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## **Palilogy and The Three Strangers**

A Paper

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سورة [ الشرح : 5-6 ]

## **Dedication**

Foremost this research paper is dedicated to Prophet Muhammad and Ahlulbayt (especially Sahib Al-Zaman) peace be upon them all hoping they accept this work from me, without their grace and mercy I wouldn't have done it. I also dedicate my work to my supporting family, especially my parents who motivate me continually, and without whose pleas I wouldn't be writing this dedication now. Finally, a dedication is also due to my only brother and my two sisters.

## **Acknowledgment**

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## **Abstract**

My research is about Palilogy and The Three Strangers. It is about where and why palilogy is used in this short story by Thomas Hardy.

In the first chapter, I talked about the concept of repetition in general. I talked about the types of repetition, and also why writers use it in their writing. I also tackled the sound repetition, its types, and what's the difference between the repetition and sound repetition.

The second chapter is about the short story in general. I talked a little about Hardy, I gave a short summary about "The Three Strangers", and the conflict in this story. Then I talked about the themes and techniques Hardy that were used in his story.

The third and last chapter is about where the concept of repetition is found in the story. I took each line that has the repetition and gave the reason behind using this kind of repetition.

At the end I gave a brief summary about repetition, I talked about the important themes of the story in addition to that I gave my opinion about the conflict of the story. I also talked about the literary technique that Thomas Hardy used in his short story "The Three Strangers" which is repetition particularly Palilogy and the the common reasons behind using it.

## Chapter One

In chapter one, I will talk about the literary technique “Repetition” in general, its types and why it is used in literature. Repetition in literature refers to the purposeful use of sounds, words, and phrases repeatedly in order to achieve a specific literary impact. It is the act of repeating a performance, production, or presentation; the act of doing, saying, or writing the same thing more than once. It is a typical rhetorical technique that is used to emphasize points in writing and speeches. In both poetry and prose, across all literary genres and forms, as well as in oral tradition, repetition is frequently used. Repetition is a powerful technique that authors and presenters can use to build their style, tone, and rhythm in addition to underscoring or emphasizing crucial ideas and themes. The goal can be to arouse the reader, slow them down, establish rhythm, or help them recall a paragraph. Several literary techniques fall under the broad category of repetition. We have two types of repetition; verbal repetition and sound repetition. There are many distinct kinds of repetition, and the majority of them each have their own special term, typically with Greek origin. The following are a few significant types of repetition:

- **Anaphora:** is the deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of each one of a sequence of sentences, paragraphs, lines of verse, or stanzas. **(Abrams, 2014: P.313)** In anaphora, a word or set of words is repeated at the start of subsequent sentences or phrases. “Everybody saw you take the cupcake. Everybody saw you lick it, and everybody saw you put it back.” Everybody saw you is repeated at the beginning of each sentence.
- **Epizeuxis, “palilogia.”:** it is an example of a word repeating several times in sequence. It is a rhetorical figure by which a word is repeated for emphasis, with no other words intervening. **(Baldick, 1996: P.68)** For example, “what, what, what”. The same word is repeated in order.

- **Epistrophe:** Figure by which the same words or phrase is repeated at the end of successive clauses, sentences, or lines. (**Baldick, 1996: P.14**) For example, "Everyday I'm happy because you love me, I'm more fulfilled because you love me, I have everything because you love me." Because you love me is repeated at the end of each clause of these three clauses.
- **Antanaclasis:** it means repeating the same word, or two words sounding alike, but with differing senses. (**Baldick, 1996: P.12**) In antanaclasis, a term that is used repeatedly takes on a different meaning each time. "A woman was cutting in front of me in line, so I whispered a cutting remark about her rudeness." The word cutting is used twice in this sentence but it has a different meaning each time.
- **Symploce:** Epistrophe and anaphora are combined in this type. It indicates that a word or phrase is repeated at the start and the end of a line. "When there is talk of hatred, let us stand up and talk against it. When there is talk of violence, let us stand up and talk against it." As Bill Clinton once used this example.
- **Antistasis:** Antistasis occurs when antanaclasis crosses over into opposing meanings. As Franklin says, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." The two meanings here, which are unity and victory on the one hand and loss and death on the other, are diametrically opposed.
- **Negative-positive restatement:** Another effective oratory technique, this one involves repeating the same sentence, first in a negative way and then in a positive way. As an example from John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."



