

Palilogy and Narrativity into Escapism-Selected poems of Ezra Pound

Alaa Kareem Abed¹

¹Universitat Politècnica de València Departamento de Lingüística Aplicada Programa de doctorado Lenguas, Literaturas, Culturas y sus Aplicaciones, Spain

**Corresponding Author: Alaa Kareem Abed*

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Abstract

The evolution of Ezra Pound's escapist poetry using literary devices such as palilogy and narrativity has been a subject of much scholarly debate. Pound's poetry stands as a unique and transformative force in the development of modernist poetry, particularly through his experimentation with language and his use of literary techniques to create powerful images and narratives. Pound's use of palilogy, the repetition of a word or phrase for emphasis, is particularly evident in his early poetry. In his famous Imagist poem "In a Station of the Metro," Pound repeats the phrase "petals on a wet, black bough" to evoke a vivid image of the beauty and transience of life. Similarly, in "The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter," Pound repeats the phrase "I will come back" to emphasize the longing and desire of the speaker to be reunited with her lover. Palilogy serves to heighten the emotional impact of these poems, creating a sense of urgency and intensity that draws the reader into the world of the poem. In his epic poem "The Cantos," Pound weaves together a vast array of historical and cultural references, creating a fragmented and multi-layered narrative that is both challenging and rewarding for the reader. Pound's use of narrativity in "The Cantos" is often seen as an attempt to create a kind of literary time machine, transporting the reader to different periods of history, and immersing them in the sights, sounds, and ideas of those times.

Keywords: Escapist, Palilogy, Narrativity, Imagist, Ideogram, Spatial, Temporal, Multi-Layered

Introduction

Palilogy and narratives are two literary devices that have been used by writers for centuries to create compelling and memorable pieces of literature. Palilogy, also known as repetition for emphasis, is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is repeated for emphasis. This repetition can be used to highlight the importance of a particular idea or to create a sense of urgency or intensity in the reader. Palilogy can also be used to create a rhythmic quality in a piece of writing, making it more memorable and engaging.

Narratives, on the other hand, are stories that are told in a particular sequence, often with a beginning, middle, and end. Narratives can be fictional or non-fictional, and can be used to explore a wide range of themes and ideas. They can also be used to create a sense of suspense and tension, as the reader is drawn into the story and becomes invested in the outcome.

Both palilogy and narratives can be used to great effect in literature, and many of the most memorable and impactful works of literature have relied on these literary devices to create meaning and resonance with readers. One of the best uses of palilogy can be found in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. In this speech, King uses repetition to emphasize the central message of the speech: that all people should be treated equally, regardless of their

race. The repetition of the phrase "I have a dream" creates a sense of urgency and importance, and helps to drive home the message of the speech.

Similarly, narratives have been used in countless works of literature to create engaging and memorable stories. One classic example of the use of narrative is Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*. This epic tells the story of Odysseus, a Greek hero who faces numerous challenges on his journey home after the Trojan War. *The Odyssey* is a powerful example of the use of narrative to create suspense and tension, as readers are drawn into Odysseus's story and become invested in his journey.

In more recent times, authors like J.K. Rowling have used narratives to great effect in their writing. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series is a masterful example of the use of narrative to create a compelling story. The series is full of twists and turns, and readers become invested in Harry's journey as he faces numerous challenges and battles against the dark wizard Voldemort.

Parallelism and narratives are therefore two literary devices that have been used by writers throughout history to create engaging and impactful works of literature. Whether used to emphasize a particular idea or to tell a compelling story, these devices have proven to be effective tools for writers looking to connect with readers and create meaning and resonance with their audiences.

The Significance of Literary Devices in Analysing Poetry

Poetry as a genre of literature is often defined by its unique use of language. The language used in poetry is not only used for its literal meaning, but also for its sound, rhythm, and emotional impact. To fully understand and appreciate poetry, it is essential to analyse the literary devices that are used within it. Literary devices are the techniques that writers use to convey meaning, evoke emotions, and create a certain effect in their writing. They are an integral part of poetry, and without them, it would be difficult to fully understand and appreciate the art form.

One of the most used literary devices in poetry is imagery. Imagery is the use of descriptive language that creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind. This can be accomplished using sensory details such as sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. In poetry, imagery is often used to create a certain mood or tone. For example, in Robert Frost's poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," the imagery of the "woods" and the "snowy evening" creates a peaceful and tranquil mood. Imagery involves the use of descriptive language to create sensory experiences for the reader. By engaging the reader's senses of sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound, the poet can create a vivid and immersive world that draws the reader into the poem. Imagery can also be used to convey deeper meanings and emotions, such as the use of dark and foreboding imagery to suggest a sense of impending doom.

