

Tribhuvan University

Stylistic Analysis of E. E. Cummings' Poetry

**A thesis submitted to the Central Department of English
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of
Masters of Arts in English**

By

Bipin Duwadi

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

September, 2008

Tribhuvan University

Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences

This thesis entitled “**Stylistic Analysis of E.E. Cummings’** Poetry submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Bipin Duwadi has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee:

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

The present research would remain merely in hypothesis and dream without the scholarly supervision of Mr. Shuvaraj Ranabhat, Lecturer at the Central Department of English, Kirtipur. My words are not enough to owe him on his friendly suggestions cooperations and the invaluable time he provided to me.

I feel very happy to express my sincerest gratitude to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the Head of the Central Department of English, Kirtipur, and other members of the Research Committee for granting me an opportunity to carry out this research work. Similarly, I am highly indebted to my teachers Mr. Sharad Chandra Thakur, Mr. Amma Raj Joshi, Mrs. Anju Gupta, Mr. Puspa Acharya, and Mr. Shadan Adhikari for their suggestions and inspirations to me.

My heartfelt thanks go to my parents who have contributed a lot for the success on every walks of my life. Similarly, I am thankful to my brother in law Subash Lamichhane and sister Sita, my friends Madhav, Birat, Umesh and Tanka for their help in various ways.

Finally, thanks go to my other friends and people who helped me directly or indirectly to complete this project.

September18, 2008

Bipin Duwadi

Abstract

Stylistics is a composite outlook on the nature of literary works. The poetry of Cummings has a rich texture for stylistic analysis. In his poetry, certain linguistic features like cohesion, diction, grammar and style determine meaning. His poems are foregrounded, defamiliarized and deautomatized. The present research studies ten selected poems of Cummings from stylistic perspective. It examines how Cummings consciously plays with sound to meaning in phonological, morphological syntactic and semantic levels defamiliarizing the habitual perceptions of the readers. Since Cummings follows the styles of choice and idiosyncrasy, the research analyses the way Cummings activates poetic violence on ordinary deconstructing the norms of standard language and verse tradition.

Contents

Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Chapter I. Introduction: Cummings and his Poetic Aesthetics	1 - 8
Chapter II. Theoretical Modality	9 - 27
Stylistics	9
Levels of Stylistic Analysis	15
Formalism and Poetic Language	23
Chapter III. Stylistic Analysis of E. E. Cummings' Poetry	28 - 59
l(a	28
in Just-	30
old age sticks	34
i like my body when it is with your	39
un(bee)mo	42
anyone lived in a pretty how town	44
whippoorwill this	48
yes is a pleasant country	50
dim	52
Buffalo Bill's	55
Chapter IV. Conclusion	60 - 61
Works Cited	