

AN INTRINSIC ANALYSIS OF MAHMOUD DARWIS *A LOVER FROM PALESTINE*

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Abstrak

Keywords:

*Intrinsic elements,
Mahmoud Darwish,
A Lover from Palestine,
Imagery Diction*

*This study examines the intrinsic elements of Mahmoud Darwish's poem *A Lover from Palestine* and how these elements shape its meaning and emotional impact. As poetry increasingly circulates on digital platforms such as Poem Hunter and TikTok, Darwish's work continues to resonate with young readers through its rich metaphors and expressions of love, pain, and humanity, despite criticism of its intense emotionality and figurative density. Using a qualitative descriptive method grounded in Wellek and Warren's theory of intrinsic elements, this research analyzes the poem's inner elements (theme, tone, message, and imagery) and physical elements (diction and typography) through close reading and textual marking. The findings show that the poem's central theme is love for the homeland intertwined with a broader sense of humanity, conveyed through a gentle yet emotionally charged tone that immerses readers in the suffering and struggle of the Palestinian people. Its message frames love for one's homeland as both feeling and resistance, sustained by strength and hope amid hardship. Visual, emotional, and implied sound imagery—such as comparisons of the beloved's eyes to a forest and a thorn—deepen the poem's emotional resonance, while metaphor-rich diction and free-verse typography, marked by varied punctuation, reinforce its dynamism and expressive intensity. Overall, this study demonstrates that Darwish's poem functions not merely as personal expression but as a vehicle for social and political resistance, articulating universal values of love, loss, and hope through the Palestinian experience.*

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INTRODUCTION

In Thursday, 5 September 2013 - on Juny Today 2025, many people read poetry online, especially on social media like Poem Hunter and TikTok. Mahmoud Darwish is one of the most famous poets on these platforms. Her poem *A lover from Palestina* uses



many metaphor are used at the beginning-last part of poems and long poems to talk about feelings, pain, love, spirit, anger, sadness and grief. Many young people connect with her poems because they are stand for humanity to. However, some critics say her poems are emotional strong, generalization and metaphorical language. This debate shows a new trend: how poetry changes in the digital age and how people read and share poetry today.

To understand this, we need to study both the inside of her poems (intrinsic). The intrinsic elements of poetry are the elements found within a literary work. These elements are divided into two categories: Inner Elements (Theme, Tone and Message) and Physical Elements (Diction and Typography). This study will help explain why Mahmood Darwish poetry is important now and how state of Palestine.

Research Question

How do intrinsic elements contribute to the meaning and impact of Mahmood Darwis poetry in *a lover from palestine*?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Wellek and Warren (1989) argue that intrinsic elements are the components that form a literary work from within the work itself. Intrinsic elements are parts of a poem that cannot be separated in the formation of a poem. According to Katikasari & Suprpto (2018: 116), intrinsic elements are the elements that build a literary work from within the work itself. These intrinsic elements are what cause a literary work to be born factually and can be found by readers when reading a literary work Based on the opinions above, intrinsic elements are inseparable parts of a poem. They are the foundational components contained within a literary work that serve as the initial basis for the creation of the work.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. According to Sugiyono (2018), qualitative research methods are based on postpositivism philosophy and are used to study natural objects where the researcher is the key instrument. The object analyzed is the intrinsic elements of the poem “A Lover From Palestine” by Mahmoud Darwish. The data collection technique used is reading and then analyzing the poem “A Lover From Palestine” by Mahmoud Darwish by marking the words that contain the intrinsic elements of poetry in the poem. The data analysis technique in this study is to discuss the intrinsic elements of the poem “A Lover From Palestine” by Mahmoud Darwish, which include theme, diction, tone, feeling, imagery, typography, concrete words, style, and message. Here are the steps:

1. Look Inside the Poems (Intrinsic Analysis):
 - a) Inner Elements:
 - Theme

The theme is the main idea expressed by the poet through his poetry. Waluyo (1987: 107) says that the theme of a poem must be connected to the poet and to the concepts he imagines. The poem “A lover from Palestine” is a poem that raises the theme of feelings about humanity felt by people towards the condition of the state of Palestine. This poem also tells of the poet's feelings of sadness, love, and anger towards nature.

