

# The Stylistic Device of Repetition in D H Lawrence's Short Story "The Rocking Horse Winner"

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**Abstract---** *The present paper is about analyzing and discussing the stylistic device of repetition in D H Lawrence's "The Rocking Horse Winner". This story is selected for analysis because it includes repetition of words, phrases and sentences. Lawrence uses repetition in the story in an effective way to show the stylistic purposes achieved by this stylistic technique such as emphasis. Throughout the analysis and discussion of repetition in "The Rocking Horse Winner", it seems clear that Lawrence employs repetition (words, phrases, sentences) to achieve certain stylistic purposes that are necessary to give importance on the basic ideas in the story such as the need for money. In "The Rocking Horse Winner", repetition is employed by Lawrence. A word, a phrase or a sentence sometimes repeated three or more times in three lines only. It is become clear that repetition is used in "The Rocking Horse Winner" as an effective technique.*

*The words and clauses or sentences most commonly repeated are: there must be more money, luck, love, and know. The present paper states that the basic purpose of using repetition in Lawrence's story is 'emphasis'. The repetition makes the idea effective and draws the reader's attention to it.*

**Keywords---** *The Rocking Horse Winner, Lawrence Employs Repetition.*

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## I. REPETITION

Repetition is sometimes seen both as a problem of redundancy and also as a powerful resource of interpersonal involvement. But generally, it is difficult not to appreciate the significance of repetition at all linguistic levels (Wales, 2014: 366). On the one hand, to repeat is to lack a lot more exciting, genuine replacement for a structure already used, which may evoke the impression of monotony and lack of skill. On the other hand, repetition may be used on purpose for a rhetorical effect, like emphasis or drawing attention, as well as for building connections within the text. So, paradoxically, in this capacity it is a welcome attribute of literary texts (which this paper is about two of those literary texts (Kopaczyk, 2013: 56).

A distinction is quite frequently made between intentional and un intentional repetition, the latter having been studied mainly by psycholinguists and neurolinguists. However, the distinction oversimplifies the situation, and a further category of "covert controlled" repetition possibly needs to be included between these two. In spoken speech, it is often unclear whether repetition is a consciously-used device or not. Tannen has argued that in conversation, a certain amount of repetition is "automatic shadowing," and so is unintentional. But many psycholinguists distinguish first between automatic and controlled processes, and secondly, between conscious controlled and veiled controlled, the latter referring to situations in which the mind is not consciously aware of making a choice, as in word selection (Tanenhaus et al. 368).

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Repetition is the process that allows the reader to grasp any meaning whatsoever. As long as one can find models that justify seeing an object or even part of it, as a copy one will be in a position to describe and interpret the workings of the text on the precise basis ( Metzidakis, 1986: 2).

Repetition also adds comprehension, since information is dripped across to the hearer more slowly. In certain types of texts, repetition is used to avoid misunderstanding (Williams, 2013: 44). Repetition is also important for identifying narrative structure and design. A repeated word or thought may divide a narrative passage into smaller units. Repetition occurs in small units such as a repeated word at the beginning of consecutive phrases or sentences, or it occurs in very large units such as narrative type scenes that have a set pattern of devices in biblical narrative that runs from the smallest units to the largest, composite units (Resseguie, 2005: 42).

Sara Thorne (2000: 476) highlights:

Repetition is a device which emphasizes an idea through reiteration. It is a major rhetorical strategy for producing emphasis, clarity, amplification or emotional effect. As a unifying device, independent of conventional metrics, repetition is found extensively in free verse where parallelism reinforced by the recurrence of actual words and phrases, governs the rhythm which helps to distinguish free verse from prose.

What Thorne want to highlight is that the core of repetition is using the same word, structure or idea more than once for emphasis or for a special effect.

Repeated lexical items promote textual cohesion: " Repetition serves to show the relatedness of sentences in much the same way that a bibliographical reference shows the relatedness of academic papers" (Hoey, 1991: 35).

