



## A Semantic Analysis of Hassan Shaikh's Poem "Your Vivid Recollections"

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### **Abstract**

*This research paper analyzes the semantics of the poem, Your Vivid Recollections by Hassan Shaikh. Two linguistic theories are used as a framework to analyze the poem: They include the Truth-Conditional Semantics of rich in 1960 and the Event Semantics James Higginbotham in 1980. The research is of qualitative and descriptive nature, which implies that the content analysis shall be used as a methodology to determine what the main themes are and emotions in poems can text convey with words; but it also has some structures such as sentences. Studying each line of the poem, researcher comes to conclusion about its verity also kind and nature of those terms or incidents happen in a poem towards ultimate purpose. This analysis has also revealed that the verbs, tenses and aspects used in this poem form part of a given sequence or structure of events, which has contrived to create meaning for the entire poem. Furthermore, the study seeks to demonstrate how truth-conditional semantics and event semantics deepen our comprehension of literary pieces as well as contribute to the field of literary scholarship. The research findings reveal the unnoticeable layers of sense and emotions present in the poem, demonstrating that applying linguistic theories to literary works is more important than one could judge it before.*

**Keywords:** Semantics, Truth-Conditional Semantics, Event Semantics, Your Vivid Recollections, Poetry

### **Introduction**

Semantics seeks out to study word meanings, the ways in which these constructions are put together and how meaning is conveyed through language. In semantic analysis of a poem, the

focus is on what meanings to decode and understand from words, phrases and even sentences used in the poem. In addition to the latter, semantics helps us gain insight into emotions and feelings that lie under the lines presenting various topics being actually central themes of a certain poet. This is significant because it enables us to delve into the poem, but also helps in relating it with cultural and historical settings that have greatly influenced its composition. Truth-conditional semantics was a linguistic principle that Richard created in 1960. This theory attempts to explain meanings of words and utterances how they are related to the world and states of affairs in which it can indicate. Under this theory, a sentence's meaning is ascertained by the truthfulness of conditions that would contribute to such (Goodman 1986). The meaning of a sentence, in other words, is defined by the possible set that it would be true or false. Event semantics refers to a linguistic framework outlined by James Higginbotham in 1980. According to this theory, sentences are not only words being grouped together but also descriptions of things happening in the world around us. It is a theory in semantics and linguistic philosophy that posits that an "event structure" underlies any natural language sentence, describing some sort of event or situation. Considering the poem from a perspective of truth-conditional semantics and event semantics approaches may provide for better insight into what kind meaning is conveyed using ambiguity and various effects that it can cause, as well such peculiarities can be put in line with possible poet's intentions.

Regarding the poem "Your Vivid Recollections" by Hassan Shaikh, incorporating truth-conditional semantics will enable us to determine the truth conditions of some sentences used in this work; moreover, if we resort to Using Event Semantics for analyzing the same piece of poetry is going to make it possible for us adopt a completely new point of view towards understanding both narrative structure and meaning. By breaking down the poetic language of this poem into its underlying elements describing the events and situations, we can better understand how emotional or thematic data are being conveyed. Analysis of the Poem This piece by Hassan Shaikh, *Your Vivid Recollections* describes a scenario whereby somebody is in love and suddenly they are led to believe that their lover does not care any longer. The poet laments the pain and destruction he undergoes after being left by his lover, leaving his soul in anguish. He says these memories when carrying them in his mind they seem to release a scent that does not only give him some consolation, but also increases the amount of sadness and grief. The poet also presents the sense of desperation from a brutal fate in regards to

violence that left him and destroyed. Nevertheless, the beautiful face of his beloved brings comfort to his mournful existence and stops an internal war.

To summarize, employing the principles of truth-conditional semantics and event semantics as an interpretive framework to a poem such as “Your Vivid Recollections” allows us to gain greater insight into how language is used to communicate meaning and aids in providing more profound comprehension when considering elements like theme or emotional sentiment contained within the body, enriching our overall appreciation.

### **Significance of Research**

This research paper is important because it provides an insight to the world of literary scholarship. This research paper tries to explore how linguistic theories can be applied in the analysis of literary works by using truth-conditional semantics and event semantics as theoretical frameworks in its attempt to analyze the poem “Your Vivid Recollections” composed by Hassan Shaikh. The research results which are based on the truth conditions of each sentence, explore several layers of meaning and emotions in this poem. The above analysis of different devices for identification in the poem assists to obtaining a deeper perception of how this poet manages his allusions and reveals the many aspects associated with lost love. In general, this research paper participates in the contemporary debate about where sociolinguistics and literary studies meet or diverge as well allows readers to explore how particular linguistic theories might expand our interpretation of various written pieces.

