



## Love in Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts' selected poems

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**Abstract.** This thesis explores love in five selected poems by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts: Moonlight, The Fear of Love, Love's Translator, Presence, and The Footpath. The research aims to find the types of love and identify and analyze the figurative language exposing the theme. The intrinsic approach is used for this research. An extrinsic approach, the psychological approach from John Lee's theory is also used to analyze the types of love because love relates to psychology. The data source used in this research consists of the five poems. A descriptive qualitative method is used in this research. Each poem demonstrates different types of love as defined by John Lee's theory, including Eros, Mania, and Storge, using figurative language to express deeper emotions and meanings. Moonlight shows Eros love through imagery, metaphors, personification, apostrophe, and hyperbole, capturing intense longing and desire. The Fear of Love shows Mania love, characterized by obsession and anxiety, through imagery, metaphor, and hyperbole. Love's Translator uses symbols of nature and imagery to reflect the physical attraction and emotional depth of Eros love. In Presence, Eros love is shown through imagery, personification, and hyperbole showing how the lover's presence transforms the speaker's perception of the world. Lately, The Footpath shows Storge love, emphasizing deep friendship and shared memories, with imagery, metaphors, and apostrophe, shows the bond between the speaker and his beloved. In conclusion, this research shows how figurative language is used to portray the kinds of love theme of the five poems.

**Keywords :** *Eros, Figurative Language, Love, Mania, Storge*

### INTRODUCTION/PENDAHULUAN

Love, as a profound sense of affection, is an inherent human experience and a fundamental theme in literature. It encompasses a wide range of emotions and forms, from romantic attraction to deep bonds of friendship and familial ties. The exploration of love in literary works, particularly poetry, allows for an in-depth examination of human emotions and relationships. Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts, a renowned poet, masterfully depicts various aspects of love in his poetry, utilizing rich figurative language and vivid imagery to convey the complexities of this universal theme. According to Lewis (1960), the theme of love is a very universal thing and happens to every human being. Therefore, every human being feels love.

While love is a recurrent theme in many literary works, there is a lack of comprehensive analysis regarding the portrayal of love in the poems of Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts. This research aims to address this gap by investigating how different types of love are depicted in five selected poems by Roberts: *Moonlight*, *The Fear of Love*, *Love's Translator*, *Presence*, and *The Footpath According to Fromm* (1956), love for someone does not necessarily get reciprocated by the loved one, which adds to the complexity of analyzing love in literature.

To explore the depiction of love in Roberts' poems, this study employs both intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The intrinsic approach involves a close textual analysis of the poems, focusing on the use of figurative language and imagery. The extrinsic approach applies John Lee's psychological theory of love to categorize the types of love represented in the poems. This combination of approaches allows for a thorough understanding of the emotional and psychological dimensions of love as conveyed through Roberts' poetic language. Language is a communication tool, and with language, we can understand the speaker's meaning (Johnson, 2008).

Previous studies on figurative language in literary works, such as the analyses by Prakasa (2023) and Fernando (2022), highlight the significance of figurative language in enhancing the thematic depth of poetry. These studies demonstrate how metaphors, similes, and other figures of speech enrich the reader's understanding of literary themes. Building on this foundation, the present study examines the specific ways in which Roberts uses figurative language to portray love, filling a gap in the existing literature. By applying Lee's typology of love, Eros love, Mania love, and Storge love, this research offers a nuanced interpretation of the emotional landscapes in Roberts' poetry.

The primary aim of this research is to identify and analyze the types of love depicted in Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts' selected poems. By examining the use of figurative language and other intrinsic elements, the study seeks to explain how these love themes are conveyed. The results reveal that each poem demonstrates different types of love as defined by John Lee's theory, including Eros, Mania, and Storge. This analysis provides a deeper understanding of the emotional and psychological dimensions of love as represented in poetry, thereby enhancing the appreciation of Roberts' literary artistry.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

A literature review is an essential part of academic writing, showcasing the author's understanding and critical evaluation of the existing body of knowledge on a specific topic. This section demonstrates the comprehensive context in which the current study is situated, highlighting key research, theories, and evidence related to the topic of love in literature. Additionally, it critically analyzes and discusses this content, identifying gaps and establishing the foundation for the current research.

Previous studies extensively explore the theme of love in various literary works, emphasizing the richness of figurative language in conveying complex emotions and themes. For instance, Prakasa (2023) analyzes figurative language in Michael Jackson's songs, identifying twelve types of figurative language, including simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. This study highlights how figurative language enriches

the textual analysis and deepens the thematic understanding of literary works. Similarly, Fernando (2022) investigates figurative language in A.R. Ammons's poem "An Improvisation for Angular Momentum," identifying eight types of figurative language used in the poem. This research underscores the significance of metaphor, simile, and personification in expressing intricate emotions and themes in poetry.

