

ANALYSES OF TOPONYMS AND ANTHROPONYMS IN „A ROSE FOR  
EMILY BY WILLIAM FAULKNER“

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**Abstract:** *This article describes Faulkner's ability to show and illustrate toponyms and anthroponyms with literal words and stylistic devices with examples. We intended to clarify what the writer was going to say with this short story by describing places and people.*

**Key words:** *toponyms, anthroponyms, culture, description, character, description, stylistic device, descriptonal ability, literal sense, term.*

The writer of this story, William Faulkner, was born in New Albany in 1897, September 25<sup>th</sup>. He was famous for his short stories and novels in fiction. A Nobel laureate, Faulkner is one of the most celebrated writers of American literature and often considered as greatest writer of southern literature. This story „A rose for Emily“ is one of the most famous works of the writer and first published in 1930 in the magazine called „The forum“. The story takes place in fictional Jefferson, Mississippi, in the equal fictional county of Yoknapatawpha. It was the first short story of him published in a national magazine. It is the story of a woman isolated from her community and takes drastic and horrifying measures to rid herself of loneliness. A Rose for Emily is a southern gothic story by William Faulkner<sup>38</sup>. The story explores themes of death and resistance to change. Also, it reflects the decaying of the societal tenets of the South in the 1930s. Emily Grierson had been controlled by her overbearing father for the first 30 years of her life and she had never questioned it. William Faulkner says the rose in the title is meant as a gesture of respect to Emily, the sense that people might present a rose or a flower to someone they like. The story begins with Emily Grierson's death. The narrator says some attended her funeral to respect a "fallen monument," but many simply wanted to see the inside of her house. By the time Emily died, the only person who has been in her house in the past ten years is her servant, Emily's cook, and gardener. Once a pristine Victorian home on the town's "most select street," Emily's

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<sup>38</sup> Scherting, Jack (1980). ""Emily Grierson's Oedipus Complex: Motif, Motive, and Meaning in Faulkner's" A Rose for Emily"."". *Studies in Short Fiction*. 17 (4): 397.

house is now a decaying house surrounded by commercial enterprises such as gas stations and cotton gins<sup>39</sup>.

Toponyms in texts and search queries are often used figuratively and do not directly refer to the locations they reference in their literal sense. Different usage kinds and stylistic devices characterize toponym usages in texts<sup>40</sup>.

An anthroponym is a proper name (or a set of names, including all possible variants), officially assigned to an individual as his identification mark. The anthroponym names, but does not attribute any properties. Anthroponyms have a conceptual meaning, which is based on the idea of a category, a class of objects<sup>41</sup>.

There are many point that we should pay attention while reading this story. Writer used his descriptive ability to describe places, people, situations. Here are some examples of portrayal of place:

*“It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street. But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores. And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson”<sup>42</sup>.*

In these sentences, author showed the outside appearance of the house that Emily lived with specific terms and vocabulary. With these descriptions, the writer intended to show that, the house has been gorgeous and magnificent once upon a time and it is as if lost its value and beauty now. Faulkner chose the adjectives so clearly and rightly that, reader easily understand the real intention without any obstruction with the help of some negative words.

Another point that we should pay attention is description of people in this story. Here is an example of Emily:

*“That was two years after her father's death and a short time after her sweetheart—the one we believed would marry her—had deserted her. After her father's death she went out very little; after her sweetheart went away, people hardly saw her at all. A few of the ladies had the temerity to call, but were not received, and the only sign of life about the place was the Negro man—a young man then-going in and out with a market basket”<sup>43</sup>.* In these

<sup>39</sup> ANQ: A quarterly journal of short articles, notes, and reviews. 2016. P 247

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0895769X.2016.1222578>

<sup>40</sup> D. Bamman, B. O'Connor, and N. A. Smith. Learning Latent Personas of Film Characters. In *Proc. of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 352--361, Sofia, Bulgaria, 2013. ACL.

<sup>41</sup> A.I. Abdusattorovna. English anthroponyms as language phenomenon. *European scientific herald*. April, 2022. P 328.

<sup>42</sup> <https://eclass.uoa.gr/modules/document/file.php/ENL474/Texts/Weeks> P 4-5

<sup>43</sup> William Faulkner. “A Rose for Emily”. *Random house*. Copyright 1930 and renewed ©1958. P 235-236.

sentences the author wanted to show the main character of a story, Emily who is very strange and odd in her phase. She was so isolated and lonely that it is the result of her father's attitude towards her. After her father died, she never comes out, only her servant Negro went to market to take necessities. Otherwise, nobody saw Emily even at once.

The writer was so professional with giving specific details. In above mentioned sentence the author tried to show the awful situation of people towards events. They never ask Emily about her situation, nobody helps her, even her relatives come to only her funeral. Society was indifferent to events that going around them, they event could not notice the death of Emily and her boyfriend. They thought the smell of the house was because of untidiness of Emily, these words reveal the culture and awareness of the people in this century.

*"For a long while we just stood there, looking down at the profound and fleshless grin. The body had apparently once lain in the attitude of an embrace, but now the long sleep that outlasts love, that conquers even the grimace of love, had cuckolded him. What was left of him, rotted beneath what was left of the nightshirt, had become inextricable from the bed in which he lay; and upon him and upon the pillow beside him lay that even coating of the patient and biding dust"<sup>44</sup>.*

*"Then we noticed that in the second pillow was the indentation of a head. One of us lifted something from it, and leaning forward, that faint and invisible dust dry and acrid in the nostrils, we saw a long strand of irongray hair"<sup>45</sup>.*

In conclusion, the real aim and core of the story is in here. As mentioned above, the story begun with mystery murder, the last paragraph shows the killer and corps with hidden peculiarities that makes people to think further to get the meaning. In one word, the story impresses every reader for not only its writing style, but also for usage of stylistic devices and adequate vocabulary. this paper makes a brief analysis of the plot and characters of the short novel A Rose for Emily, which enables readers to interpret morality and humanity in a specific way. Readers are more capable of understanding the text and how the reading process participates in the formation of meaning thanks to the reader-response theory. A Rose for Emily is not a conventional text that explicitly expresses its ideas, and even more unorthodox that readers have to participate in the reading process and produce their own understanding based on these segments written by William Faulkner.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>. William Faulkner .“A Rose for Emily” .Random house. Copyright 1930 and renewed ©1958P 253-254

<sup>45</sup> This source P 260-261

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