

RENCIASSANCE PROSE AND POETRY

5th LECTURE

20th Oct

➤ WHAT IS A RHYTHM?

Beat/ pause/ beat/ pause...

Generally, it's the combination of beats and pauses. However, in poetry a rhythm is determined by the relation of long and short or stressed and unstressed syllables.

- What makes rhythm A faster than rhythm B?
The length between one beat and another; the shorter the pause is, the faster the rhythm becomes; so it depends on the duration of the pause.
In poetry, the rhythm depends on the sounds: consonants (beat) and vowels (pause)
 - Long vowels >>> **se**at /i:/
 - Short vowels >>> s**i**t /i/

For Ex. **He** **dreams** >>> **e** /i:/ **ea** /i:/ > the vowels are long so its slower

- If the poem contains short vowels it means that the rhythm is faster. However, if the vowel sounds are long the rhythm is slower.
- What determines the rhythm in poetry is the quantity of the vowels, so if longer vowels outnumber shorter vowels it means the rhythm is slow and It applies similarly the other way around.
- What is the purpose of the rhythm speed?

it helps enhance the themes and creates a tone for the emotions the poem carries.

for ex. In Spenser's work in the first verse he was upset about his beloved name being washed away so the rhythm was slow.

One **day** **I** **wrote** **her** **name** **upon** **the** **strand**,

■ Long vowel ■ short vowel

But **came** **the** **waves** **and** **washed** **it** **away**

the long vowel outnumbered the short vowels.

- Short vowels are usually unstressed
- Long vowels are usually stressed

- What is Rhythm variation?
It's when a rhythm switches depending on the mood (the emotional atmosphere), poets usually use rhythm variation so they can keep the reader/listener interested and entertained throughout the work.
- How to determine the rhythm?

- First, divide the vowels in groups (long/short)
- Then, find the stressed and unstressed vowels

➤ **Meter:**

- ✓ What is a meter? Its counting the rhythm pattern.
- To count the rhythm meter, you should be able to identify and count the feet in the poem, which are made of each two vowels.
- In both Spenser's and Shakespeare's work the lines contain mostly 5 feet.
 - ❖ Five feet > pentameter
 - ❖ Four feet > tetrameter
 - ❖ Three feet > trimeter
 - ❖ Two feet > dimeter
 - ❖ One foot > monometer
- ✓ Meter types:
 - Iambic > unstressed/stressed syllable
 - Pyrrhus > unstressed/unstressed syllable
 - Spondee > stressed/stressed syllable
 - Trochee > stressed/ unstressed syllable
- The most common division is unstressed/ stressed aka iambic foot.

Ex.

One day ⇒ unstressed/stressed > iambic foot

I wrote ⇒ stressed/stressed > iambic foot

her name ⇒ stressed/stressed > iambic foot

upon ⇒ unstressed/stressed > iambic foot

the strand, ⇒ unstressed/stressed > iambic foot

- ✓ The line contains five feet so it's an iambic pentameter.

END OF LEC.

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