## II. REPETITION AS A STYLISTIC DEVICE

The repetition of any word or phrase in a short space of writing draws attention to. A certain amount of repetition is also important as part of the network of cohesion in any kind of writing. Yet repetition is sometimes accidental, or not well motivated. Writers get into a verbal groove when they should be seeking fresh way so f expressing an idea. A thesaurus offers a treasury of alternative words, though many of those grouped together are not synonyms and need to be checked for meaning and stylistic consistency (Peters 2004: 471)

Repetition is an important feature in stylistics (Enos, 2009: 221). It is a stylistic device that reiterates words, phrases, clauses, sentences, themes, patterns, situations or actions for emphasis. When this stylistic device is used intentionally, it adds force and clarity to a 'statement' or 'motif'. It helps identify values, norms, beliefs and points of view that the narrator considers important (Resseguie, 2005: 42).

The stylistic device of repetition aims at emphasizing a certain component of the utterance. Being repeated a language unit gets additional stylistic information (Yeflmov and Yasinetskaya, 2011 :78)

Stylistic repetition of language unit is one of the most frequent and effective stylistic devices. There are structural kinds of repletion as:

1. **Consecutive contact repetition** of sentence parts and separate sentences.

2. **Anaphora:** The repeated word or word combination is at the beginning of each consecutive syntactic structure.
3. **Epiphora:** The repeated unit is placed at the end of each syntactic structure.
4. **Framing:** The initial part of a language unit is repeated at the end of this unit is repeated at the end of this unit (ibid: 77).

### III. REPETITION IN "THE ROCKING HORSE"

#### 3.1 Summary of "The Rocking Horse"

The Rocking-Horse Winner' is one of D H Lawrence's great works, which was first published in 1926. It's a story about luck, money, and success, and the dangers of chasing after these and investing too much in them.

In summary, 'The Rocking-Horse Winner' focuses on Paul, a young boy, who wishes to win money for his mother and who manages to do so by riding his rocking-horse until he enters a state of near-frenzy and he manages to 'predict' the name of the horse that will win the next major race. He does this several times, winning ever greater sums of money for his mother, egged on by his Uncle Oscar in whom he confides about the rocking-horse trick. Eventually, however, he rides his rocking-horse into such a frenzy that he collapses and, upon hearing news that he has won a large fortune from his latest bet, he dies.

#### 3.2 Analysis of Repetition as a Stylistic Device in "The Rocking Horse Winner"

In "The Rocking Horse Winner", Lawrence repeats himself consistently. Lawrence used repetition especially when he creates setting or introduces] a character. He repeated words as well as sentences to add emphasis on the characters and the surrounding situation. He uses this stylistic device frequently in this short story. There are many different reasons for using repetition, but the most common one is emphasis. In this section I am going to show repetition in this short story.

The word love is repeated in the very beginning of the story. It is repeated. It is repeated six times in the whole story, five of these were in the first paragraph. It is repeated to focus on the need and desire of love that the wife married to get but she didn't. it also refer to the children's need for love from their mother but they did not get that love. The following quotation shows the successive repeated use of the word 'love' in the story:

"There was a woman who was beautiful, who started with all the advantages, yet she had no luck. She married for love, and the love turned to dust. She had bonny children, yet she felt they had been thrust upon her, and she could not love them. They looked at her coldly, as if they were finding fault with her. And hurriedly she felt she must cover up some fault in herself. Yet what it was that she must cover up she never knew. Nevertheless, when her children were present, she always felt the centre of her heart go hard. This troubled her, and in her manner she was all the more gentle and anxious for her children, as if she loved them very much. Only she herself knew that at the centre of her heart was a hard little place that could not feel love, no, not for anybody. Everybody else said of her"

From the beginning of the story the sentence "there must be more money" (D H Lawrence 851) is repeated many times. The opening page tells us that this sound is full of the house, this sound whispering in children's daily lives. Along with the plot, this repeated sentence occurred repeatedly and even louder when his mother got the first five

thousand and bought a lot. The desire for more money grows extremely. This sentence is repeated twelfth times in this short story. It represents an emphasis on the mother's expanding appetite and appeal for material goods.

It is noticed that D.H. Lawrence made a lot of repetition about Paul's blue eyes. In the beginning he would describe them as if there were images of flames within, but towards the end he stated how they hardened into something more solid: stone. Following the story, Paul obviously dies.. It's as if he were morphing into an adult quickly, nearing the concept of death. Therefore, Lawrence makes use of "stone eyes". When people die, they harden to stone. As Paul quickly developed into adults' worries, he basically grew up in a single aspect, making not only his childish and vivid eyes harden to stone; but also his whole self. So, Lawrence repeated Paul's blue eyes throughout the story to make an emphasis on this concept. He employs the stylistic device of repetition from the very beginning of this short story to indicate where the symbolic and the emotional focus lies. He focused on repeating Paul's blue eyes to show where the emphasis lies.

