

Rhythmic Acoustic Dimension of Poetry

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Prosody

- A literary technique which defines the study of meter, intonation, and rhythm of a poetic work.
- It is about how poets control their words so that the sound of a poem complements its expression of emotions and ideas.

Meter

- Meter is the basic rhythmic structure of a line within a work of poetry.
- Meter consists of two components: the number of syllables and a pattern of emphasis on those syllables.
- A line of poetry can be broken into “feet” or individual “foot”, which are units within a line of poetry according to the specific number of syllables and a specific pattern of emphasis or stress.

- As per the number of feet in a line of poem, we describe the length of poetic meter as:
- Monometer- one foot
- Dimeter-two feet
- Trimeter-three feet
- Tetrameter-four feet
- Pentameter-five feet
- Hexameter-six feet

Common Types of Feet in Poetry

- Most common types of metrical feet are two syllables and three syllables long
- They are characterized by their particular combination of stressed syllables and unstressed syllables.

- Iambus or Iambic Foot- unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable
- Anapest or anapestic foot- two unstressed syllables followed by one stressed syllable
- Trochee or trochaic foot- stressed syllable followed by unstressed syllable
- Dactyl or dactylic foot- stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables