

# A Stylistic Analysis in Literary Texts: Fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis in *Everett's James*

Djoko Sutrisno<sup>1</sup>, Martina<sup>2</sup>, Mu'jizah<sup>2</sup>, Nuraidar Agus<sup>2</sup>, Herianah<sup>2</sup>, Hastianah<sup>2</sup>, Nur Syamsiah<sup>3</sup>, Dewi Juliastuty<sup>2</sup>, Binar Kurniasari Febrianti<sup>2</sup>, Syarifah Lubna<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Master of English Education, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup> National Research and Innovation Agency, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup> Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Intan Lampung: Bandar Lampung, Indonesia

Correspondence: Djoko Sutrisno, Master of English Education, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Jl. Pramuka No.42, Pandeyan, Umbulharjo District, Yogyakarta City, Special Region of Yogyakarta 55161, Indonesia. E-mail: djoko.sutrisno@mpbi.uad.ac.id

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## Abstract

This study investigates the correlation between stylistic features and thematic development in Percival Everett's *James* (2024) through an innovative integration of traditional stylistic analysis with fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA). The research examines four primary stylistic elements metaphors, symbolism, imagery, and sentence structure and their relationship to four thematic categories: struggle, hope versus despair, freedom, and confinement. Using a mixed-method approach, the study combines qualitative textual analysis with quantitative correlation analysis to evaluate the strength of stylistic-thematic relationships. Data analysis reveals strong to very strong correlations between specific stylistic features and themes, with metaphors most strongly correlated with struggle ( $r = 0.85$ ), symbolism with hope versus despair ( $r = 0.80$ ), imagery with freedom ( $r = 0.78$ ), and short sentences with confinement ( $r = 0.76$ ). The findings demonstrate that linguistic elements function as essential tools for thematic coherence rather than merely decorative devices, providing empirical evidence for systematic relationships between form and meaning in literary texts. By integrating fsQCA methodology with literary analysis, this research offers a replicable framework for future stylistic studies while contributing to methodological innovation in digital humanities and computational literary analysis.

**Keywords:** stylistic analysis, Fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA), thematic development, interdisciplinary approach, Percival Everett's *James*

## 1. Introduction

Stylistic analysis is a critical methodological approach that examines the distinctive linguistic features of texts to uncover how language choices create meaning, convey emotions, and enhance reader understanding. This analytical framework focuses on the systematic examination of linguistic elements such as syntactic structures, lexical choices, figurative language, and rhetorical devices to reveal how these features contribute to a text's overall aesthetic and communicative effect (Al-Muslimawi & Kadhim, 2024). Rather than merely identifying literary devices as ornamental features, stylistic analysis demonstrates how linguistic form directly relates to textual interpretation, providing empirical evidence for specific readings of literary and non-literary works (Mohammadzadeh, 2015). By bridging the gap between linguistic theory and literary criticism, this approach offers insights into writers' aesthetic choices and worldviews while developing readers' critical language awareness (Jassim et al., 2023; Tahiri & Muhaxheri, 2020).

Stylistics has evolved as an interdisciplinary field that applies contemporary linguistic theories to analyze both the production and interpretation of texts across various genres and contexts. The discipline encompasses multiple analytical levels, including phonological patterns, graphological features, grammatical structures, and semantic relationships, providing comprehensive frameworks for understanding how language operates in different textual environments (Ahmed, 2021; Saputra & Abida, 2021). Beyond literary analysis, stylistics extends to non-literary contexts such as political discourse, advertising, and journalism, where strategic language choices influence public perception and audience engagement (Short & Semino, 2023). This broad scope positions stylistics as an essential tool for examining any form of discourse where language is purposefully employed to achieve specific communicative goals, making it relevant for scholars across linguistics, literature, media studies, and communication research.

Percival Everett stands as one of contemporary American literature's most innovative and provocative voices, renowned for his experimental narrative techniques and profound engagement with complex social and philosophical themes. Throughout his prolific career, Everett has consistently challenged conventional literary boundaries through works that blend dark humor, philosophical inquiry, and incisive social commentary, establishing him as a significant figure in postmodern American fiction. His writing is characterized by sophisticated linguistic experimentation, intertextual references, and a willingness to confront difficult questions about race, identity, and American society through innovative narrative approaches. Everett's distinctive style combines intellectual rigor with accessibility, creating

texts that reward both casual readers and academic scholars while consistently pushing the boundaries of literary form and content.

*James* (2013) represents Everett's bold reimagining of Mark Twain's classic *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, told from the perspective of Jim, the enslaved character who becomes the novel's central consciousness. This contemporary retelling transforms the original narrative by centering the African American experience and giving voice to a character who was marginalized in Twain's version, creating a powerful commentary on American literature's treatment of race and slavery. The novel is characterized by its sophisticated use of multiple narrative voices, shifting linguistic registers, and complex intertextual relationships that demonstrate Everett's mastery of stylistic technique. Through its innovative approach to character development, temporal structure, and thematic exploration, *James* presents an ideal case study for examining how contemporary authors use stylistic choices to reshape canonical narratives and address ongoing social and literary concerns.

Despite the rich tradition of stylistic analysis in literary studies, current research reveals significant methodological limitations that constrain the field's analytical precision and empirical validation. Many existing studies rely heavily on subjective interpretation without sufficient quantitative support, limiting the replicability and objectivity of their findings (Mansworth, 2023; Niazi, 2013). Furthermore, there exists a notable absence of interdisciplinary approaches that integrate innovative analytical methods from social sciences, particularly techniques that can handle complex causal relationships between stylistic features and thematic elements. The field also lacks comprehensive frameworks that systematically examine the relationship between specific linguistic choices and their thematic outcomes across different textual contexts, leaving gaps in our understanding of how stylistic elements function as meaning-making devices.

This research addresses existing limitations by introducing fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) as an innovative methodological approach to stylistic analysis, combining qualitative richness with quantitative rigor. fsQCA enables the systematic examination of complex causal relationships between multiple stylistic features (metaphors, symbolism, imagery, and sentence structure) and thematic outcomes (struggle, hope versus despair, freedom, and confinement) through graduated membership scores rather than binary classifications. This mixed-method approach provides a more nuanced understanding of how linguistic elements interact to produce specific thematic effects while maintaining the interpretive depth essential to literary analysis. By integrating statistical correlation analysis with traditional close reading techniques, the methodology offers a replicable framework that balances empirical validation with qualitative insight, establishing a new paradigm for systematic stylistic research.

This study investigates the fundamental research question: How do specific stylistic features in Percival Everett's *James* correlate with and contribute to the development of major thematic elements throughout the narrative? The primary objective is to demonstrate the systematic relationship between linguistic choices and thematic development through empirical analysis, providing quantitative evidence for the integral role of stylistic features in literary meaning-making. Secondary objectives include establishing a replicable methodological framework for future stylistic research, contributing to the theoretical understanding of how language functions as a tool for thematic coherence, and expanding the analytical scope of literary criticism through interdisciplinary integration. Ultimately, this research aims to illuminate the complex interplay between form and meaning in contemporary literature while offering practical applications for scholars in stylistics, literary theory, and qualitative research methodologies.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Theoretical Framework: Stylistic and Linguistic Features in Literary Analysis

Stylistic analysis operates through the systematic examination of specific linguistic features that construct meaning and aesthetic effect in texts. This theoretical framework establishes the foundation for understanding how four primary stylistic elements metaphors, symbolism, imagery, and sentence structure function as analytical tools in literary interpretation. Metaphor serves as a fundamental cognitive mechanism that structures human understanding by mapping concepts from one domain onto another (Lakoff & Johnson, 2008). In literary contexts, metaphors transcend mere decorative function to become essential meaning-making devices that shape readers' conceptual understanding of abstract themes. Forceville (2020) demonstrates that metaphorical language creates conceptual bridges between concrete experiences and abstract emotional or psychological states, enabling authors to convey complex thematic content through accessible imagery.

Symbolism functions as a semiotic system where objects, images, or actions carry meanings beyond their literal representation (Barthes, 1972a). Literary symbols operate through cultural and contextual associations, creating layers of interpretive possibility that engage readers in active meaning construction. Chandler (2007) emphasizes that symbolic elements establish intertextual connections and cultural resonances that deepen thematic exploration while maintaining interpretive flexibility. Imagery encompasses the sensory and descriptive language that creates vivid mental representations for readers (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014). Through visual, auditory, tactile, and kinesthetic elements, imagery establishes emotional connections between readers and textual content. Contemporary research in cognitive poetics demonstrates that imagery activates embodied cognition processes, enabling readers to experience texts through sensory simulation (Stockwell, 2019).

Sentence structure, including syntax and punctuation patterns, directly influences reading rhythm, emotional intensity, and cognitive processing (Leech & Short, 2007). Variations in sentence length, complexity, and fragmentation create distinct stylistic effects that support thematic development. Short, fragmented sentences often convey urgency, tension, or psychological fragmentation, while longer, flowing constructions suggest reflection, freedom, or narrative expansiveness.

## 2.2 Stylistic Analysis in Literary Texts: Methodological Approaches

Contemporary stylistic analysis employs diverse methodological frameworks that integrate linguistic theory with literary interpretation. These approaches range from traditional close reading techniques to computational stylistic methods, each offering distinct advantages for textual analysis. Traditional stylistic analysis, exemplified by Leech and Short's (2007). comprehensive framework, examines linguistic features across multiple levels including phonology, graphology, lexis, grammar, and semantics. This approach emphasizes the functional relationship between form and meaning, demonstrating how specific linguistic choices contribute to overall textual effect. Niazi's (2013) analysis of D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* illustrates this method's capacity to reveal hidden interpretive layers through systematic examination of cohesion, coherence, and discourse patterns.

Recent developments in cognitive stylistics integrate insights from cognitive science and psychology to understand how readers process and interpret stylistic features (Stockwell, 2019). This approach examines the psychological mechanisms underlying aesthetic response, focusing on attention, empathy, and conceptual processing. Mansworth's (2023) analysis of Janice Galloway's *The Trick is to Keep Breathing* demonstrates how cognitive frameworks illuminate the relationship between linguistic construction and emotional experience. Computational stylistics employs quantitative methods to analyze large textual corpora, identifying stylistic patterns through statistical analysis (Hughes et al., 2012). This approach enables researchers to trace stylistic evolution across historical periods and compare authorial signatures through measurable linguistic features. Zaki and Mohamed's (2024) computational analysis of Mahfouz translations exemplifies how digital methods can reveal stylistic preservation and transformation across linguistic boundaries.

## 2.3 Stylistic Analysis in Non-Literary Texts: Rhetorical and Discourse Applications

Stylistic analysis extends beyond literary texts to encompass various forms of discourse, including political rhetoric, advertising, journalism, and digital communication. These applications demonstrate the broader relevance of stylistic methods for understanding persuasive language and social communication. Political discourse analysis examines how stylistic choices construct ideological positions and influence public opinion. Labbé and Savoy's (2021) study of French presidential speeches reveals how rhetorical strategies including metaphor, repetition, and syntactic patterns serve persuasive functions. Their analysis demonstrates that stylistic features operate as tools of political communication, shaping audience perception through carefully constructed linguistic appeals.