The difference between repetition and repetition of sounds is that all types of repetition are figures of speech, it is when a word or a phrase repeats more than once. The repetition of sounds in writing includes three types:

- **Consonance:** is the repetition of a sequence of two or more consonants, but with a change in the intervening vowel: live-love, lean-alone, pitter-patter. **(Abrams, 2014: P.10)** The term is most commonly used, though, for a special case of such repetition in which the words are identical except for the stressed vowel sound. **(Baldick, 1996: P.49)** In other words, it is the repetition of a consonant sound inside a group of words. The repeating of the same consonant sounds within a line of text is known as consonance. Similar sounds can occur anywhere in a word, but they most frequently do so at the beginning, middle, or end of a word or at the conclusion of a stressed syllable. Usually, the repetition happens quickly after another, as in "pitter-patter." Consonant use in poetry can give your writing melody and draw people in.
- **Assonance:** is the repetition of identical or similar vowels especially in stressed syllables in a sequence of nearby words. **(Abrams, 2014: P.11)** Sometimes in the following unstressed syllables of neighboring words. **(Baldick, 1996: P.20)** The words must be close enough to one another for the similar vowel sounds to be noticeable. The recurring vowel sounds will typically, but not always, be in the middle of words with different consonants at the beginning and end. For instance, the phrase "I'm reminded to line the lid of my eye" has numerous long "I" sounds, some of which are at the beginning, middle, or end of the word. Still, each application adds to the assonant impact.

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of the same sounds usually initial consonants of words or of stressed syllables in any sequence of neighboring words. **(Baldick, 1996: P.6)** It means when the first letters of words repeat. Alliteration, often known as head rhyme or opening rhyme, is a literary device that permeates every aspect of daily life. This strategy of repeating the opening letter sounds in headlines is one that is frequently used by poets, marketers, and headline writers. Moreover, it adds rhythm, harmony, and concentration to poetry. Alliteration occurs when the same letter sound appears at the beginning of multiple words in a line of text. The repetition of a letter sound must occur at the beginning of a stressed syllable in order to produce that pleasing pattern of alliteration. "Pliny plucked the plants and then plated the plums." All of these words start with the same letter which is "P".

Despite the fact that each of these literary expressions involves repetition, literary analysts typically limit the term "repetition" to the usage of recurrent words and phrases.

Assonance, consonance, and alliteration are literary strategies that make use of sound repetition. These literary phrases differ from one another primarily in two ways:

1. **Phoneme:** Alliteration occurs when the same letter sound is repeated. Assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds, whereas consonance is the recurrence of consonant sounds.
2. **Placement:** Alliteration, such as "wicked witch," is the repetition of the same letter sound at the beginning of several words in a line of text. Consonance, such as "twist and shriek," is the repeating of a consonant sound anywhere in a line of text. Usually, assonance occurs on stressed syllables in closely spaced words. With

phrases like "make a cake," assonance might provide internal rhyme, or it can yield no rhyme at all

**Palilogy (Gk ‘speaking over again’):** A deliberate repetition of a word or words for emphasis. A common rhetorical device. **(Cuddon, 2012: P.506)** It is a type of repetition, the exact same word is repeated a couple of times or even more without any other breaking in between. An example of palilogy; “Reputation, reputation, reputation!” We can see that the same word was repeated three times without any intervening in between. Palilogy is a word derived from the Greek word plain, over again, and logia (speaking). It is used when we want to arrive at a greater emphasis.

## Chapter Two

### **About Thomas Hardy:**

In chapter two, I will be talking about the famous English writer Thomas Hardy, about his short story “The Three Strangers”, its conflict, the themes, and techniques Hardy used. “ It was in a lonely and silent spot between woodland and heathland that Thomas Hardy was born, about eight o'clock on Tuesday morning the 2nd of June 1840, in Stinsford, Dorset, England.” (Millgate, 1984: P.7) He was an English novelist, poet, and short story writer, he was influenced by Romanticism especially in his novels and poetry. Numerous of his novels are about tragic characters battling their desires and the demands of society. Hardy didn't finish his school and ended his education at the age of 16 because Hardy's family lacked the means for a university education. Thomas Hardy died at the age of 87 on 11th January 1928 in Dorchester, Dorset, England.