Another study by Sandy, Natsir, and Asanti (2021) from Mulawarman University analyzes figurative language in Thomas Hardy's poems, revealing the poet's use of various figures of speech to convey complex emotional landscapes. Their research finds that Hardy's poems employ simile, metaphor, personification, and other figurative devices to create vivid imagery and emotional depth. Building on these foundational studies, the present research focuses on the portrayal of love in five selected poems by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts: *Moonlight*, *The Fear of Love*, *Love's Translator*, *Presence*, and *The Footpath*. Using both intrinsic and extrinsic approaches, this study identifies the types of love themes depicted in these poems and analyzes the figurative language used. John Lee's psychological theory of love, categorizing love into Eros, Mania, and Storge, provides the framework for this analysis. The primary objective is to examine the emotional and psychological dimensions of love in Roberts' poetry, revealing how figurative language enhances the thematic depth of the poems. This research offers new insights into the depiction of love in poetry, enhancing the appreciation of Roberts' literary artistry.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative design to analyze the portrayal of love in five selected poems by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts. The poems used are *Moonlight*, *The Fear of Love*, *Love's Translator*, *Presence*, and *The Footpath*. To collect data, the researcher reads, identifies, interprets, classifies, and compiles information from these poems. The intrinsic approach focuses on analyzing the text, especially the figurative language and themes, while the extrinsic approach uses John Lee's psychological theory of love to categorize the types of love shown in the poems. Data analysis involves paraphrasing each poem to understand its meaning, classifying the data based on the types of figurative language, and identifying the kind of love theme in each poem. The researcher is the main instrument in this study, ensuring a detailed examination of the poems.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The five poems analyzed in the research have the love theme, each of which has different kind of love. The theme of love and the kind of love in the five poems are analyzed one by one below.

### **1. Love in *Moonlight***

This research, the theme of love depicted in the poem *Moonlight* by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts was eros love. Based on the theory of love by John Alan Lee, eros love is a type of love that originated from Ancient Greece. Eros love is romantic love characterized by a strong physical attraction to the appearance of the beloved. The name eros comes from the Greek god of love and sexual desire.

The line “My love and my desire that fain would fly” illustrated eros love. It depicted a love full of passion and desire. The word “love” described the speaker's strong feelings of love and a deep emotional connection with the beloved. The word “desire” conveyed the strong longing to be with the beloved. Furthermore, the phrase “That fain would fly” indicated a strong desire to fly to reach the beloved. The line “But not for us the touch the clasp the kiss” demonstrated eros love through physical intimacy and desire. This phrase explained forms of physical intimacy such as touching, clasping, and kissing. The phrase “But not for us” signified the absence of intimacy, creating a deep sense of loss and longing for the lover. The line “These aching lips these hungering hearts that strain” explained eros love through the physical pain and emotional longing experienced by the speaker. The phrase “These aching lips” referred to the strong desire for a kiss or unfulfilled physical intimacy. The phrase “These hungering hearts” described a deep emotional longing. The line “Toward the denied fruition of our bliss” depicted eros love through the intensity of emotions and the desire to achieve happiness with the beloved through physical and emotional intimacy. The phrase “toward the denied fruition” showed the effort and hope to achieve happiness. The phrase “Of our bliss” indicated the envisioned happiness in a love relationship with the beloved.

The portrayal of eros love in the poem *Moonlight* was supported by the use of figurative language. For instance, the line “With this far-silvering moon and fold thee in” used visual imagery to create a beautiful and romantic image of the moon at night, even though they could not unite. Additionally, metaphors were used, such as in the line “These aching lips these hungering hearts that strain.” The phrase “aching lips” conveyed a strong physical desire and longing for a kiss or physical closeness with the beloved. The phrase “Hungering hearts” described deep feelings of love and affection. Personification appeared in the line “Voice to thy soul lone-sitting deep within & The still recesses of thine ecstasy,” where the soul was given the human ability to have a “voice.” Apostrophe was used in the line “Now while thou wak'st and longing would'st recall,” where the speaker talked as if the beloved could hear and respond, even though the beloved was not physically present. Hyperbole was used in the line “My love and my desire that fain would fly” to exaggerate the speaker's feelings of love and desire. Summary, the use of figurative language in this poem supported the theme of eros love, characterized by passion, longing, and a strong desire to be with the beloved.