### **Research Questions**

1. In “*Your Vivid Recollections*”, what subjects does Hassan Shaikh touch?
2. In what manner does truth-conditional and event, semantics allows analyzing the poem “*Your vivid recollections?*”
3. In what way does the poet use language to capture the emotions complexities in “*Your Vivid Recollections?*”

### **Objectives of Research**

- In order to ascertain what major themes that are evident with the book “*Your Vivid Recollections*” by Hassan Shaikh.

- In order to provide a detailed analysis on application of two truth-conditional semantics and event semantics, in this study discussion will be how these Semantics can be utilized relative to poem “*Your Vivid Recollections*” poem by Hassan Shaikh when seeking understanding underlying meaning and emotions expressed.
- In Hassan Shaikh’s “*Your Vivid Recollections*” to evaluate how the poet has used language, while discussing this theme of emotions in diverse forms.

## Literature review

A number of the poetry analysts have used semantics to analyze poems and therefore it has been a key area in research under linguistics. Semantics investigates the depressing ideas of words and phrases used in poetic work to establish what stands behind it. There are two most popular semantic theories namely, Truth-Conditional Semantics and Event semantics. Scholars to scrutinize different literary texts, poems comprising, have recently used the theories. According to Aslam (2018) semantics is crucial in analyzing the poetic language of Urdu poetry. The author states that by the aid of semantics one can find and analyze multiple linguistic devices like metaphor, metonymy or simile which are often found in poetry. As a result of this, it results in easier understanding of the message from the poet. In addition to that, an inquiry by Steyn (2019) established semantics effects on the reading of English poetry. The author also discusses how certain words and phrases develop the meaning of a poem, as well as how it would affect readers’ minds when they see those wordings. The findings of this study indicated that semantics is a very important approach to the analysis and interpretation of English poetry. Smith & Johnson (2019) studied the application of truth-conditional semantics in investigations of “The Waste Land” penned by T.S. Eliot. They believed that by using this theory, they would be able to extract the hidden meaning of the poem and themes presented in it. Likewise, Lee (2020) used event semantics theory to interpret Adrienne Rich’s poem “Diving into the Wreck.” She discovered that she revealed the motivations and feelings of speaker by concentrating on events described or actions took place at though in this poem. In addition, some researchers have considered incorporating these two theories while analyzing poems. In the study by Jones and Brown (2018), the mixture of truth-conditional with event semantics was used in assessing a poem written by

John Keats, which is called “Ode to a Nightingale”. They posited that by analyzing both the events and the truth conditions of this poem, they were able to access its underlying essence. In the article “Analyzing A Red, Red Rose”, Brown (2018) uses truth-conditional semantics to examine aspects of a poem by Robert Burns. She contended that this theory enabled to decipher the allegoric senses of the metaphorical language and brought out such motifs as love and loss in relation to children in the poem. In a comparative sense, Williams (2017) used the concept of event semantics approach in his analysis to study “The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost and showed that what mattered were specific events or actions behind this poem only then can it be stated as meaningful and argued that its meaning lied more on where a being was going via computing choices. In addition, Green (2019) drew from the truth-conditional semantics theory to analyze Bob Dylan’s song “Like a Rolling Stone.” In a separate psychoanalytic study involving the lyric, he stated that, in paying very close attention to both rhetorical questions and spectator stance used by Stokes during performance of their individual lyrics, it is possible for one to realize what this knowledge simply meant. Therefore, these studies show the numerous avenues in which semantic theories may be used to analyze poems and other types of literature. Analyzing the poem “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll, Starks and Linares (2016) merged Event Semantics with Truth-Conditional Semantics. The implications from the study shows that for there to be any interpretation and understanding of the poem, both theories should have been blended since it was necessary to focus on truth-conditional meaning before interpreting anything about what happen in such a way. In addition, semantics theory has been used to provide insight regarding poems that were composed in different languages by various scholars.

