

AI-ASSISTED LITERARY ANALYSIS OF CHILDHOOD DREAMS AND REALITY IN POETRY

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Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola Roger McGoughning “The Perfect Present” she’ri orqali bolalikdagi oddiy orzular va ularning hayotdagi haqiqatga qanday to’g’ri kelmasligi haqida so’zlaydi. Maqolada shuningdek, zamonaviy sun’iy intellektning she’riyatni chuqur anglashda va yangi ijodiy asarlar yaratishda qanday yordam berishi ham ko’rib chiqiladi. She’riyat va texnologiya birlashganda, inson his-tuyg’ulari va ijodining yangi qirralari ochiladi.

Kalit so’zlar : bolalik orzulari, haqiqat, she’riyat, Roger McGough, sun’iy intellekt, adabiyot tahlili, ijod.

Аннотация: В этой статье рассказывается о том, как в стихотворении Роджера МакГофа «The Perfect Present» отражены детские мечты и их несовпадение с реальностью жизни. Также обсуждается, как современные технологии искусственного интеллекта помогают глубже понять поэзию и создавать новые творческие работы. Когда поэзия и технологии объединяются, открываются новые возможности для выражения человеческих чувств и творчества.

Ключевые слова: детские мечты, реальность, поэзия, Роджер Макгоу, искусственный интеллект, литературный анализ, творчество.

Abstract: This article talks about how Roger McGough’s poem “The Perfect Present” reflects childhood dreams and the way they often don’t match the reality of life. It also explores how modern artificial intelligence helps us understand poetry more deeply and create new creative works. When poetry and technology come together, new possibilities open up for expressing human emotions and creativity.

Keywords: childhood dreams, reality, poetry, Roger McGough, artificial intelligence, literary analysis, creativity.

Introduction. Roger McGough, a prominent British poet, playwright, and performer, is widely recognized for his wit, humor, and insightful exploration of everyday experiences. Born in 1937 in Liverpool, McGough rose to prominence as a member of the Liverpool Poets and gained widespread acclaim for his work with the poetry anthology *The Mersey Sound* (1967), alongside Adrian Henri and Brian Patten. His poetry often blends playful language with poignant reflections on life, making it accessible to readers of all ages. In McGough’s poems, celestial bodies carry deep metaphorical meanings, symbolizing human emotions, hope, suffering, and the passage of time. (Xakimova, 2024) His poem “The Perfect Present” serves as a poignant exploration of the contrast between childhood

dreams and the reality of life's disappointments. The poem follows the narrator through various stages of childhood, each marked by a desired gift and the disappointing reality of what is actually received.

Methods. The poem is analyzed through the lens of stylistics and thematic interpretation, with particular attention paid to the contrast between childhood expectations and disappointing realities. A close reading method is used to explore literary devices such as rhyme, irony, repetition, and contrast. Additionally, the study applies elements of reader-response theory to evaluate how different age groups, including child and adult readers, might interpret the humor and subtext of the poem. Furthermore, basic AI-based text analysis tools, including keyword frequency detection and sentiment analysis, are applied to compare human and machine interpretations of tone and theme. This hybrid method helps reveal how artificial intelligence can assist in identifying emotional patterns, lexical fields, and stylistic choices within poetic texts.