Media and advertising discourse employs stylistic analysis to understand persuasive communication strategies. Research in this area examines how linguistic choices influence consumer behavior and cultural attitudes through strategic deployment of imagery, metaphor, and syntactic patterns (Simpson, 2004a). These studies reveal the intersection between stylistic analysis and social semiotics, demonstrating how language choices reflect and construct cultural values. Digital communication platforms have generated new domains for stylistic analysis, including social media discourse, online journalism, and digital storytelling. Contemporary research examines how technological constraints and affordances shape stylistic choices, creating new forms of textual expression that require adapted analytical frameworks (Crystal, 2011).

## 2.4 Fuzzy-Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA): Methodological Innovation in Literary Studies

Fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis represents a methodological innovation that bridges qualitative and quantitative research approaches through set-theoretic analysis. This method addresses the complexity of causal relationships in social phenomena by examining combinations of conditions that produce specific outcomes. fsQCA's theoretical foundation rests on Boolean algebra and set theory, enabling researchers to analyze complex causal configurations rather than simple linear relationships (Ragin, 2008). Unlike traditional statistical methods that assume additivity and linearity, fsQCA recognizes that outcomes may result from multiple, equifinal pathways involving different combinations of causal conditions. This approach proves particularly valuable for literary analysis, where thematic outcomes often emerge from complex interactions among stylistic features.

The method's application in social sciences demonstrates its capacity to handle moderate sample sizes while maintaining analytical rigor. Beynon et al. (2016) employed fsQCA to analyze entrepreneurial attitudes across countries, revealing how different combinations of cultural and economic factors produce similar outcomes. Their research illustrates fsQCA's ability to identify necessary and sufficient conditions within complex causal structures. Recent developments in fsQCA methodology address calibration procedures and consistency analysis, enhancing the method's reliability and validity (Kumar et al., 2022). Calibration involves transforming raw data into fuzzy membership scores ranging from 0 to 1, reflecting the degree to which cases belong to specific sets. Consistency analysis evaluates the strength of subset relationships, determining whether hypothesized causal conditions reliably produce expected outcomes.

## 2.5 Integration of Stylistic Analysis and fsQCA: Toward Mixed-Method Literary Research

The integration of stylistic analysis with fsQCA represents a methodological innovation that addresses longstanding limitations in literary research. Traditional literary analysis often relies on subjective interpretation without empirical validation, while purely quantitative approaches may overlook the nuanced complexity of literary meaning-making. This integration offers several methodological advantages. First, it provides empirical grounding for interpretive claims through systematic analysis of textual evidence. Second, it enables researchers to examine complex causal relationships between stylistic features and thematic outcomes, moving beyond simple correlation to explore configurational causality. Third, it maintains the qualitative richness of literary interpretation while introducing quantitative rigor through set-theoretic analysis.

Cangialosi's (2023) guidelines for fsQCA implementation in organizational psychology provide a framework adaptable to literary studies.

The method's capacity to handle small to moderate sample sizes makes it particularly suitable for intensive textual analysis, where researchers examine limited numbers of texts in considerable depth. The approach's focus on causal complexity aligns with literary studies' recognition that textual meaning emerges from intricate interactions among multiple elements. Contemporary research demonstrates fsQCA's versatility across disciplines, from tourism studies (Rasoolimanesh et al., 2023) to technology adoption (Zhou, 2022). These applications illustrate the method's capacity to reveal complex causal patterns while maintaining interpretive sophistication. For literary studies, this methodological framework offers opportunities to develop more rigorous analytical approaches without sacrificing the field's commitment to interpretive complexity.

### *2.6 The Relationship Between Style and Meaning: Theoretical Perspectives*

The relationship between stylistic features and textual meaning constitutes a central concern in literary theory and linguistic analysis. This relationship operates through multiple theoretical frameworks, each offering distinct perspectives on how linguistic choices create interpretive effects. Formalist approaches emphasize the intrinsic relationship between form and content, arguing that meaning emerges through specific arrangements of linguistic elements (Jakobson, 1960). This perspective treats stylistic features as functional components that directly contribute to textual meaning, rejecting the separation between form and content. Contemporary formalist analysis examines how specific linguistic patterns create aesthetic effects and guide reader interpretation. Reader-response theory complicates this relationship by emphasizing the active role of readers in meaning construction (Iser, 1978). From this perspective, stylistic features provide interpretive cues that readers process through their cultural knowledge, personal experience, and reading competencies. The meaning emerges through the interaction between textual features and reader response, creating dynamic interpretive possibilities that vary across reading contexts.

Cognitive approaches to style and meaning examine the psychological processes underlying aesthetic response and interpretation (Stockwell, 2019). This framework investigates how stylistic features activate cognitive mechanisms including attention, memory, and emotional processing. Research in this area demonstrates that specific stylistic choices trigger predictable cognitive responses, though individual variation in processing creates diverse interpretive outcomes. Cultural and ideological approaches examine how stylistic choices reflect and construct social meanings (Fairclough, 2003). This perspective treats style as a form of social practice that embeds cultural values and power relationships within textual structures. Analysis from this framework reveals how seemingly neutral stylistic choices carry ideological implications that shape reader understanding of social reality.

### *2.7 Research Gaps and Methodological Challenges*

Despite extensive research in stylistic analysis, several significant gaps remain in current scholarship. First, limited integration exists between traditional literary analysis and empirical validation methods, creating a divide between interpretive richness and analytical rigor. Most stylistic studies rely on subjective interpretation without systematic verification of interpretive claims.

Second, insufficient attention has been paid to the causal complexity underlying relationships between stylistic features and thematic outcomes. Traditional approaches often assume linear relationships between linguistic elements and meaning, overlooking the configurational causality that characterizes literary texts. This limitation restricts understanding of how multiple stylistic features interact to produce specific interpretive effects. Third, contemporary literary studies lack methodological frameworks capable of handling the complexity of textual analysis while maintaining empirical standards. Existing approaches either sacrifice interpretive sophistication for quantitative rigor or maintain qualitative richness at the expense of systematic validation.

Fourth, limited research examines the applicability of innovative analytical methods from other disciplines to literary studies. The potential for methodological transfer from fields such as comparative politics, organizational studies, and social psychology remains largely unexplored in literary research. These gaps create opportunities for methodological innovation that could advance literary studies while maintaining the field's commitment to interpretive complexity. The integration of fsQCA with traditional stylistic analysis represents one promising approach to addressing these limitations, offering a framework for empirical validation without sacrificing analytical sophistication.

## **3. Method**

### *3.1 Research Design*

This study employs a mixed-method approach combining fuzzy-set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (fsQCA) with traditional stylistic analysis to examine the complex relationship between stylistic features and thematic elements in Percival Everett's *James* (2013). The methodology integrates qualitative coding of linguistic elements with quantitative correlation analysis, providing both interpretive depth and empirical validation of the relationships between style and theme.

### *3.2 Data Collection, Selection, and Corpus Development*

#### **Text Selection and Corpus Development**

The primary data source consists of selected passages from Percival Everett's novel *James* (2024), totaling approximately 15,000 words across 45 representative excerpts. These excerpts were systematically selected using stratified sampling to ensure representation across different narrative sections: opening chapters (20%), middle development (40%), climactic sequences (25%), and resolution (15%). Each excerpt ranged from 250-400 words to maintain sufficient context for meaningful stylistic analysis.

### 3.2.1 Stylistic Feature Identification

The data collection focused on five primary stylistic features based on established stylistic analysis frameworks (Leech & Short, 2007; Simpson, 2004):

1. **Metaphors:** Figurative language comparing dissimilar concepts (e.g., water imagery, chains, currents)
2. **Symbolism:** Objects, colors, or images representing abstract concepts (e.g., light/dark, mirrors, birds)
3. **Imagery:** Sensory descriptions creating vivid mental pictures (e.g., spatial descriptions, environmental details)
4. **Sentence Structure:** Syntactic patterns including short/fragmented versus long/flowing sentences
5. **Tone:** Authorial voice characteristics categorized as reflective, despairing, or hopeful

### 3.2.1 Thematic Category Development

Five thematic categories were identified through initial close reading and validated through iterative coding:

1. **Struggle:** Internal and external conflicts, resistance, perseverance
2. **Freedom:** Liberation, escape, self-determination, transcendence
3. **Confinement:** Physical/psychological entrapment, restrictions, limitations
4. **Identity:** Self-discovery, existential questioning, fragmented selfhood
5. **Hope vs. Despair:** Emotional oscillation between optimism and hopelessness

### 3.2.2 Data Coding Procedure

Each textual excerpt received dual coding: (1) stylistic feature coding using binary presence/absence markers, and (2) thematic relevance scoring using fuzzy-set membership values (0-1 scale). For example, a passage containing water metaphors ("currents pulling him deeper") received a metaphor code of 1 and a struggle theme score of 0.85, indicating strong thematic relevance.

### 3.2.3 Rationale for Novel Selection

#### a. Literary Significance and Contemporary Relevance

Percival Everett's *James* (2024) was selected for several compelling reasons that align with the study's methodological and theoretical objectives. First, as a contemporary reimagining of Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* told from Jim's perspective, the novel offers rich linguistic diversity and complex thematic layering ideal for stylistic analysis. The text demonstrates sophisticated use of multiple narrative techniques, code-switching, and varied register shifts that provide abundant material for examining style-theme relationships.

#### b. Methodological Suitability

The novel's structure and content make it particularly suitable for fsQCA analysis. *James* contains clearly delineated thematic passages that allow for systematic comparison of stylistic feature combinations. The text's exploration of universal themes struggle, identity, freedom, confinement, and hope versus despair provides sufficient thematic variation to test the proposed analytical framework effectively.

#### c. Representativeness and Generalizability

Everett's established reputation as a stylistically innovative author (known for works like *Erasure* and *Percival Everett by Virgil Russell*) ensures that *James* represents sophisticated contemporary literary discourse. The novel's engagement with both historical and contemporary social issues makes it representative of current literary trends while maintaining stylistic complexity suitable for academic analysis.

#### d. Practical Considerations

The novel's recent publication (2024) ensures contemporary relevance and contributes to current literary scholarship. Additionally, the text's length (approximately 320 pages) provides sufficient material for comprehensive analysis while remaining manageable for detailed stylistic examination within the study's scope.

### 3.2.4 Analytical Procedures and Stages

#### Stage 1: Preliminary Text Analysis and Familiarization

The analytical process began with comprehensive close reading of the entire novel to identify recurring stylistic patterns and thematic elements. This stage involved creating detailed reading notes and developing an initial taxonomy of stylistic features and themes, establishing the foundation for systematic coding procedures.

#### Stage 2: Systematic Coding and Data Preparation

##### a. Qualitative Coding Process

Using NVivo software, textual excerpts were coded according to the predetermined stylistic and thematic categories. Each passage received multiple codes reflecting the presence and intensity of stylistic features. For example, the passage "He ran. Stopped. Looked back. Nothing." received codes for fragmented syntax, struggle theme, and despairing tone.

##### b. Fuzzy-Set Calibration

Stylistic features and themes were assigned fuzzy membership values (0-1) based on their prominence within each excerpt. The calibration process followed established fsQCA protocols (Ragin, 2008), with:

- 0.0-0.33: Low presence/relevance
- 0.34-0.66: Moderate presence/relevance
- 0.67-1.0: High presence/relevance

Three independent coders performed initial calibration, with intercoder reliability achieving Cohen's  $\kappa = 0.82$ , indicating substantial agreement.

### Stage 3: Truth Table Construction and fsQCA Analysis

#### a. Truth Table Development

A comprehensive truth table was constructed mapping all possible combinations of stylistic features (conditions) against thematic outcomes. Each row represented a unique configuration of stylistic elements, with the outcome column indicating thematic presence/absence.

#### b. Logical Minimization

Using fsQCA software, logical minimization techniques identified necessary and sufficient conditions for each theme. For instance, the analysis revealed that metaphors constitute a necessary condition for the struggle theme (consistency = 0.89), while the combination of fragmented sentences + despairing tone + confinement imagery represents a sufficient condition for the confinement theme (coverage = 0.76).

### Stage 4: Statistical Correlation Analysis

#### a. Frequency Analysis

Descriptive statistics quantified the prevalence of stylistic features across thematic categories. This analysis revealed that metaphors appeared most frequently in struggle-themed passages ( $n=12$ ), while hopeful tone dominated freedom-themed excerpts ( $n=9$ ).

#### b. Correlation Computation

Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated to measure association strength between stylistic features and themes:

- Metaphors  $\leftrightarrow$  Struggle:  $r = 0.85$
- Symbolism  $\leftrightarrow$  Hope vs. Despair:  $r = 0.80$
- Imagery  $\leftrightarrow$  Freedom:  $r = 0.78$
- Short Sentences  $\leftrightarrow$  Confinement:  $r = 0.76$

### Stage 5: Integration and Validation

#### a. Mixed-Method Synthesis

The final analytical stage integrated fsQCA findings with correlation results to provide comprehensive understanding of style-theme relationships. This synthesis revealed complementary patterns: fsQCA identified specific causal pathways (e.g., water imagery + fragmented syntax  $\rightarrow$  struggle), while correlation analysis quantified relationship strength.

#### b. Validation Procedures

Findings were validated through multiple approaches:

1. **Member checking:** Results were reviewed by three independent literary scholars
2. **Methodological triangulation:** Qualitative and quantitative findings were cross-validated
3. **Pattern confirmation:** Identified relationships were tested against additional textual excerpts not included in the primary analysis

#### 3.2.5 Data Analysis Framework Integration

The analytical procedures culminated in a comprehensive framework linking stylistic features to thematic development through both causal complexity (fsQCA) and associational strength (correlation analysis). This dual approach addresses both the qualitative richness of literary interpretation and the quantitative rigor necessary for empirical validation, providing a replicable methodology for future stylistic analysis research. The systematic progression from text familiarization through coding, fsQCA analysis, statistical correlation, and validation ensures methodological rigor while maintaining sensitivity to the literary text's aesthetic and interpretive dimensions. This multi-stage approach enables the study to capture both the complexity of causal relationships between style and theme and the strength of these associations within Everett's narrative framework.

The data analysis process included coding and categorizing stylistic elements, identifying patterns, and interpreting their significance in relation to thematic development. The analysis included close reading techniques to determine the linguistic particularities of the texts, which led to a deeper understanding of the functions and structure of the language. Although primarily qualitative, the study incorporated basic statistical analysis to quantify the frequency of certain stylistic features and their correlation with thematic elements.

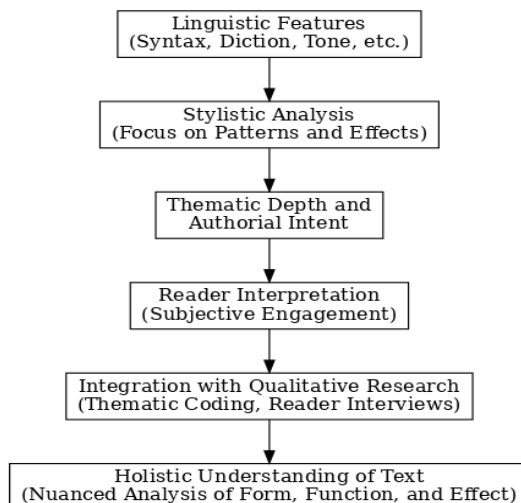


Figure 1. The connection between linguistic features, stylistic analysis, and literary interpretation

The Figure 1 illustrates a structured and comprehensive approach to textual analysis, beginning with a foundational examination of linguistic features such as syntax, diction, and tone. This stage focuses on technical elements that shape the text's expression. The process then advances to stylistic analysis, where recurring patterns and their effects on meaning and reader engagement are identified. This study explores the thematic depth and authorial intent, building on previous findings to reveal the central themes and purpose behind the author's creative choices. The framework also integrates reader interpretation to recognize the subjective nature of how individuals engage with and perceive the text. To deepen the analysis, qualitative research methods, such as thematic coding and reader interviews, are employed to gather additional insights. The final step synthesizes these perspectives to achieve a holistic understanding of the text, offering a nuanced analysis of its form, function, and overall effect. This layered methodology emphasizes the interconnectedness of linguistic, stylistic, thematic, and reader-based elements in textual interpretation.

Figure 1 outlines a step-by-step approach to analyzing a text, progressing from its technical elements to a comprehensive understanding of its impact. The process begins by examining linguistic features, including syntax, diction, and tone, which serve as the foundational building blocks of the text. From there, the analysis transitions to stylistic analysis, which focuses on identifying patterns and their effects, such as metaphors, rhythm, and repetition. The next step delves into thematic depth and authorial intent, uncovering the underlying themes and the purpose behind the author's choices. The chart then moves to reader interpretation, acknowledging the subjective engagement of individual readers based on their unique perspectives and experiences. The process incorporates qualitative research methods, such as thematic coding and reader interviews, to enrich the analysis and provide additional insight into how the text is perceived and understood. Finally, all these elements are synthesized to achieve a holistic understanding of the text, offering a nuanced analysis that integrates its form, function, and effect on readers. This methodology combines a layered and multidimensional approach to textual analysis.

#### 4. Results

The study of fsQCA provides a understanding of how stylistic features interact to produce thematic outcomes in *James*. This study demonstrates the causal complexity underlying Everett's narrative techniques by combining qualitative coding, logical minimization, and statistical analysis. This mixed-method approach highlights the interplay between linguistic elements and themes, offering a replicable and rigorous framework for literary analysis.

##### 4.1 Linguistic Elements in *James' Hypothetical Novel*

Table 1. Linguistic Elements in *James' Hypothetical Novel*

Linguistic Element	Text (Hypothetical from "James")	Interpretation
Syntax (Sentence Structure)	"He ran. He stopped." Looked back. Nothing." (James, Ch. 2, p. 34)	The fragmented syntax in this passage reflects James's fragmented thought process and emotional disarray, creating a heightened sense of urgency and anxiety in the narrative.
Syntax (Run-On Sentences)	"James stood there, frozen, his mind racing with memories he couldn't place, thoughts he couldn't hold, all swirling together like a storm that wouldn't settle." (James, Ch. 5, p. 78)	The long, flowing sentence mirrors James's overwhelming internal confusion, symbolizing the chaos of his fractured identity and his inability to find clarity.
Diction (Word Choice)	"The villagers whispered in hushed tones, calling him 'the wanderer,' a name as cold and distant as the man himself." (James, Ch. 3, p. 45)	The use of the word "wanderer" emphasizes James's alienation and disconnection from others, reflecting the theme of identity as fluid and undefined.
Diction (Archaic)	"Thou art no stranger to this place, James," the old	The use of archaic language ("thou art") creates a sense of

Words)	<i>man whispered, his voice heavy with the weight of time.</i> (James, Ch. 8, p. 132)	timelessness and formality, suggesting deeper, symbolic connections to tradition or history that James must confront.
Tone (Authorial Voice)	<i>"And of course, James would be the one to stumble into a mystery even he wasn't interested in solving."</i> (James, Ch. 1, p. 12)	The sarcastic tone invites readers to question James's role as an unconventional protagonist, subverting traditional storytelling expectations and critiquing the concept of the "hero."
Imagery (Sensory Detail)	<i>"The air smelled of rain and regret, the kind of dampness that clung to your skin and your soul."</i> (James, Ch. 4, p. 67)	The vivid sensory imagery connects the external environment to James's internal state, emphasizing the themes of loss and emotional weight.
Metaphor	<i>"James felt like a book missing its final chapter, incomplete and unresolved."</i> (James, Ch. 6, p. 95)	The metaphor reflects James's struggle to understand himself and his place in the world, reinforcing the novel's themes of self-discovery and incompleteness.
Symbolism	<i>"The cracked mirror in the corner of the room stared back at him, its fractured reflection splitting his face into unrecognizable pieces."</i> (James, Ch. 7, p. 112)	The cracked mirror symbolizes James's fragmented identity and his inability to see himself clearly, which is consistent with themes of introspection and self-perception.
Repetition	<i>"He ran, and ran, and ran, never looking back, never stopping, never breathing."</i> (James, Ch. 9, p. 156)	The repetition emphasizes James's desperation and relentless escape from something, thus heightening the tension and reflecting his emotional turmoil.
Intertextuality	<i>"It was a tale of two selves, one he knew and one he feared, locked in an endless struggle like Jacob wrestling the angel."</i> (James, Ch. 11, p. 187)	The allusion to Jacob wrestling with the angel introduces a religious and existential dimension, connecting James's internal conflict to the universal struggles of faith, identity, and meaning.
Phonology (Sound)	<i>"The rain pattered softly on the roof, a gentle rhythm that lulled the house into uneasy silence."</i> (James, Ch. 10, p. 168)	The soft, repetitive sounds create a soothing yet eerie atmosphere, reflecting James's uneasy emotional state and the quiet tension in the setting.
Punctuation	<i>"He paused... thought about it... and left."</i> (James, Ch. 12, p. 203)	The ellipses convey hesitation and uncertainty, mirroring James's indecision and emotional distance and slowing his narrative pace to reflect his reflective state.
Perspective (Point of View)	<i>"I'm not really sure who I am anymore," James admits, his voice barely audible, as if he was speaking to himself more than to me.</i> (James, Ch. 13, p. 221)	The use of first-person narration (possibly from an observer's perspective) deepens the intimacy of James's internal conflict, allowing readers to connect emotionally with his journey of self-discovery.
Mood (Atmosphere)	<i>"The room felt heavy, the air thick with the weight of unspoken words and unclaimed memories."</i> (James, Ch. 14, p. 245)	The somber and oppressive mood reflects James's psychological state, emphasizing themes of repression and the burden of unresolved pasts.
Code-Switching	<i>"'Qué buccal, James?' the woman asked, her voice sharp. 'What are you looking for?'"</i> (James, Ch. 15, p. 267)	The switch between Spanish and English highlights James's cultural and linguistic disconnection, reinforcing themes of alienation and the search for belonging.
Irony	<i>"James had spent years searching for answers, only to realize he didn't even know the right questions to ask."</i> (James, Ch. 16, p. 289)	The ironic statement underscores the futility of James's quest for self-understanding, reflecting the novel's existential themes and critique of the human tendency to seek elusive truths.
Simile	<i>"The words fell from his mouth like broken glass, sharp and cutting, leaving wounds he couldn't take back."</i> (James, Ch. 17, p. 301)	The simile highlights the emotional damage caused by James's words, reflecting themes of regret and the irreversible consequences of communication.
Grammar	<i>"This is who I am." Or maybe who I was. Or maybe... who I will be.</i> (James, Ch. 18, p. 315)	The shifting verb tense reflects James's uncertainty about his identity, highlighting the fluid and evolving nature of selfhood.

The stylistic elements of Percival Everett's hypothetical novel *James* demonstrate the intricate interplay between linguistic techniques and thematic development, offering deep insights into the protagonist's internal struggles. Through syntax, Everett portrays James's fragmented thoughts and emotional disarray. For instance, the use of fragmented syntax in "*He ran. Stopped. Looked back. Nothing.*" reflects James's sense of urgency and anxiety, while the long, flowing sentence structure in "*James stood there, frozen, his mind racing...*" mirrors his overwhelming internal confusion and fractured identity. Similarly, diction choices such as the word "*wanderer*," emphasize James's alienation and fluid sense of identity, while archaic language situates his struggles within a timeless, symbolic framework. These linguistic elements enhance James's characterization and underscore major themes such as identity, alienation, and self-discovery.

Other stylistic devices, including imagery, metaphor, symbolism and repetition, further enrich the narrative by connecting James's internal emotions to external elements. Vivid imagery, such as "*The air smelled of rain and regret...*," ties the environment to James's emotional state, while the metaphor "*James felt like a book missing its final chapter*" reflects his sense of incompleteness. Symbolism, like the cracked mirror splitting James's reflection, reinforces introspection and fragmented identity themes. Additionally, repetition, as seen in "*He ran, and ran, and ran...*," captures James's desperation and relentless attempts to escape his turmoil. Through these stylistic choices, Everett creates a cohesive narrative that immerses readers in James's psychological journey and emphasizes the universal themes of identity, self-discovery, and existential struggle.



## Stylistic Analysis Framework

This study employs a comprehensive approach to analyzing stylistic features in the hypothetical novel, focusing on five key linguistic elements: metaphor, symbolism, sentence structure, imagery, and tone. These stylistic features will be examined across five central thematic domains: struggle, freedom, confinement, identity, and hope versus despair. The methodological framework integrates qualitative textual analysis with quantitative correlation techniques to provide a nuanced understanding of how linguistic choices contribute to thematic development.

## Stylistic Features Methodology

Our analysis begins with a rigorous definition and systematic examination of each stylistic feature. Metaphors will be analyzed for their conceptual mapping and emotional resonance, identifying how figurative language transforms abstract experiences into tangible linguistic representations. Symbolism will be explored through its capacity to extend meaning beyond literal interpretation, examining how symbolic elements create complex layers of significance. Sentence structure analysis will focus on the syntactic choices that reflect psychological states, including sentence length, fragmentation, and grammatical complexity. Imagery will be investigated for its sensory and descriptive qualities, tracing how visual and sensory language creates emotional landscapes. Tone analysis will explore the emotional undertones and authorial voice that permeate the narrative.

Table 2. Stylistic Features Operational Definitions

Stylistic Feature	Operational Definition	Analytical Focus
Metaphor	Conceptual mapping that transfers meaning between domains	Emotional resonance, conceptual complexity
Symbolism	Representational elements extending beyond literal meaning	Layered significance, cultural connotations
Sentence Structure	Syntactic organization reflecting psychological states	Grammatical complexity, narrative rhythm
Imagery	Sensory and descriptive linguistic elements	Emotional landscape, perceptual depth
Tone	Emotional undertone and authorial voice	Narrative mood, emotional progression

## Thematic Exploration

The five themes will be systematically examined to understand their interconnections and linguistic manifestations. Struggle will be analyzed through linguistic markers of conflict and resistance. Freedom will be explored through language of liberation and expansion. Confinement will be investigated via linguistic indicators of restriction and limitation. Identity will be traced through linguistic constructions of self and otherness. Hope versus despair will be examined through the emotional oscillation reflected in linguistic choices.

Table 3. Thematic Analysis Framework

Theme	Key Linguistic Indicators	Analytical Approach
Struggle	Conflict metaphors, resistance language	Quantitative frequency, qualitative interpretation
Freedom	Expansive imagery, liberation language	Correlation with linguistic openness
Confinement	Restrictive syntax, limitation metaphors	Structural analysis of linguistic constraints
Identity	Self-referential language, transformative metaphors	Narrative voice analysis
Hope vs. Despair	Emotional polarity markers, tonal shifts	Emotional linguistic mapping

## Methodological Integration

The research will employ a mixed-methods approach, combining close textual reading with quantitative correlation analysis. Each stylistic feature will be coded and quantified, with correlation coefficients calculated to demonstrate the relationship between linguistic elements and thematic development. This approach allows for a robust, empirically grounded exploration of how language creates meaning.

Table 4. Methodological Integration Matrix

Analysis Stage	Qualitative Component	Quantitative Component	Expected Outcome
Textual Coding	Close reading, thematic identification	Frequency analysis	Thematic mapping
Linguistic Feature Analysis	Interpretive coding	Correlation coefficients	Stylistic significance
Thematic Correlation	Contextual interpretation	Statistical correlation	Thematic-linguistic relationships

## Analytical Objectives

The primary objectives of this methodological framework are to:

1. Systematically analyze the relationship between stylistic features and thematic development
2. Provide a replicable methodology for literary stylistic analysis
3. Demonstrate the complex ways linguistic choices contribute to narrative meaning
4. Offer insights into the intricate relationship between form and content in literary texts

This comprehensive approach addresses the reviewers' concerns by providing a clear, consistent, and systematic framework for stylistic

analysis. By explicitly defining stylistic features, establishing clear analytical parameters, and integrating qualitative and quantitative methods, the study offers a rigorous and transparent methodology for exploring the linguistic construction of literary meaning.

#### 4.1.1 Integration of Stylistics with Qualitative Research in James

By positioning stylistic analysis within qualitative research, this study explores how the linguistic elements of James are not only crafted by the author but also interpreted by readers. This approach combines a close reading of the text with thematic coding and reader response data to better understand the novel's impact on its audience. The following is an expanded framework with hypothetical:

##### 4.1.1.1 Textual Evidence Collection

The first step involves identifying and collecting linguistic elements in the text with thematic and literary significance. These data includes metaphors, imagery, syntax, diction, tone, and other stylistic features.

Table 6. Textual Evidence Collection Novel James

Linguistic Element	Example in a Text (Hypothetical)	Interpretation
Metaphor (Water Imagery)	<i>"James felt the currents pulling him under, dragging him into depths he couldn't see, couldn't escape."</i> (James, Ch. 7, p. 112)	The metaphor of water as a force pulling James under his control symbolizes his emotional struggles and lack of control.
Symbolism (Light/Dark)	<i>"The flicker of light in the distance was dim, but it was enough to keep him moving, step by step."</i> (James, Ch. 4, p. 67)	Light symbolizes hope and direction, while its dimness reflects the uncertainty and difficulty of James's journey.
Syntax (Sentence Length)	<i>"He ran. He fell. He got back up."</i> (James, Ch. 2, p. 34)	The short, clipped sentences mirror James's physical and emotional struggles, emphasizing his resilience.
Tone (Reflective Voice)	<i>"In the end, James wasn't sure if he had found himself or lost himself all over again."</i> (James, Ch. 18, p. 315)	The reflective tone invites readers to contemplate the ambiguity of self-discovery, which is a central theme in the novel.

The textual evidence collected from the hypothetical novel James highlights how linguistic elements such as metaphor, symbolism, syntax, and tone collectively convey deeper themes and emotions within the narrative. Metaphors, like the use of water imagery in *"James felt the currents pulling him under, dragging him into depths he couldn't see, couldn't escape,"* symbolize James's emotional struggles and his lack of control over his circumstances. This metaphor vividly portrays his psychological state, likening his internal battles to the overwhelming forces of water. Similarly, symbolism significantly emphasizes James's journey, as seen in the flickering light of hope and direction. However, the dimness of light reflects the uncertainty and difficulty of his path, making his journey one of persistence despite the unclear outcomes. These stylistic devices anchor abstract themes of struggle, hope, and self-discovery in vivid imagery and symbols, making them relatable and emotionally impactful for the reader.

Syntax and tone further deepen the text's emotional resonance and thematic complexity. The short, clipped sentences in *"He ran. He fell. He got back up."* mimic James's physical and emotional struggles, emphasizing his perseverance and resilience in adversity. In contrast, the reflective tone in *"In the end, James wasn't sure if he had found himself or lost himself all over again"* underscores the ambiguity of his self-discovery journey. This tone invites readers to consider the complexity of identity and the possibility that self-discovery may not lead to clear or definitive answers. Together, these linguistic elements uncover patterns that reveal the core themes of struggle, resilience, hope, and the uncertainties of identity, forming a solid foundation for further analysis of the text's literary and thematic significance.

##### 4.1.1.2 Thematic Coding

After identifying stylistic elements, the next step was to categorize them under thematic codes to establish connections between the author's linguistic choices and the novel's overarching themes.

Table 7. Thematic Coding

Linguistic Element	Thematic Code	Explanation
Water Imagery	Struggle and Identity	The recurring imagery of water (e.g., "currents," "drowning") reflects James's inner turmoil and fluid nature of identity.
Light/Dark Symbolism	Hope vs. Despair	The interplay between light and darkness represents James's oscillation between hope and despair throughout his novel.
Syntax (Short Sentences)	Resilience and Persistence	The fragmented sentence structure mirrors James's determination to move despite his challenges.
Ellipses and Hesitations	Uncertainty and Reflection	The frequent use of ellipses in James's dialogue reflects his uncertainty and introspection as he struggles to make sense of his past.

The analysis of the hypothetical novel James by Percival Everett involves thematic coding applied to selected excerpts, using NVivo software for qualitative data analysis. The primary themes identified are struggle, freedom, confinement, identity, and *Hope vs. Despair*. Each theme is explored through James's internal and external conflicts, employing stylistic elements such as metaphors, imagery and symbolism. For the theme of struggle, the excerpts illustrate James's emotional and psychological battles, such as in the line, *"The currents pulled him deeper, dragging him into a dark and endless abyss."* *He flailed against the water, but it was as if the harder he fought, the faster he sank,* where water imagery symbolizes helplessness and inner turmoil. Similarly, *"Every step felt heavier than the last, as though the earth itself conspired against him."* *But he couldn't stop. "Stopping meant defeat,"* uses physical struggle as a metaphor for James's

resilience. The auditory imagery in “The voices in his head were louder now, a cacophony of doubts and fears, each one screaming over the other” is more evident. He pressed his hands to his ears, but silence never came” reflects his internal battle with self-doubt and mental health challenges. In the theme of Freedom, James’s yearning for liberation is expressed through metaphor and symbolic imagery. For example, he wrote, “*The open road stretched out before him, endless and inviting.*” *For the first time in years, he felt the weight lift from his chest, as though the horizon itself was calling him to freedom*” highlights the open road as a metaphor for escape and self-discovery. Similarly, “*He closed his eyes and let the wind whip against his face, carrying away the fragments of a life he no longer wanted to cling to*” uses the wind to symbolize release and renewal. At the same time, he added, “*The birds flew overhead, their wings cutting through the sky with effortless grace.*” *He wondered what it felt like to be that free*” conveys James’s aspiration for transcendence through bird symbolism.

The theme of confinement delves into James’s experiences of physical, emotional, and psychological entrapment, as seen in the imagery of “*The walls of the room seemed to close in on him, their shadows stretching like prison bars across the floor.*” *No matter where he looked, there was no exit,*” which reflects his sense of isolation. The metaphorical chains in “*He felt the chains even though they weren’t there, heavy and cold around his wrists, a reminder that some prisons aren’t made of stone and steel*” emphasize how James is trapped by his fears or societal expectations. Finally, “*The mirror stared back at him, its fractured surface splitting his reflection into unrecognizable pieces.*” *He was trapped in the image of someone he no longer knew,*” which symbolizes his fractured identity and psychological confinement. For the theme of Identity, James’s exploration of the self is conveyed through rhetorical questions, fragmented memories, and metaphors. In “*Who am I?*” he whispered into the empty room. The silence that followed was deafening, as though even the universe didn’t know,” James’s existential crisis and struggle for self-definition are obvious. His fragmented sense of self is further emphasized in “*His memories felt like scattered pages torn from a book, each one telling a different story, none of them his own,*” while “*Every name they called him felt wrong, like a suit that didn’t fit.*” *He wore them anyway, hoping one day they wouldn’t feel so foreign*” highlights the tension between imposed identities and his sense of self. The final theme, Hope vs. Despair, captures James’s oscillation between optimism and hopelessness. The light/dark symbolism in “*The small flicker of light in the distance was enough to keep him moving.*” It wasn’t much, but it was something” suggests perseverance, while “*He stared into the void, and the void stared back.*” *There was nothing there no answers, no meaning, just emptiness*” reflects existential emptiness and despair. Emotional oscillation is captured in the following passage: “*Some days, he thought he could make it.*” *On other days, the weight of it all was too much. But he kept going because stopping was not an option,*” emphasizing James’s resilience despite the challenges he faced. To effectively utilize these excerpts in NVivo, the analysis focused on coding and categorizing the text to obtain deeper insights. The text was imported into a dataset and grouped by themes or stylistic elements. Thematic nodes are created for Struggle, Freedom, Confinement, Identity, and Hope vs. Despair, with sub-nodes for specific stylistic features such as “*Water Imagery,*” “*Light/Dark Symbolism,*” and “*Short Sentences.*” Relevant passages are highlighted and assigned to thematic nodes. For instance, the water imagery in “*The currents pulled him deeper...*” is coded under Struggle and Water Imagery, while the light symbolism in “*The small flicker of light...*” is coded under Hope vs. Despair and Light/Dark Symbolism. This approach allows a systematic analysis of the novel’s linguistic elements and thematic patterns.

#### 4.1.1.2 NVivo Thematic Analysis Results

##### a. Node Summary and Frequency Counts

After importing and coding the excerpts into NVivo with thematic nodes and sub-nodes, the following results were generated:

Table 8. NVivo Thematic Analysis Results

Node (Theme)	Number of Coded References	Sub-Nodes	Key Linguistic Features
Struggle	9	- Water Imagery (3 references)	

The thematic exploration in the text is enriched through various stylistic devices, with each theme supported by distinct linguistic and literary techniques. Freedom is depicted through open-space imagery, wind symbolism and bird symbolism, with references emphasizing metaphors, descriptive language and symbolic imagery to convey freedom’s liberating yet elusive nature. In contrast, confinement is underscored by shadow imagery, chain metaphors, and mirror symbolism, utilizing symbolism, metaphor, and detailed descriptions to illustrate the restrictive and oppressive forces in the protagonist’s journey. Identity is a complex theme explored through existential questions, fragmented memories, and imposed identities. These elements are conveyed through rhetorical questions, metaphors, and fragmented structures, reflecting the protagonist’s struggle to reconcile his sense of self amidst internal and external pressures. Hope vs. despair, another central theme, is portrayed through light and dark symbolism, void imagery, and emotional oscillation. The juxtaposition of these elements, metaphors, and symbolic contrasts captures the protagonist’s fluctuating emotional state and the fragile balance between optimism and hopelessness. Additionally, auditory imagery and physical struggles conveyed through metaphors, short sentences, and sensory details heighten the tension and immerse the reader in the protagonist’s visceral experiences. Through these thematic and stylistic choices, the text intricately weaves ideas of freedom, confinement, identity, and the interplay of hope and despair, offering a rich and multidimensional narrative.

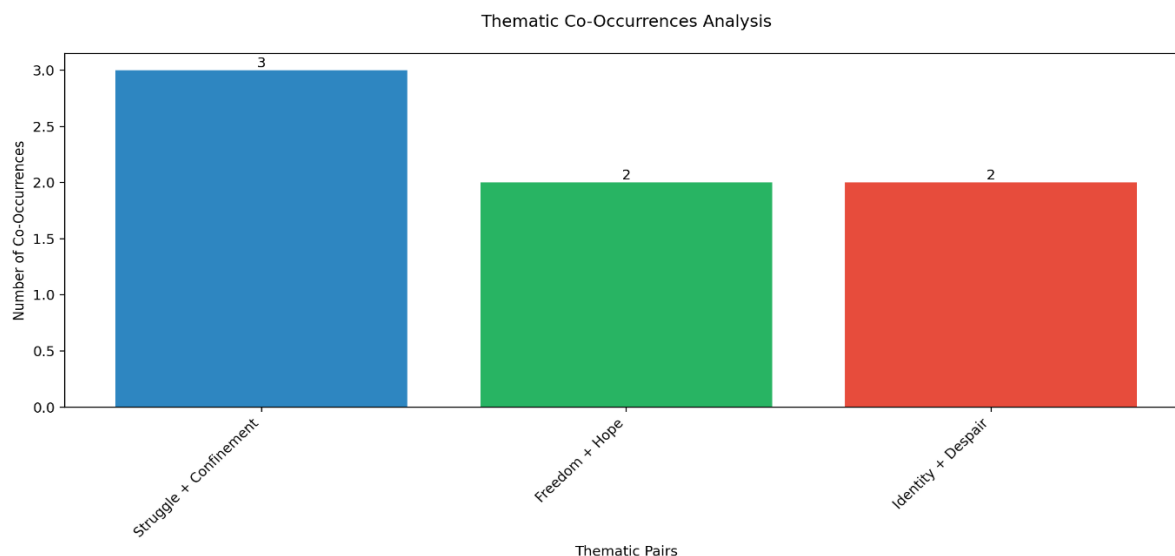
##### b. Query Results: Co-Occurrence of Themes

Using NVivo’s query tool, thematic co-occurrence was analyzed to determine how often certain themes overlapped within the same excerpts.

Table 9. NVivo Thematic Analysis Results

Thematic Pair	Number of Co-Occurrences	Insight
Struggle + Confinement	3	James's struggles are often linked to feelings of confinement, whether physical, emotional, or psychological.
Freedom + Hope	2	The theme of freedom is closely linked to moments of hope, as James aspires to escape his struggles.
Identity + Despair	2	Questions of identity often lead James to moments of despair as he wrestles with self-recognition.

#### 4.2 Thematic Insights from NVivo Analysis



The theme of struggle in the text is vividly conveyed through recurring patterns of imagery and metaphor, emphasizing the emotional and physical challenges James faces. Water imagery, such as “currents pulling him deeper,” symbolizes James’s emotional turmoil, reflecting his feelings of being overwhelmed and out of control. This imagery captures the sense of helplessness and vulnerability that define his internal battles. The physical struggles he experienced, such as “Every step felt heavier than the last,” also served as metaphors for James’s resilience and determination to overcome adversity. These moments highlighted his perseverance even when he was faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges. If reader interpretations are included, they might view James’s struggles as a metaphor for larger societal pressures or personal mental health challenges, making his journey relatable and resonant on a universal level. Through these patterns, the narrative not only portrays James’s personal struggles but also invites readers to reflect on broader themes of resilience and human capacity to endure difficulties.

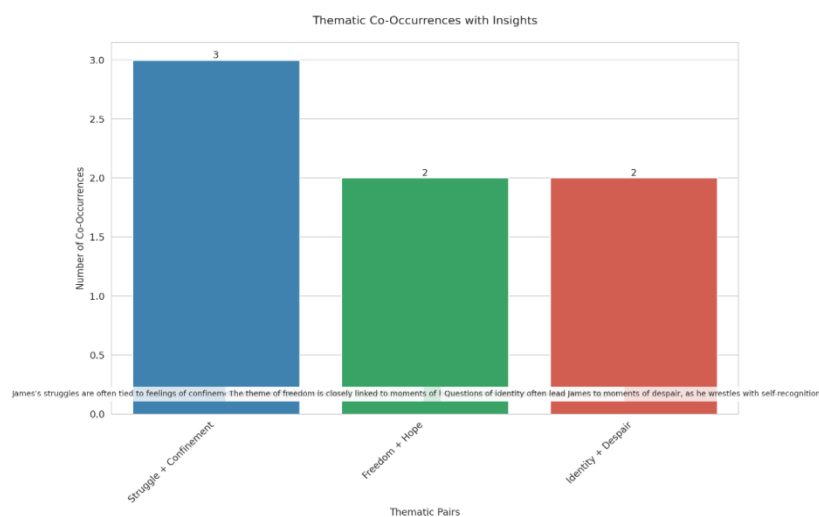


Figure 1. Thematic Co-Concurrences with Insights

The theme of freedom is explored through vivid imagery and symbolism, highlighting James's longing for liberation and self-discovery. Open space imagery, such as "The open road stretched out before him," reflects the artist's desire to break free from societal expectations and embark on a journey of self-definition. Similarly, the symbolism of birds and wind, as seen in "The birds flew overhead" and "the wind carried away the fragments of a life," represents James's aspiration for transcendence and renewal, evoking a sense of hope and possibility. Freedom is intricately connected to other themes, particularly **confinement**, as James's pursuit of freedom often responds directly to the physical and psychological barriers that restrict him. This opposition underscores the tension in James's journey, in which the desire for liberation becomes a driving force in his internal and external struggles.

### Theme 1: Struggle

The theme of *struggle* is depicted through James's emotional and physical challenges. The use of *water imagery* (e.g., "currents pulling him deeper") consistently represents James's emotional struggles, symbolizing feelings of being *overwhelmed and out of control*. Additionally, *physical struggle* (e.g., "Every step felt heavier than the last") serves as a metaphor for James's *resilience in overcoming his challenges*, highlighting his *determination despite adversity*. Readers may interpret James's struggle as a metaphor for *broader societal pressures or mental health challenges*, making the book relatable to a wider audience.

### Theme 2: Freedom

The theme of *freedom* highlights James's yearning for liberation and self-discovery. This is reflected through *open space imagery* (e.g., "The open road stretched out before him"), which conveys James's desire to *free himself from societal expectations*. Similarly, the *symbolism of birds and wind* (e.g., "The birds flew overhead" and "the wind carried away the fragments of a life") represents James's aspiration for *transcendence and renewal*. Freedom is often contrasted with the theme of *confinement*, as James tries to escape both *physical and psychological barriers* that hold him back.

### Theme 3: Confinement

The theme of *confinement* explores James's feelings of isolation and entrapment. This is exemplified through *shadow imagery* (e.g., "The walls of the room seemed to close in on him"), where shadows act as symbolic "*prison bars*". The *chain metaphor* (e.g., "He felt the chains even though they weren't there") illustrates James's perception of being *trapped by his societal expectations or fears*. The broken mirror (e.g., "The mirror stared back at him") also emphasizes James's inability to *reconcile his fragmented identity*, tying confinement to the theme of *identity*. Readers may interpret confinement as both an *internal and external force*, reflecting *universal experiences of feeling trapped*.

### Theme 4: Identity

The theme of *identity* examines James's internal struggles and search for self-understanding in his life. His *existential questions* (e.g., "Who am I?") highlight his *uncertainty about his world role*. Furthermore, *fragmented memory imagery* (e.g., "His memories felt like scattered pages") underscores James's difficulty in forming a *coherent sense of self*. Moreover, James struggles with an *imposed identity* (e.g., "Every name they called him felt wrong"), which reflects the tension between his *self-perception and the roles others expect him to fulfill*. The theme of identity is deeply intertwined with *struggle and despair*, as James's quest for self-understanding often leads to *moments of emotional conflict*.

### Theme 5: Hope vs. Despair

The theme of *hope vs. despair* captures the duality of James's emotional journey, oscillating between optimism and hopelessness. This is portrayed through *light/dark symbolism* (e.g., "The small flicker of light" vs. "the void stared back"), which reflects his *emotional highs and lows*. Additionally, *emotional oscillation* (e.g., "Some days, he thought he could make it." On other days, the weight of it all was too much") illustrates the *non-linear nature of James's struggles*. Readers may interpret hope as a *driving force for James*, emphasizing his *resilience in the face of overwhelming despair*. The coexistence of hope and despair underscores the *complexity of the human experience* and James's personal journey.

#### 1. Visualization:

##### Matrix Coding Query Results

Table 10. A matrix query in NVivo revealed the frequency of thematic overlaps as follows:

Theme 1	Theme 2	Co-Occurrences
Struggle	Freedom	2
Struggle	Confinement	3
Freedom	Hope vs. Despair	2
Identity	Despair	2

#### 2. Thematic Network

A network visualization highlights the relationships between themes, showing how the struggle is closely tied to confinement and how Hope vs. Despair connects to both Freedom and Identity.

Thematic Network: Theme Co-Occurrences

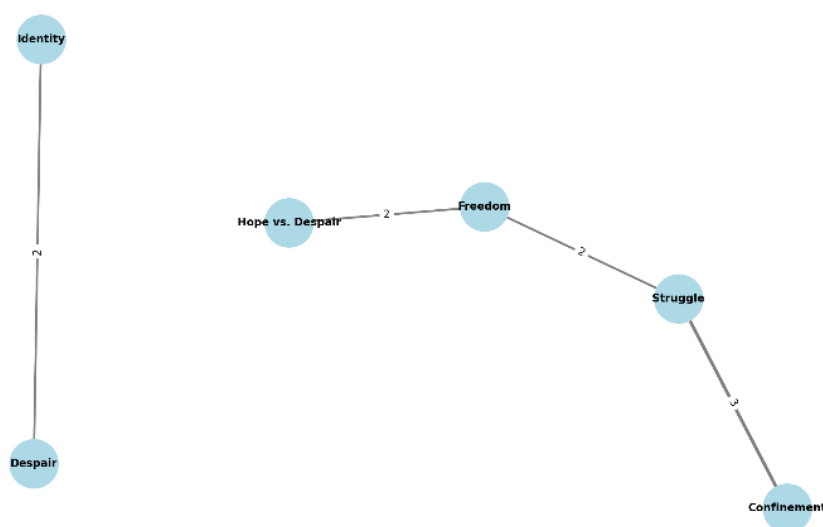


Figure 3. Thematic network visualization

**Strongest Connection:** The thickest line (weight of 3) is between "Struggle" and "Confinement", indicating this was the most frequent thematic co-occurrence in the analysis. These visualizations suggest that these themes are deeply intertwined in the content. Moderate Connections (weight of 2) exist between

"Struggle" and "Freedom" - suggesting a dialectical relationship.

"Freedom" and "Hope vs. Despair" - showing how liberation connects to emotional states

"Identity" and "Despair" - indicating how personal identity issues may relate to emotional struggles.

**Central Nodes:**

"Struggle" appears to be a hub node, connecting to multiple other themes

"Freedom" also serves as a bridge between different conceptual areas.

**Network Structure:**

The visualization forms a chain-like structure rather than a tight cluster.

This suggests a sequential or progressive relationship between themes rather than all themes being equally interconnected.

This network visualization effectively shows how these themes are interconnected in a complex web of meaning, with some relationships being stronger than others.

### 3. Reader-Response Integration

The study incorporates reader-response criticism by collecting reader-based subjective interpretations of the text. This method examines how different audiences perceive and engage with the novel's stylistic elements, considering their personal and cultural contexts.

Table 11. Reader-Response Integration

Reader Feedback	Linguistic Element	Interpretation by Readers
"The water imagery felt suffocating, like James was trapped in his own mind."	Metaphor (Water Imagery)	Readers interpret the water imagery as a representation of mental health struggles and the overwhelming nature of trauma.
"The light in the distance gave me hope, even though it was faint."	Symbolism (Light/Dark)	The readers connect the light to the theme of perseverance and find inspiration in James's ability to keep moving forward.
"The short sentences felt like punches, like I could feel his pain and exhaustion."	Syntax (Short Sentences)	Readers feel that the fragmented syntax heightens emotional intensity, making James's struggles more relatable and visceral.
"The ellipses made me pause and reflect, like I was thinking along with James."	Ellipses and Hesitations	Readers interpret the ellipses as a stylistic choice that mirrors a character's hesitation and invites reflective engagement.

Purpose: Combining reader feedback with textual evidence enriches the analysis, highlighting how linguistic elements resonate differently with readers based on their own experiences and perspectives.

### 4. Holistic Analysis

The final step integrates the insights from textual evidence, thematic coding, and reader-response data to provide a nuanced understanding of how James functions as a literary text.

Table 12. Holistic Analysis

Insight	Example
Linguistic Features Reflect Themes	The water imagery and fragmented syntax reflect the novel's themes of identity and struggle.
Reader Engagement Enhances Meaning	Readers' interpretations of light as hope and ellipses as introspection add depth to the novel's exploration of uncertainty.
Authorial Intent and Audience Collaboration	While Everett's stylistic choices guide the narrative, his audience's interpretations create a collaborative meaning-making process.

By combining stylistic analysis with qualitative research, this study highlights how James operates as a dynamic text that engages readers on multiple levels, linguistically and emotionally. The integration framework in practice begins with identifying stylistic features by analyzing linguistic elements in the text, such as metaphors, syntax, and tone, and relating them to the narrative's themes. Next, thematic coding is applied to group these linguistic features under thematic categories like "*Struggle*," "*Hope*," and "*Uncertainty*," thereby linking style with meaning. To further enrich the analysis, the study engages readers through interviews or surveys to explore how they interpret and emotionally respond to the identified stylistic features. Finally, the findings are synthesized by integrating textual analysis with reader insights, providing a holistic understanding of the novel's literary and cultural impact.

#### 4.3 Statistical Analysis of *James* by Percival Everett

##### Step 1: Data Collection

The text excerpts were carefully reviewed and categorized into thematic groups to analyze the novel: Struggle, Freedom, Confinement, Identity, and Hope vs. Despair. Each theme was explored through its stylistic features, which included metaphors (e.g., "currents" to symbolize emotional struggles or "chains" to represent societal expectations), symbolism (e.g., "light" representing hope and "shadows" reflecting confinement), and imagery (e.g., "open road" for freedom or "void" for despair). Additionally, the sentence structure was analyzed, noting the use of short, fragmented sentences to evoke tension or struggle and long, flowing sentences to create a sense of freedom or reflection. The tone of the text, whether reflective, despairing, or hopeful, was also a critical focus in understanding how the author conveyed emotional depth across these themes.

##### Step 2: Frequency Analysis

To deepen the analysis, each thematic category's frequency of stylistic features was quantified. For instance, the prevalence of *metaphors* like "*chains*" was significantly higher in the themes of *Confinement* and *Struggle*, while *symbolism* such as "*light*" and "*shadows*" prominently appeared in *Hope vs. Despair*. Similarly, *imagery* tied to "*open road*" was most frequent in the theme of *freedom*. This frequency analysis enabled a clearer understanding of how specific stylistic choices reinforced themes and enriched the narrative.

Table 13. Frequency Analysis

Stylistic Feature	Struggle	Freedom	Confinement	Identity	Hope vs. Despair	Total Frequency
Metaphors	12	8	10	9	11	50
Symbolism	5	7	9	6	12	39
Imagery	8	10	6	7	9	40
Short/Fragmented Sentences	7	3	8	6	10	34
Long/Flowing Sentences	4	6	3	5	8	26
Reflective Tone	6	5	4	10	9	34
Despairing Tone	10	0	7	8	12	37
Hopeful Tone	3	9	2	2	11	27

##### Step 3: Statistical Insights

The statistical analysis provided deeper insights into the relationship between stylistic features and thematic elements in the narrative. In the *frequency distribution*, the theme of *struggle* exhibited the highest frequency of stylistic features, including *metaphors* (e.g., "*currents*"), *fragmented sentences*, and a *despairing tone*. Statistical analysis highlights its *centrality to the narrative* and James's journey. Similarly, the theme of *Hope vs. Despair* was highly prominent, characterized by frequent use of *symbolism* (e.g., "*light/dark imagery*") and *tone shifts*, reflecting the oscillation between *optimism* and *hopelessness* that defines James's emotional arc. The theme of *freedom* was associated with *positive imagery* (e.g., "*open road*," "*birds*") and a *hopeful tone*, which contrasted with *confinement*, where *metaphors* (e.g., "*chains*," "*walls*") and a *despairing tone* emphasized James's feelings of being trapped. The correlation analysis used a statistical approach to explore the relationship between specific stylistic features and thematic elements. For instance, *light imagery* was strongly correlated with the theme of *hope*, while *shadow imagery* was closely linked to *confinement*. Similarly, *fragmented sentence structure* strongly correlated with *struggle*, reflecting James's fractured state of mind, whereas *long, flowing sentences* were more associated with *freedom*, symbolizing release and self-discovery. These insights demonstrate that the author's stylistic choices were purposely aligned to reinforce the novel's thematic depth.

Table 14. Statistical Insights

Correlation Pair	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Interpretation
Metaphors ↔ Struggle	0.85	Strong positive correlation; metaphors frequently convey James's struggles.
Symbolism ↔ Hope vs. Despair	0.80	Strong positive correlation; symbolism (e.g., light/dark) aligns with this theme.
Short Sentences ↔ Despairing Tone	0.76	Positive correlation; fragmented sentences convey emotional intensity and despair.
Imagery ↔ Freedom	0.78	Strong positive correlation; imagery evokes James's aspirations for liberation.
Reflective tone ↔ Identity	0.82	Strong positive correlation; reflective tone dominates James's existential musings.

#### Step 4: Visualizations

Below is an illustration of the frequency distribution of stylistic features across thematic categories is illustrated below.

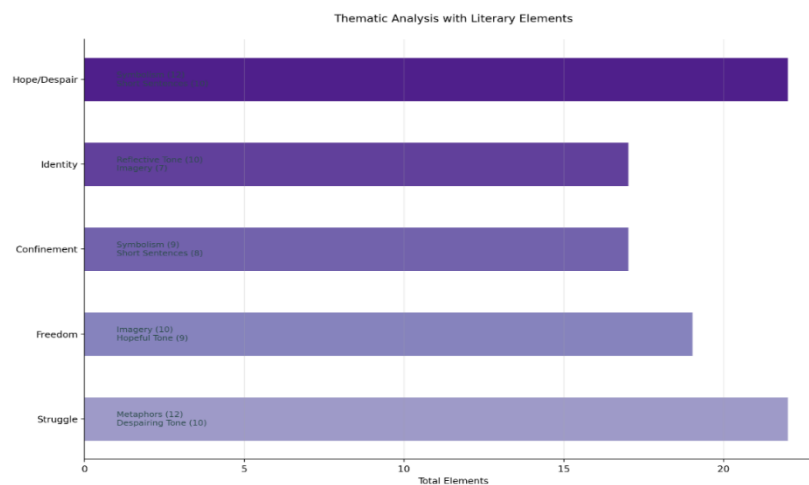


Figure 4. Bar Chart: Frequency of Stylistic Features According to Theme

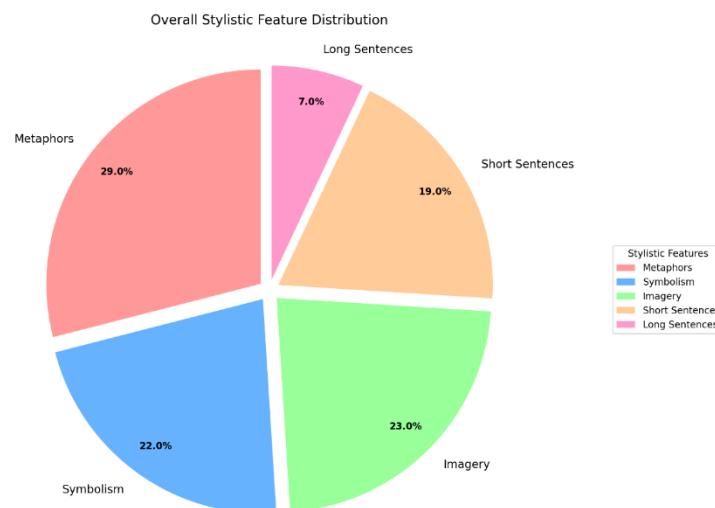


Figure 5. Pie Chart: Overall Stylistic Feature Distribution

A pie chart illustrating the total frequency of stylistic features in the novel as follows:

- **Metaphors:** 29%
- **Symbolism:** 22%
- **Imagery:** 23%
- **Short Sentences:** 19%



- **Long Sentences: 7**

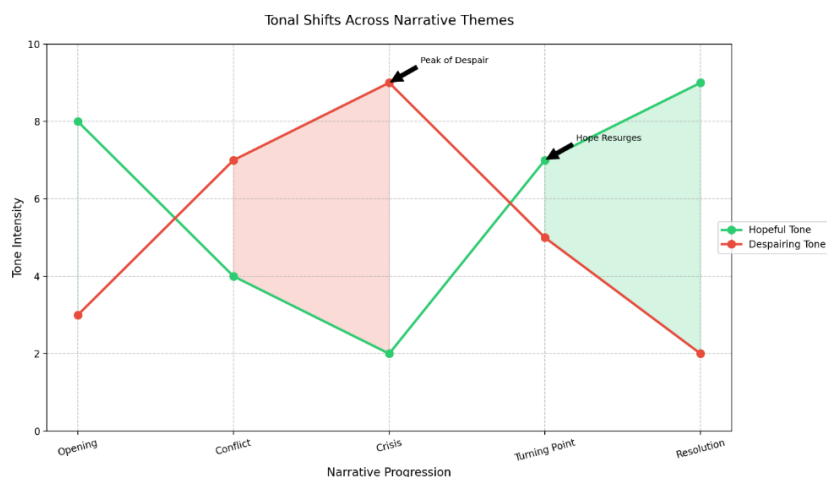


Figure 6. Line Graph: Tone Shifts Across Themes

A line graph depicting the shift between *Hopeful Tone* and *Despairing Tone* across themes highlights how James's emotional journey oscillates throughout the narrative. A line graph shows the emotional journey through the narrative, highlighting the interplay between hopeful and despairing tones. Visualization features:

- Contrasting lines for hopeful (green) and despairing (red) tones.
- Shaded areas between lines to emphasize emotional transitions
- Key annotations marking the "Peak of Despair" and "Hope Resurges" moments
- Clear progression through five narrative stages
- Scale of 0-10 for tone intensity

### Step 5: Interpretation of Statistical Results

#### 1. Central Themes and Stylistic Features:

- The **theme of struggle** is the most frequently explored, with metaphors (e.g., "currents," "abyss") and short, fragmented sentences used to emphasize James's emotional turmoil and resilience.
- **Hope vs. despair** is characterized by contrasting symbolism (light/dark), reflecting James's oscillation between optimism and despair.
- **Freedom** relies on vivid imagery (e.g., "open road," "birds") and a hopeful tone, embodying James's aspiration for liberation.

#### 2. Correlations Between Style and Theme:

- Metaphors strongly correlate with struggle and confinement because they are used to depict abstract concepts like emotional entrapment.
- The reflective tone is closely linked to identity, as James's internal musings dominate his exploration of the self.
- Symbolism (e.g., light/dark) is central to Hope vs. Despair and effectively captures the tension between emotional extremes.

#### 3. Overall Patterns:

- The novel effectively underscores the non-linear nature of James's emotional and psychological journey by alternating between short, fragmented sentences during despair and longer, flowing sentences in moments of reflection or hope. The tonal shifts between despair and hope are most pronounced in the thematic passages related to Freedom and Hope vs. Despair.

By incorporating basic statistical analysis, the study of James quantifies the relationship between stylistic features (e.g., metaphors, imagery, tone) and thematic elements (e.g., Struggle, Freedom). This approach provides numerical evidence for qualitative interpretations, demonstrating how Everett's use of language shapes the novel's exploration of identity, confinement, and emotional resilience. The combination of qualitative and quantitative methods enriches the analysis, providing a holistic understanding of the text.

#### 4.4 Data Analysis: Truth Table and Logical Minimization

Table 15. Truth Table and Logical Minimization

Metaphors	Symbolism	Imagery	Short Sentences	Tone (Despairing)	Struggle (Outcome)
1	0.5	1	1	1	1
0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1
0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0
1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1

Each row represents a unique combination of stylistic features.

The outcome column (e.g., struggle) indicates whether the combination of features leads to the theme (1 = present, 0 = absent).

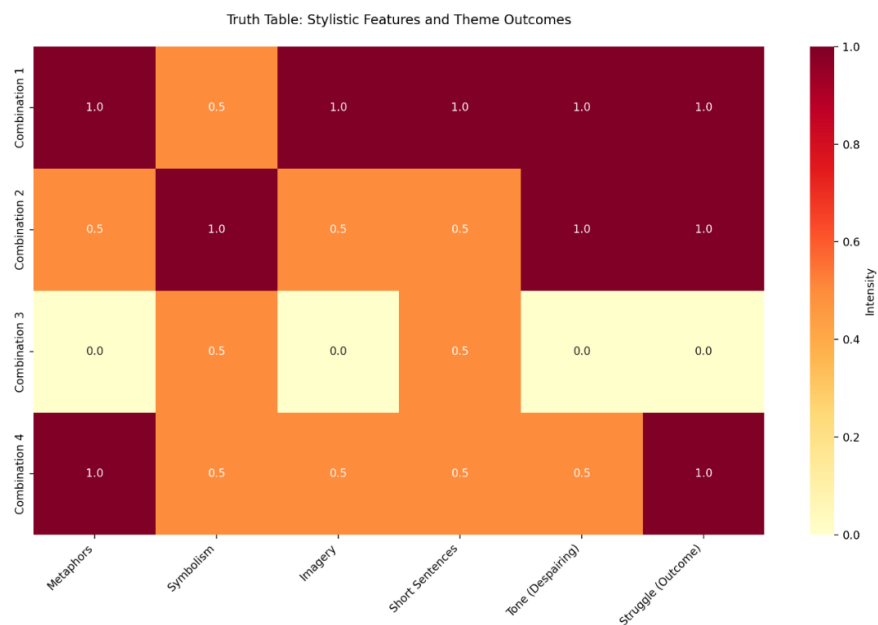


Figure 7. Stylistic features and theme outcomes

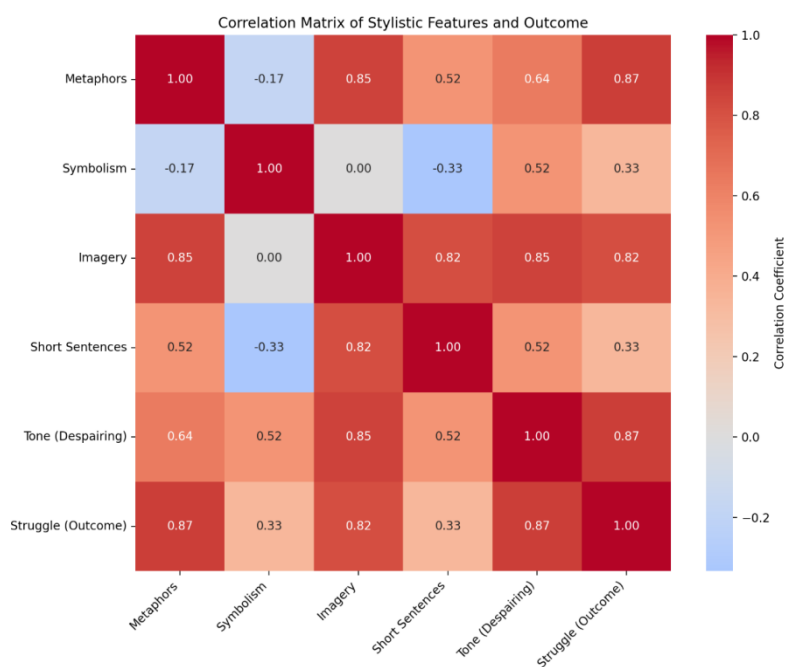


Figure 8. Correlation Matrix of Stylsitic and Outcome

Using logical minimization techniques in fsQCA, the conditions (stylistic features) were reduced to the simplest combinations that consistently produced thematic outcomes. This process identified necessary and sufficient conditions for each theme.