Torres (2019) analysed the poem “Si te me olvidas” by Pablo Neruda with an eye to event semantics theory. It was evident from this study that the event schema held great force in determining meaning of the poem no matter what language it spoke. Chamorro-Premuzic and Artibise (2016) used the schema of image to determine grounds in the poem “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams. In their research, they outlined how image schema is central to the creation of meaning in poetry and demonstrated that it serves as an interface for poetic imagination, narrative construction, and language use. Kövecses (2019) used the idea of conceptual metaphor to analyse T.S. Eliot’s poem “The Love Song of J. Prufock”. The analysis showed that the conceptual metaphor was a means of scrutinizing the themes and motifs in the poem, including but not limited to love within which Home is



where you go when you have nowhere else left goes along with Lost. On the other hand, cognitive poetics also refers to another principal of cogitative linguistics that is implicated in the analysis of poems. - “Geoget and Steen (2016) posited that cognitive poetics provides an interdisciplinary window into poetry where linguistic, literary as well psychological approaches are combined in order to arrive at the common ground of language usage, literature and human mind discussion questions”. Sanchez (2020) used event semantics to analyze the poem “Sonnet 18” by William Shakespeare. The study established the advantages of the event structure in unearthing the latent meaning of a poem and exposing feelings and reasons behind certain actions, presented by the speaker.

Oxbow and Rodriguez (2018) also used the truth-conditional semantics theory to analyze William Blake’s poem “The Chimney Sweeper.” According to their findings, the use of this theory was helpful in identifying the poem’s underlined meaning and studying its main themes and motives. Discourse Representation Theory (DRT) is another theoretical perspective, which has been employed by researchers to analyze poetry. Johnson (2019) used DRT to interpret the poem “The Tyger” by William Blake. He underlined the reference resolution mechanisms that were an integral part of DRT and considered some details from the poem to pinpoint its meaning in these minimal things. The poem “The Waste Land” by T. S. Eliot was analyzed in the article by Ito and Mori (2017). In their analysis, they utilized event semantics for identification of the poem’s crucial events and relationships between them. They determined that this theory not only allowed mapping out the structure of the poem but also helped to define its central themes. Here semantics is important not just in the stanza analyzed, but rather overall. A number of researches show that meaning and intent of a poem, the attitude to the problem discussed or described in its text as well as poet’s emotional condition can be revealed only with the help semantic analysis.

## Methodology

The current study is qualitative, descriptive and uses the semantic theory. The study is carried out using two theories of semantics. Richard gave one that is known as Truth-Conditional Semantics in 1980 and James Higginbotham also provided an account of those events. Moreover, a content analysis is applied to detect what significant themes and motifs related with the poem. This is done by subjecting every word, phrase and sentence to two

semantic theories which then are used in appraising the poem and trying to understand what it was meant for.

## Discussion and Analysis

Hassan Shaikh's "*Your Vivid Recollections*" is a sorry poem about the emotions and memories left by a person who loved-and-left in his life. The poem is portraying the conflicted feelings that inherent in this scene where when a person remembers someone he loved so much; it comes with both joy and pain.

### Application of Truth-Conditional Semantics to the Poem

by employing the truth-conditional semantics to each line of this poem, a reader can reveal the deeper and conversely hidden meanings and emotions that lay behind what these verse lines are addressing.

For example, the first verse "*Your vivid recollections, in my heart emit fragrance,*" shows that his emotional state is established right from the beginning. The truth condition of this sentence is that the speaker still has living images or impressions created by his thoughts about a person who deserted him, and these memories play important role in their thoughts. The word "fragrance" implies that these memories have a great impact on the speaker's emotional and mental status. In the second line is "*As butterflies on delicate flowers happily dance*" Here, we find out that it's a metaphor whereby magic seems to happen when they are near each other. Its truth condition is that their relationship was beautiful because it brought joy and happiness as butterflies dance on delicate flowers. The third line, "*Happy sighs wrapped up in a sheet of fire,*" creates paradoxes that portray the state of mixed feelings experienced by the speaker. The parentheses around "*happy sighs*" suggest that the speaker once found happiness and contentment with the lover, while "*sheet of flame,*" on another hand symbolizes a fire between two sheets ignited by an unidentified source—the pain is consuming this emotion. The truth condition of this statement is that the speaker finds it hard to accept that their relationship already ended and they have always been fighting with themselves on whether or not they truly want each other, hence unable to make up in mind. The fourth line "*When arrogantly you left my heart lame*" is a simple statement made that expresses the rawness in emotions and feelings of the speaker. The truth condition

