



Exploring Mortality, Memory and Cultural Identity: Thematic Analysis of Daud Kamal's Selected Poems

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ABSTRACT

This study explores Mortality, Memory, and Cultural Identity: Thematic Analysis of Daud Kamal's Selected Poems, analyzing by using (Braun & Clarke, 2006) six phases for uncovering present themes and the poetic techniques the poet has employed to convey them. Kamal is the great poet of his time who is recognized for his thought-provoking and creative expressions. He has portrayed themes of mortality, resistance, cultural heritage, and existential struggle to reflect the complexities of human experience. The Rebel, Reproduction, An Ancient Indian Coin, and Anniversary—these are the poems which are chosen for thematic analysis, these four poems highlight Kamal's skills in capturing both individual and collective struggles through carefully crafted symbolism and evocative language. In "The Rebel", themes of death, sacrifice, and nature's indifference are explored through the execution of a rebel figure, creating a reflection on the uselessness of rebellion and the grief of those who left behind. "Reproduction" presents themes of impermanence, memory, and decay through ancient relics, connecting present experiences with the remnants of past civilizations. Kamal contrasts historical work of art with modern artifacts, invoking a sense of nostalgia while questioning the durability of cultural identity. An Ancient Indian Coin delves into social injustice, environmental crisis, and the decay of historical memory, using symbols such as jade goblets and the Indus River to critique societal inequality and environmental degradation. Finally, "Anniversary" explores themes of love, loss, and existential chaos, with the poet grappling with memories, fleeting truths, and the limitations of language. This thematic analysis offers a comprehensive understanding of Kamal's poetic voice, emphasizing how his work encapsulates the human condition through an introspective lens. By examining the poet's thematic concerns and the intricate imagery used to communicate them by using (Braun & Clarke, 2006) six phases; Familiarization of data, Generation of codes, Combining codes into themes, Reviewing themes, Determine significance of themes and Reporting of findings. This research contributes to broader discussions on the role of cultural and existential themes in South Asian poetry.

Introduction

Daud Kamal was born on 4 January, 1935 and died on 5 December, 1987 was a famous Pakistani poet, scholar, and Professor of English Literature at University of Peshawar, Pakistan. Born in Abbottabad into an academic family, Kamal's intellectual environment deeply influenced his literary pursuits. His father, Mohammad Ali, held the great position of Vice Chancellor at Peshawar University, which underscored the family's strong connection to academia. Kamal at early educated at Burn Hall School in Srinagar, a prestigious institution at the time, where his exposure to a wide range of ideas and literature began. He graduated with distinction from the University of Peshawar, which set the foundation for his higher education at the University of Cambridge in the UK, where he obtained his Tripos. His education at Cambridge further deepened his understanding of literature and refined his poetic voice. Starting as a lecturer upon his return from Cambridge, Kamal quickly rose through the ranks and became a central figure in Pakistan's English literary scene. In 1980, he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of English at the University of Peshawar. His leadership in the department was marked by a commitment to promoting critical thinking and literary appreciation among his students. Kamal's poetry, which he started writing in his twenties, soon earned him national and international recognition. He was one of Pakistan's foremost poets writing in English and received three gold medals for his work from Triton College, USA, highlighting his global literary impact. His poems were also recorded for the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., solidifying his reputation as a significant voice in English literature. Kamal's anthologies, including *Remote Beginnings* and *A Selection of Verse*, are considered landmark contributions to English poetry from Pakistan. His work often reflects a deep engagement with existential themes, an appreciation of nature, and a complex exploration of identity, memory, and time.

In addition to his original poetry, Kamal's translations of the classical Urdu poet Ghalib into English were highly regarded, bridging the cultural and linguistic gap between Urdu and English readers. His translations preserved the essence of Ghalib's intricate verses while making them accessible to a wider audience, contributing to the cross cultural appreciation of one of Urdu's greatest poets. Kamal passed away on December 5, 1987, leaving behind his wife, two daughters, and a son. His legacy as a poet, translator, and educator continues to influence Pakistani literature and academic circles. Even after his death, Kamal's works remain a touchstone for literary scholars and poetry enthusiasts alike, reflecting his profound impact on the intellectual and literary landscape of Pakistan.

