

LINGUISTIC EXPLORATION OF IMAGERY CONSTRUCTION IN LI BAI'S
ROMANTIC POETRY

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.20756571>**Abstract**

As the preeminent romantic poet of the High Tang Dynasty, Li Bai is revered by posterity as the “Poet Immortal”, distinguished by his unparalleled poetic imagery and idiosyncratic linguistic style. This paper adopts an integrated research framework that combines imagery studies and linguistic criticism to dissect Li Bai’s canonical verses. It first categorizes the dual aesthetic modes of Li Bai’s poetic imagery—grand magnificent imagery and delicate lyrical imagery—and elaborates on his core imagistic crafting techniques including hyperbole, metaphor, personification, contrast and parallelism. Further linguistic analysis is carried out on phonological rhyme rules, lexical preference and flexible syntactic devices embodied in his works. This study reveals that Li Bai’s unrestrained romantic temperament is fully materialized through vivid imagery creation and plain, musical, flexible poetic language. His poems integrate natural description, lyrical narration and profound historical allusions, forming a unique romantic aesthetic system that occupies an irreplaceable position in classical Chinese literature and exerts lasting influence on global literary creation.

Keyword: Li Bai’s Poetry; Imagery Construction; Linguistic Features; Romantic Poetics; Rhetorical Devices

Li Bai is one of the greatest poets in ancient China, praised by later generations as the “Immortal Poet”. Li Bai was a shining star in the Tang Dynasty poetry scene, known for his bold, unrestrained, fresh and natural poetry. Due to the relatively inclusive social ideology during the prosperous Tang Dynasty, Li Bai’s thoughts were diverse and novel. Influenced by the ideas of Laozi and Zhuangzi, he advocated freedom and despised the powerful, while also paying great attention to the fate of the country and real life. His poetry combines two different ideas and presents a unique style. His poetry achieves a perfect unity of form and content, with many novel and unique romantic techniques, while also possessing a strong romantic spirit, revealing a strong naturalistic and romantic color. In Li Bai’s poetry, one can see his arrogant, unrestrained, free spirited, and romantic personality, as well as feel the unique spiritual style and personality traits bestowed upon literati by the times. His poetry breaks through the constraints of language in traditional poetry creation, showcasing distinct personal characteristics and unique personal charm, and occupies an important position in ancient poetry. Li Bai’s poetry not only has profound artistic conception, beautiful language, and rich imagery; And he also made fundamental contributions to the study of linguistics in later generations, laying a good foundation for the analysis of linguistic research in Li Bai’s poetry. His poetry not only occupies an important position in the history of Chinese literature, but also has a profound influence in the world literary treasury. Li Bai’s poetry is renowned for its unique language style, rich emotional expression, and profound philosophical thinking. This article

will conduct an in-depth analysis of Li Bai's poetry from a linguistic perspective, in order to reveal the unique charm of his poetry in terms of language use, rhetorical devices, and expression.

1.The Types of Imagery in Li Bai's Poetry

The imagery in Li Bai's poetry is rich and colorful, mainly divided into two categories: magnificent imagery and beautiful imagery.

1.1 Magnificent imagery

The magnificent imagery in Li Bai's poetry is mainly reflected in the depiction of nature, such as large rivers, high mountains and snow capped peaks, and giant Peng fish. These images are not only majestic, but also imbued with a sense of nobility. For example, In the poem《庐山谣寄卢侍御虚舟》, it is said that“登高壮观天地间，大江茫茫去不还；黄云万里动风声，白波九道流雪山”， It depicts the magnificent scenery of Mount Lu and the Yangtze River, giving people a sense of grandeur and magnificence.

1.2 Beautiful imagery

The beautiful imagery in Li Bai's poetry is mainly reflected in the depiction of delicate scenery, such as the bright moon, white egrets, clear streams, bamboo colors, etc. These images are fresh, bright, and full of poetic and picturesque charm. For example, In the poem《峨眉山月歌》, it is said that“峨眉山月半轮秋，影入平羌江水流。夜发清溪向三峡，思君不见下渝州”， By depicting the scenery of the moon and river on Mount Emei, a fresh and bright artistic conception is created.

2.The Imagery Construction Techniques in Li Bai's Poetry

Li Bai was skilled in using rhetorical devices such as exaggeration, metaphor, and personification to create vivid and vivid imagery in his poetry.

2.1 Exaggeration

The exaggeration techniques used in Li Bai's poetry are extremely clever, such as《秋浦歌》, It is said“白发三千丈，缘愁似个长”， By exaggerating the length of white hair, the poet expresses his inner sorrow. Also like《望庐山瀑布》, It is said“飞流直下三千尺，疑是银河落九天”， By exaggerating the height of the waterfall, the spectacular scenery of Lushan Waterfall is depicted. Li Bai is skilled at using exaggeration to express his emotions and thoughts. The unique feature of his exaggerated language lies in its natural and harmonious use, as if effortlessly picked up, and perfectly matched with the overall mood of the poem. Metaphors make his poetry more vivid and easy for readers to understand and accept.

