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Global Transit and Hybrid Subjectivities: Re-reading Journey of the Magi through Digital Humanities

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Abstract

This paper examines T. S. Eliot's *Journey of the Magi* through the interdisciplinary approaches of digital humanity and globalization. The selected poem journey of magi despite its traditional interpretation which is seen as a spiritual reflection inspired in Eliot's conversion to Christianity, here the poem is analysed as a narrative of displacement, existential fragmentation. globalized identity. The journey of magi is treated not only as an allegory for the complexities of disorientation, cultural hybridity and identity shifts, in a postcolonial, global context rather than being an religious metaphor. The digital humanity lens where by using Voyant Tools, this paper employs digital text analysis to explore the poem's semantic patterns vocabulary and thematic structures. The Words associated with suffering, migration and duality—such as "cold," "death," "birth," and "cities"—reveal tensions in the transformation of the self. The enhancement of interpretive insights is revealed through the close reading with data visualization and computational methods which provides a new approach where it offers a fresh understanding of the poem in the digital world.

Keywords : T. S. Eliot, Journey of the Magi, Globalization, Digital Humanities, Voyant Tools, Identity, Displacement, Cultural Hybridity

Introduction

One of the reowned person in the early 20th century who has been revered for his depth content, ablitity to reflect the fragmented consciousness and complexity in the poem of T. S. Eliot. One of the poem *Journey of the Magi* (1927),which is written in the format of Eliot's conversion to Anglicanism, which is usually viewed as a limited framework of Christian theology. However, the poem is evolving with the new significance characterizing the migration, hybridity, cultural intersections and shifting identity. The story of the Magus,

one of the wise men who witnesses Christ's birth, illustrates a globalized identity in shift, caught between cultural roots and transcultural change, among ancient beliefs and a new spiritual paradigm. In the postmodern and postcolonial era individuals often live in liminal areas where standard identities are redefined and destabilized. The Magus, whose spiritual transformation is a metaphor for cultural displacement where his journey becomes a symbolic narrative for the global citizen who are searching, rootless and reconfigured through the encounter with the unfamiliar. The traced transformation in this paper is analysed with Voyant Tools, a digital text analysis platform that uncovers deeper structural and sematic patterns within literary texts. This is essential tools that expand and complicate traditional close reading where these are not mere technological but add-ons to the digital methodologies. Through this interdisciplinary approach provides a culturally global and digitally traceable journey rather than poem's spiritual transformation journey.

Literature Review

The critical interpretations of *Journey of the Magi* has been various reinterpretations on Eliot's religious awakening. The poem's Christian allegory and introspective of spiritual rebirth is been highlighted by crtics such as Grover Smith (1956) and Helen Gardner (1949). The boarder frameworks to understand identity as fluid, hybridity and de-territirialized where scholar influenced by postcolonial and global studies—such as Homi K. Bhabha's theory of the "third space" (1994) and Arjun Appadurai's ideas on global cultural flows (1996) .According to modern scholars like Kwame Anthony Appiah and Neil Lazarus suggest that literature must be reexamined through global narratives of trauma, displacement and migration. In this view, the Magus became a subject navigating cultural disjunction rather than a symbol of faith. However, the evolution of Digital Humanities has brought computational methods to the leading edge of literary analysis. The proof of how algorithms and visualizations can enhance humanistic understanding is been explained by Franco Moretti's (2005) concept of "distant reading" and Stephen Ramsay's (2011) digital reading. This paper suits itself at the convergence of these two frameworks: global identity theory and digital textual analysis which contributes a newer form of scholarship is both digitally and globally contextual informed.

Methodology

This paper examines a qualitative-quantitative mixed methodology. This paper analysis the the close reading of Journey of the Magi by digital text analysis using Voyant Tools, which is an open-access web-based platform which provides textual visualization. The poem was uploaded into Voyant tool which shows such as Trends, word cloud, context and collacation were applied. The system is process the analytical focus on identifying high- frequency keywords, recurring themes and o-occurring terms that signal spiritual and cultural transition. Particular emphasis is been given to the words relating to cold, birth, death, movement and alienation. These terms are seen as symbolic representations of identity change and global displacement .A single screenshot (Figure 1) from the Voyant Word Cloud was used to visually represent proof of the central vocabulary which is extracted from the poem. Incoperating imagery not only strengths the case but offers a visualized non-linear approach of engaging with the poem.

Analysis and Interpretation

In the *Journey of the Magi*,the speaker depicts a cold, hard journey through foreign land emphasizing alienation, discomfort and uncertainty. Lines such as:

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:" (Eliot 1-3)

The above mentioned lines exhibit a profound feeling which represents a existential emptiness.The word "journey" is repeated which emphasizes a physical and psychological movement a deviation from coventional beliefs in favor of something new.