Background of the Study

Literature provides a lens through which we understand life in the real world. Without it, life loses much of its meaning, as literature weaves together the complexity and essence of human experience. It reflects the nature of human existence, connecting deeply with the complexities of life. Through literature, individuals can explore and reflect upon various aspects of their society, including culture, language, history, religion, politics, customs, attitudes, and beliefs. As Moyela (1993) describes, literature serves as a vehicle for discussing "facts and ideas" that allow many people to express and tell their actions and worldviews across their generations. It enables the preservation and transmission of history, whether through oral traditions or in written forms and it is divided into categories such as fiction, poetry, and drama.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the major themes of Daud Kamal's selected poems.

2. To indicate how the various elements of poetry reveal the themes.
3. To explore the influence of historical and cultural contexts on the themes presented in the poems.

Research Questions

This study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the major themes used in the selected poems by Daud Kamal?
2. How are the other elements of the poetry used to develop, reinforce and demonstrate the theme?
3. In what ways do historical and cultural contexts influence the themes presented in the poems?

Statement of the Problem

Critical interpretations and evaluations help literature grow overall and especially support the field of literary criticism. This research is conducted on Mortality, Memory, and Cultural Identity: A Thematic Analysis of Daud Kamal's Poetry, focused on thematic analysis of his selected poems. The Rebel, An Ancient Indian Coin, Anniversary and Reproduction. Different researchers conducted the research on Daud Kamal. But no research has been conducted on thematic analysis of his poetry. Due to this, there is a gap that must be filled. Hence, the researcher has decided to study his selected poems for thematic analysis.

Literature Review

A literature review in research is a comprehensive overview and critical analysis of existing scholarly works (such as books, journal articles, and other relevant sources) related to a specific research topic or question. It aims to synthesize what is already known, identify gaps in the existing research, and provide context for the researcher's own study (Soomro et al., 2023; Maitlo, Abbasi & Ali, 2024; Sadaf et al., 2024). Literature review in this article consists of some definition of poetry, thoughts about themes and thematic analysis, advantages of thematic analysis and disadvantages of it.

Poetry

The literary works gives joy, teach a moral lesson, express meaning and make the readers aware about some facts of the human state (Lumbera, 2001). Poetry is "the hymn of praise". Meaningful discussions about poetry are rare, and even the most profound ones may remain unappreciated until we ourselves learn to uncover the inner essence of a few poems (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1963). It is a form of literature. It satisfies human fundamental desires; it is like an art and music (Ladesma, 1973). Poets often use their poems to express admiration, hatred, rebellion, emotions, and more.

Definitions of Theme

Themes are defined differently by different scholars, but on whole it can be described as a central or main idea of a literary text i.e. drama, novel or a story. According to Melakneh (2006:63) theme is the main idea and the unifying concept of the story. As Anderson et al (1989:196) describes that the truth about human life which is revealed by the story to us. From this concept, the readers point out that there is something that is related to human life. It suggests that theme is the point which has the meaning of the story. It means the main notion that the readers understand after reading the story as a whole. Besides this, as mentioned by George (2006) the theme "is the subject of a piece of writing that can be implied or obvious and can be inferred by the reader." According to this

definition, themes can be explicitly stated in the story by author or it can be inferred from the action of characters and their conversation and the readers can conclude the implied meaning from the action of the characters and their conversation. As Gray (1998:28) stated that theme is "the abstract subject of the works, its central idea which may not explicit or obvious ". a text may contain several themes or thematic interests." This definition implies that there is a core or central idea of any literary work by which the author can state the theme or the reader can understand from the story. They also point out that themes may be stated explicitly or implicitly.

Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis being a qualitative data analysis method, that involves reading through a data set, and patterns are identified across the data. It is a flexible approach to qualitative data analysis that enables researchers to generate new insights and concepts derived from data. That means new concepts may be generated easily. So, It is a method of analyzing qualitative data. It is a type of qualitative analysis that is used to analyze classifications. It is analysis for any study that seeks to discover using interpretations (Alhojaihan, 2012; Noonari, Khokhar & Shaheen, 2024). It can be a constructionist method which examines the ways in which events, realities, meanings, experiences and so on are the effects of a range of discourses operating within society (Willig, 1999; Khokhar, Noonari & Abro, 2024). It provides the researchers with lexemes as qualitative data that are employed with codes to form themes in a text.

Views on the Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis has been poorly patented, yet widely used in qualitative research (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Abro, Khokhar & Shaheen, 2024). It should be an initial method for qualitative analysis, as it provides core skills for conducting many other forms of qualitative analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Many authors have mentioned that thematic analysis is a process used by many qualitative methods; it is not a separate method, rather something to be used to assist researchers in analysis (Boyatzis, 1998; Holloway & Todres, 2003; Ryan & Bernard, 2003; Ahmad et al., 2021). It should be considered a method in its own right (Braun & Clarke, 2006; King, 2004; Leininger, 1992; Thorne, 2000). It is a method for identifying, analyzing, organizing, describing, and reporting themes found within a data set (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Boyatzis, 1998).

A rigorous thematic analysis can produce trustworthy and insightful findings (Braun & Clarke, 2006) it means that detailed thematic analysis can provide reliable and valuable findings. However, there is no clear agreement about how researchers can rigorously apply the method. Although thematic analysis has been well described (Aronson, 1994; Attride Stirling, 2001; Crabtree & Miller, 1999; King, 2004; Iqbal, Khokhar & Aurangzeb, 2024), the guides on conducting thematic analysis have primarily focused on conducting research with an applied focus (Guest, MacQueen, & Namey, 2011) or described inductive versus deductive coding (Fereday & MuirCochrane, 2006). Despite certain demerits, it has been one of the persistently employed methods for dealing with poetry.

Advantages of Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis offers a highly flexible approach that can be modified for the needs of many studies, providing a rich and detailed, yet complex account of data (Braun & Clarke, 2006; King, 2004). As it does not require the detailed theoretical and technological knowledge of other qualitative approaches, it offers a more accessible form of analysis, particularly for those early in their research career (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Buriro, Khokhar & Ghanghro, 2021). Researchers who are relatively unfamiliar with qualitative methods may find that thematic analysis is easily grasped and can be relatively quick to learn, as there are few prescriptions and procedures. They

argued that thematic analysis is a useful method for examining the perspectives of different research participants, highlighting similarities and differences, and generating unanticipated insights. It is also useful for summarizing key features of a large data set, as it forces the researcher to take a well-structured approach to handling data, helping to produce a clear and organized final report. Though there are many advantages of using thematic analysis, it is also necessary to acknowledge the disadvantages of this method. It is a qualitative data analysis method that involves reading through a data set and identifying patterns in meaning across the data. It is a flexible approach to qualitative analysis that enables researchers to generate new insights and concepts derived from data.

Disadvantages of Thematic Analysis

The shortcomings of thematic analysis become more obvious when considered in relation to other qualitative research methods. The lack of extensive literature on thematic analysis compared to that of grounded theory, ethnography, and phenomenology, may cause novice researchers to feel uncertain of how to conduct a rigorous thematic analysis. A simple thematic analysis is disadvantaged when compared to other methods, as it does not permit researcher to make claims about language use (Braun & Clarke, 2006). While thematic analysis is flexible, this flexibility can lead to variation and a lack of coherence while developing themes derived from the research data (Holloway & Todres, 2003). Consistency and cohesion can be endorsed by applying and making explicit an epistemological position that can coherently fortify the study's empirical claims (Holloway & Todres, 2003). This statement suggests that consistency and cohesion in a study can be achieved by clearly establishing and applying an epistemological position. An epistemological position refers to the theoretical foundation regarding the nature of knowledge and how it can be acquired or understood. By adopting a coherent epistemological stance, researchers strengthen the study's empirical claims that is, claims based on observed and measurable evidence by aligning them with a well-defined perspective on knowledge. Inconsistency of themes due to flexibility of methods may lead the researchers to the state of misunderstanding of a phenomenon or text.