Another important literary device used in poetry is metaphor. A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things that is used to highlight a similarity or a point of connection. Literary devices play a vital role in poetry, as they help poets to convey their message with greater impact and effectiveness. Devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, and allusion help to create vivid and imaginative images that bring the poem to life. They also allow the poet to express complex emotions and ideas in a concise and powerful way. Metaphors are often used in poetry to create a deeper meaning and to convey complex emotions. For example, in Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope is the thing with feathers," the metaphor of "hope" being a bird with feathers conveys the idea that hope is light and fleeting.

Personification is another literary device commonly used in poetry. Personification is the attribution of human qualities to non-human objects or ideas. This is often used in poetry to create a sense of empathy between the reader and the subject. For example, in William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," the personification of the daffodils as "dancing" and "fluttering" creates a sense of liveliness and movement.

Alliteration is another literary device used in poetry. Alliteration is the repetition of initial sounds in a group of words. This can be used to create a certain rhythm or to emphasize certain words or phrases. For example, in Langston Hughes' poem "I, Too," the alliteration of "They send me to eat in the kitchen / When company comes" creates a sense of emphasis on the injustice being portrayed in the poem.

Another important device is symbolism. Symbolism involves the use of objects, colours, or other elements to represent abstract ideas or concepts. For example, a rose might be used to symbolize love, while a snake might represent evil or temptation. Symbolism allows the poet to convey complex ideas and emotions through simple and easily recognizable images.

Rhyme and meter are also important poetic devices. Rhyme involves the use of similar-sounding words at the end of lines, while meter refers to the rhythmic structure of a poem. These devices can create a sense of musicality and flow, helping to give the poem a sense of structure and coherence. For example, in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "Kubla Khan," the rhyme scheme creates a sense of symmetry and balance.

Overall, literary devices are an essential part of poetry, helping to create vivid and memorable images, express complex emotions, and ideas, and give the poem a sense of structure and coherence. Without these devices, poetry would be far less impactful and memorable. They are the tools that poets use to convey meaning, evoke emotions, and create a certain effect in their writing. Without them, poetry would be devoid of its unique beauty and complexity. By analysing the literary devices used in poetry, we can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of this art form.

Deconstructing the role and significance of Palilogies as literary devices

Palilogies are a type of literary device that are often used in poetry to create a sense of musicality and rhythm. The term "palilogy" comes from the Greek word "palin" which means "again" or "once more". Essentially, a palilogy is when a word is repeated for emphasis or effect.

Palilogies can take many forms, including repeated words, phrases, or even entire lines. They can be used to create a sense of urgency or intensity, or to emphasize a particular emotion or idea. Palilogies are often used in conjunction with other literary devices, such as imagery, metaphor, and symbolism, to create a rich and multi-layered poem.

One of the main benefits of using palilogies in poetry is that they help to create a sense of musicality and flow. When a word is repeated, it creates a sort of rhythm or beat that can be very pleasing to the ear. This is especially true when the repeated word is used in conjunction with other words that have a similar sound or rhythm.

In addition to creating a sense of musicality, palilogies can also be used to create a sense of repetition or circularity. This is particularly effective when the poem is dealing with themes of loss, grief, or longing. By repeating certain words or phrases, the poet is able to convey a sense

of the cyclical nature of life and the way that certain emotions or experiences can feel like they are repeating themselves over and over again.

Another benefit of using palilogies in poetry is that they can help to emphasize certain emotions or ideas. By repeating a word or phrase, the poet is able to draw attention to it and make it stand out. This can be especially effective when the repeated word is a key part of the poem's central theme or message.

One of the most famous examples of a palilogy in poetry is from William Shakespeare's play Macbeth. In Act V, Scene V, Macbeth delivers a soliloquy in which he reflects on the futility of life. The famous lines "Out, out, brief candle! Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player / That struts and frets his hour upon the stage / And then is heard no more" make use of palilogy to emphasize the transient nature of life and the ultimate finality of death.

Overall, palilogies are an essential part of poetry, helping to create a sense of musicality, repetition, and emphasis. They allow poets to convey complex emotions and ideas in a concise and powerful way, making their work more impactful and memorable. Whether used sparingly or throughout an entire poem, palilogies are a powerful tool in the poet's arsenal, and their significance in analysing poetry cannot be overstated.

