“Snowdrops” analysis

TITLE AND POSSIBLE EXPECTATIONS

Just considering the title, the word “Snowdrops” reminds the reader to the small white flowers with long and curved petals, which grow through the snow. This makes the reader associate the flower to fragility, while the colour white is generally associated to purity. In addition this name suggests the idea of something extraordinary, indeed snow fall is something you rarely see. As a consequence the intelligent reader imagine the poem to convey a very special experience.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ANALYSIS

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 meaning.

DENOTATIVE ANALYISIS: layout

The poem focuses the reader’s attention thank to the irregular pattern that creates an effect of disharmony and confuzion.

It goes without saying that the intelligent reader is curious about the reason why the poet decided not to use a regular structure and the effects of this choice.

Furthermore, just considering the lenght of the stanzas, the reader also notice that the third stanza is longer than the other, indeed it’s made up of eight lines, and he supposes this stanza to countain the main theme in the economy of the poem. In addition the last stanza draws the reader’s attention because of its brevity, indeed it is made up of only one line.

STRUCTURE

From a structural point of view, punctuation is essential to understand the poem’s structure. For instance the question mark at the beginning of the poem makes the reader understand that the function of the first stanza is to introduce to the core of the poem that is revival.

STANZAS’ ANALYSIS

Now moving foreword with the analysis of the first stanza. Firstly the expression “Do you know how I lived?” throgh which the poet refers directly to the reader, mentally transfers him into that particular situation.

Secondly the word “Despair” become an essential element in the stanza because conveys the speaker’s feelings. As a consequence the reader can say it represents the key word of the stanza. Moreover the reference to winter in the third line reminds the reader to a phisical condition, characterised by lot of pain. It is suffice it to say that winter cold hints to an unconfortable condition.

Even verb tenses play a fundamental role in the analysis of the poem. The use of the conditional “Should have”, indeed, conveys a supposition and makes the reader reflect on his life.

In the second stanza the speaking voice highlights his surprise and his relief to still be alive.

It is suffice it to say that the use of long open vowel sounds, such as “Open”,”Light”and”Respond” reminds to the idea of freedom and revival.

It goes without saying that even the use of the expression “After so long” and the evident repetition of the word “Again” emphazise the idea of coming back to life.

Furthermore syntax contributes together with the semantic choices to add to the idea of life as a dynamic process, indeed there is the prevalence of the progressive aspect that suggest something moving constantly.

In addition, to the anoxymoron “Cold light” follows the expression “Earliest spring”, which represents a contrapposition with the previous “Winter”, thus conveying sensation sof happiness and peace.

Consequently the third stanza communicates the feelings of the speaker, who is afraid but grateful to be alive. It goes without saying that his joy overcome the pain. What’s more the repetition of the exclamation “Yes” conveys some positive feelings to the reader. The message of this stanza is that lighting and pain are contradictionary elements of evrey difficult experience.

Eventually the last stanza is filled with the expression “New world” that highlights the idea of revival, anticipated by the previous stanzas.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The poem becomes therefore an experience to consider painful and terrible experiences as a pretext to rebirth and start a new life.

The poet starts with a dark and painful atmosphere but leaves the reader with hopeful sensations that make him reflect about life. Now the reader can also understand the connection between snowdrops and humans. When something terrible happens you feel alone and frail, just like the white flower, and all around you become frost and paiful like snow. You cannot see the light. But, despite of your expectations, these moments end, and when they do, you can finally start your revival.