LEVEL

- To the Virgins: *To Make Much of Time* is a classical lyric that has four well-knit stanzas and each comprises 4 lines.



- The poem is written as a whole.
- The poet used normal capitalization at the beginning of each poetic line and only once in the middle of the second line to emphasize the importance of time and capturing it wisely in one's human being's life: Old Time is still a-flying (line 2)
- There is a usual and simple usage of punctuation. Herrick's usage of punctuation is consistent with the ends of lines and stanzas throughout most of the poem, which gives it a calm and measured pace. The poet used the following punctuation marks in the lyric:

- 1- **Comma:** Robert Herrick used the commas to make the meaning of the sentence clear and that's by grouping and separating words, phrases, and clauses. He used it to add a certain profundity of thought in the poem. Herrick used the comma eleven times to provide brief pauses or for separating thoughts.
- 2- **Caesura:** Herrick used a comma in the middle of the eleventh line which is called in poetry as a caesura:

"But being spent, the worse, and worst" (line 11). He used it in order to cause a break in the poem, increasing the sense of abrupt finality that comes when youth is "spent." There is an enjambment of the poem in lines 11 and 12. In poetry "enjambment" means moving over from one line to another without a terminating punctuation mark. Consequently, the "worse and worst/ times" that come after youth is spent seem to drag on. He also uses caesuras in lines 13 and 14 when he says:

"Then be not coy, but use your time, And while ye may, go marry" (13-14).

The caesuras here are calmer and seem to parallel the first, so that within the advice being given, the threat of that break is repeating itself.

- 3- **Colon:** Robert Herrick used the colon in his poem between independent clauses in a way that the sentence that comes after the colon expands on the first sentence. It is evident that the colon is used to clear the

meaning. The poet used it twice. He used it in line two:

"Old Time is still a-flying;" (line 2).

Here the poet used the colon to elaborate on the advice of the first two lines. He tells the virgins that the flower that is beautiful today will die soon.

His use of the colon again in line 14 tells the virgins why to marry. The virgins should get married, the speaker suggests, because once they lose their youth and beauty they might not get another chance.

"And while ye may, go marry;" (line 14).

- 4- **Period:** The period is used at the end of a complete sentence. Herrick used the period four times at the end of each stanza to show completion of ideas. There are no internal periods.

- 5- **Hyphen:** The hyphen is used to create new vocabulary which adds color to the literary text. Herrick used the hyphen two times and each word functions as a verb and one time as a normal noun:

Old Time is still a-flying; (line 2) Old English word that functions as a verb.  
 To-morrow will be dying. (line 4) Old English way of writing 'tomorrow'.  
 The higher he's a-getting. (line 6) Old English word that functions as a verb.

- 6- **Semi-colon:** The poet used the semi-colon just one time in the poem in the line 10:

"When youth and blood are warmer;" (line 10).

This reflects the easiness and simplicity of language that suits the addressing of young ladies.

#### PHONOLOGICAL LEVEL

This level deals with the study of sound system. It also discusses the rules of pronunciation, meter, rhyme scheme and utterance of the words in the sentence. Phonological devices include alliteration, consonance, rhyme elements and assonance.

#### METER

*To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time* consists of sixteen lines. The meter alternates between two different types of meter. Most of the lines are in iambic tetrameter and in iambic trimeter with catalexis (extra syllable at the end of a line).