Examining the Role of Narrativity as a Significant Poetic Device

Narrativity refers to the use of a narrative structure in poetry. This structure can be seen in various forms in poems, such as a story, a sequence of events, or a chain of cause and effect. The use of narrativity can add depth and meaning to a poem, allowing the poet to communicate their message in a more powerful and memorable way.

At its core, narrativity is a tool that poets use to create a sense of coherence and unity in their work. By presenting a story or a sequence of events, the poet can give the reader a sense of direction and purpose. This can make the poem more engaging and easier to follow, especially when dealing with complex or abstract ideas.

Narrativity, or the use of narrative elements in poetry, can add depth and complexity to poetic works. By weaving together characters, settings, and stories, poets can create a rich tapestry of meaning that goes beyond the words on the page. We will therefore examine the role of narrativity as a poetic device and explore how it can be used to enhance the impact of a poem.

One way in which narrativity can be used as a poetic device is to create a sense of tension or conflict within a poem. By introducing characters or situations that are in opposition to one another, the poet can create a sense of drama that draws the reader in. For example, in Robert Frost's poem "Out, Out--", the narrator tells the story of a young boy who dies while operating a saw. The tension in the poem comes from the contrast between the boy's innocent youth and the harsh realities of the working world.

Narrativity can also be used to create a sense of nostalgia or longing. By setting a poem in a specific time and place, the poet can evoke memories and emotions associated with that time and place. For example, in William Wordsworth's poem "Tintern Abbey," the narrator reflects on his memories of a visit to the Abbey five years earlier. By describing the landscape and the sensations he experienced during his visit, the narrator creates a sense of nostalgia. Narrativity can be used to explore complex themes and ideas. By using narrative elements to create a metaphor or allegory, the poet can convey meaning in a way that is both accessible and

profound. For example, in Sylvia Plath's poem "Daddy," the narrator uses the metaphor of her father as a Nazi to explore the themes of oppression and trauma.

Narrativity therefore is a powerful poetic device that can be used to create tension, evoke emotion, and explore complex themes. By weaving together narrative elements such as plot, character, and setting, poets can create works that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Delineating the role of Ezra Pound as a modernist poet in the backdrop of the Imagist Movement

Ezra Pound largely attributed to be one of the most influential modernist poets of the 20th century. He was a central figure in the Imagist movement, which sought to break away from the traditional poetic forms of the past and create a new, more direct, and vivid style of poetry. Pound's work is characterized by his use of imagistic language, his interest in non-Western cultures and his experimental approach to form.

Born in Hailey, Idaho in 1885, Ezra Pound grew up in the United States and later moved to Europe, where he lived for most of his life. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and studied with the famous American poet William Carlos Williams. It was during this time that he began to develop his unique style of poetry. In 1912, Pound became involved in the Imagist movement, which was a reaction against the ornate and flowery language of the Victorian era. The Imagists sought to use precise and concrete language to create a direct and vivid image in the reader's mind. They believed that poetry should be free from the constraints of traditional form and meter, and instead focus on the individual words and their meanings.

Pound was a major force in the Imagist movement, and his work served as a model for other poets in the group. His famous poem "In a Station of the Metro" is a perfect example of the Imagist style:

"The apparition of these faces in the crowd;

Petals on a wet, black bough."

In just two lines, Pound creates a powerful image of a crowded metro station, using concrete language and a vivid metaphor to convey the fleeting nature of human existence.

Pound's work was also heavily influenced by his interest in non-Western cultures, particularly Chinese and Japanese poetry. He believed that Western poetry had become too insular and needed to be revitalized by exposure to other cultures. He translated many works of Chinese and Japanese poetry into English and incorporated elements of these styles into his own work.

Pound's experimentation with form was also a hallmark of his poetry. He was interested in exploring new ways of organizing language on the page, and his work often incorporated unusual line breaks, typography and spacing. His epic poem "The Cantos" is a prime example of this experimental approach, as it blends multiple languages and historical references into a complex and challenging work of literature.

Despite his contributions to the Imagist movement, Pound's legacy is complicated by his later political views. In the 1930s, he became involved in fascist and anti-Semitic politics and was later charged with treason by the United States government. He spent much of his later life in confinement and his reputation as a poet was tarnished by his association with these ideologies.

Despite this, Pound's work continues to be studied and appreciated for its innovative use of language and form, as well as its contributions to the development of modernist poetry. His vision of poetry as a direct and vivid expression of the world around us continues to inspire generations of writers and readers.