### **Summary About the Short Story “The Three Strangers”:**

The Three Strangers by Thomas Hardy is a short mysterious story about a group of party visitors trying to figure out who among them is a criminal. The main theme is justice and it is about how it demonstrates that looks can be deceiving. Thomas Hardy tells a story about a lively christening-party that was taking place one stormy evening in a remote upland shepherd's cottage, when a stranger arrived, who immediately made himself at home. Then another came, dressed in gray uniform; he helped himself liberally to the mead, and sang a song which gradually revealed that he was the hangman for the execution of a sheep-stealer who was in gaol at Casterbridge.

A third stranger arrived, took one look round the room, and fled. Then the distant sound of a gun was heard, announcing the escape of a prisoner from the gaol. The men set off in pursuit of the third stranger. The first returned and helped himself to more food. He was joined by the hangman. Long after they had departed in different directions, the captured man was brought in. Two officers from Casterbridge Gaol had arrived in the meantime, and saw at a glance that a mistake had been made. A description was given, and it was obvious that the man they were after was the first stranger. The prisoner then said that he was his brother, and that he had been on his way from Shottsford to visit him at the gaol. The courage of the escaped sheep-stealer excited the admiration of local inhabitants, and he was never recaptured. **(Pinion, 1968: P.66)**

### **The conflict:**

When the visitors discover a criminal is among them, the plot's suspense rises. Fortunately for the thief, the visitors think the wrong person is the offender so the real thief gets away. In "The Three Strangers," man is pitted against society as the fundamental issue or the major conflict. The visitors conspire against the escaped criminal as he seeks to avoid being apprehended. When the first stranger shows up, the conflict starts. When additional outsiders enter the cabin during the night, distrust of the owners and visitors builds.

Everyone is on high alert after the third stranger arrives, appears horrified when the door opens, and then flees. Those at the cottage are led to believe that the third visitor is the criminal by the report of a gunshot, which alerts them to the presence of an escaped criminal. In the end, it is the third stranger who resolves the dispute. Everyone hears him claim to be the criminal's brother. He also says that Timothy Summers, the thief, is the first stranger. In this tale, the criminal escapes

from justice as the conflict's ending. In 'The Three Strangers', the plot is worked out entirely in terms of dramatic conflicts. Set against the universal conflict between man and Nature is that between Shepherd Fennel's generosity and his wife's frugality, and- more fundamentally- that between the rural man's sense of justice and the urban man's sense of law. All of these levels of opposition are presented by a narrative voice constantly aware of the reader's own possibly erroneous preconceptions about rural life. (Bardy, 1982: P.7)

### **Themes in “The Three Strangers” :**

The following are some of the important themes that Hardy used in the story:

- **Justice:** Justice is intended to correct an imbalance. But in this tale, Timothy Summers stole a sheep because his family was starving, and he was sentenced to death as a result. This is unfair and does not result in equality. A small Crime considered a big one and its punishment is hanging, it is not fair to hang a person for stealing a sheep. So, preventing his death would be pure justice. The people concur that the penalty is excessive, so they decline to assist in the capture of the criminal. They can relate to Summers' motivation for stealing because they are all currently experiencing a food shortage. Timothy Summers is revered by the locals for deceiving both the constable and the executioner. Because of this deft trick, he turns into a sort of folk hero. They believed that he had accomplished this deed to get his freedom. I think it is unfair to hang him, I know that it is forbidden for everyone to steal but at the same time he has no other choice. The government is not doing anything to help them even though they experience a food shortage. He had to steal so him and his family can survive.

- **Poverty:** is also a theme in this story. Not just the thief is poor but all the people that were there are experiencing a food shortage, so he stole the sheep to feed his children. They don't have food to eat, they don't have money to buy food so that's the reason that pushed Summers to steal a sheep. Poverty is the reason behind many bad things that a human might do. If he had money and if he wasn't in need, he wouldn't steal a sheep.
- **Deceptive Appearances:** The third theme is that appearances can be deceptive. When the strangers unknowingly give personal details about themselves, the gang is left to speculate as to who the criminal is. The first stranger is always prepared to respond to inquiries, even ones about his occupation as a wheelwright. He doesn't seem suspicious because he appears so at ease when seated by the fire. He joins in the hangman's song about what the hangman intends to do to him because he is so unperturbed by the hangman who is seated next to him. Even though the first stranger is the criminal but he doesn't appear as a criminal at all. He is talking and singing fine, he is not nervous or anxious at all. Sometimes appearances can be deceptive, you think something about others and they turn out to be something else.