- **Tone**

Tone is often associated with mood. Tone is the poet's attitude toward what is expressed and the poet's attitude toward the reader. Waluyo (1987: 125) says that talking about the poet's attitude means talking about tone, and talking about the mood of the reader that arises after reading a poem means mood. A soft tone with a calm tempo and a stirring of the conscience builds the structure of one of Mahmoud Darwish's poems entitled "A Lover

From Palestine," as if reminding the reader that the poet is describing an atmosphere of turmoil, sadness, love, and anger that must be felt and absorbed as a deep sense of humanity. Slowly, with an emotional delivery and a deep sense of humanity, it always has meaning and purpose. The use of this tone and atmosphere is very relevant to the theme of the poem, which is love in the context of humanity.

- **Message**

In literary works, the message is the moral or teaching that the author wants to convey to the reader (Kosasih, 2009: 93). According to Nurgiyantoro (2012:161), the message is the underlying idea of the story that contains the moral the author wants to convey through the characters. In Mahmoud Darwish's poem "A Lover from Palestine," he conveys feelings of turmoil and confusion amidst sadness, anger, and love. The numerous metaphors Darwish uses in the poem reflect the various phenomena and events that occurred during the tragedy in Palestine. Darwish also attempts to depict Palestine through subtext using metaphors he clearly embeds in his poem.

- **Imagery**

Imagery is defined as the strategic arrangement of words in poetry that aims to stimulate the reader's senses, encompassing sight, hearing, feeling, and even smell and taste. The employment of imagery enables readers to envision or empathize with the poet's experiences.

In his poem titled "A Lover from Palestine," Mahmoud Darwish frequently employs strong and meaningful imagery, particularly visual imagery (sight) and emotional imagery.

a) Initially, the line "Your eyes are a forest" exemplifies the utilization of visual imagery. This sentence presents a vivid and profound image, suggesting that the eyes of the beloved are not merely aesthetically pleasing, but also vast, intricate, and potentially deceptive. This image conveys a multifaceted sentiment, suggesting that the eyes harbor secrets, suffering, and strength.

b) Secondly, the imagery of feelings can be found in the line "Your eyes are a thorn in my heart." This sentence suggests that the love experienced by the poet is characterized by a sense of pain and suffering. However, he treasures and cultivates this anguish, as it carries profound significance. This image evokes a range of emotions in the reader, suggesting that the love depicted in the poem is both sweet and accompanied by wounds, reflecting the suffering experienced by the Palestinian people.

c) Thirdly, the imagery of sound is evident in the line "Hanging your orphans' rags on the wash line." This imagery indirectly gives rise to a silent and bitter sound, one that captures the essence of the lives of the Palestinian people who have been dispossessed of their homes and families. Despite its lack of direct mention of sound,

the imagery conjures up a poignant atmosphere of silent mourning. Through these visual aids, readers are invited to observe the situation in Palestine and to experience the intertwined themes of pain, love, and struggle that are integral to the poem. The poem's imagery serves to underscore the notion that a profound sense of love and attachment to one's homeland frequently accompanies an unspoken form of suffering.

b) Physical Elements

• Diction

Diction is the expression of an author's thoughts and feelings through the most appropriate choice of words. According to Pradopo (2005:54), words that produce aesthetic images are called poetic diction.

The poem "A Lover from Palestine" uses many metaphors, such as "Your eyes are a thorn in my heart," "I love oranges and hate the port," "A shepherdess without sheep," "I have seen you in casks of water, in granaries," "Hanging your orphans' rags on the wash line," "Mastering only the elegy of our homeland," "How can the ever-verdant orange grove be dragged," and "I have seen Byzantium's horses." Each metaphorical word seems to depict the chaotic state of Palestine and convey a deeply dilemma-ridden atmosphere.

• Typography

According to Stanley Marrison (in Aris Kurniawan, 2020), typography can be defined as the skill of arranging printed material for a specific purpose, such as arranging text, dividing space, and organizing or maintaining letters to help readers understand the text as much as possible. The poem "A Lover From Palestine," authored by Mahmoud Darwish,

is comprised of ten stanzas and is classified as free verse, characterized by its absence of a fixed rhyme scheme and variable line length. Furthermore, non-linguistic elements, such as commas, are present in each stanza. In the context of poetry, commas function to indicate brief pauses or separations within a sentence, thereby facilitating clarity in sentence structure and potentially influencing the interpretation of the poem's meaning.

a) Semicolons (;) are also present in stanzas 5 and 8, as well as in lines 51, 52, 53, and 71. These semicolons serve two primary functions in syntax. Firstly, they act as substitutes for conjunctions, effectively connecting equivalent clauses within a compound sentence (EYD V).

b) Secondly, they separate detailed sections within a sentence, facilitating clear and precise communication. Furthermore, question marks (?) are present in stanzas 2 and 3, as well as lines 24 and 33. In this instance, the utilization of question marks serves to convey the speaker's uncertainty and internal conflict, thereby prompting the reader to contemplate the implications of the posed inquiries.

c) The colon (:) is present in stanzas 2, 3, 8, and 10, lines 23, 28, 34, 36, 70, 79, 107, and 116. In this instance, the colon serves to link disparate concepts or elements within the verse. Finally, the exclamation mark (!) in stanzas 2 and 10, lines 19, 22, and 30 warrants particular attention. In this instance, the exclamation mark serves to inject joy, emphasize emotion, highlight significant moments, and underscore urgency within the poem.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An analysis of the intrinsic elements in Mahmoud Darwish's poem "A Lover from Palestine" revealed that the poem effectively conveys a message of humanity through interconnected internal and physical elements.

1. Theme:

The poem's main theme is love for the homeland combined with a deep sense of humanity. Darwish evokes feelings of sadness, love, and anger regarding the state of Palestine through powerful poetic imagery. The poem not only talks about personal love, but also collective love for national identity and history.

2. Tone:

The tone is gentle and emotional, touching the reader's humanity. Reading the poem transports readers into a solemn yet painful atmosphere, as if the poet were inviting them to experience the suffering and struggle of the Palestinian people.

3. Message:

The message of the poem is that love for one's homeland is not only a feeling but also a form of struggle. Mahmoud Darwish conveys that, despite suffering, there is strength and hope. The metaphors in the poem depict Palestine as a beloved yet wounded entity.

4. Imagery

The poem "A Lover from Palestine" by Mahmoud Darwish powerfully uses various types of imagery to convey complex emotions and experiences related to love and suffering. Visual imagery, such as "Your eyes are a forest," presents the beloved's eyes as deep, mysterious, and laden with secrets and strength. Emotional imagery, seen in "Your eyes are a thorn in my heart," expresses the poet's love as intertwined with pain and anguish, symbolizing the bittersweet nature of love amidst struggle. Additionally, sound imagery is implied through the line "Hanging your orphans' rags on the wash line," evoking a silent yet poignant mourning connected to the Palestinian people's dispossession. Collectively, these images invite readers to empathize with the

intertwined themes of love, pain, and resilience, highlighting the deep emotional connection to homeland amid ongoing hardship.

5. Diction:

The words chosen for this poem are very strong, both aesthetically and emotionally. Metaphorical diction, such as "your eyes are a thorn in my heart" and "a shepherdess without sheep," shows the emotional attachment and tragic conditions experienced by Palestine. This diction also gives readers the power of imagination to envision the bitter reality.

6. Typography:

This is a free verse poem with an irregular line structure and no fixed rhyme pattern. Punctuation marks, such as commas, semicolons, question marks, colons, and exclamation points, are used to convey emotional nuances, pauses for thought, and the lyrical character's inner conflict. This reinforces the intensity of meaning in each stanza.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the intrinsic elements in Mahmoud Darwish's poem "A Lover from Palestine" reveals that it powerfully represents the Palestinian people's expression of love, suffering, and struggle. Themes, tone, and message build deep meaning that touches the reader's humanity. The theme of love for homeland and humanity is conveyed through an emotional yet soft tone and a strong moral message of courage, loyalty, and hope amidst suffering.

Meanwhile, physical elements such as diction and typography further enhance the poem's expressive power. Words full of metaphors create sharp, emotional imagery, and free typography and varied punctuation add dynamism to the delivery of meaning, forming the poem's distinctive structure.

Overall, the poem shows that literary works are a medium not only for personal expression, but also for resistance and conveying social and political messages. Darwish successfully presents a meaningful and relevant poem about the Palestinian struggle while voicing universal values about love, loss, and hope.

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