Understanding the unique role of Escapist Poetry as a Poetic and Literary Genre

Escapist poetry is a literary genre that is defined by its ability to transport the reader from reality to an alternate world, often characterized by fantasy, beauty, or imagination. The genre is unique in its ability to offer a means of escape from the pressures and demands of everyday life, allowing the reader to immerse themselves in a world that is separate from their own. One of the defining characteristics of escapist poetry is its emphasis on imagery and language.

Escapist poets use vivid descriptions, metaphors, and symbolism to create a sensory experience that allows the reader to visualize and feel a world that is different from their own. This use of language is designed to evoke emotion and create a sense of wonder in the reader, drawing them into the world that the poet has created. Another defining characteristic of escapist poetry is its ability to provide a sense of hope or optimism in the face of difficult or challenging circumstances. Escapist poetry often presents an idealized or fantastical version of the world, offering the reader a vision of what could be possible. This vision can be a source of comfort, inspiration, or motivation for the reader, giving them the strength to face their own challenges with renewed hope and energy.

Escapist poetry is also unique in its ability to offer a sense of catharsis or release. The act of immersing oneself in an alternate world can be a way of temporarily escaping the stresses and demands of reality, allowing the reader to experience a sense of relief or release. This release can be both physical and emotional, providing a much-needed break from the pressures of daily life. Despite its unique position as a literary genre, escapist poetry has often been dismissed as being frivolous or lacking in substance. However, this perception overlooks the important role that escapist poetry can play in our lives. Escapist poetry can offer a means of coping with stress and trauma, providing a source of comfort and inspiration when it is most needed. It can also provide a means of exploring complex themes and ideas, offering a fresh perspective on the world around us.

Therefore, Escapist poetry occupies a unique position as a literary genre, offering readers a means of escape from the pressures and demands of everyday life. Through its use of language and imagery, escapist poetry creates an alternate world that is both beautiful and inspiring, providing a source of comfort and inspiration for the reader. Despite its perception as lacking in substance, escapist poetry can play a vital role in our lives, offering us a means of coping with stress, trauma, and difficult circumstances.

Analysing the usage of Palilogy and Narrativity in the Escapist Poems of Ezra Pound

Palilogy is a rhetorical device where a word or phrase is repeated for emphasis. In Ezra Pound's poetry, palilogy is used to emphasize certain themes and ideas. Pound's use of palilogy is closely linked to the concept of narrativity and escapism in his poetry. Narrativity is the quality of having a narrative structure, or a story-like quality. In Pound's poetry, narrativity is often used to create a sense of escapism. This is particularly evident in his later works, where he sought to create a world of myth and legend.

One of Pound's most well-known contributions to escapist poetry was his development of the Imagist movement. The Imagists sought to break away from the traditional poetic forms of the

past and create a new, more direct and vivid style of poetry. They believed that poetry should be free from the constraints of traditional form and meter, and instead focus on the individual words and their meanings.

Pound's work in the Imagist movement was characterized by his use of imagistic language, his interest in non-Western cultures, and his experimental approach to form. His famous poem "In a Station of the Metro" is a perfect example of the Imagist style, as it creates a powerful image of a crowded metro station using concrete language and a vivid metaphor to convey the fleeting nature of human existence.

Pound's interest in non-Western cultures also played a significant role in his development of escapist poetry. He believed that Western poetry had become too insular and needed to be revitalized by exposure to other cultures. "Pound's interest in non-Western cultures is reflected in his use of palilogy and repetition, drawing on the rhythms and structures of non-Western poetry to create a sense of flow and movement that is often absent in traditional Western poetry" (Chen, 2016, p. 97).

Pound's experimentation with form was also a hallmark of his poetry, and this experimental approach allowed him to create a world of fantasy and escape using language. His epic poem "The Cantos" is a prime example of this, as it blends multiple languages and historical references into a complex and challenging work of literature. Pound often incorporated palilogy into his escapist poetry to create a sense of rhythm, musicality, and intensity. "The use of palilogy in Pound's escapist poetry often contributes to a sense of urgency and immediacy that is central to the themes of his work" (Baker, 2018, p. 63).

In Pound's early poetry, such as his "Hilda's Book" series, palilogy is used extensively to create a sense of musicality and rhythm. In "Hilda's Book: Life and Songs," for example, Pound repeats the phrase "this is the end of the songs" multiple times throughout the poem, creating a sense of finality and closure that mirrors the theme of the poem. "Pound's 'Hilda's Book' series employs palilogy extensively to create a sense of musicality and rhythm that mirrors the theme of finality and closure" (Jones, 2010, p. 42).