2.2 Metaphor

Li Bai is skilled at using metaphorical techniques to concretize abstract emotions. For example, In the poem《静夜思》, It is said“床前明月光，疑是地上霜”， Comparing moonlight to frost on the ground vividly expresses the poet's longing for his hometown. The use of metaphorical rhetorical devices makes his poetry more vivid and easy for readers to understand and accept.

2.3 personification

Li Bai often uses personification in his poetry, imbuing natural scenery with human emotions and behaviors. For example, In the poem《独坐敬亭山》, It is said“相看两不厌，唯有敬亭山”， The personification of Jingting Mountain expresses the poet's love and attachment to nature.

2.4 Contrast and rhetorical questions

Li Bai often uses contrast and rhetorical questioning techniques in his poetry to enhance its expressive and infectious power. Contrast makes the emotions in poetry more prominent, while rhetorical questions make the ideas in poetry more profound.

2.5 Comparison and parallelism

Li Bai was also skilled in using contrast and parallelism techniques to enhance the rhythm and beauty of poetry. Contrast makes the emotions in poetry more vivid, while parallelism makes the language in poetry more uniform.

3.The Language Rhythm Characteristics of Li Bai's Poetry

3.1 Duality and Rhyme

Li Bai is skilled at using the technique of duality to enhance the charm of his poetry. He often enhances the expressiveness and infectiousness of poetry through the use of semantic transitions, repetitions, and changes in dual sentence structures. At the same time, he is adept at using various rhymes and rhyme components to rhyme, making the musical beauty of poetry more diverse and colorful.

3.2 Oral expression

Li Bai's poetry exhibits a colloquial style, using easy to understand language and vivid descriptions to express profound thoughts and emotions. This colloquial expression makes his poetry more relatable to the people and easier for readers to accept and understand.

3.3 Flexible and versatile art forms

The artistic form of Li Bai's poetry is very flexible and varied, including long narrative poems, as well as short and concise verses and vast and profound long poems. He also attempted to use different forms of poetry such as ancient style poetry and Yuefu poetry to create new artistic effects.

4.The expression of Li Bai's poetry

4.1 Describing nature

Li Bai extensively employs a descriptive approach that uses nature as material to express his reverence, care, and appreciation for nature. His poetry is filled with praise and reverence for nature, giving it a high degree of naturalism and romanticism.

4.2 Narrative lyricism

Li Bai's poetry often focuses on narrative, depicting the characters' emotions such as sadness, joy, separation, love, hate, and hatred through the unfolding of the story plot. At the same time, he is also adept at using lyrical techniques to express personal feelings and thoughts.

4.3 Integrating historical and cultural elements

Li Bai's poetry incorporates rich historical and cultural elements. He cites many ancient myths, legends, and historical events, integrating cultural connotations with poetic expressions, making poetry more profound and meaningful.

5.Linguistic Analysis of Li Bai's Poetry

The language style of Li Bai's poetry is unique, fresh and natural, without embellishment, and has extremely high artistic value.

5.1 Phonetic analysis

The use of rhyme in Li Bai's poetry is extremely particular, often using the 'anang' rhyme as a corner, making it easy to read. For example, In the poem《望庐山瀑布》, It is said“烟、川、天”, In the poem《望天门山》, It is said“开、回、来”, All reflect the rhythmic beauty of Li Bai's poetry in terms of phonetics.

5.2 Lexicological analysis

The vocabulary in Li Bai's poetry is rich and diverse, and he is adept at using natural scenery and life scenes to construct imagery. For example, Words such as“山、水、月、仙、酒”frequently

appear in Li Bai's poetry , Becoming a signature element of his poetry. These words are not only poetic, but can also evoke associations and resonance in readers.

5.3 Grammar analysis

The grammar structure in Li Bai's poetry is concise and clear, in line with the grammar norms of modern Chinese. At the same time, Li Bai was also skilled in using rhetorical devices such as inversion and omission to make the language of poetry more concise and vivid. For example, In the poem《把酒问月》, It is said“青天有月来几时？我今停杯一问之”， By using inverted sentence structures, the poet's questions and reflections are emphasized.

6.conclusion

The imagery construction and language style in Li Bai's poetry are unique, with profound artistic conception and beautiful language. Through the analysis of the types of imagery and construction techniques in Li Bai's poetry, as well as linguistics, we can find that his poetry has unique charm in language use, rhetorical devices, and expression methods. Li Bai's poetry is known for its boldness, vivid imagery, and sincere emotions, and is a treasure in classical Chinese literature. His poetry not only brings people the enjoyment of beauty, but also helps them better understand the true essence of nature, life, and love. At the same time, Li Bai's poetry also provided broad literary inspiration and reference value for future generations..

Adabiyotlar, References, Литературы:

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