

Micro Poetry: Beauty of the Theme in 140 Characters

Dr. Ragitha Rajendran

Principal and HOD, Department of Languages

Kairalee Nikethan Golden Jubilee Degree College (Bangalore University)

ragitha.rajendran@gmail.com

OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 4

Month: May

Year: 2025

E-ISSN: 2582-0397

P-ISSN: 2321-788X

Citation:

Rajendran, Ragitha.

“Micro Poetry: Beauty of the Theme in 140 Characters.” *Shanlax International Journal of Arts, Science and Humanities*, vol. 12, no. S4, 2025, pp. 190–93.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/sijash.v12iS4.May-9182>

Abstract

Micro poetry, the very concept is originated on the basis of the impact of social media in the field of literature. The poems that are written in 140 characters, which shall fit into a text message, Instagram post or any other social media platforms. Various platforms offer a lot of scope for the budding writers and this concept has changed the style of poetry from cantos to characters. The objective of the study is to introduce the new trend in poetry and the micro poems. The scope of the study is to understand the undertone of micro poems, the satisfaction of poets and readers on the expression of ideas and the advantage of having less reading time that helps the young generation to read poems. The limitation is the difficulty in comparing the metre, rhyme and figures of speech with the classics. The methodology adopted is a study of poems by Seema Jayaraman and Rupī Kaur. This helps the researcher to make out the depth of the poems in 140 characters. As the title suggests, this study focuses on the portrayal of the beauty of the theme in the word limit.

Introduction

Poetry has been defined by veteran writers in purview of their experience in penning the verses that comes to their mind. They have produced narrative poems, ode, elegy, sonnet and various genres of verses in cantos during various periods: pre-Shakespearean, Victorian, Modern, Post-Modern, Post-Colonial ages. The advent of social media has given a different style to poetry too. The change is purely because of the restriction in word limit, character limit. The authors are forced to poetically express the theme in the word limit prescribed in the online platforms. Thus the “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” should be channelized through the perfect choice of vocabulary that convey the whole theme in the word limit. It is not as easy as it looks. It is like “best words in best order” as Samuel Taylor Coleridge says. There are plenty of new authors who have created magic in two to four lines in less than two hundred characters. The works of Seema Jayaraman and Rupī Kaur have been chosen for the study.

Haiku, tweetku, chapbooks, and found poetry are a few types of micro poetry. A tweetku is a type of poetry limited to 283 characters, whereas a haiku is a three-line poem with a 5-7-5 syllable structure. A chapbook is essentially a compilation of 15–30 short poems. A type of micro poetry known as “found poetry” can be discovered in unexpected locations, such as captcha entries, which are places where poetry is not required.

Important features of micro poetry are brevity, strong impact, versatility and Accessibility. Micro poetry is distinguished by its

brevity or being concise, which is typically limited to a few lines or words. Micro poetry has the ability to express strong feelings and concepts despite its brevity. It can be used to convey a variety of ideas such as love, nature, social criticism and introspection. Micro poetry's accessibility is vast as it is easily available and shareable. It is in condensed format and crispy style which makes people share it extensively.

Scope and Limitations

The scope of the study is to understand the undertone of micro poems, the satisfaction of poets and readers on the expression of ideas and the advantage of having less reading time that helps the young generation to read poems. The limitation is the difficulty in comparing the metre, rhyme and figures of speech with the classics.

Methodology

The methodology adopted is a study of poems by Seema Jayaraman and Rupī Kaur. This helps the researcher to make out the depth of the poems in 140 characters. As the title suggests, this study focuses on the portrayal of the beauty of the theme in the restricted word limit.

Micro Poetry: Beauty of the Theme in 140 Characters

The new genre Micro Poetry has been a trend in the social media platforms and online publishing forums. The success of the same is the lack of patience of human beings to read a piece of literature in cantos. They need the beauty of the theme encapsulated in a maximum of three to five lines. The reason being the increase in screen time and this has been rightly used by young poets like Seema Jayaraman and Rupī Kaur. In Malayalam literature the name of Kunjunni Master must not be forgotten as he is one of the pioneers of micro poetry those days. An example, "Aayi thai mittayi, Thinnan nerathishtayi, thinnu kazhinjaḷ kashtai" meaning the wow there is sweet, sweet is nice to be eaten, After eating it is no more, which makes us sad.

Indian Bride- Caught in Traffic, the micropoetry by Seema Jayaraman explains the fate of the Indian bride who got stuck in a traffic. She wrote,

Scattering rectangular
Lights on concrete in twilight
Reflects a heavily decked
Pensive Indian bride
Being rushed to meet her fate
caught in traffic snarl

This poem can be written elaborately by portraying the city, where traffic is at its peak and the description of the vehicle wherein the bride is travelling. The emotions of the bride and the tension created by the people around and so on. Seema has portrayed the whole theme and emotions in just twenty-four words. That is the power of micro poetry. In her poem *A Whirlpool of Anger* she wrote,

A whirlpool of anger
Whorls inside outside
Universe swing'n out of control
Pivots on promises empty n naught
Spins venom spit on earth

Seema describes the emotion anger in just twenty-three words. It be frames anger as a whirlpool and shakes a person inside out and it is a toxic emotion. The interpretations can go wild as it has metaphors used. The appreciation of this twenty- three liner poem can be much lengthier. Seema Jayaraman is a Mumbai based IT professional who have developed a passion towards writing

poems through her International journeys and contacts. She secured various awards for her short poems from India and abroad. Seema's poems are embedded with emotions of Indianness and rich in Indian culture.