### **Techniques in “The Three Strangers”**

The following are some of the important techniques that Hardy used in the “The Three Strangers”:

- **Foreshadowing:** Composers frequently and effectively use foreshadowing to make a hint to future events. It not only builds tension and suspense, but it also has symbolic meanings. Hardy's use of foreshadowing is one of the things

that makes "The Three Strangers" interesting. The story has a lot of foreshadowing, although the reader might not instantly see it. There have been hints leading up to the conclusion throughout the entire story. As we are presented with how things turn out, we realize the subtle cues that caused the bizarre entrance of three strangers in one night and the qualities each exhibits. The way the plot developed was set up and tied together by Hardy's use of this approach. Also when the first stranger says that he doesn't have a pipe and tobacco, this foreshadows that he is poor, starving, sheep-stealer. Hardy's employment of these examples of foreshadowing is intended to maximize the surprise that comes at the end of the story and also for entertainment.

- **Well-crafted characterizations:** Characterizations by Hardy are another interesting feature of the narrative. For instance, Hardy does a good job of thoroughly describing the shepherd's wife. He calls her "frugal," and then goes on to explain why by describing how she tried to keep the partygoers from getting too thirsty and drinking a lot of mead by "mingling short dances with short periods of discussion and singing." In order to make the visitors stop dancing, she really orders the musicians to perform for no longer than fifteen minutes at a time.
- **Imagery:** One of the most popular and powerful literary devices employed in writings is imagery. It provides details for the reader so they can understand exactly what the composer is attempting to convey. Thomas Hardy employs language like "the high, grassy and furzy downs, coombs, or ewe-leases" while describing the agricultural environment setting for the short story to show the size and paucity of human settlement. This intensifies the frequently cited "loneliness" and the mood of lonesome isolation he uses to start the story.



- **Irony of situation:** irony is a literary technique that is highly effective when utilized properly. Simply described, irony occurs when a statement or action is at odds with reality or with what is expected, the outcomes different from what is expected or should happen. In "The Three Strangers," a situational irony occurs when the two at the chimney corner turn out to be the hangman and his intended victim.
- **Repetition:** is a literary technique that includes repeating the same word or phrase in a speech or piece of writing. Hardy used repetition in this story a lot to give more emphasis. For example; the shepherd said the welcoming word "walk in" three time because three strangers knocked on his door. The word "walk in" was repeated three time in the whole story with every knock on the door.

Rather than being a story about cosmic irony, "The Three Strangers" illustrates by the use of legend and symbol that the endeavors of certain human beings have an innate importance, an importance that increases rather than diminishes with time. **(Roberts, 1962: P.194)**

## Chapter Three

In this last chapter I will talk about where Thomas Hardy used the repetition in the story “The Three Strangers” and what are the reasons behind using such a technique.

In this story the repeated words “mug and mead” and how they are so thirsty to drink the mead, tell us that not just the first stranger is poor but the second one also. “The other man, nothing loth, raised the mug to his lips, and drank on, and on, and on” In this line also the repeated words “and on” an evidence how thirsty they are to drink as if they didn’t taste it in their whole life, because they don’t have money to buy it so when they saw it they drank a lot. Repetition is used here is (Epizeuxis, “palilogia”) to highlight and emphasize how poor they are.

“Ha, ha, ha!” said the man in the chimney-corner” Summers repeats the word “Ha” when the second stranger (the hangman) said that he goes to church and gives money to poor people. He laughs because it is irony we all know that they are all poor, have no money, and experiencing a food shortage to the point that Summers stole a sheep to feed his family and the hangman is looking for him to hang him. So Hardy used here Palilogy to emphasize the ironic situation.

“Well, well, as I say,” he resumed, “I am going to Casterbridge, and to Casterbridge I must go.”