Ways of Identifying Themes

Various scholars have different views regarding the ways of identifying themes. According to Anderson et. al. (1989:167) we can identify the themes by asking the following different questions when going through the novel, drama or poetry.

Q1. Does the title signify something special about the story?

Q2. Does it point to the truth, it reveals about life?

Q3. When a reader finishes the story, he or she should think about the title, to see if it can add new meaning to the story (of course not all titles do this)?

Q4. Does the main character change in the course of the story?

Q5. Does the main character realize something he or she hadn't known before?

Q6. Are any important statements about life or people made in the story, either by the narrator or by the character in the story?

Q7. Does the statement apply to the whole story, not to the part of it?

Gordon and Kuchner (1996) also describe the way of identifying themes as follows: How do you discover the theme of the short story or novel? One approach is focusing on the elements of the

story. Examine these elements closely reading as needed from factual detailed of plot especially conflict, character, and setting. Thus to the author is debatable opinion will emerge as reading patterns and symbols also lead the reader to the theme. The other important question to be raised could be what allusions are made through the story? By focusing on the above mentioned methods a reader can necessarily expect to distinguish the meaning or theme of the story.

Some other sources suggest that themes in a qualitative research can be identified through some common methods such as repetition of words in story, sorting them by setting and context of it, and by its narrative structure. Technically, they can be identified coding of the text, inductive approach (to emerge naturally from the data) and by metaphors and analogies.

Research Methodology

Research methodology is the part of the research study in which researchers give an account of the research methods, which they have used to conduct their research (Ahmad, Maitlo & Jeevan, 2023; Maitlo et al., 2024; Ahmad et al., 2025). This article is based on a qualitative research which embraces phrases and verse lines drawn from the poem inductively as the primary data. Major words of the phrases and verse lines are coded, and the themes are formed according to the codes. Finally, what the themes suggest is concisely elucidated. Furthermore, six steps of Braun & Clarke, 2006 are used in order to uncover the existing themes in selected poems of Daud Kamal.

Research Framework

The 6-phase coding framework for thematic analysis is used to identify themes and patterns in the data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The phases which were given by (Braun & Clarke, 2006) are following:

1. Familiarization of data: This step is considered as the first step, in this we have to read the poem to understand it.
2. Generation of codes: In this, we have to take the words and phrases of text and then the codes are generated according to the text.
3. Combining codes into themes: After generating the codes, themes are combined.
4. Reviewing themes: now, the combined themes are reviewed.
5. Determine significance of themes: In this fifth step we determine the significance of the themes.
6. Report: In this last step, report is generated.

These six phases are used to analyze the four selected poems; The Rebel, Reproduction, An Ancient Old Coin and Anniversary by using this framework, different themes are developed.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Here the actual words of the poem are given and the difficult words are written in with their meanings. After the poem the themes are extracted.

The first poem

<u>THE REBEL</u> They Stood him up Against an orchard wall And shot him At dawn.
--

Pandemonium (chaos) of crows
And then
The empty horizon (view).
Hundreds of miles away
His mother
Kneels in prayer –
In ignorance –
The ignorance of prayer.
Wheat ear on the stubble the blind earth
Must be fed.

To analyze the poem "The Rebel" using Braun and Clarke's six phases of thematic analysis, let's break down each phrases and observe how it applies to interpreting the poem's themes and elements:

Step 1: Familiarization with the data

It involved a detailed overview of all the data collected before starting to analyze individual items. And the data is analyzed now; let's move forward to the second step.

Step 2: Coding the data

Coding was highlighting phrases or verse lines with "codes" to describe the content of the text. Following is the table in which codes are generated from the source text of the poem.

Text	Code
Rebel	A figure of defiance or opposition
Shot him at dawn	Execution, possibly for political or ideological reasons.
Pandemonium of crows	Crows as symbols of chaos and possibly death.
Mother kneels in prayer	Represents grief, maternal connection, and unawareness.
Ignorance of prayer	Blind faith or perhaps helplessness.
Wheat ear on the stubble	Nature's cycle, harvest, and resilience.
Blind earth must be fed	Earth's oblivious continuation, hinting at nature's detachment from human affairs.