## 2. Love in *The Fear of Love*

The poem *The Fear of Love* by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts explores the theme of mania love. Mania love is characterized by extreme emotionality, anxiety, and an intense fear of losing or being rejected by a loved one. According to John Lee, mania love involves high jealousy and obsession. The fear and anxiety experienced by the speaker in the poem reflect this type of love. The line “For the fear of love is upon me” illustrates mania love by describing the speaker's anxiety about losing the beloved. The line “I am afraid lest God should discover the wonderfulness of our love” further supports this theme, expressing the speaker's fear of divine punishment. The line “For the cost of heaven is the fear of hell” describes how love brings both happiness and fear, while “The terrible cost of love & Is the fear to be cast out there from” emphasizes the emotional cost of love, including anxiety and fear of loss.

Figurative language in *The Fear of Love* includes imagery, as seen in the line "Oh touch me! Oh look upon me!" which conveys tactile and visual longing. Metaphors like "Oh take me into the still places of your heart" compare the heart to a place of peace and security. Hyperbole in the line "Breathe upon me breathe upon me and my soul shall live" exaggerates the speaker's dependence on the beloved. The portrayal of mania love in the poem is supported by various forms of figurative language. The use of imagery in lines like "Oh touch me! Oh look upon me!" demonstrates the deep longing for physical and visual connection with the beloved. This tactile imagery illustrates the speaker's intense desire for closeness and physical contact, while the visual imagery signifies the need to be seen and acknowledged by the beloved. Metaphors in the poem, such as "Oh take me into the still places of your heart," highlight the speaker's desire for peace and security in the lover's affection. This line suggests that the speaker views the lover's heart as a safe haven, a place of tranquility where they can find solace. The metaphorical comparison between the heart and a quiet place underscores the speaker's longing for emotional safety and stability. Hyperbole is also used effectively in the poem to emphasize the intensity of the speaker's emotions. The line "Breathe upon me breathe upon me and my soul shall live" exaggerates the impact of the lover's breath on the speaker's soul, indicating how crucial the lover's presence and actions are to the speaker's emotional well-being. This hyperbolic expression reveals the speaker's deep dependence on the lover for happiness and comfort, a hallmark of mania love.

Overall, the use of figurative language in *The Fear of Love* enhances the portrayal of mania love, characterized by obsessive attachment, intense longing, and fear of loss. The imagery, metaphors, and hyperbole work together to convey the speaker's emotional vulnerability and the overwhelming nature of their love. This analysis of the poem demonstrates how mania love involves a complex interplay of passion, anxiety, and dependency, as reflected in the speaker's experiences and expressions.

### **3. Love in *Love's Translator***

The poem *Love's Translator* by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts explores the theme of eros love. Eros love is characterized by a strong physical attraction and desire for the beloved. The speaker uses nature symbols to describe the beloved and shows a deep longing to meet physically, which is a characteristic of eros love. The line "My longing eyes believe" illustrates the longing to meet the beloved, with the speaker's eyes full of desire for the lover. Longing for a partner is a sign of a strong desire for a physical meeting, which is central to eros love. The line "Thy white form fills my dreaming gaze & Down the garden walk" further supports this theme, showing the speaker mesmerized by the beloved's physical beauty. This line suggests that the speaker's lover appears in dreams, indicating a deep longing for physical presence.

The poem *Love's Translator* portrays eros love through various forms of figurative language. The use of imagery, such as in the line "It seems to me thy perfumed hair," uses olfactory imagery to describe the scent of the beloved's hair. This line supports the theme of eros love by emphasizing the sensual and physical aspects of the relationship. Metaphor is used in the lines "And when the thrush's golden note Across the gloom is heard I think 't is thy impassioned throat Uttering one sweet word." The speaker compares the beautiful sound of the thrush to the beloved's voice, showing how nature reminds the speaker of the lover. This metaphor highlights the intense physical and

emotional attraction characteristic of eros love. Personification is seen in the line "When the white moon divides the mist," where the moon is given the human ability to "divide" the mist. This line supports the eros type of love by emphasizing the beauty of the night and the relationship between the speaker and the beloved. The moon's light symbolizes the beauty and passion of their love. Apostrophe is used in the lines "I see some dear remembered white Gesture of thy hand," where the speaker addresses the absent lover directly. This use of apostrophe illustrates the speaker's deep desire for presence and interaction with the beloved, reinforcing the physical attraction and closeness central to eros love. Hyperbole is used in the line "A sudden warmth awakes my blood and Thinking of thy mouth." The speaker exaggerates the effect of thinking about the beloved's mouth, emphasizing the intense physical attraction and passion in eros love. This hyperbolic expression highlights the powerful emotions and desire that characterize eros love.

In conclusion, the poem Love's Translator effectively uses figurative language to convey the theme of eros love. The imagery, metaphors, personification, apostrophe, and hyperbole all work together to depict the intense physical and emotional attraction, longing, and desire that define eros love. The speaker's descriptions of the beloved through nature symbols and the strong desire for physical presence illustrate the depth and intensity of eros love in the poem.

#### **4. Love in *Presence***

The poem Presence by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts explores the theme of eros love. Eros love is described as intense physical and emotional attraction and appreciation of physical beauty. The poem describes the physical beauty and intimacy of the speaker's lover, emphasizing how the lover's presence changes the speaker's view of nature. The lines "Dawn like a lily lies upon the land & Since I have known the whiteness of your hand" support the theme of eros love. These lines illustrate how love changes the speaker's perception of the world, making it seem more beautiful. The line "Since I have known the whiteness of your hand" symbolizes physical beauty, matching the characteristics of eros love which focus on physical beauty and sensual attraction. The line "Dusk is more soft and more mysterious where & Breathes on my eyes the perfume of your hair" shows an eros type of love by describing physical intimacy and deep emotional feelings. The phrase "Breathes on my eyes the perfume of your hair" indicates physical closeness and sensuality, characteristics of eros love. The speaker experiences the presence of the lover through the sense of smell, emphasizing the passionate and physical nature of eros love. The poem Presence portrays eros love through various forms of figurative language. The use of imagery in the line "Dawn like a lily lies upon the land & Since I have known the whiteness of your hand" employs visual imagery to compare the lover's hand to the whiteness of dawn. This line illustrates that the presence of the lover makes the speaker see and feel the beauty of nature in a different, more meaningful way. Personification is used in the line "And solemn woods are glad because of you," where the woods are given human characteristics, describing them as feeling "glad." This personification supports the theme of eros love by illustrating how the physical and emotional presence of the lover brings happiness to the speaker's perception of nature. Hyperbole is used in the line "Waves at your coming break in livelier blue," where the speaker exaggerates the effect of the lover's presence on the color of the waves. This hyperbolic expression

emphasizes the intense physical and emotional attraction of eros love, showing how the presence of the lover changes the speaker's perspective of nature, making it seem more beautiful and alive.

Summary, the poem *Presence* effectively uses figurative language to convey the theme of eros love. Imagery, personification, and hyperbole work together to depict the intense physical and emotional attraction, longing, and desire that define eros love. The speaker's descriptions of the lover through nature symbols and the strong desire for physical presence illustrate the depth and intensity of eros love in the poem. The presence of the lover transforms the speaker's view of the natural world, making it more vibrant and meaningful, reinforcing the powerful connection between the speaker and the lover.

### 5. Love in *The Footpath*

The poem *The Footpath* by Sir Charles George Douglas Roberts explores the theme of storge love. Storge love is characterized by affection, emotional closeness, and a bond formed through time and shared experiences. The poem describes the places the speaker has traveled with the lover, indicating a long-standing relationship based on friendship and closeness.

The line “Path by which her feet have gone” supports the theme of storge love. This line shows a path the lover has traveled, symbolizing the journey they have taken together and how their love and togetherness have developed over time. The line “Through the village grown so dear & Till you reach my heaven of dreams” also illustrates storge love. The village becomes a symbol of their shared memories and togetherness, making it a special place for them. The phrase “heaven of dreams” represents the eternal happiness and memories they have experienced together. The line “Ah the place we used to meet & I and she—where sharp you turn” reflects storge love through the memories of their meeting place. This place holds special memories for them, indicating the deep bond and love that have grown from their time together. The line “Then; the old house ample-eaved & Night-long quiet beneath the stars” shows storge love through the description of an old house and peaceful nights spent together. The old house symbolizes their togetherness and the quiet nights under the stars represent moments of intimacy and peace.

Imagery is used effectively in this poem. The lines “On the bare hill-summit waves & Still the lonely poplar-tree” create a visual image of a barren hilltop with a lonely poplar tree. This imagery emphasizes the speaker's feeling of loneliness, contrasting with the memories of shared moments with the lover. The use of metaphor in the line “Till you reach my heaven of dreams” describes their meeting place as a “heaven of dreams,” symbolizing the happiness and important moments shared with the lover. This metaphor supports the theme of storge love by highlighting the deep emotional connection and memories that continue to bring joy to the speaker. Apostrophe appears in the lines “But no longer she my own & Treads you save as dreams allow,” where the speaker addresses the path directly. This creates a connection between the speaker and the path, emphasizing the emotional bond and memories associated with the lover's presence. Hyperbole is used in the line “Where the white gull drops and screams,” exaggerating the behavior of the gulls to create a lively scene. This hyperbole highlights the vivid memories of the speaker's emotional life and the shared experiences that

continue to bring happiness. Irony is present in the line "Path by which her feet have gone," where there is a contrast between the past when they met physically and the present when the lover is no longer there. This irony reinforces the theme of storge love by showing how memories and emotional bonds continue to affect the speaker even in the lover's absence.

In conclusion, the poem *The Footpath* effectively uses figurative language to convey the theme of storge love. The imagery, metaphors, apostrophe, hyperbole, and irony work together to depict the deep emotional connection, shared memories, and lasting bond that define storge love. The speaker's descriptions of the places traveled with the lover and the strong sense of togetherness illustrate the enduring nature of storge love and its impact on the speaker's emotional world.

## CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the conclusion based on the result of analysis in the previous chapter. After analyzing the five poems *Moonlight*, *The Fear Of Love*, *Love's Translator*, *Presence*, and *The Footpath*, it can be concluded that the poems have three types of love themes. The themes are exposed through some kinds of figurative language.

In the poem *Moonlight*, the use of metaphors and imagery emphasizes Eros love, which is all about passionate attraction. The poem includes imagery, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, and hyperbole. The phenomenon of love in *Moonlight* is revealed through Eros love, which is characterized by deep physical and emotional desire. The poem depicts longing and being unable to unite with his lover. The use of figurative language strengthens the feelings of deep love and desire. For example, the phrase "These aching lips these hungering hearts" shows a longing for physical and emotional closeness with his beloved. The poem *The Fear of Love*, focuses on Mania love, which is obsessive and intense. The poem includes imagery, metaphor, hyperbole. These figurative languages help express the speaker's deep fear of losing his beloved. In *The Fear of Love* the phenomenon of love is shown through mania love, which is characterized by obsession and anxiety over relationships. The poem describes the obsession and anxiety felt by the speaker about the possibility of losing his lover. The use of figurative language supports the Mania type of love, as in the line "Oh take me into the still places of your heart" which shows a deep need to feel safe and close to her lover.

Poem *Love's Translator* uses imagery and metaphors to show Eros love, focuses on the physical beauty and presence of the beloved. This poem has imagery, metaphors, personification, Apostrophes, and hyperbole, each figurative language supports to the images of the lover's and the speaker's deep emotional response. The phenomenon of love in *Love's Translator* is shown through Eros love, which is characterized by physical attraction and the desire for physical closeness. The poem uses symbols of nature to describe the lover's physical beauty and the deep longing for a physical meeting. The use of figurative language supports the Eros type of love, as in the line "A sudden warmth awakes my blood and the thought of thy mouth" which shows how strongly the memory of the lover affects the speaker's feelings.

Poem *Presence* also explores Eros love through its imagery and personification, that shows how the beloved's presence transforms the speaker's view of the world. This



poem includes instances of imagery, hyperbole, and personification. In the poem *Presence* the phenomenon of love is expressed through Eros love, which is shown by physical attraction and a change in the speaker's view of the world because the presence of his lover. The poem uses figurative language to describe how the presence of a lover changes the speaker's perspective on nature, as in the line "And solemn woods are glad because of you" which shows how the presence of a lover makes the forest seem more alive and happy.

The last poem *The Footpath* has the theme of Storge love, characterized by deep friendship and long-term connection. It uses imagery, metaphor, Apostrophes, hyperbole, and irony to highlight the bond and shared memories between the speaker and his beloved. The phenomenon of love in *The Footpath* is revealed through Storge love, which is characterised by emotional closeness and deep friendship. The poem describes shared memories and emotional bonds formed through time and shared experiences. The use of figurative language shows the depth of emotional connection, such as in the line "Till you reach my heaven of dreams" which shows how memories with his lover are a source of eternal happiness for the speaker.

In short, these five poems by Sir Charles George Douglas Robert show a different type of love through the use of figurative language, from passionate and physical love to obsessive love, and love that grows out of deep friendship. The use of figurative language in the five poems strengthens the theme of love in the five poems by Sir Charles George Douglas Robert, thus showing how the phenomenon of love is portrayed.

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