**40-LOVE – TEXTUAL ANALYSIS – ARGUMENTATIVE TEXT**

The object of the present work is to discuss and to analyse the poem *40-love* by Roger McGough.

The poem strikes the reader attention thanks to its unusual title and pattern.

The presence of signatures in the title sticks in the reader’s mind and, although there’s no common literary pattern, there’s still a regular one. Indeed, there’s a symmetrical lay out, which results from the arrangment in two columns of only one word. Therefore, the intelligent reader wonders what is the reason why the poet had chosen the peculiar pattern and what is the correlation with the number “40”.

It follows that the analysis of the text is meant to discover the correlation between “40”, “love” and the division in two different parts.

In order to reach the goal, the present work will develop a structural analysis first, and on a second moment will consider how connotative choices add to the meaning.

Just considering the lay out, the reader notices that the text is splitted in two parts, also the graphical representation displays a line between the two columns that contributes to the idea of division. It goes without saying that the topic of separation or partition will be the principal one.

Moving forward with the connotative analysis, the speaking voice tells about a “middle-aged couple”, as a consequence the reader understands that the number “40” in the poem’s title *40-love* refers to the age of the people involved in the love realationship, which is also introduced by the word “love” in the title. Moreover, the speaking voice isn’t referring to some specif people, it’s talking about the universal concept of “40-love”, thus the poem conveys his considerations about love for middle-aged ones in general.

The metaphor of tennis too contributes to the idea of division, as a matter of fact, as the “net” separates the couple during the match, once they finished the game there’s still sort of a “net” between them. The intelligent reader undarstands that it’s not a physical “net”, but rather an obstacle that divedes them in everyday-life even more than the “net” mentioned above.

In conlusion, the poem conveys the speaking voice’s perspective about “40-love” and becomes a kind of warning for the reader, because the separation isn’t always physical matter.