TOPIC:
THE APPLIED PATTERNS OF ENGLISH PROVERB
(A DESCRIPTIVE STYLISTIC STUDY)

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THE APPLIED PATTERNS OF ENGLISH PROVERB
(A DESCRIPTIVE STYLISTIC STUDY)

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ABSTRACT:

Proverbs are Words of Wisdom, uttered traditionally, expressing some perceived truth based on common sense or Human Experiences. Proverbs bears Ironic and Metaphorical Nature and are used in Formulaic Structure of Languge. This unique Genre of Folklore enhances the Wisdom Literature. As Proverbs are the Lamps of Speech and are Strategies to deal with the Situations, that is why, for them, it is necessary to have a memorizable Sentence Structures. Studies have proven that almost all Languages of the world possess a large variety of Proverbs and all these Languages have tried to adopt catchy patterns applied to a stuff of Proverbs. These Identified Patterns give a very attractive status to proverbs which make them memorizable and then Retrievable on the occasions when needed. For example (No Guts no Glory) and (No Pain no Gain) etc fits to the formulaic Form of "No X no Y". Such like (Better be Safe than Sorry) and (Better be late than never) etc adopted the Pattern of "Better be X than Y"[1] Another advantage of Structural Patterns adopted by numerous Proverbs is that there is a Possibility of new born Proverbs following the structure of the bona fide ones. For Instance: The Proverb (Where there is a well there is a way) was easily followed by (Where there is a Star, there is a Scandle)[2] The aim of this Article is to provide a general overview of the unique Architecture of English Poroverbs across of some Catchy Patterns which, deals with the Communicable quality indebted to the production of new born Proverbs.

KEYWORDS: *Wisdom Literature, Paremiology, Proverbs Patterns, Structure of Proverb, Types of Proverb, Properties of Proverb, Taxonomy of Proverb*

INTRODUCTION:

What is Proverb?

To define a Proverb has been a challenge that has defied the will, Patience and intellectual capacity of the Scholars for thousands of years- from Classical Homer, Plato, and Aristotle to recent Poineers in the Field of Wisdom Literature such as Archer Taylor, Bartlett Jere Whiting and Wolf Gange Mieder. All the Definition Attempts have yielded the results but Taylor's (1962:3)

A short popular saying embodying a general truth, sometimes in metaphorical language:[3]
"A Proverb is a saying current among the Folk"[4]

A proverb is a saying, usually short, that expresses a general truth about life giving advice, making observation or presents a teaching in a succinct and memorable way.[5]

A proverb is a concise statement of an apparent Truth which has [had or will have] currency among the people.[6]

A proverb is a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed and memorizable form and whicn is handed down from gernation to generation.[7]

When we comprehend all the above definitions collectively, we found the fact that Proverbs profess the competent status only due to two qualities. The first one is its Wisest Nature and the second one is its Memorisable Property. And when we examin closely, we find that the Memorisable property is only indebted to the Pattern a Proverb adopts. Such Patterns are the Subject Matter of this Article.

Category No: (A)

In this first Category, we mention several different Patterns which build various proverbs on their specialized molds built up for Phonetic ease, and these selected models are fifteen (15) in number.

Pattern: 1

Many of the English Proverbs have taken the Shape as follows:

(Better be….. "X"… than… "Y")

For Example:

i. Better be envied than pitied.[8]

ii. Better be safe than sorry.[9]

iii. Better be late than never.[10]

iv. Better be poor than begger.

v. Better be poor with honour than rich with shame.[11]

Pattern: 2

Some English proverbs have got the following pattern:

(No… "x"… without….."y")

(No… "X"… No… "Y")

i. No rose witout thorn. 12

ii. No pain, No gain.[13]

iii. No work, no pay/ No cure No pay.[14]

iv. No penny, No Paternoster.[15]

Pattern: 3

The native Speakers have given many proverbs with the following pattern:

(Like "x" Like "y")

A good example of this Pattern may be the following famous proverb:

i. Like father like son.[16]

Pattern: 4

Some Proverbs bears the following pattern:

(If "x" then "y")

(If "x" then "y")

For example:

i. **If** you can not love a person whom you see, **then** how you can Love God you have never seen[17].