Rupi Kaur is well-known for her micro poetry, which is a genre of poetry that is typically very brief or single-line. Themes of love, relationships, loss, and mental health are frequently explored in her work. Because Kaur's poems are regularly shared on social media sites like Instagram, her writing is widely available and well-liked, particularly by younger audiences.

In her poem *home* Rupri Kaur wrote,
i dive into the well of my body
and end up in another world
everything I need
already exists in me
there's no need
to look anywhere else

Rupi, in this poem does a self-introspection and finally realizes the fact that her body is her home and whatever she needs she could find everything in it. This can be explained in a wider canvas too as it is too vast a theme and she has left the rest to the readers for nurturing their thoughts. This wonderful poem is written in just twenty-eight words and can be analysed in the light of gender related issues and suppression and so on. Another poem by Rupri Kaur, *Journey*, she wrote,

there is nothing wrong with you
this is growth
this is transformation
protecting yourself
getting lost in the noise
figuring it out
feeling used
uncared for
losing hope
burning out
this is fear
this is processing
this is surviving
this is being alive

Rupi, through these forty- three words, has given a vivid picture of the journey of life. It is in the form of an advice that life is like this. This is called being alive. This is a journey of transformation. Change is inevitable and it is just life's journey and there is nothing wrong about it. Sometimes you have to be protecting yourself and that makes you feel that you are uncared and feeling lost. This is the bitter reality of life and you transform as this is a journey of life which transforms you. This poem can be read in a gender related issue, that can be stated as a woman's issue and also, more contemporary issues that can be tagged to define and redefine the poem.

In the poem *Power*, Rupri Kaur has expressed the power of a woman by just portraying the metaphor of light. She wrote,

there are days
when the light flickers
and then i remember
i am the light
i go in and
switch it back on.

When she finds out the light flickers, she was baffled for a while and later she remembers her own power as she being the light. She has gone inside and started illuminating. This clearly states the power as the title suggests. Here light is used as a metaphor for power. It can also be read as wisdom. Powerful poem in twenty- three words

The style of writing of Rupī Kaur is commendable. She uses all small letters to write as she tries to call out the insignificance of being ‘big’. She became popular among youngsters through her brief but powerful poems and write ups in instagram. *Milk and Honey* her anthology of poems have made her popular among poets. Being an Indian Canadian writer Rupī Kaur has bagged many awards like Good reads Choice Award for best poetry. She has become an asset to the field of poetry.

The significance of micro poetry is more. It enhances proficiency through language and cognitive development. Micro poetry aids with vocabulary development and comprehension of literary strategies such as alliteration and metaphors. The clear vocabulary and power packed words make this genre unique in itself. Micro poetry reading and writing enhances cognitive thinking, i.e. creativity and critical thinking. Micro poetry has an emotional and therapeutic effect which helps healing the wounded minds. By offering a forum for the exploration and expression of emotions, micro poetry promotes emotional intelligence and self-awareness. Composing micro poems promote introspection and self-discovery. Micro poetry’s conciseness makes it perfect for online forums and promotes and eases conversations, discussions and debates. The difficulty in saying a lot in a little amount of words might inspire fresh thoughts and viewpoints. Micro poetry can be a potent instrument for promoting creative expression and innovative thoughts.

There are disadvantages too in micro poetry. As critics point out, there is cultural ambiguity, which makes the reader baffled to understand the context and deeper meaning entrenched in micro poems. Traditional poetic forms cannot be used extensively in micro poems. This makes the micro poetry stands apart from the long verses. As micro-poetry is so brief, it might be difficult to express nuanced emotions and tones. The subtleties of the poem’s voice or the poet’s attitude may be difficult for readers to understand. Readers may become frustrated if they are unable to understand the poem’s content due to the absence of context and vivid imagery. Micro-poetry might be perceived by some as a less complex kind of poetry that lacks the aesthetic value of longer, more conventional forms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, micro poetry offers a unique lens through which to explore the human experience. Its concise and powerful form challenges traditional notions of poetry and inspires new ways of thinking about language and meaning. As micro poetry continues to evolve, it will be exciting to see how poets and writers push the boundaries of this form. Future research could explore the intersection of micro poetry with other art forms or its potential applications in education and therapy. Ultimately, micro poetry demonstrates that poetry can be both brief and profound. Its ability to capture complex emotions and ideas in a few words makes it a valuable tool for self-expression and communication. Micro poetry’s brevity and flexibility make it an ideal form for experimentation and innovation. As poets continue to explore this form, we can expect to see new and exciting developments in the world of poetry. In the end, micro poetry’s greatest strength lies in its ability to distill complex emotions and ideas into a few, well-chosen words. As a literary form, it challenges us to think creatively about language and meaning, and its impact will likely continue to be felt in the world of poetry and beyond.

Works Cited

1. <https://www.littleinfinite.com/15-rupi-kaur-poems>
2. Micropoetry Poems - Best Poems For Micropoetry