The odd-numbered lines are all in iambic tetrameter  
as in:

**Gather** | ye **rose** | buds **while** | ye **may**, (line 1)

(This line is a special case. It begins with a trochee, that reverts to iambic feet)

And **this** | same **flower** | that **smiles** | **today** (line 3)

The **glor** | ious **lamp** | of **heaven**, | the **sun**, (line 5)

The **soon** | er **will** | his **race** | be **run**, (line 7)

That **age** | is **best** | which **is** | the **first**, (line 9)

But **be** | ing **spent**, | the **worse**, | and **worst** (line 11)

Then **be** | not **coy** | but **use** | your **time**, (line 13)

For **hav** | ing **lost** | but **once** | your **prime**, (line 15)

The even-numbered lines are all in iambic trimeter with catalexis:

Old **Time** | is **still** | a-**fly** | ing: line 2

To-**mor** | row **will** | be **dy** | ing. Line 4

The **high** | er **he's** | a-**gett** | ing, line 6

And **near** | er **he's** | to **sett** | ing. Line 8

When **youth** | and **blood** | are **warm** | er; line 10

#### RHYME SCHEME

At the phonological level, there are many examples of rhyme such as end rhyme and internal rhyme.

Herrick's poem has four stanzas chunked into sixteen lines. The rhyme scheme ultimately falls into ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, GHGH.

The First Stanza	Rhyme scheme	The Second Stanza	Rhyme scheme
Gather ye rosebuds while ye <b>may</b> ,	A	The glorious lamp of heaven, the <b>sun</b> ,	C
Old Time is still a- <b>fly</b> ing:	B	The higher he's a- <b>gett</b> ing,	D
And this same flower that smiles <b>today</b>	A	The sooner will his race be <b>run</b> ,	C
Tomorrow will be <b>dy</b> ing.	B	And nearer he's to <b>sett</b> ing	D
The Third Stanza	Rhyme scheme	The Fourth Stanza	Rhyme scheme
That age is best which is the <b>first</b> ,	E	Then be not coy, but use your <b>time</b> ,	G
When youth and blood are <b>warm</b> er;	F	And while ye may, go <b>marry</b> :	H
But being spent, the worse, and <b>worst</b>	E	For having lost but once your <b>prime</b> ,	G
Times still succeed the <b>form</b> er.	F	You may forever <b>tarry</b> .	H

**SOUND DEVICES**

**Alliteration** is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of at least two words in the line of poetry. *To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time* contains simple words, as well as alliteration to suggest both the simplicity and beauty of the theme and also to reinforce the meaning that the poet desires to convey which is simply "go and marry".

Examples of alliteration in the poem:

Line	The verse	Alliteration
3	And <b>th</b> is same flower <b>th</b> at smiles today	This/ that, same/smiles
6	The <b>h</b> igher <b>h</b> e's a-getting,	Higher/ he's
7	The sooner will his <b>r</b> ace be <b>r</b> un,	Race/ run
9	<b>T</b> hat age is best which is <b>th</b> e first,	That/ the
10	<b>W</b> hen youth and blood are <b>w</b> armer;	When/warmer
11	<b>B</b> ut <b>b</b> eing spent, the <b>w</b> orse, and <b>w</b> orst	But/being, worse/worst
12	Times <b>s</b> till <b>s</b> ucceed the former.	Still/succeed
13	Then <b>b</b> e not coy, <b>b</b> ut use your time,	Be /but
14	And while ye <b>m</b> ay, go <b>m</b> arry:	May/marry

**Consonance** is a special type of rhyme that contains words with different vowel sound but the same final consonants. This type of rhyme exists in:

Line	The verse	Consonance
5	The glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,	Heaven, sun
9	That age is <b>best</b> which is the first,	Best, first
12	<b>Times</b> still succeed the <b>former</b> .	Times, former

**Repetition** is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer. As a rhetorical device, it could be a word, a phrase or a full sentence or a poetical line repeated to emphasize its significance in the entire text. In Herrick's poem, one notices that the poet used repetition by using pronouns and verbs and articles as in the following lines for grammatical usage and to reinforce the poet's idea:

Line 1: Gather **ye** rosebuds while **ye** may,

Line 5: **The** glorious lamp of heaven, **the** sun,

Line 9: That age **is** best which **is** the first,

Line 11: But being spent, the **worse**, and **worst**

**Consonant cluster:**

It refers to a sequence of two or more consonant. Consonant clusters may occur at the beginning of a word (initial cluster), within a word (medial cluster) or at the end of a word (final cluster). These three types of consonant clusters are frequently used in Herrick's poem:

Initial consonant cluster	Medial consonant cluster	Final consonant cluster
<b>S</b> till	<b>W</b> armer	<b>S</b> till
<b>F</b> lying	<b>S</b> ucceed	<b>S</b> pent
<b>F</b> lower	<b>F</b> ormer	Rosebuds
<b>S</b> miles	<b>M</b> arry	<b>O</b> ld
<b>G</b> lorious	<b>T</b> arry	<b>L</b> amp
<b>B</b> lood	<b>W</b> orse	<b>W</b> orst
<b>S</b> pent	tomor <b>r</b> ow	<b>L</b> ost
<b>p</b> rime		<b>F</b> lying
		<b>D</b> ying
		getting

**Morphological level**



This level studies how the words are formed, where they originate from, what their grammatical forms are, what the function of prefixes and suffixes in the formation of words are, how system of gender, number, plural etc. morphological devices include affixes and coinage.

**AFFIXES**

An affix is added to the root of a word to change its meaning. An affix added to the front of a word is known as a prefix. One added to the back is known as a suffix. Sometimes, prefixes are hyphenated.

**SUFFIXES**

Rosebuds	rosebud + s
Flying	fly + ing
Smiles	smile + s
Dying	die + ing

Glorious	glory+ous
Higher	high + er
Getting	get + ing
Sooner	soon + er
Nearer	near + er
Setting	set +ing
Warmer	warm + er
Being	be + ing
Former	form +er
Having	have + ing

**WORD FORMATIONAL PROCESS**

Word class to which inflection applies	Inflectional category	Affix used
Noun	Numbers	S as in rosebuds
Verb	First person Third person	Gather, may, succeed, coy, use, go marry, run Smiles, Is, Are, lost The tense is present simple

**WORD DERIVATIONAL PROCESS**

Word class to which derivation applies	Derivational category	Affix used
Adjective	-er, -ing, past participle	Higher, sooner, nearer, warmer, dying spent
Noun	-ing	being

**Compounding**

To-morrow  
Today  
Rosebuds

**LEXICO-SYNTACTIC LEVEL**

It is the combination of two words Lexis and Syntax. Lexis means vocabulary which is used in language. Syntax means sentence construction. Lexico-syntactic devices include simile, personification, irony, tone, hyperbole, anastrophe, imagery, allusion, metaphor, natural words, old English words and anaphora

**Semantics**

**METAPHOR:** It is a figure of speech containing an implied comparison in which a word or phrase is applied to something which is not literally applicable in order to suggest resemblance. It compares two

objects or things without using the words "like" or "as". In *To the Virgins: to Make Much of Time*, Robert Herrick used many metaphors to decorate his lyric as in the following:

**Gather ye rosebuds** while ye may, (line 1).

The poet is addressing the virgins who are still young to go and gather their rosebuds while they can. And here the word "rosebuds" implies for some readers that the poet is calling the virgins to enjoy their life without limits, but at the end of the poem it becomes clear that "rosebuds" are a metaphor for marriage. In the second line, the poet addresses the virgins directly and reminds them that:

**Old Time** is still **a-flying** (line 2).

Here the poet means that time is passing and that flowers may die soon. Actually time does not fly, so flight is a metaphor for the passage of



time. While the flowers are a metaphor for marriage, they also seem to be a metaphor for human life.

The poet continues to express his message to the young ladies of his age by using another metaphor when he says:

**Tomorrow** will be **dying**.(line 4).

In this line, the poet uses another metaphor about human life. We associate death with old age, and the speaker says that the flowers may die soon. The flowers are a metaphor for human life which can end suddenly with no discernible reason. In the fifth line, the poet uses a distinguished metaphor again by using romantic poetic words that young ladies like to hear:

**The glorious lamp** of heaven, **the sun**,(line 5).

The poet here calls the sun the "glorious lamp of heaven". Herrick imagines the sun that lights our world and heaven as a lamp lights up our rooms and houses. Both the sun and the lamp suggest warmth. The poet insists on his ideas when the poet says in the same stanza about the sun:

The glorious lamp of heaven, **the sun**,

**The higher he's a-getting**,

**The sooner will his race be run**,

And nearer he's to **setting**(5-8).