In this table, text is taken from the poem Rebel and its codes are generated accordingly.

Step 3: Generating themes

It included the combination of several codes into a single theme, because a theme is broader than a code. And here from the codes the expected themes are developed.

Codes	Themes
A figure of defiance or opposition	Defiance
Execution, possibly for political or ideological reasons.	Execution
Crows as symbols of chaos and possibly death.	Chaos
Represents grief, maternal connection, and unawareness.	Maternal grief

Blind faith or perhaps helplessness.	Faith
Nature's cycle, harvest, and resilience.	Nature's cycle
Earth's oblivious continuation, hinting at nature's detachment from human affairs.	Nature's detachment

Step 4: Reviewing themes

It was act of going through the themes whether they genuinely represented the data or not. The codes are extracted from the poem; the researcher has decoded some elementary themes like defiance, execution, chaos, maternal grief, faith, nature's cycle and nature's detachment.

Step 5: Defining and naming themes

Defining themes involves formulating exactly what we mean by each theme and figuring out how it helps us understand the data. Naming themes involves coming up with an easily understandable name for each theme. Each theme is now refined with specific titles to encapsulate their meanings:

The Cost of Defiance: The rebel's execution symbolizes the price of standing against power.

Maternal Sorrow and Ignorance: A portrayal of the mother's love, grief, and the painful gap between reality and belief.

Nature's Indifference to Human Struggle: Nature's reaction to human tragedy, suggesting a cycle indifferent to individual lives. Cycle of going from day to night and vice versa.

Step 6: Producing the Report

Finally, in the report, we would discuss how "The Rebel" uses imagery and symbolism to convey themes of sacrifice, maternal grief, and the unfeeling nature of the earth. The poet crafts a narrative that put next to human loss with nature's continuity, highlighting the rebel's courage and the mother's unknowing sorrow within an indifferent world. The poem evokes questions about the significance of resistance and the futility or comfort found in faith.

Second Poem

Original text of the poem is given below:

<u>Reproduction</u> Reproductions Of Mogul miniatures (drawing) Cut out From last year's calendar And fragments Of Ghandara sculpture Bought for a song Prince Siddhartha Gone into the night With Channa, And old Tajiks in their tents Drinking China tea Almond blossoms

Fall
And a crow
Carved out of ebony
Pushes itself through the rain,
I sit scraping
The rust off my ancient coins.

To analyze the poem *Reproduction* using Braun and Clarke's six phases of thematic analysis, let's proceed with each phase to unpack the poem's themes and interpret its elements.

Step1. Familiarization with the Data

In this step, we read and reflect on the poem to grasp its initial themes and imagery. The poet juxtaposes cultural artifacts, like "Mogul miniatures," "Gandhara sculpture," and "ancient coins," with scenes of nature and historical references. This creates a mood of nostalgia and a sense of lost heritage, as well as a meditation on the persistence and decay of cultural memory.

Step 2. Generation of Initial Codes

Here's a table with the text separated in one column and the corresponding initial code in another:

Text	Codes
Reproductions of Mogul miniatures	Cultural preservation or reproduction of art
Fragments of Gandhara sculpture	Fragmented cultural memory or relics
Prince Siddhartha gone into the night	Renunciation; departure from materialism
Old Tajiks in their tents drinking China tea	Cultural continuity, tradition, and simplicity
Almond blossoms fall	Cycle of nature, impermanence
Crow carved out of ebony	Contrast of life and art; mystery or contemplation
Scraping rust off my ancient coins	Effort to reclaim history; revival of memories

Step 3. Searching for Themes

Here is a table with each code assigned a one-word theme. Each code is listed alongside its related theme for clarity.

