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# A Stylistic analysis of *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner and its Turkish translation

Tuncay Tezcan<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Research assistant, Hacettepe University, Ankara 06800, Turkey

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## Abstract

This study aims to analyze the short story “A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner and its Turkish translation placed in “Aşık Katiller Antolojisi” published by Everest Publishing from the stylistic perspective. This short story is a gothic story about the mysterious life of Miss Emily Grierson. It represents the numerous conflicts in the main character's life, illustrating the effect of social change on the individual. The analysis adopts an integrated approach of literature and language. For this study, a modified stylistic model developed by M. Short (1996) will be used for the linguistic analysis of Faulkner's style in *A Rose for Emily* to show how he affects the reader's understanding of the meaning: themes, structure, characters etc. Then, it will be examined whether the translation also affects the target-language readers in the same way or not. The check-list includes: definite and indefinite articles, deixis, and syntactic structure. It can be emphasized that the analysis can provide a better understanding of different narrative features in the text and its translation.

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Keywords: William Faulkner, *A Rose for Emily*, stylistic analysis, translation, check-list

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## 1. Introduction

Style is generally accepted as the linguistic habit of a writer and Stylistics is accordingly the study of style within a text. In recent years, stylistics has been accepted as a branch of literary studies as a term. Stylistic analyses focuses on the language of a writer in a literary text and these analyses may provide us valuable data for a more objective analysis of the writer and of the text. This paper deals with William Faulkner's style in one of his short stories “A Rose for Emily” and its Turkish translation. The language of the text and its translation present a divergence of stylistic features that could might affect the source/target readers' perceiving of Faulkner's style, themes, characters etc. There have been various models used in stylistic analysis. For this study, a modified check-list which is derived from Short (1996) is adopted.

\* Tuncay Tezcan. Tel.: +90 554 249 40 25.

E-mail address: [tuncaytcn@gmail.com](mailto:tuncaytcn@gmail.com)

### 1.1. William Cuthbert Faulkner (1897- 1962)

William Faulkner was born in New Albany, Mississippi as the oldest of four sons at the family. His family moved into Oxford in north-central Mississippi while he was a child. Therefore, he lived most of his life in this town. Faulkner wrote novels, short stories, poetry and screenplays. At first, he was busy with writing poetry. Then, he began to write fictions. Starting with *Soldier's Pay* (1925), he produced remarkable novels which brought him a great fame including *The Sound and The Fury* (1929), *As I Lay Dying* (1930), *Light in August* (1932), *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936) and he also was a prolific writer of short stories. His short stories were published in *The Collected Stories of William Faulkner* (1952).

William Faulkner is known for his novels and short stories especially set in the Yoknapatawpha County which is fictional. He is one of the most important writers of the Southern literature. He was awarded the 1949 Nobel Prize for "his powerful and artistically unique contribution to the modern American novel". Moreover, he was awarded two Pulitzer prizes for his novels entitled respectively *A Fable* (1954) and *The Reivers* (1962).

Faulkner became known for his faithful and accurate dictation of the Southern. He also mentioned social issues which are left in the edge by many American writers including slavery and Southern aristocracy. Miller notes that, "Faulkner's fiction draws inspiration from the traditions, myths and historical conflicts of the South (1982: 83).

William Faulkner is accepted as one of the greatest revolutionists in the literary universe.

### 1.2. "A Rose for Emily"

The story was written in 1930. It is a story about the mysterious life of Miss. Emily Grierson. It reveals the effect of social change on the individual. This story is largely accepted as a masterpiece. The five sections in the story create tension because they have no chronological order. This story is classified as Southern Gothic for use of the Southern milieu. "Resistance to change" is the main theme of the story. Faulkner uses the strategies of flashback and foreshadowing.

Flashback and foreshadowing is two literary devices that are usually used in order to create an anomalous effect. Flashbacks are the events which are occurred before the present time the narration follows. Flashback is used to comprise a background to the present situation in the text. Foreshadowing is another literary device that is used to create expectation which has not yet occurred. In "A Rose for Emily" Faulkner uses both devices. The story is told by the narrator through non-sequential flashback. The narrator flashes back and forth through in the life of Emily Grierson throughout the story. Faulkner uses a figurative language in the story.

The story reveals Miss. Emily's miserable life from the town's people perspective. The third-person narrator could be understood the voice of whole town. The narrator tells us details about the life of Miss. Emily such as her taxes, the old house, the disturbing smell coming from the house, relationships with her father and her lover, keeping father's and lover's corpses in the house.

The story also includes irony of a similar nature. Miss. Emily is a heir of a once great family whose social standing is enough to prevent her from having to pay taxes. She commits crime and loses her mind although she has an upper class of the southern social status. Faulkner uses this irony to criticize the class system in the south in that period.

## 2. Methodology

A modified model will be used for the analysis of Faulkner's style in *A Rose for Emily* and its Turkish translation by Gökçen Ezber published in *Aşık Katiller Antolojisi* by Everest Publishing. This analysis aims to show how he controls viewpoint by the choice of particular words and how he affects the reader's understanding of the themes, characters, structure. The check-list derived from Short (1996: 286-7) with some changes. It includes definite and indefinite references, deixis and syntactic structure because of the time and space. However, it must be stated that this check-list comprises only a few of the many linguistic indicators.

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