

## A Comparative Stylistic Analysis of Maori People's Haka Ka Mate and Kapao Pango

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### ABSTRACT

*Haka of the Maori people of the New Zealand depicts not only their culture but also the tribe's strength, pride and the unity among Maori people. It was made as a war cry or war dance that ancient Maori people used to perform on the battlefield. This study is the comparative stylistic analysis of Ka Mate and Kapao Pango in order to compare and contrast these two Hakas in terms of linguistic features. The purpose of this study is to explore the meanings procreated by the use of the stylistic choices in the war cries of Maori people. For this purpose, the researcher has selected ancient, traditional pre-war Haka Ka Mate and another pre-match Haka of All Blacks rugby team Kapao Pango through purposive sampling technique. The researcher has conducted stylistic analysis of the selected Haka at lexical and phonological level. The researcher has used the stylistic model of Leech and Short (2007) for this study. The results of this study revealed the differences and similarities in the war cries of Maori people and the implied meanings have also been explored that show Maori's belief of inner strength, pride, unity, sovereignty and respect towards the traditions of the ancient people.*

**Keywords:** Haka, Ka Mate, Kapao Pango, Maori People, War Cries, Stylistic Analysis

### INTRODUCTION

There are various types of Haka that is a generic name for Maori people's dance and ceremonial challenges. The Haka *Kapao Pango* was performed by All Blacks rugby match team before match (Alim, 2023). The most famous Haka, *Ka Mate Ka Mate* was composed by Ngati Tao chieftain named Te Rauparaha. Basically, it is a war cry or a war challenge in Maori culture. According to Alim (2023), traditionally men of Maori tribe used to perform it before going to war along with violent foot stamping, aggressive and angry facial expressions and strict discipline. It was used as a source to lift the morale of the warriors as well as to make their opponents scared. According to Armstrong (1964), in performing Haka, feet, hands, voice, eyes and tongue are used to convey the message as a challenge that is disciplined and yet emotional. The complex dance that is performed by Maori people is the best expression of the vigor, passion and identity of the race.

The researcher has selected two Hakas such as: *Ka Mate* and *Kapa o Pango* in order to explore the underlying meanings that these two Hakas generate through the use of stylistic devices. For this purpose, the researchers have conducted the stylistic analysis at lexical and syntactic level and have also explored the similarities and differences in the choice of linguistic features. The theoretical framework for this research has been a stylistic model that based on the stylistic and linguistic features that have proposed by Leech and Short (2007).

### **Research Objective**

This research aimed to fulfill the following research objectives:

1. To explore the similarities and contrast in the linguistic features in Maori people's war cries
2. To explore the meanings that are being generated by the use of stylistic choices in the war cries of Maori people

### **Research Questions**

The researcher aimed to give answers to the following research questions:

1. What are the similarities and differences in the use of stylistic devices in "Ka Mate" and "Kapa o Pango"?
2. What kind of meanings are generated in "Ka Mate" and "Kapa o Pango" by the use of stylistic devices?

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Several researchers have conducted stylistic analysis in their researches. In this section, some of the researches that have analyzed the selected data at different levels of stylistics analysis have described below.

Khan et.al (2015) explored a short story *The Last Word* by Tabassum. The researchers not only explored the formative elements of the short story but also conducted stylistic analysis of the selected data at lexical, grammatical and phonological levels. Alhameed (2020) conducted an extensive stylistic analysis of a short story *The Little Girl March* and analyzed the selected data at four levels such as: semantic, syntactic, phonological and graphological level. The study concluded that the author has used several poetic and linguistic devices which emphasized the variation and uniqueness in the use of language to make the story heart touching, deep and interesting.

Mingon and Sutton (2021) investigated why robots cannot perform Haka and conducted research to investigate the kinds of mentality in skilled performances and explored the performance ecology of the Haka by Maori people. The researchers said that the proposal of 'Robot Maori Haka' raises a question in mind regarding the transmission of the knowledge that required more than copying movements and physical actions.

Arslan, Mahmood, and Haroon (2021) conducted stylistic and textual analysis of the national anthem of Pakistan in order to elaborate the features of stylistics in the national anthem of Pakistan. This study focused on all the levels of linguistics under stylistics' paradigm. Textual worth of anthem has explored through textual analysis and the presence of rhyme scheme, compounding, imagery, and alliteration have revealed through stylistic analysis.

Sarfraz (2022) conducted a stylistic analysis of *The Alchemist*, the most influential and representative novel of Coelho. The nature of research was theoretical, descriptive and analytical and a closed reading text-based analysis has used by the researcher. The researcher describes the data in terms of different categories such as: lexical, semantic, cohesion, coherence and figures of speech.

Ahmad, Ali, and Maryam (2023) conducted a stylistic analysis of two English songs of Coke Studio such as: *I am in Love* and *My Happiness*. The researchers explored the semantic deviation to probe the meanings and to find out the style of the song writers. They also explored morphological, and lexical parallelism and semantic, lexical and morphological levels of stylistics have used for this research. According to Alim (2023), Haka dance is a part of rituals of the Indigenous Maori people of New

Zealand. Alim (2023) conducted research on All Blacks Haka in order to explore Haka as a representation of cultural philosophy of Maori tribe of New Zealand through Rugby.

Khan, Raffique, and Saddique (2014) conducted research on a poem *The Onset* by Frost. The researchers explored the themes of poem by analyzing the stylistic features and interpreted the poet's deep philosophy through imagery, diction, vocabulary and poetic devices. Ajmal, Suprayetno, and Abbasi (2024) conducted a stylistic analysis of the selected poems of W.H Davies. They conducted analysis at phonological, morphological, lexico-syntactical and graphological level in order to highlight the distinct characteristics of the poetic language by Davies.

In all the above-mentioned researches, the researchers have conducted stylistic analysis of songs, short stories, novels, national anthem at different levels such as: phonological, morphological, semantic, syntactic, lexical etc. One researcher has also explored the performance of Haka by Maori people but no researcher has explored Haka from the perspective of identifying the similarities and differences in the linguistic features between two Hakas such as *Ka mate* and *Kapa o Pango*. Moreover, not any other researcher has explored the meanings that have generated in the selected Hakas through the use of stylistic devices.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The researcher has conducted qualitative research in order to explore the most famous war cries of indigenous people of the New Zealand. The researcher has chosen *Ka Mate* and *Kapa o Pango* through purposive sampling technique. Both the selected Hakas that have chosen by the researcher have translated into English for conducting stylistic analysis. A stylistic analysis at lexical and syntactic level has conducted in order to explore the implied meanings of the selected Hakas as well as to compare and contrast the explored linguistic features in both the Hakas. The theoretical framework of Leech and Short (2007) has used by the researcher in order to conduct the stylistic analysis of the selected data.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

Following is the analysis of the data that has selected from the selected Hakas: *Ka Mate* and *Kapao Pango*. The researcher has conducted the stylistic analysis of the selected data at lexical and phonological level and has employed the theoretical framework of Leech and Short (2007). The researcher has compared and contrasted the analyzed data and has also explored the meanings that have generated in the selected war cries of Maori people.

### **Stylistic Analysis of *Ka Mate* at Lexical Level**

At lexical level the language used in *Ka Mate* is analyzed in form of the use of repetition of words, hyperbole, use of vocabulary, symbols, anaphora and the use of adjectives, verbs and nouns.

In *Ka Mate*, there is repetition of words: "I die and I live" in first two lines, since the first two lines are composed of the repetition of these two words. The words "sun, shine and another" are repeated two times, and the word "upward" is repeated three times in the whole passage of the selected pre-war Haka.

There is a use of an anaphora in the lines "This is the hairy man", "Who brought the sun", in which "who" is anaphora. Similarly, in the next line "And caused it to shine again!", the word "it" is referring to sun and is used as an anaphoric reference in this line.

In the lines, "This is the hairy man and Who brought the sun", the use of hyperbole is evident and is also representing how the writer has given the 'hairy man' superhuman qualities of bringing the sun to shine again. The "hairy man" in this Haka, is used as a symbol that is symbolizing the chief Te Wharerangi. Who gave the composer of this Haka, namely, Te Rauparaha his protection when he came to Te

Wharerangi and asked for help and protection while explaining that he feared that his own people and tribe would dissipate and would be lost if he was killed and caught by the enemies.

The use of adjective “hairy” is used for the “man”, Te Wharerangi, in order to show his masculine figure and used as a symbol of bravery. The use of the verbs like: “die and live” show the emotions, passion and strength of chief before the war. The use of nouns like: man, sun and step are interconnected. The man is Te Wharerangi, who causes the sun to shine by helping the chief Te Rauparaha and the noun “step” is used in the line, “One step upward! another step upward! A step upward, another” which again shows verve, pride, strength, unity and enthusiasm of Maori people to defeat their rivals and save their unique identity.

#### **Stylistic Analysis of *Ka Mate* at Phonological Level**

The phonological level for stylistic analysis has categorized into sub-categories namely, alliteration, assonance, consonance and rhyming words.

In the first two lines, the writer has used alliteration such as: in the line “I die, I die I live, I live”, the consonants ‘d’ and ‘l’ are repeated. In the same lines, the repetition of vowels ‘i’ and ‘e’, represent assonance. In the next line, “This is the hairy man”, the repetition of vowel ‘i’ and the repetition of consonant ‘h’, represent assonance and consonance respectively.

In the line, “One step upward! another step upward!” the rhyming words “upward” are used and the repetition of consonant ‘p’ in this line, shows consonance. The repetition of words ‘die and live’ show the internal rhyme in the first two lines. The last words of the first two lines “live” and the last words of third and fourth lines, “man and sun” rhyme and create pleasing effects on ears.

The use of alliteration, consonance and assonance not only create musicality in the lines but also makes the Haka more attractive, alerting, alluring and persuading.

#### **Stylistic Analysis of *Kapao Pango* at Lexical Level**

Same as the above analyzed data at lexical level, in this section, the researcher has analyzed the language used in *Kapao Pango* in form of the use of repetition of words, phrases and lines, hyperbole, use of vocabulary, symbols, anaphora, cataphora and the use of verbs, adjectives and nouns and pronouns.

Like above analyzed *Ka Mate* there is repetition of various words in *Kapao Pango* such as: “All Blacks and Silver fern” and the word “silver” is adjective in this line. Similarly, the two lines such as: “it is my moment!”, “And it is my time!” are used two times in this Haka.

In New Zealand, the fern has been accepted as a national identity and for Maori people the shape of the fronds stands for extraordinary strength, enduring power and stubborn resilience and it is used as a symbol and represents their sense of attachment and affiliation with their homeland. In *Ka Mate*, the writer has also used symbol for conveying meanings effectively.

Cataphora is used in the line, “This defines us as the All Blacks” that emphasizes the significance of All Blacks and it is also a simile. On the other hand, in *Ka Mate*, the writer has used anaphoric reference and no cataphoric reference is used in this Haka.

Use of the verbs such as: “thunders”, “ignites” “explodes”, “rises” and “emerges” in the lines, “It is New Zealand that thunders now”, “The passion ignites”, “The anticipation explores”, “Our dominance rises”, and “Our supremacy emerges” respectively represent the passion, unity, strength of the All Blacks and their sense of supremacy for their identity and having affiliation with the New Zealand.

Unlike *Ka Mate*, there is a use of possessive pronouns in this Haka such as: “Our” and “my”, these again portray the strong concept of unity and strength among the members of All Blacks. In the line, “This defines us as the All Blacks”, “All Blacks” is a simile that is used for “us” and the use of “us” represents the notion of unity among the people of Maori community.

The use of nouns such as: “power, dominance and supremacy” represent courage and pride of Maori people. And the use of words such as: “passion, high and explodes” represents their consistency being compassionate about achieving their goals and resistance against any sort of hurdles in their ways of achieving their goals. In this Haka, the writer has not used hyperbole; rather the writer has used such nouns as these represent Maori people’s courage, strength and supremacy.

### **Stylistic Analysis of *Kapao Pango* at Phonological Level**

The stylistic analysis of *Kapao Pango* at phonological level has categorized into sub-categories namely, assonance, alliteration, consonance and rhyming words.

Like *Ka Mate* in *Kapao Pango*, the writer has used assonance such as in the first line that is: “Let me go back to my first gasp of breath” the repetition of “e” shows assonance. In the fourth line, such as: “And it is my time!”, the repetition of “i” is assonance. The writer has repeated two lines for emphasizing the idea such as: “And it is my time!” and “It is my moment!” is appears two times in this Haka and also creates musicality.

Since this is pre-match Haka and performed by All Blacks rugby team, in it, the writer has repeatedly used “All Blacks” in order to emphasize the vital role, significance and worth of the team. The words “Silver fern” and “All Blacks” are repeated one after another in order to create musicality and rhythmic effect in performing this Haka.

Alliteration is used only one time in the line: “It is my moment!”, that is repeated two times in this Haka and the repetition of consonance “m” shows alliteration.

Like *Ka Mate*, in *Kapao Pango*, the writer has used alliteration and assonance but the writer has not used consonance and rhyming words. Instead of these, the writer has used the technique of repeating certain words in order to create musicality in the lines.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

In the above stylistically analyzed selected Hakas, the researchers have explored many similarities as well as various differences in analyzing at lexical and phonological level of stylistic analysis. At lexical level, in *Ka Mate*, the writer has used repeated words, anaphoric reference, the figure of speech that is hyperbole, adjective and also the unique symbol that carries significant meanings. The writer has also analyzed the use of verbs, nouns and adjectives in order to convey the message.

On the other hand, in *Kapao Pango*, the researchers have found the use of repeated words, the use of symbol, certain verbs, possessive pronouns, cataphoric reference. In this Haka, the writer has not used hyperbole, anaphoric reference but the writer has chosen certain vocabulary to express emotions and to convey the meanings significantly. At phonological level, the writers of both the selected Hakas have used assonance and alliteration but in *Ka Mate*, the writer has also used rhyming words, internal rhyme, and consonance.

The above analyzed data has explored the meanings of the Hakas through the use of stylistic devices; it has revealed that in both the Hakas the writers have represented their emotions to express the strong passion for unity, pride, bravery and strength of Maori people. It has shown that they are not only brave fighters but have also proud to have a strong history of bravery and they have high honor and respect for



the history of their warriors. The use of certain words in the selected data such as: “All Blacks”, “Hairy man” and “Silver Fern” has carried significant meanings and has expressed the notion of oneness, unity and strong identity that have explained in the analyzed data

Similarly, the use of the various verbs, nouns and adjectives in the above analyzed data has carried certain meanings such as: “power”, “dominance”, “supremacy”, “thunder”, “ignites”, “explodes”, “high” and “passion”. The language that has used in these Hakas such as analyzed above has explored the fascinating history as well as the cultural beliefs of Maori people regarding their survival, land and identity. The repetition of the words “I live” and “I die” in *Ka Mate*, has represented how much value they give to be a warrior and even die for their land and save their identity.

It can be concluded, that the stylistic analysis of *Ka Mate* and *Kapao Pango* has conducted at lexical and phonological level. On the basis of data analysis and findings of the above stylistically analyzed data that have selected from both the Hakas represents, unity, strength, passion, bravery, resilience, masculinity, honor and respect for warriors, national identity and pride on the unforgettable history of Maori people has represented.

### **FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following are the recommendations that future researchers can follow in order to conduct their researches related to Maori people’s Haka:

1. Future researchers can compare and contrast the Haka of various types other than *Ka Mate* and *Kapao Pango* and can analyze the selected Hakas through stylistic analysis.
2. Future researchers can conduct critical discourse analysis of the war cries of Maori people and they can also analyze the war cries from any perspective other than the perspective of the researcher of this study.

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