

An Examination of Symbolism in J.P. Shongwe's Poetry

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ABSTRACT The objective of this paper is to highlight the significance of symbolism as a literary communicative device, recurrent image and conveyor of ultimate meaning in poetry. Symbolism and imagery help to create the main themes in a poem. The creative use of the abstract and concrete phenomena enhances the recurrent images of the poem. Symbolism is not only vital in poetry, but to all modes of discourse because of its allegorical, metaphorical and representative character. Its functionality is noted when it encapsulates, signifies and exemplifies in poetry. The analysis and appraisal approaches are used in this study. Symbolism is the representation of objects, actions, thought and concepts which can be conventional or public, traditional or private. Recurrent imagery further stands for the ideas, state of mind and extrasensory experience. The word choice or diction plays a major role to determine poetic meaning, sound and suggestive powers in the verse-line or poem.