The other widely repeated words in "The Rocking Horse Winner " are the words 'lucky', 'unlucky' and 'luck'. Lawrence repeats this word 21 times. The following quotation :

‘Filthy lucre does mean money,’ said the mother. “But it’s lucre, not luck.”

“Oh!” said the boy. “Then what is luck, mother?”

“It’s what causes you to have money. If you’re lucky you have money. That’s why it’s better to be born lucky than rich. If you’re rich, you may lose your money. But if you’re lucky, you will always get more money.”

“Oh! Will you? And is father not lucky?”

“Very unlucky, I should say,” she said bitterly.

The boy watched her with unsure eyes’

The quotation above shows how repetitious the language used in this short story. Lawrence uses repetition consistently throughout the story to shift the readers' attention from one important idea to another.

The word 'want' is also repeated many times in "The Rocking Horse Winner". Lawrence insists on repeating the word 'want'. The purpose of repeating the word 'want' is to focus on the desire to have luck and to be lucky. The following quotation shows how the word 'want' is repeated to focus on the desire to be lucky:

‘He went off by himself, vaguely, in a childish way, seeking for the clue to ‘luck’. Absorbed, taking no heed of other people, he went about with a sort of stealth, seeking inwardly for luck. He wanted luck, he wanted it, he wanted it. When the two girls were playing dolls in the nursery, he would sit on his big rocking-horse, charging madly into space, with a frenzy that made the little girls peer at him uneasily.

In less than seven lines the narrator repeats the verb 'want' three times. This repetitious use of the verb 'want' is employed by Lawrence to give emphasis on the desires and needs have luck and to be lucky.

The word 'whisper' is also repeated eleven times in "The Rocking Horse Winner". Lawrence consistently and intentionally repeats the word 'whisper':

I started it for mother. She said she had no luck, because father is unlucky, so I thought if I was lucky, it might stop whispering.”

“What might stop whispering?”

“Our house. I hate our house for whispering.”

“What does it whisper?”

Lawrence repeats the word 'whisper' many times in the story to indicate and emphasizes on Paul's extreme need and desire to have money and luck throughout his childhood.

The word 'know' is also repeated 36 times in "The Rocking Horse". It is repeated in one sentence more than once:

“Why – why” – the boy fidgeted – “why, I don't know. But it's always short of money, you know, uncle.”

“I know it, son, I know it.”

“You know people send mother writs, don't you, uncle?”

“I'm afraid I do,” said the uncle.

As the above quotation shows, the writer intentionally repeats the word 'know'. He used to use this technique consistently to show emphasis.

Anyway I want a cat,' she said. 'I want a cat'. I want a cat now. If I can't have a long hair or any fun I can have a cat'. (Line 99 of Cat In The Rain)

This word "horse" is repeated 34 times in a very quick succession. It is repeated throughout the whole story as it also part of the title.

The above analysis of repetition in "The Rocking Horse Winner" indicates that Lawrence used all types of repetition to give emphasis and to enrich the idea and give it more clarity and importance.

#### **IV. CONCLUSIONS**

This paper arrives at the following conclusions:

1. Lawrence employs the stylistic device of repetition consistently and effectively in his short stories "The Rocking Horse Winner".
2. "The Rocking Horse" is full of repetition. Everything said in this short story is repeated many times throughout the whole story. The most widely repeated expressions and clauses or sentences are: there must be more money, luck, love, know.
3. Lawrence repeats words as he repeats sentences in "The Rocking Horse".
4. In "The Rocking Horse" the stylistic device of repetition is used in quick succession. A word may be repeated four or five times in two lines only.
5. In this short story 'repetition' is clearly and highly employed by Lawrence. The primary goal of using repetition within Lawrence's short story is 'emphasis'. The repetition reinforces the idea and enriches it. Through the consistent use of repetition Lawrence presents a linguistic representation of theme.

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