Code	Themes
Cultural preservation or reproduction of art	Heritage
Fragmented cultural memory or relics	Fragmentation
Renunciation; departure from materialism	Renunciation
Cultural continuity, tradition, and simplicity	Tradition
Cycle of nature, impermanence	Impermanence
Contrast of life and art; mystery or contemplation	Mystery
Effort to reclaim history; revival of memories	Memory

Step 4. Reviewing Themes

Now, we ensure each theme aligns well with the entire poem. "Cultural Heritage and Fragmentation" is a particularly resonant theme, as the poem balances between reproductions (imitations) and original artifacts, suggesting a fragmented historical consciousness.

"Impermanence and Continuity" works as well as a theme too, drawing from both natural cycles and ongoing traditions. In last, mystery and memory are also themes.

Step 5. Defining and Naming Themes

Refining each theme, we establish titles that clearly define them:

Fragmented Heritage: Symbolizes the scattered remnants of culture and identity, from Mogul miniatures to Gandhara sculptures.

Cycles of Continuity and Change: Captures the almond blossoms, old traditions, and the ever-renewing yet decaying cultural artifacts.

Decay, Memory, and Preservation: Focuses on the physical decay of ancient coins, signifying the effort to preserve cultural memory despite inevitable decline.

Step 6. Producing the Report

In the report, we would explore how Reproduction reflects a complex view of cultural memory and identity through a collection of historical and artistic fragments. The juxtaposition of artifacts and natural elements, like almond blossoms and ebony crows, highlights the transient nature of both culture and life. The poet invites readers to ponder how cultural heritage is preserved, remembered, and at times, forgotten, as symbolized by the act of "scraping rust off ancient coins." This imagery suggests a sense of nostalgia and an acknowledgment of impermanence, underlining how the past is both reclaimed and lost over time.

Third Poem

Following is the original text of the poem:

From An Ancient Indian Coin

Out of the seven jade goblets
They dug up
Only one was whole.
The king's hunting dogs are better fed
Than most of his subjects.
Look, the Indus is choked with stars
And the glaciers are beginning to melt.
I try to calm myself but my tongue is smothered
By its own thickness.
Solitude, silence, stone.

To analyze An Ancient Indian Coin using Braun and Clarke's six phases of thematic analysis, let's apply each phase to uncover its themes and interpretive layers.

Step 1. Familiarization with the Data

The first step is to read and re-read the poem, absorbing its imagery and mood. The poem's language suggests themes of lost grandeur, inequality, environmental concerns, and existential introspection. Phrases like "seven jade goblets... only one was whole," "hunting dogs are better fed than most of his subjects," and "the Indus is choked with stars" blend historic and natural imagery, hinting at cultural decay and the fragility of existence.

Step 2. Generation of Initial Codes

Here, we have assigned initial codes to phrases and symbols in the poem.

Text	Code
The king's hunting dogs are better fed than most of his subjects	Inequality; neglect of common people
The Indus is choked with stars	Nature's beauty mixed with concern for pollution or overexploitation
The glaciers are beginning to melt	Environmental fragility; climate change
My tongue is smothered by its own thickness	Difficulty in expressing thoughts or emotions; repression or powerlessness
Solitude, silence, stone	Isolation; permanence; weight of history
they dug up Only one was whole.	Partial Recovery; Fragmented Past

Step 3. Searching for Themes

Now, we group similar codes into broader themes:

Here's a table grouping the codes into broader themes based on all the codes provided:

Codes	Themes
Cultural preservation or reproduction of art, fragmented cultural memory or relics, fragmented heritage; lost history, partial recovery; fragmented past	Cultural Heritage & Fragmentation
Inequality; neglect of common people	Social Inequality & Neglect
Nature's beauty mixed with concern for pollution or overexploitation, environmental fragility; climate change	Environmental Fragility
Cycle of nature; impermanence, cultural continuity, tradition, and simplicity	Impermanence & Continuity
Isolation; permanence; weight of history, solitude, silence, stone	Isolation & Permanence
Effort to reclaim history; revival of memories	Memory & Historical Loss
Difficulty in expressing thoughts or emotions; repression or powerlessness	Expression & Repression
Contrast of life and art; mystery or contemplation.	Mystery & Contemplation

These themes provide a structured way to analyze each code, showing how they reflect broader concepts like cultural heritage, environmental issues, and the complexities of memory and identity.