Here Hardy also used Palilogy to emphasize and reveal that the hangman must go to work because he has a duty to do which is catching the sheep- stealer. The hangman gives hints about where he works, he doesn’t say it directly.

"No, no," said the shepherd's wife. "It is easy to see that the gentleman is rich, and don't want to work at anything."

The repetition of the word “no” which is Palilogy is used to help the readers to recall a paragraph, the paragraph when the hangman said that he gives money to poor people. Also it is used to emphasize that he is rich which is irony he is not rich as an evident he replies to the shepherd’s wife and says “I do work, and I must work.”

“And on his soul may God ha' mercy!”

This phrase is said by both the hangman and Summers repeats it after him. It is a Palilogy which is used to emphasize that if the hangman catches the sheep- stealer the next day, the thief will be dead and God’s mercy on his soul.

“All listened. The sound was repeated” It is the sound of a gun shot repeated couple times which means a prisoner escaped from jail. The sound was repeated to emphasize of the point of the prisoner escaping, to move the event forward, and to make some action. This type of repetition is Palilogy.

“I will, sir, I will when I've got my staff. I'll go home and get it, and come sharp here, and start in a body”

Here the police officer says to the hangman that he will go look for the thief but not until he wears his uniform. So it is Palilogy to emphasize that he will go, look for the thief, and chase him.

“Have ye any lanterns? "Yes--have ye any lanterns?--I demand it!" said the constable.”

The hangman and the constable asking if there is a floodlight so they can use it when they go to look for the sheep- stealer. This Palilogy which is used to emphasize that it is dark and late at night so they need a light to see the road and look for the goal.

“And the rest of you able-bodied--”

"Able-bodied men--yes--the rest of ye!" said the constable.” The hangman is asking if everyone is able-bodied, strong, and powerful to catch the thief. It is also a

Palilogy to emphasize the point that everyone should be ready to find and chase the thief.

“I felt there were enough without me”

“And I felt as you did, that there were enough without me.”

Here Summers leaves all the people who went to look for the thief to come back to the cottage and the hangman does the same thing too. They both give the same excuse which is feeling there are enough without them but actually they came back to eat and drink. The repetition is used to emphasize that they came back for the exact same reason which is drinking mead.

“True, true. Well, my way is to Casterbridge; and 'tis as much as my legs will do to take me that far. Going the same way?”

The hangman is responding to Summers using Palilogy to emphasize the point that he agrees with what Summers is saying.

“He's the man we were in search of, that's true; and yet he's not the man we were in search of. For the man we were in search of was not the man we wanted”

They discovered that the third stranger who they caught is not the thief they are looking for. Palilogy is used to emphasize and highlight the important point which is the person they caught is not the one that should be caught, it was actually Summers who was sitting next to the hangman in the cottage.

The symbols are well integrated into the story and do not demand attention for a full appreciation of the story. However, the frequent use of symbols and the repeated use of the mystical number "three" can hardly be viewed as accidental. There are three strangers, three stanzas of the hangman's song, and three knocks upon the door which is opened to the third stranger during the third stanza of the song.

**(Roberts, 1962: P.192-193)**

## **Conclusion**

Repetition is an important and powerful tool for getting an audience to take in a message, comprehend a point, or support a cause. It is beneficial to highlight a point and make the speech easy to follow. Moreover, research has shown that repeating a word can persuade listeners of its truth. Repetition is a technique used by both writers and speakers to give words rhythm. Repetition gives a text more musicality and makes it more enjoyable to listen to, just like other literary devices like rhyme, consonance, and assonance.

The Three Strangers is short story that talks about a number of themes just like justice, poverty, and deceptive appearances which are very important themes. All people in this story are poor and they don't have food to feed their families, if the government doesn't solve this problem of course people will do other things to survive just like stealing. In my opinion it is not fair to hang a human for stealing a sheep because they are starving. If the government provides good jobs or at least food for those poor people, they wouldn't be stealing.

Finally, Thomas Hardy used the repetition technique a lot in this short story. He used Palilogy in which two or more words repeated with no interrupting words in between them. It is an important literary technique that used in literature by most of the writers. He used it for many reasons in this story such as highlighting, emphasizing, or recall a paragraph, etc.

## Resources

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