Pattern: 5

There are some proverbs, which follow a unique pattern, such as the following structure reflecs.

("X" begets "X")
        Example:
i.Love begets love.[18]
ii.Money begets money.[19]

Pattern: 6
We find some English proverbs in the form of the following pattern:
(One "x" does not make "y")
i.One Robin does not make a spring.[20]

Pattern: 7
There are a number of proverbs that fit the pattern bellow:
(Out of "x" Near to "y")
And an example for that would be:
i.Out of mind, Near to heart.[21]

Pattern: 8
Some examples have taken the form of the following:
(Out of "x" out of "y")
And the example is:
i.   Out of debt, out of danger.[22]
ii.   Out of sight, out of mind.[23]

Pattern: 9
There are Proverbs that follow the following pattern:
(Every "x" has/have its own "y")
Such as:
i.Every dog has his day.[24]
ii.Every land has its own law.[25]

Pattern: 10
There are some proverbs that are similar to the following pattern:
(Near to "x" far from "y")
The famous proverb that matches this scheme of Pattern is:
i.Near to church far from God.[26]

Pattern: 11
Some Proverbs have the following pattern:
 ("x" is "x")
ii.Rule is rule/ duty is duty.
iii.Enough is enough.[27]

Pattern: 12
Some bears the body structure as follows:
 ("x" is "y")
iv.Time is money.[28]
v.Less is more.[29]

Pattern: 13
(There is no …such thing…. like the "x")

i. There is no time like the Present.
ii. There is no place like Home.[30]

- **Pattern: 14**

Some examples are as follows:
(One man's "x" is another man's "y")   Such as:
i. One man's loss is another man's gain.
ii. One man's meat is another man's poison.[31]

Pattern: 15

It is according to the following scheme:
(Once an…x, always…an …x)
Here is a point of notion that this is the Pattern we find an indication made in the Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs toward this, which is a strong argument for the possibility of this structural study.
Examples are:
i. Once a Priest, always a Priest.[32]
ii. Once a whore, always a whore.[33]

<u>**Category No: (B)**</u>

In this Category, we will mention three well-known templates been constructrd with catchy grammatical structures. These structures provid various patterns for proverbs.
The examples of these patterns are as follows:

- **Track 1**

("A" + (Noun) + "Verb")
i. A fool may give a wise man counsel.[34]

- **Track 2**:

         ("A + (Adjective) + Noun + Verb")
i. A bad workman blames his tools.[35]
ii. A golden key can open any door.[36]

- **Track 3**:

("You + (cannot) + Verb")
i. You cannot get blood from a stone.[37]
ii. You can't tell a book by its cover.[38]

Besides that there are patterns which can be arranged and their structures may be published in future as this Article is limitted and we cannot elaborate further.

- **Quadripartite Structure :**

Proverbs that are parallel to this pattern contain four parts or four words that are divided into two equal parts that create a very affective melodic sound. Such as:
i. East or West, Home is the best.[39]
ii. Money makes, The Mare to go.[40]

- **Descriptive Element or Comment for a Topic:**

i. Money talks.[41]

ii.Time flies.[42]

- **Proverbial Question:**

i.Is the pope catholic?[43]

ii.Does the chicken have lips?[44]

- **Proverbial Expression:**

The Specialized expression that is being constituted by snatching a Kernel part of the bona fide proverb which, at times, considered to be a regular "Idiom". It is presented in various random methods.

i.A needle in a haystack.[45]

ii.A stumbling block**.**[46]

iii.To move heaven and earth.[47]

iv.The spilt milk.[48]

- **Proverbial Comparison:**

A very mass number of Proverbs in Literature fall in the form of simile (Comparison) so that "As" and "Like" provide them base. They occur within the framework of Idiomatic Expressions. For instance:

a)   *(As…. "x"…. as… "y")*   (Via "As")
b)   *(To… "x"… Like a…. "y")*   (Via "Like")

i.As black as Night.

ii.As busy as a Bee.

iii.As drunk as a Fish. Etc.

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