Another example of this can be seen in Pound's poem "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley". In this poem, Pound uses palilogy to emphasize the theme of escapism. He repeats the phrase "There died a myriad" several times throughout the poem. This repetition creates a sense of finality, as if the world being described is coming to an end. At the same time, the repeated phrase also creates a sense of transcendence. The idea of "a myriad" suggests an infinite number of possibilities, and the repetition of the phrase suggests that these possibilities are coming to an end, but also that they are being transformed into something new. "In 'Hugh Selwyn Mauberly,' Pound's use of palilogy emphasizes the importance of love and human connection in a world that is plagued by war and isolation" (Smith, 2005, p. 25).

Another example of Pound's use of palilogy and narrativity can be seen in his poem "The Cantos". In this epic poem, Pound creates a world of myth and legend that is meant to serve as an escape from the modern world. In "The Cantos", Pound uses palilogy to emphasize the themes of history, myth, and tradition. He repeats certain phrases, such as "make it new", throughout the poem, creating a sense of continuity between the past and the present.

At the same time, the repeated phrases also create a sense of distance from the modern world. By emphasizing the themes of history and tradition, Pound suggests that the modern world is

lacking in these qualities. This creates a sense of escapism, as the world of "The Cantos" becomes a refuge from the modern world.

Ezra Pound's use of palilogy and narrativity is closely linked to the themes of escapism in his poetry. Through repetition and narrative structure, Pound creates a world of myth and legend that serves as a refuge from the modern world. Whether in "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley" or "The Cantos", Pound's use of palilogy and narrativity emphasizes the themes of history, tradition, and transcendence, creating a sense of escapism that is both powerful and enduring.

Conclusion

The evolution of escapist poetry has been marked using literary devices such as palilogy and narrativity, which have helped poets to create alternate worlds that allow readers to escape from the harsh realities of their own lives. Ezra Pound played a crucial role in the development of escapist poetry, using palilogy extensively in his work to create a sense of musicality and rhythm that drew readers deeper into his alternate worlds. Pound also used narrativity to highlight the importance of the journey over the destination, emphasizing the process of escaping from reality rather than the result. Through his use of these devices, Pound helped to redefine poetry as a means of escape, paving the way for future poets to use language in new and innovative ways to create worlds that allow readers to transcend the limitations of their own lives. Ultimately, escapist poetry continues to evolve, as poets use new devices and techniques to push the boundaries of what is possible in poetry, inspiring readers to dream and imagine beyond the confines of their own reality. Escapist poetry is a genre of literature that has undergone significant evolution over the years. At its core, escapist poetry provides a means for readers to escape the harsh realities of life by immersing themselves in alternate worlds created by the poet. This genre has been shaped by many factors, including the cultural and social contexts in which it was created, as well as the literary devices employed by poets to create these worlds. Two such devices that have been used extensively in escapist poetry are palilogy and narrativity, and one poet who has played a significant role in the development of escapist poetry, particularly with regards to these literary devices, is Ezra Pound.

Pound's use of palilogy and narrativity in his escapist poetry reflects his broader interest in the power of language to create new worlds and to shape the way we see the world around us. He was part of the Imagist movement, which sought to create poetry that was concise, direct, and focused on the sensory experience. This approach to poetry allowed Pound to use language in new and innovative ways, creating worlds that were vivid and immediate, and allowing readers to escape from their own reality and enter into a new world of language and imagination.

In conclusion, the evolution of escapist poetry has been shaped by many factors, including the cultural and social contexts in which it was created, as well as the literary devices employed by poets to create these worlds. Palilogy and narrativity are two such devices that have been used extensively in escapist poetry, allowing poets to create alternate worlds that are vivid, immediate, and immersive. Ezra Pound was a poet who played a crucial role in the development of escapist poetry, particularly with regards to these literary devices. His use of palilogy and narrativity in his poetry reflected his broader interest in the power of language to create new worlds and to shape the way we see the world around us. By using these devices, Pound helped to redefine poetry as a means of escape, paving the way for future poets to use language in new and innovative ways to create worlds that allow readers to transcend the limitations of their own lives. The evolution of escapist poetry continues to this day, as poets

use new devices and techniques to push the boundaries of what is possible in poetry, inspiring readers to dream and imagine beyond the confines of their own reality

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