Appendix _2: Functionalist Stylistics Test

Adama University
Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages
Department of English and Other Languages

Functionalist Stylistics and Communicative Competence

Time: 2 hours Point: 20

Name:__________________
Program: Regular/Extension. Id. No. ____________________
Sex: Male/ Female Campus: ____________________
Year: ____________________

General Instruction: This test has two parts. In each part, follow the instruction carefully. Each question has points; therefore, allocate time properly to answer to each question. Each multiple choice (26 items) carries 0.5 point. See the instruction for the marks of each open ended question. Circle the letter of your best choice.

Part One: Critically read the following poem by Be’alu Girma entitled “Nocturnal Mood” to answer the questions that follow.

Nocturnal Mood

By Be’alu Girma

Goaded by freedom, but fetter’d everywhere.
Drunk in hope, yet drowned in despair.
Beggar’d by raging hell, and sooth’d by lasting bliss.
Oh God! What paradox this life is.
The moment I hear heaven’s calling bell
There blows the sudden storms of hell.
Things so distant, yet seem so near.
And in my endless pursuit I reach no where.
Nothing is within my reach but seems so far away.
And my hopeless hopeful search ends on the way.
Am I or am I not? How am I to know?
Where am I? Wither am I to do?
Am I in stormy hell or in heaven’s sunny bliss?
Oh God! What mystery this life is.
Is there a maker of all these above and behind?
Or is all this the making of my mind?

Taken from “News and Views”, 1961, Vol. IV, No. 24, p.7

A. On the Ideational Function: Read the following questions and write the letter of your choice or short answers on the space provided.

1. How does Be’alu express logical relation in the poem?
   A. Using coordinating conjunctions such as ‘but’, ‘yet’, ‘and’, and ‘or’
   B. Constructing parallel grammatical structures
   C. Asking questions
   D. Juxtaposing opposites
   E. All

2. Which one of the following pairs of lexical items does not express paradoxical relation?
   A. Goad’d and fetter’d
   B. Drunk and drown’d
   C. Beggared and soothed
   D. Hell and heaven
   E. None

3. Which one of the following paradoxical relations is not expressed in the poem?
   A. Freedom and prison
   B. Hope and despair
4. In the lines 1-3, why is the passive construction used?
A. To mention the doer of the action
B. To stress the action than the doer of the action.
C. To avoid ungrammatical sentences
D. None

5. In the poem, the first person pronoun “I” is used as:
A. a direct object
B. an actor
C. a logical direct object
D. All

6. Which one of the following dominates the poem?
A. Cognition
B. Reaction
C. Perception
D. All

7. Describe the author’s general attitude in the poem briefly.

8. How does the poet express his experiences of the inner and the outer world in the poem? Provide a short answer.

B. On the Interpersonal Function

Instruction: Read the following questions and respond as appropriate.

9. What is the relevance of the first person pronoun in the poem?
A. It builds a personal tone.
B. It creates intimacy with the reader.
C. It expresses a world outlook.
D. A and B

10. The poem:
A. Presents attitude towards life.
B. Assesses life in general.
C. Questions the meaning of life.
D. All

11. Briefly describe the relationship between the addressor (the poet) and the addressee (the reader).

12. Describe the tone of the poem.

C. On the Textual Function: Provide the best answer in the space provided only.

13. Which one of the following words is used most frequently in the poem?
A. Hell
B. Distant and near
C. Lite
D. Bliss
E. Death

14. Which one of the following words is not a lexical collocation of “heaven”?
A. Hope
B. Bliss
C. Freedom
15. Which one of the following words is not a lexical collocation of “he!1”?
A. Despair  D. Sunny bliss
B. Stormy hell  E. Mystery
C. Endless pursuit

16. What is the function of lexical collocation in the poem?
A. It coheres the entire text
B. It builds the unity of the text
C. It emphasizes the message of the poem
D. All

17. What is the function of the cohesive device “and”?
A. It coordinates equivalent linguistic items in the poem
B. It contrasts ideas in the poem
C. It links opposite linguistic items in the poem
D. All

18. Write an argumentative paragraph on the message of the poem in brief. (1 mark)

Part Two: Critically read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

Death in Me
By Tsegay Gebremedhin
I no more hope for a moonshine walk
To nurse a shrunken memory of bye-gone happy days.
I only wait absorbed by emptiness
Under a clouded over rock of emptiness.

I no more dream
Of Michelangelo’s well-fed baby angels
Alluring me like the dead feelers of God
From the golden walls of the Vatican.
I only dream
Of the thick white pus I saw
Ejecting out of a leper’s distorted eyes.
I no more fly
On the wings of the sweet bird of youth.
I only toss and turn
Under the cold blanket of reality.
For the wounds of life received at daylight
Glow wilder in the dead of night
I no more watch the evening sun
Waving good-night kisses at the distant horizon.
I only contemplate my naked soul
Being pitted against a trial of dry measures.

A. On the Ideational Function
Instruction: Write best answers in the space provided.

19. How does Tsegay Gebremedhin express logical relations in the poem?
A. Using participial phrases
B. Using prepositional phrases
C. Asking questions
D. Juxtaposing dream and reality
E. All but C

20. Which one of the following lexical items does not express “reality” in the poem?
A. Emptiness  D. Wounds of life
B. Pus  E. Evening sun
C. Naked soul

21. Which one of the following phrases does not express “dream” in the poem?

232
22. Through out the poem, what is the major function of intransitive verbs?
   A. They express mental processes
   B. They show Hopefulness and despair
   C. They express the power of dream over reality
   D. All

23. In the poem, the first person pronoun “I” is used as:
   A. a direct object
   B. an actor
   C. a logical subject

24. Which one of the following dominates the poem?
   A. Cognition
   B. Reaction
   C. Perception
   D. All

25. Briefly state how the external world is structured in the poem. (0.5 marks)

26. How does the poet express his experiences of the inner and the outer world in the poem? (0.5 marks)

B. On the Interpersonal Function: Write your answer in the space provided.

27. How does the poet present mood in the poem?
   A. Using personal pronoun
   B. Using modal verbs
   C. Using present tense
   D. All but C

28. What is the function of the first person pronoun in the poem?
   A. It builds personal tone
   B. It creates intimacy
   C. It gives emphasis on the action
   D. All

29. The poem:
   A. Presents dream and reality
   B. Assesses life
   C. Questions life
   D. Argues about life

30. What is the relationship between the addressee and the addressee in the poem? (0.5 pts)

C. On the Textual Function: Write the best answer.

32. Which one of the following words in the poem is most frequently used?
   A. I
   B. dream
   C. reality
   D. youth
   E. all

33. Which one of the following words or phrase is a lexical collocation of “reality”?
   A. Emptiness
   B. Thick white pus
   C. Wounds of life
   D. Naked soul
   E. all
34. Which one of the following words or phrases is a lexical collocation of "dream"?
A. Bye-gone happy days
B. Well-fed baby angels
C. Sweet birds of youth
D. Evening sun
E. All

35. What is the function of lexical collocation in the poem?
A. Unifying ideas in the poem
B. Flowing ideas in the poem
C. Emphasizing on the theme of the poem
D. All

36. Explain the relevance of active and passive voice in the poem. (0.5 marks)

37. Write an argumentative paragraph on the message of the poem. (1.5 marks)