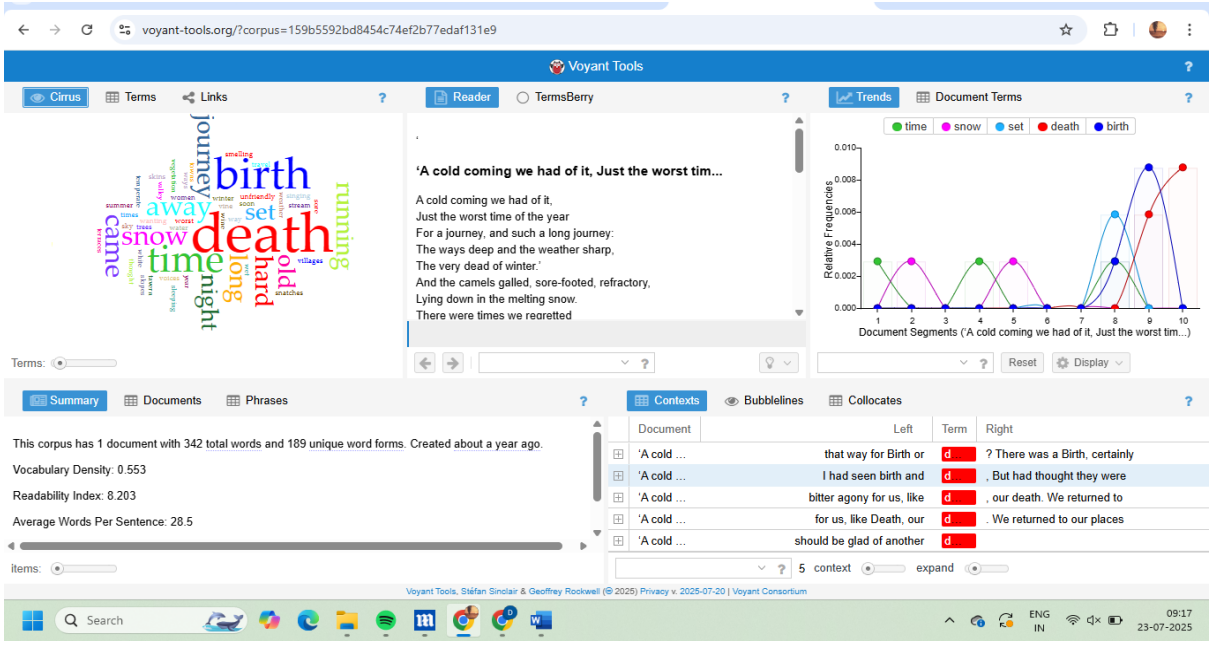
The tone of the Magus is not thriving figure.He is disillusioned, weary and culturally uprooted. Even after reaching the moment of spiritual "birth," he represents:

"...this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death." (Eliot 35-36)

This contradiction of birth as death provides every transformation makes something lost. In this vision of globalization, this illustrates how new identities were born at the advert of forgetting their inherited traditions. The tension between modernity and memory traditon and transformation is seen the Magus's unease parallels the condition of the postmodern subject.

Discussion and Findings

Figure 1



Voyant Tools is used for the digital analysis which enables a visual and sematic representations of recurring patterns in *Journey of the Magi*. In the Word Cloud terms such as journey," "cold," "death," "birth," "time " and "snow." These keywords represent the physical hardships of the Magi's journey and also complex ideas of identity reconstruction, existential transition and spiritual displacement.

Terms such as “birth” and “death” in trends graph (top-right in the figure) reveals that terms become more intense in the segments of the poem—which coincides with the speaker’s spiritual climax and epiphany. Reaffirming the metaphor of the wanderer in cultural and spiritual exile, the varying frequencies of "snow," "time," and "cold" provide a sensory mapping of the poem's unfriendly, unfamiliar world.

The word "death" repeatedly appears in the context/collocate panel which is near phrases like “birth,” “another death” and “bitter agony.” This semantic clustering highlight a prominent paradox: spiritual awakening is represented through the language of loss and decay, implying abandonment of prior identities that is essential for cultural or religious rebirth.

The idea of journey is not only is not just physical, but symbolically reflects the trauma of crossing into unfamiliar ideological terrain which is a metaphor for postcolonial or globalized identity negotiation which is confluence for the repetition of “journey” near words like “hard” and “alien” which further supports the argument .The poem’s profound engagement of issues of hybridity, change, and misplaced belonging is affirmed by Voyant visuals. Through digital tools Eliot’s voice is mapped which reflect a protagonist who embodies both modern global subjectivity and historical religion.

Conclusion

This paper has illustrated that *Journey of the Magi* more than a Christian allegory; it is a poetic narrative of globalized identity. This analysis provides a dual perspective by intersecting digital tools and close reading like Voyant, which is literary and computational which emphasis on the text’s enrichment with themes of transformation, hybrid identity and displacement. The Magi became a symbol of renewal and cultural dislocation rather usually repeated as spiritual awakening. Eliot’s poem depicts the experience of negotiating one's own journey across boundaries cultural, geographical, religioulsy especially in a globalized world where marked it is by migration and technological change. Voyant Tools enabled the ability to examine the poem’s lexical environment for a deeper revealing embedded patterns that support this reading. Eliot’s voice resonate in deeper ways that to relevant to current global state making the fusion of literature and digital analysis becoming a essential for new age interpretation.

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