Step 4. Reviewing Themes

We now ensure that the themes align well with the whole poem. "Lost Heritage and Fragmented History" is a strong, central theme that reflects the deterioration of both physical artifacts and cultural values. "Environmental and Existential Fragility" aligns with the imagery of the river,

glaciers, and stars, hinting at broader existential concerns that echo the poem's tone of impermanence.

Step 5. Defining and Naming Themes

At this stage, we refine the themes and give them concise titles that best capture their essence:

Cultural Decay and Lost Grandeur: Symbolizes fragmented history and the remnants of past beauty, as shown by the jade goblets and ancient coin.

Social Disparity and Neglect: Reflects the theme of inequality, where the powerful benefit while the common people suffer.

Ecological and Existential Fragility: Highlights the vulnerability of nature and humanity, underscored by environmental changes and the poet's struggle to find clarity.

- **Isolation and Unspoken Struggles:** Conveys the feeling of internal silence and the weight of unexpressed thoughts or emotions.

Step 6. Producing the Report

In the report, we would examine how An Ancient Indian Coin evokes themes of cultural decay, inequality, and environmental vulnerability. The poet's use of ancient artifacts like jade goblets and references to the melting glaciers and choked rivers depict both a forgotten heritage and an environment under strain. The disparity between the well-fed hunting dogs and the neglected subjects illustrates a theme of social injustice. Finally, the line "my tongue is smothered by its own thickness" paired with "solitude, silence, stone" resonates as an exploration of isolation and the difficulty of confronting complex emotions. Through this combination, the poem presents a layered reflection on history, nature, and human experience, drawing attention to themes of transience and the unspoken tensions within cultural memory.

Fourth poem

Original text of the poem is given below:

<u>ANNIVERSARY</u> Cascading back To the source Over a difficult terrain But the heart remembers. Wet stones Conscious of their lineage The chopped-up moon In paddy-fields. A fierce love has blurred my sight And burnt the lines off The palms of my hands. I have drunk acrid milk. I have heard the sound of clogs In an ancient ruin. How can the mind contend With all this chaos – This endless repetition
--

Of thwarted lives? Shelley asserts That the deep truth is imageless. An invisible bird Perches on my shoulder and speaks To me in a language I do not understand. Ashes and dust. I am only a word-smith.

To analyze the poem Anniversary using Braun and Clarke's six phases of thematic analysis, we will go through each phase to unpack its layered themes and symbolism.

Step1. Familiarization with the Data

In this phase, we immerse ourselves in the poem by reading it multiple times, noting its reflective tone and complex imagery. The language in Anniversary evokes themes of memory, love, disillusionment, existential struggle, and the quest for meaning. Lines like "the heart remembers," "a fierce love has blurred my sight," and "an invisible bird perches on my shoulder" suggest a blend of longing, disorientation, and spiritual exploration.

Step 2. Generating codes

Here is the table in which text is coded

Text	Code
Cascading back to the source	Returning to roots; self-reflection
The heart remembers	Emotional memory; nostalgia
Wet stones conscious of their lineage	Connection to ancestry; awareness of heritage
A fierce love has blurred my sight	Overwhelming emotion; disillusionment
Burnt the lines off the palms of my hands	Loss of self; identity changed by love
Acrid milk	Bitterness; hardship of life
Sound of clogs in an ancient ruin	Echoes of the past; reflection on history
Endless repetition of thwarted lives	Cycles of struggle; human suffering
Shelley asserts that the deep truth is imageless	Philosophical search; truth beyond words
Invisible bird... speaks to me in a language I do not understand	Mystery; unknowable wisdom
Ashes and dust	Mortality; fleeting nature of life

Hence, in above table we generated codes. Now let's generate themes.

Step 3. Searching for Themes

Next, we group these codes into broader themes: Here's a table with each themes are generated from codes.