Results. This poem will serve as the foundation for our exploration of how childhood dreams and reality are depicted in literature, as well as how AI can assist in analyzing and replicating such thematic structures. Through a series of age-based stanzas, McGough presents a humorous yet insightful narrative that reflects on how expectations are often unmet, particularly during formative years. This article delves into McGough's thematic approach while also considering how artificial intelligence can be employed to analyze and replicate such poetic structures. Roger McGough's poem, "The Perfect Present," employs a simple yet powerful repetitive structure to vividly illustrate the contrast between childhood dreams and the often-disappointing reality of what children actually receive. The poem is organized into a series of stanzas, each focusing on a specific age—from one year old up to ten—and juxtaposes the child's hopeful and imaginative wishes with the underwhelming or mismatched gifts they are given. For example, at the tender age of one, the child eagerly desires a bright and cheerful rattle to shake and chew on, a classic toy associated with early infancy. However, instead of receiving the playful object, the child is handed a plain brick with the word "RATTLE" painted on it—an ironic and humorously cruel substitution that immediately sets the tone of disappointment. As the poem progresses, the gap between the child's expectations and reality remains striking. At age two, the child dreams of having a faithful and cuddly teddy bear, a symbol of comfort and companionship, but instead receives a mere piece of fur stuck onto a stick with glue. This kind of gift is not only useless but also emphasizes neglect and the absence of genuine care. At age three, the child wishes for a shiny, new tricycle to ride, representing growing independence and adventure, yet the actual present is a pair of pram wheels nailed to a tree—a nonsensical and impractical replacement that further deepens the sense of frustration. Throughout these examples, McGough's use of absurd and mismatched gifts highlights how childhood innocence and imagination often confront the harsher, less satisfying realities imposed by circumstances or adults' indifference. The poem continues

with similarly ironic contrasts – at four, a fearsome dinosaur toy is replaced by a plastic lobster missing a claw; at five, a silver kite is exchanged for a sickly pigeon; at six, a magical wand and box of tricks become a pair of grandmother's walking sticks. Each of these gifts carries symbolic meaning, reflecting not only the child's evolving desires but also the increasing disconnect between what is wished for and what is given. McGough's playful, rhythmic language and repetition create a sense of rhythm that mimics the ongoing cycle of hope and letdown in childhood. Ultimately, through humor, irony, and vivid imagery, "The Perfect Present" paints a bittersweet portrait of growing up, where the bright light of youthful dreams is often dimmed by the realities of life, yet the innocence and resilience of childhood persist.

Discussion. Furthermore, the rich literary qualities of McGough's poem, modern technology – specifically artificial intelligence (AI) – provides exciting new tools for analyzing and even creating works with similar emotional depth and structure. AI programs, trained on vast amounts of text and poetry, can detect subtle linguistic patterns within McGough's poem, such as the consistent repetition of structure, the shifts in tone from playful to ironic, and the emotional undertones of disappointment and hope. By processing the poem's language at a granular level, AI can help uncover hidden themes and nuances that might escape a casual reader, offering a deeper understanding of the child's evolving feelings as expressed through the poem. Beyond analysis, AI also demonstrates creative potential by generating original poems that imitate McGough's style. Using machine learning models, AI can combine the themes of childhood innocence, expectation, and reality with similar rhythmic and repetitive forms. This process not only replicates the juxtaposition of the child's wishes versus actual gifts but also experiments with new ways to express the bittersweet tension McGough so masterfully conveys. Such AI-generated poetry reveals how machines, though lacking human emotions, can mimic creative expression by learning from human works. This challenges traditional notions of creativity and authorship, prompting us to reconsider how technology might complement or even expand human artistic endeavors. The intersection of poetry and AI enriches literary studies by offering innovative approaches to both interpretation and creation. AI tools enable scholars to analyze large bodies of text quickly, identify patterns across multiple works, and generate new literary content inspired by existing styles. At the same time, this technological integration invites reflection on how emotions and complex human experiences are represented through language and whether machines can truly understand or merely simulate these aspects. Ultimately, the collaboration between poetry and AI opens a fascinating frontier, blending the timeless art of storytelling with cutting-edge technological advancements to deepen our appreciation and understanding of literature.

Conclusion. Roger McGough's "The Perfect Present" beautifully captures the universal experience of childhood—where hopeful dreams and harsh realities often collide. Through humor, irony, and vivid imagery, the poem highlights the

bittersweet nature of growing up, reminding us of the resilience and imagination children possess despite repeated disappointments. By examining this poem alongside the capabilities of artificial intelligence, we gain fresh perspectives on both literary interpretation and creative expression. AI's ability to analyze linguistic patterns and generate poetry in similar styles expands the boundaries of how we engage with literature, blending human emotion with technological innovation. This fusion not only enhances our understanding of poetic themes but also encourages us to reflect on the evolving relationship between art and technology. In the end, "The Perfect Present" and its exploration through AI demonstrate that both human creativity and digital tools have unique and complementary roles in telling stories that resonate across generations.

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