

Title: Foregrounding Language and Code Switching in Literature: A Stylistic Analysis of Rolando Tinio's Valediction sa Hillcrest
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Abstract:

This paper focused on stylistic analysis such that the meaning of the literary text was drawn from the language used by the author. Two poems were analyzed – the original version and the translation of the original text. The analysis of the poems consists of three parts: part one focuses on the first poem which uses a mix of two languages; the second part is centered on the second poem; and the third is a comparison between the two poems' positioning and effects to readers.

The poem "Valediction sa Hillcrest" was chosen because it is expressed in two different languages, an overt combination of the unique features of two languages (Filipino and English). Each one can be traced from different linguistic roots. Filipino can be traced from its Malayan Linguistic Roots, while English can be traced from its Anglo-Saxon Roots. Each of these languages has its own linguistic systems, therefore, the grammar systems, syntactic systems and semantics differ.

This analysis elaborates on the code switching evident in the poem as well as on the poem's verbal patterning and syntax. Code switching, therefore, is being analyzed in the light of syntactic rules and verbal patterning.

The language used in the poems became the centerpiece of the analysis. The code switching, as used in the poem, was not only for literary functions. It was likewise used to present the intentions of the speakers/persona in the poem. Code switching, at some point was used to water down the emotions of sentimentality and nostalgia by being funny, comic and playful.

Research shows that code switching is a literary technique used by authors to create effect among the readers. Code switching in linguistics is used for important communicative and cognitive functions. In literature, code switching is used not only for linguistic functions but also to achieve literariness as well as to serve the intentions brought out by the persona (Jonsson, 2005; Hess, 1996).

By foregrounding the language through code switching, several notions about the persona were suggested: cultural/ethnic orientation, sexual orientation, context of the poem, and the persona's intentions. It appears that the author of the poem may have two goals in

using code switching: he wants to test how code switching can be used to achieve literariness and how literariness is achieved through code switching.

The second poem creates its own meaning and mood, apart from the original poem which used a different language. Hence, it can be said that the language used by the author in a literary text creates an impact and recreates meanings.