

SYMBOL AND SYMBOLISM, ITS ILLUMINATION IN YESENIN'S "THE  
DROPS"

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**Abstract:** *The discussion of symbol theory and symbolism in literature will be covered in the following article. The epic poem "The Drops" will be used as an example. In literature review there will be ideas and conceptions by scholars who worked on symbolism before. Here we will discuss three distinct types of symbolism, each with distinct characteristics. Mostly, the legendary poet of Russia, Yesenin, uses emotional and romantic symbolism rather than religious one. Even in this poem we will see several symbolisms which are shown and focused on emotional characteristics.*

**Keywords:** *Symbol and symbolism, epic, religion, emotional, romantic, poetry, comparison.*

**Introduction:** As we know, there are several meanings for each word and they are not limited. It can be an object, word or concept. In any kind of literature work, the person can face with symbolism, for example, the "colour green". When he sees it of course, he will remember about the grass, nature, trees. On the other hand, the person starts to think about the second side of imagination, and it is related to the person's characteristics and imagination, like peace and fresh air in the "green" color. It is a symbol of nature and peace; it is even attracted in many countries' flags. In the epic poem "The Drops" which was written by Yesenin, we can also see different kind of symbols and symbolism. In 1912, Yesenin leaves his native land, Konstantinovo, and starts living individually by being far away from his family. At that time, he faces a lot of ups and downs in his life, which leads to him writing different poems to illustrate his thoughts and difficulties in his life. In these kinds of poems, the author gives many examples which brightly reflect the symbols of objects, characteristics, society and also people's behaviour.

**Literature review:** American modern and famous writer Dan Brown described the terms of symbol and symbolism as a literary device that uses symbols, be they words, people, marks, locations, or abstract ideas to represent something beyond the literal meaning in his article, written on August 31, 2021. He also mentioned not imitating works of literature: symbols inhabit every corner of our daily life. For example, colours like red, white, and blue usually symbolize patriotism, so they are the best colours for political yard signs. Colors like orange and brown represent fall, which is why they decorate Thanksgiving Day. Road signs, logos, and emojis are other examples of symbolism - visuals that fit to ideas or moods.

Jennifer Betts is a famous educational writer and researcher who thinks that symbolism is described in literature as making symbols by representing other thoughts or ideas to convey a deeper meaning. In the general framework of a literary work that goes beyond simple comprehension, symbolism can make use of an item, person, circumstance,

action with a deeper meaning. Symbolism is helpful for both readers and writers, because it can improve writing and create a connection between them, of course, when it is used effectively. One element that raises writing to the level of an art form is symbolism. It can permit the author to depict a scene with words and helps readers with visualizing what is going on in the pages by showing hidden meanings.

The professor of the University of Kufa, Suzanne Abdul-hady Kadhim, gave these conceptions in her article "Symbolism in literature" which was published in 2022. Literature is both a form of art and a written language. The phrasing is quite innovative. Symbols are literary examples of figurative language. Because symbolism is one of the most fundamental components of serious imaginative literature, symbolism plays a vital part in literature. Symbols are used by the author to deepen the meaning and improve the literary work's aesthetic. They resemble a method the author employs to deliver his messages. They are difficult to identify. To fully understand the texts, the reader must pay closer attention to them. As a metaphor, the author might use a red rose to discuss love.

English novelist Charles Chadwick says that we can see initial letters in the word "symbolism" as the words "romanticism" and "classicism" may have a deep meaning. This word describes any mode of expression rather than a concrete and clear meaning or thought. The simple form of expressing an emotion or situation in the way of art, is not just called symbolism, but it can also be "objective correlative" or a "set of objects". It is a form of art which recreates ideas in human minds through the use of unexplained symbols.

Analysis and discussion: In literature, showing a concrete picture or scene in order to convey abstract ideas called symbolism and symbols is an image which has a deeper meaning than a literal one. While the literature has varied with ages, the definition of symbolism has remained constant. Throughout history, poets, authors, playwrights and lyricists have analyzed and created many different types of symbolism. And nowadays, there are 3 major types of it:

1. Religious symbolism;
2. Romantic symbolism;
3. Emotional symbolism.

Religious symbolism is the way which is employed by literary writers to express their views in a good way about the nature of their spirituality. Romantic symbolism - World literature has been infused with romantic symbolism in great depths. From Shakespeare's sonnets to Edna St. Vincent Millay's modernist stanzas, poetry, are a particularly rich source of romantic symbolism. Emotional symbolism is prevalent in contemporary poetry, film, and literature. Physical objects are used by authors and artists to represent the emotional states of the world or characters in their stories. This can be seen in shades of blue, which conveys sadness, and yellow, which frequently represents happiness. Expressing symbolism in poetry can have a little bit more complexity and nuance than in prose. Because they are different according to their length and also choosing words.