In these lines it is simply detected that the poet says that the sun that lights up our heaven progresses through the sky and this is a direct metaphor for human journey. As it is known the sun itself does not set. So setting here is a metaphor for what appears to happen at the end of the day.

Another metaphor prevails in the following lines:

That age is best which is **the first**,

When **youth and blood are warmer**(9-10).

The poet here calls youth as the best age. People aren't literally "warmer" when they are younger, so "warmer" is a metaphor for health, vigor, and other things we associate with youth.

Another metaphor takes place when the speaker of the poem says:

But being **spent**, the worse, and worst

Times still succeed the former (11-12).

Here the speaker presents the process of aging as a gradual decline, where everything gets progressively worse. Spent here is a metaphor for loss of one's youth.

**Personification:** It is a figure of speech in which inanimate object is given human attributes. Personification occurs in many forms of literature, especially where figurative language is used. There are many examples of personification in the poem as follow:

And this **same flower that smiles** today/ Tomorrow will be **dying** (3-4).

The speaker here personifies the flower as a human being who smiles and normally flowers do not smile. In the following line, the poet describes the sun that it gets 'higher' as it progresses from east to west. This is attributing human characteristics to a non- human being:

The higher he's **a-getting** (line 6).

He goes on describing the sun as running a race and this could not be for the sun is not a human being:

The sooner will **his race be run**,(line 7).

Also he personifies the sun when he says: And nearer he's to **setting** (line 8).

Actually the sun cannot set; the earth rotates. Setting is a human activity.

**Tone:** The poem delivers a playful tone, which encourages the reader to live life to its fullest. The poet uses a particular kind of style to elicit a particular kind of responses in the reader. The tone evokes specific feelings in the reader and this is what creates the poem's mood or atmosphere. The poem's lines are short and the language is playful but serious to evoke feelings of optimism in the reader. The poet gives instructions and advice. His language is used effectively to convey his ideas. The language is direct, he uses 'ye' to get his message across.

**Anaphora:** It means the repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of successive lines:

**The** glorious lamp of heaven, the sun,

**The** higher he's a-getting,

**The** sooner will his race be run (5-7).



**Lexical level:** This level examines the way in which individual words and idioms tend to pattern in different linguistic context

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
Rosebuds, time, flower, today, tomorrow, lamp, heaven, sun, race, setting, age, youth, blood, being, time, prime	Gather, may, is, smiles, will, be, is, will, be, run, tarry, are, succeed, be, use, having, lost, may, tarry, go, marry	Old, same, dying, glorious, higher, sooner, nearer, best, first, warmer, spent, worst, worse, former, coy,	Still Once ever

Pronoun	preposition	conjunction	article
Ye, this, that, he, his, your, you	Of, to, for	While, and, which, when, but, then.	The

The poet used nouns from nature to talk about the beauty of youth. When he addresses the virgins to gather rosebuds when they are young, he knows that young ladies like flowers. That's why he used such words from nature to convey his message. The nouns are simple. Also the verbs that he used in the poem are imperatives. He wants them to learn from his experience as an old man that why he gives them commands when he says: gather, be not coy, use your time, go marry etc. even the adjectives that the poet used are chosen to convey the poet's ideas in an intricate way.

### CONCLUSION

*To the virgins: to Make much of Time* is one of the greatest works of all time. The theme of the poem is easily conveyed through the richness of images. Herrick was successful in conveying his message throughout his direct call and lovely expression. Herrick used the excellent imagery, literary devices, and wonderful writing skill that he is known for. Herrick explains his message with great simplicity, elegant metaphors, and imagery.

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