Themes	Codes
Memory, Heritage, and Ancestry	Returning to roots; self-reflection, emotional memory; nostalgia, connection to ancestry; heritage awareness

Love, Disillusionment, and Identity	Overwhelming emotion; disillusionment, loss of self; identity changed by love
Life's Meaning and Transience	Mortality; fleeting nature of life, cycles of struggle; human suffering, truth beyond words; unknowable wisdom
Expression Beyond Words	Humility; limits of self-expression, mystery; unknowable wisdom

This version uses relatable language to capture each theme's essence, offering an approachable view of the poem's deeper meanings.

Step 4. Reviewing Themes

At this stage, we refine our themes to ensure they align with the entire poem. Each theme provides a perspective on the poet's reflective journey, touching on memory, existential struggles, and the inadequacy of language in expressing profound truths.

Step 5. Defining and Naming Themes

We now give each theme a clear title:

Emotional Recall and Ancestral Memory: Captures the connection to origins and the "conscious" memory that spans generations.

Transformative Love and Disillusionment: Describes love's power to shape and even destroy parts of one's identity.

Existential Impermanence and the Quest for Truth: Reflects on life's transience, humanity's cycles, and the search for meaning beyond imagery.

Beyond Language and the Ineffable: Expresses the poet's recognition of language's limitations and the desire to understand truths that words can't capture.

Step 6. Producing the Report

In the report, we explore how Anniversary delves into memory, existential introspection, and the limits of language. The poet begins with a journey "cascading back to the source," invoking themes of heritage and the lasting impact of "wet stones" aware of their lineage. As the poem unfolds, intense love blurs the poet's vision and erases the lines on his palms, symbolizing a profound, transformative love that has altered his sense of self. This love is bittersweet, as expressed by "acrid milk," hinting at experiences both cherished and painful.

Further, the poem's imagery of "ashes and dust" and references to Shelley's idea of "imageless" truth lead into a reflection on impermanence and the elusiveness of meaning. The poet grapples with life's mysteries, symbolized by an invisible bird speaking in an unknown language—a nod to wisdom beyond human comprehension. Ultimately, the poet acknowledges his role as a "word-smith," bound to language's limits, even as he seeks to capture the ineffable.

In this way, Anniversary becomes a meditation on love, memory, existential challenges, and the boundaries of human understanding.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study underscores the thematic depth and complexity present in Daud Kamal's poetry by using (Braun & Clarke, 2006) six phases; Familiarization of data, Generation of codes, Combining codes into themes, Reviewing themes, Determine significance of themes and Reporting of findings. These are revealing how he skillfully articulates the multifaceted nature of human experience. Through the analysis of selected poems, it is evident that Kamal's work transcends mere artistic expression, engaging with profound themes such as mortality, cultural heritage, resistance, and existential struggle. Each poem serves as a vessel for exploring the intricacies of life, inviting readers to reflect on their own experiences and perceptions.

In "The Rebel," Kamal poignantly captures the sacrifice inherent in acts of defiance, illuminating the emotional toll on both the individual and their loved ones. The themes of indifference and futility resonate deeply, reflecting a broader commentary on the cyclical nature of struggle and loss. Meanwhile, "Reproduction" emphasizes the tension between the ephemeral and the eternal, evoking nostalgia while questioning the durability of cultural identity in a rapidly changing world.

The critique of social injustice and environmental crisis in "An Ancient Indian Coin" further highlights Kamal's ability to weave personal and political narratives, grounding his poetry in the realities of contemporary life. Lastly, "Anniversary" encapsulates the essence of existential inquiry, grappling with the limitations of language and the chaos of human emotion.

Overall, Kamal's poetry serves as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of personal and collective experiences, urging readers to confront the complexities of existence. This analysis not only enhances our understanding of Kamal's literary contributions but also affirms the significance of his themes in the broader context of South Asian poetry. By articulating the nuances of the human condition, Kamal invites us to engage in a deeper exploration of our own lives, resonating across cultural and temporal boundaries. Thus, his work remains relevant, offering insights into the shared struggles and triumphs that define the human experience.

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