In Yesenin's works there are several symbols which have a specific and deeper meaning. For instance, in the poem "The drops", the poet gives different kind of symbols: the drops, which represents tears. In some cases, it has a second meaning, like his mood, because there was a reason and push to write this poem. The third version is about two

types of people. He fell in love with Balzamova, and when he moved to Konstantinovo, his love was in Moscow. They used to write letters and did not see each other. At that time, he got tired of many disagreements between their relationships. It led to a break-up and put a full stop to their love story. In addition, he suffered from the hypocrisy of people at that period of time. All these things happened in Autumn, that is why, in the first two lines of the poem, he describes beautiful and attractive rainy drops in summer. It is the situation before all these problems happen:

Beautiful are pearly drops on a sunny day  
When they shine in the arches of gold

Here the author gives the beauty of these rainy drops like a pearl and how they are shining on a sunny day. The other two lines are about how they are on a rainy day:

Yet in sorry weather, on damp windows, they  
Dread like drops of black autumn's mould.

The first four lines are about a natural phenomenon. In golden rays, in spring or summer, the drops are beautiful, like pearls. In autumn, they become "sad", "rainy". Next comes a comparison of people who are great in their joy in the eyes of others, but cause nothing but pity at the time of their fall:

People, living in merry oblivion,  
How grand you appear in others' eyes.  
And how pitiful you are in the dark of decline.  
No consolation for you in the world of the living.

Further, the author again refers to the autumn drops, telling them that they bring a lot of hard feelings to the soul, but immediately justifies them:

While they quietly glide on the window panes,  
What fun they seek, what joy? I wonder...

The work ends with a second return to the people whom Yesenin calls life-stricken and unhappy. Here we can see romantic symbolism, because he is suffering from this phenomenon. According to the author of the lines, in this autumn they simply live out their lives, feel repentance and call on the past to return:

Unhappy people, crushed by life, often foul

So, the life of some people - at first fun and greatness, then it is replaced by a fall, which Yesenin speaks of in the third line. In the third quatrain, the poet again refers to the image of autumn drops that bring sadness. In conclusion, Sergei Alexandrovich returns to the unfortunate fate of people killed by life, living out their lives with pain in their souls, often calling on the unforgettable sweet past. It can be safely attributed to the description of the state of Yesenin himself. Most likely, this is how the poet felt while working on the poem. Of course, Yesenin exaggerates against the background of life's disappointments. Not everything is so bad in this life, but this is the opinion of the author, and he has the right to it. The theme is reflections on cheerful people and people killed by life. Through two different conditional types of rainy drops, he shows us two different types of people and their life. Here, the drops are symbols. First, S.A. Yesenin talks about people who live life with a smile. They are great in the eyes of others, but fade "in the darkness of the fall." Then,

in other two lines, they are associated with unfortunate people, "killed by life." They live with pain in their souls, and in their thoughts, they constantly return to the past.

If we pay attention to colours: there are two symbolic colours: "When they shine in the arches of gold. Dread like drops of black autumn's mould." The first one - yellow and gold, according to a number of psychologists, is a symbol of the spirit, holiness, since ancient times they are perceived as sunlight, they mean wealth, dreams, courage, kindness, joy, youth, yellow is a "symbol of activity". Most often, this color produces a warm and pleasant impression.

The second one, "Black" symbolize suffering or misfortune, illness. The color black is often associated with unhappiness, sadness, suffering, illness, and death. Another black color symbolizes sadness-mourning. We can see it in Russia and in Turkey, people who wear black clothes in condolences.

Conclusion: The article above discussed the theory of symbols and symbolism in literature. As an example, the epic poem "Droplets" has been used. In a literature review there are some scholars who worked on the theme of symbolism, and they mentioned the conceptions of symbolism. Through this work, it is understandable that there are three types of symbolism in literature and all of them have specific aspects. Mostly, emotional and romantic symbolism appear in this poem. The author has worked and used one main symbol, which can represent two or even more symbols, like rainy drops. Firstly, by these drops he mentioned his tears. Secondly, he differentiated the two types of people by using two conditions. When it comes to colours, there are two specific colours. They show two sides of life: gold or yellow is a "symbol of activity", they mean joy, happiness, wealth. However, the colour black symbolize suffering or misfortune.

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