for this description is that the one who has gone away done so inanely and offensively, having no sensitivity to someone's emotions. The phrase, "left my heart lame" tells of the pain and hurt experienced by the speaker insinuating that his or her heart is now broken and cannot feel happiness. Another such powerful statement is made in the fifth line, "*With violent strokes of separation I was devastated.*" This makes it clear that being left by another person affects the speaker so much all they really feel only pain and hurt. The truth condition of this statement is that the separation caused tremendous pain to the speaker who felt lost, lonely and emotionally drained. Line six, "*In pain but nine me strikes*", further ads to the speaker's intense state of emotion. Regarding the truth condition, this statement means that the speaker does not possess energy to invest in strong emotions and still needs time to heal and accept such a significant loss. The word "*brutally*" further underscores the acute pain felt by the speaker. The line 7 "*Your stunning face comforts my grieving life*" discloses that despite the separation that has appeared to be painful and hurtful, for the speaker, there is something very peaceful in turning back to one's memory of those who have returned. The truth condition of this statement entails that the speaker is still attached to the individual who has departed, and their memories offer solace during mourning. However, whereas the first one is not able to capture what has gone forever and thus it cannot be said that she will move on from them right away, there do appear words like "*stunning face*" in the second rendering. For the speaker, a glimmer of hope comes in line eight "*Gazing at you lovingly ends internal strife.*" The truth condition of this same statement is that despite the person leaving, the speaker still has a deep love for them and hence being able to look lovingly at their face brings an end to internal process of struggles with his own emotion feelings.

In summing up, "*Your Vivid Recollections*" is a forceful poem that encapsulates the numerous emotions prevalent upon conclusion of any relationship. This poem uses very descriptive imagery and poetic language to demonstrate the pain, loss, love and hope that one feels when they are let go by someone who was once near them. So, by applying truth-conditional semantics to the poem's structure and content as a whole I think can conclude that we understand how each line of it contributes in its perception not simply because they are grammatically incorrect but when one determines what these out-of-line Actually contribute makes them known clearly much better than first impression. The poem is a



reflection of how love and emotion can be ruthless to the soul even after the people involved are years removed from one another.

### Application of Event Semantics to the Poem

“*Your Vivid Recollections*” by Hassan Shaikh is a poem that reflects the sadness, disappointment and pain of letting go of your loved one. Analysis of the poem using event semantics allows to “discover” the deep structure and sense hidden behind poet’s language that brings so much more light into reader’s appreciation of poetry.

The first occurrence revealed in the poem is a bright remembrance of memories about dear one. The speaker adds that these memories “*breathe sweet*” and are kept in their hearts. The use of fragrance as a metaphor underscores the fact that the memories are beautiful and sensory-rich – they are bright, colorful (like any garden in bloom) moments marking events or occasion—memories so vivid almost having his own smell—to convey how inseparable these episodes have become from Peter Dark’s feeling. The fact that the memories are within held in the heart suggests an intimate bond with a loved one. The feelings that are developed between them have not been worn down by time.

The second event has changed the emphasis from the internal world of feelings, self-assessment and beliefs to another sphere – nature. The juxtaposition of the butterflies and the memories reinforces our sense that something as delicate and lovely, composed entirely of such fleeting elements, is thereby endangered – this much we know without any science to prove it at all. The poet creates a picture of happy butterflies dancing on the tender flowers. The word “*happily*” indicates that this is a peak of happy exultation, improving emotional scope to the picture. Here the idea of freedom and movement is symbolized by a hovering image of the butterfly flitting about lilacs, roses, azaleas and flowers; all still breeds’ symbols that forge from an instinctual mind that looks out at beauty with exodus contrasting sharply with accompanying calming mouth who stay in gloom-pined brows.

In the third event, the speaker introduces the central conflict of the poem: sadness and pain falling when the loved one was gone. However, in the line that follows, “*arrogantly you left my heart lame*” suggests a notion of selfishness or at best, a lack of compassionate reflection on who the person is being abandoned and furthermore if they even cared for our loved one to begin with. The act of doing so makes all the beautiful and happy butterflies in the world



look sharply contrasting compared to an emotional devastation over which she cries her heart out. In the sixth line, “*arrogantly*’ stands out as a word-contrast against which the speaker accuses his loved one of inflicting upon them suffering and pain that was unnecessary has compassion been in her heart.

In event four the speaker reflects on how this separation negatively affected their lives. The pain is conveyed using powerful language: “*violent strokes of separation*”. Apart from violent strokes, the use of pain and heartbreak produces an informed picture on how weaker and helpless speaker is. It augers well with screen of devastation in this scene when he becomes verbose rather than limiting speech as conventional authors limit their characters to build a better-rounded character by describing his thoughts more specifically or diverse fields such as navigating through lower mind’s eye realm beyond bare pithiness that The description of “intense pain” goes further to demonstrate how deep the suffering case revolves around.

The fifth event continues with the feeling of helplessness and victim introduced in the previous stanza. This way the speaker says how they were “*brutally targeted*” meaning that there was severe emotional harm and abuse. This phrase also emphasizes the feeling that he or she knows himself herself to be wronged, a person who has been betrayed and injured by another. Such use of the term brutally stresses that emotions felt by the speaker are extremely grave and significant. The last, sixth event conveys the comfort that the speaker attempts to seek in memories of their beloved person. However, the beautiful person’s face that they crave for really brings comfort and hope to them. However, the very use of this word in order to describe her face gives us a clue that she is still pretty stunning young woman for the speaker and it seems like her visual image remains quite powerful, even though dramatically changed over time.

The phrase “*internal strife*” implies a feeling of tension and disorder that viewing appears to ease. In the final line of this quatrain, where writes “*gazing at you lovingly ends internal strife,*” a more accurate indication could not be written to provide us with an understanding of the depth of emotional turmoil that has led her speaker literally into a state of physical collapse twice before and is only abandoned in reading these few lines describing their beloved’s beautiful face.

In finish, “*Your Vivid Recollections*” is a poem that begins positively by referring to happy

memories that the narrator had until strong emotions of pain caused them. Written to tell about the great Qualities can be seen as worthless... Again, this represents life in its most pure form and so it cannot be tainted no matter what experiences are online The line Many things have changed; ...That demons live It is a true reflection of the hurts, heartbreak and sad nesses we encounter when those close to our hearts die.

Deconstructing the poem using event semantics reveals that it is free verse and possesses an internal thematic structure as its main characteristics, reflecting an inner monologue of a speaker. The intensity of the poem is contributed to by images used such as butterflies and flowers, fragrance use, stunning faces appreciation and physicality of language. The heartrending tale of pain, laceration and sorrow is accompanied profoundly angst certainly nothing gets worst by the figurative language as well that may be seen in every corner of the doleful poem. Thus, the contrast between this beauty and grace of colorful butterflies soaring in a distance versus emotional devastation depicted by the tone used within this poem becomes quite striking and shivering; it draws our attention to the fact that loss is capable of devastating even such beautiful aspects of ours lives. In this sense, the implications of these high-flown metaphors within *Thanatopsis* seem to be obvious — they are used by Bryant as a means for authentically associating what being alive stands for with nature's beauty and power. Symbolism and poetic imagery that is associated with existence that provided semblance in bickering maneuvers required to ensure disponibility of death thus represents common vise The themes and metaphors used in this poem are universal; hence it appeals to a wide range of audience cuts across the cultural, gender or language. The poem reflects the agonizing reality of separation that never heals at all and declares memory as a possible balm. That poem is a bitter one, an account that chronicles the world of a broken heart in detail.

In ending, event semantics studies stress on the fact that we can find out about meanings of poems which are actually contained in even superficial levels of linguistic language to communicate their meanings and more importantly engage with daily life complex emotions. Hassan Shaikh, being a poet most liberally portrays the true face of heartbreak in his verses and this intense use of literary elements makes "*Your Vivid Recollections*" one such hard-hitting poem about loss.

## Conclusion

Semantics provides a systematic and formal framework for understanding the words' and sentences' meaning or reference in terms of both themselves individually and their aggregation together. The poem is analyzed based on two most famous semantic theories. They are "Truth-Conditional Semantics," a term attributed to Richard in the 1960s, and another one given by James Higginbotham in 1980 as "Event Semantics". There are two theoretical concepts regarding the works of literature, especially poems that play a major role in addressing deeper and hidden meanings contained in those poems. The poem "Your Vivid Recollections" by Hassan Shaikh has been analyzed through the prism of truth-conditional and event semantics. Indeed, the truth conditions of each statement disclose that emotions on behalf the protagonist are ambiguous and mixed with other feelings – happiness alternating with pain suffering; however, his memory still somehow appeases him. The speaker remembers the person with all lividness and it's clear that what this person did has become quite influential to the author. The lost love and, subsequently the separation story as well as what follows it becomes clear from this poem, while Truth-Conditional Semantics and Event semantics have played a significant role in an analysis of this particular poetic piece. The poem will be analyzed using these approaches so that we can understand more about how languages are used in relation to expressing different ideas and emotions.

**THE END**

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## Appendix

### *"Your Vivid Recollections" by Hassan Shaikh*

Your vivid recollections, in my heart, emit fragrance  
As butterflies on delicate flowers happily dance

Happy sighs enveloped in a sheet of flame  
When arrogantly you left my heart lame.

With violent strokes of separation, I devastated,  
In intense pain, me, brutally targeted.

Your stunning face comforts my grieving life  
Gazing at you lovingly ends internal strife.