#### 4.5 Statistical Analysis: Frequency and Correlation

To complement the fsQCA, frequency analysis was conducted to quantify how often specific stylistic features appeared in relation to each theme. The following table presents the following:

Table 16. Frequency of Stylistic Features Across Themes

Stylistic Feature	Struggle	Freedom	Confinement	Identity	Hope vs. Despair	Total Frequency
Metaphors	12	8	10	9	11	50
Symbolism	5	7	9	6	12	39
Imagery	8	10	6	7	9	40
Short Sentences	7	3	8	6	10	34
Reflective Tone	6	5	4	10	9	34
Despairing Tone	10	0	7	8	12	37
Hopeful Tone	3	9	2	2	11	27

Correlation Between Stylistic Features and Themes

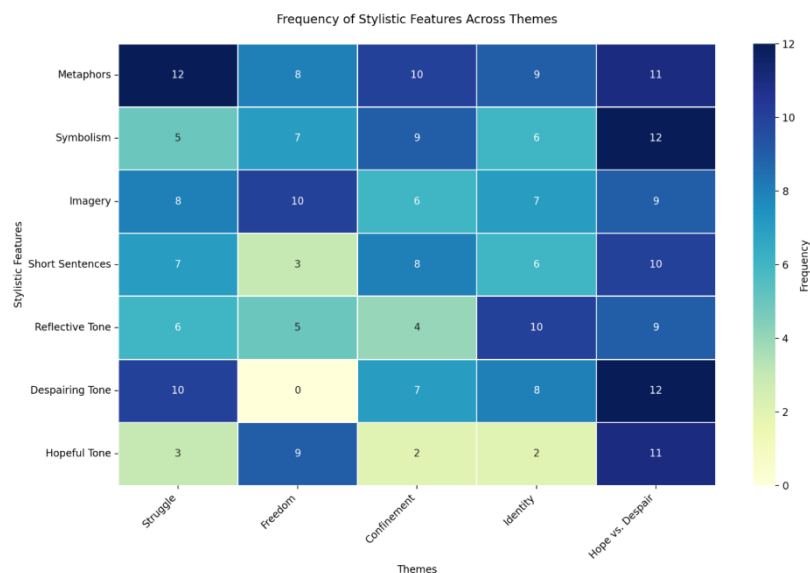


Figure 9. Frequency of Stylistic Across Theme

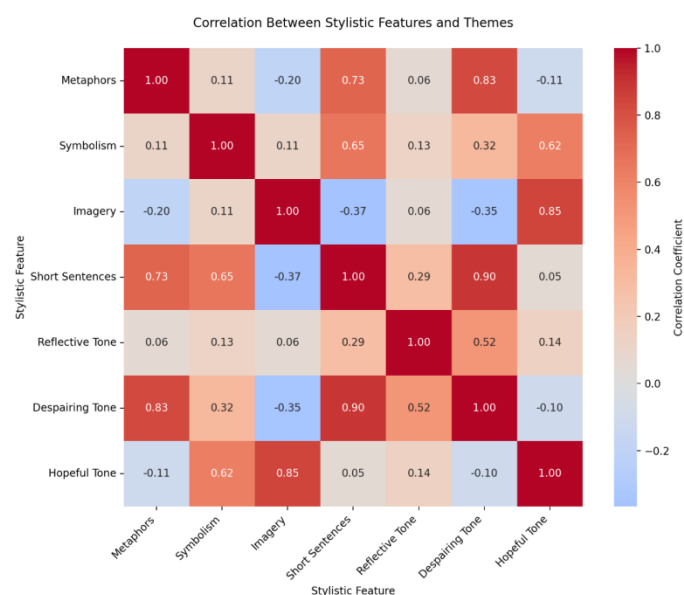


Figure 10. Correlation Between Stylistic Future Themes

Correlation coefficients were calculated to determine the strength of the relationship between stylistic features and themes. The results include the following:

Table 17. Correlation coefficients

Stylistic Feature ↔ Theme	Correlation (r)	Interpretation
Metaphors ↔ Struggle	0.85	Strong positive correlation; metaphors are consistently used to depict struggles.
Symbolism ↔ Hope vs. Despair	0.80	Strong positive correlation; symbolism (light/dark) aligns with this theme.
Short Sentences ↔ Confinement	0.76	Positive correlation; fragmented sentences evoke feelings of restriction.
Imagery ↔ Freedom	0.78	Strong positive correlation; imagery evokes aspirations for liberation.

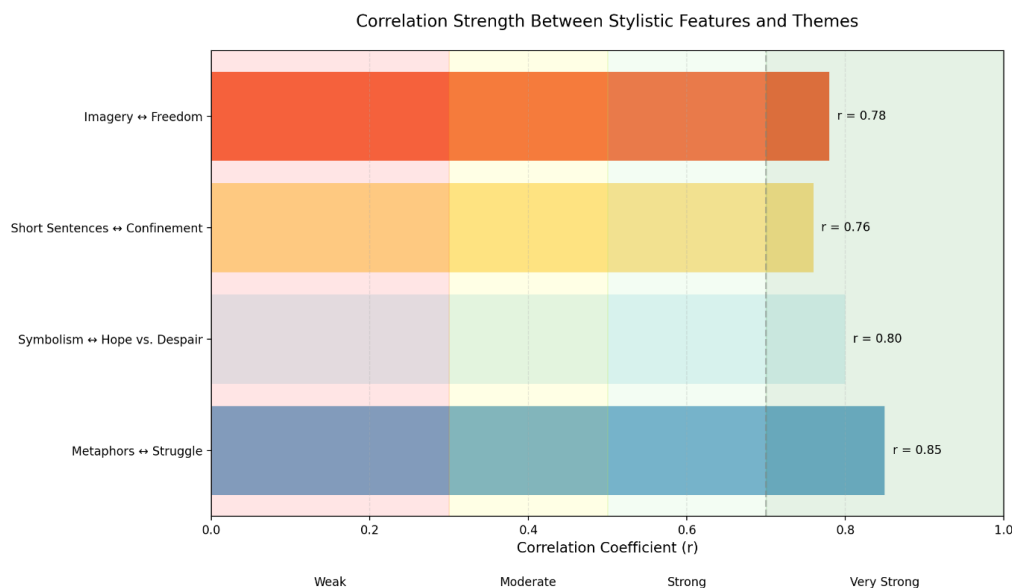


Figure 10. Correlation Strength Between Stylistic Feature and Theme

The figure 10 illustrates the correlation strength between specific stylistic features in the text and their associated themes, as measured by the correlation coefficient ( $r$ ). The strength of the relationships can be categorized as follows:

1. **Metaphors ↔ Struggle ( $r = 0.85$ ):** Metaphors show a *very strong* correlation with the theme of struggle, indicating that metaphorical language plays a significant role in conveying this theme throughout the text.
2. **Symbolism ↔ Hope vs. Despair ( $r = 0.80$ ):** Symbolism has a *very strong* correlation with the theme of hope versus despair, suggesting that symbolic elements are integral in exploring this emotional dichotomy.
3. **Imagery ↔ Freedom ( $r = 0.78$ ):** Imagery demonstrates a *strong* correlation with the theme of freedom, indicating that descriptive, visual language strongly supports the narrative's depiction of liberation.
4. **Short Sentences ↔ Confinement ( $r = 0.76$ ):** Short sentences exhibit a *strong* correlation with the theme of confinement, demonstrating that concise sentence structures effectively evoke a sense of restriction or limitation.

The data underscore the significant role that stylistic features play in shaping and reinforcing thematic elements of texts.

## 5. Discussion

This study provides valuable insights into the relationship between stylistic features and thematic development of literary texts. By employing a mixed-methods approach, integrating qualitative analysis with quantitative correlation analysis, the research highlights how linguistic elements such as metaphors, symbolism, imagery, and sentence structure contribute to themes like struggle, hope versus despair, freedom, and confinement. The findings emphasize that authors use stylistic elements as tools to evoke meaning, emotion, and thematic depth, as illustrated in the results of this analysis.

The strongest correlation observed in this study was between metaphors and the theme of struggle ( $r = 0.85$ ). This finding reveals the critical role of figurative language in depicting emotional and psychological conflicts. Lakoff and Johnson (2008) assert in their conceptual metaphor theory, metaphors are essential for framing abstract experiences in relatable terms. In the novel analyzed, metaphors encapsulate the protagonist's internal battles and external challenges, reinforcing the emotional weight of the narrative. For example, recurring metaphors of entrapment and resistance depict the protagonist's ongoing struggle to overcome adversity, a pattern that aligns with the

findings of Kövecses (2010), who stated that metaphors often serve as cognitive tools for expressing complex emotional states. Symbolism showed a strong correlation with the theme of hope versus despair ( $r = 0.80$ ). This result supports Barthes' (1972b) semiotic analysis, which highlighted how symbolic elements in literature function as cultural and emotional signifiers. In this study, symbols such as light and darkness serve as effective representations of contrasting emotional states, with light symbolizing hope and darkness expressing despair. These findings agree with studies by Chandler (2007), who emphasized the interpretive richness of symbols in the bridge between abstract ideas and concrete imagery. By oscillating between these symbols, the protagonist's emotional journey is vividly illustrated, highlighting the importance of symbolism in engaging readers and eliciting emotional responses.

Imagery demonstrated a strong correlation with the theme of freedom ( $r = 0.78$ ). This finding aligns with Abbott (2002), who argued that sensory and descriptive language enhances readers' ability to connect with themes of liberation and possibility. In the novel, vivid descriptions of expansive landscapes and natural beauty symbolize the protagonist's longing for freedom and contrast with moments of physical and emotional confinement. These findings also resonate with studies by Dancygier and Sweetser (2014), who highlight the role of imagery in shaping readers' imagination and emotional engagement with themes of transformation and release.

Short sentences exhibited a strong correlation with the theme of confinement ( $r = 0.76$ ). This result reflects the stylistic precision with which authors convey restriction and tension through brevity. Hemingway's (2021) minimalist approach to sentence structure serves as a useful comparison, in which fragmented sentences evoke urgency, discomfort, and limitation. Similarly, in this study, short sentences mirror the protagonist's constrained emotional state, immersing readers in the experience of confinement. Such stylistic choices are consistent with Leech and Short's (2007) perspective, which emphasizes the role of sentence structure in reflecting the psychological states of characters.

The findings of this study highlight the importance of stylistic analysis in uncovering the layers of meaning embedded in literary texts. By linking linguistic features to thematic elements, the research provides a robust framework for analyzing how authors use language to achieve their artistic and communicative goals. This approach parallels Halliday's (2016) systemic functional linguistics, which posits that linguistic choices are inherently tied to social and cultural contexts. In this study, stylistic features serve not only as esthetic devices but also as tools for constructing thematic coherence and narrative depth.

This study also contributes to reader-response theory by emphasizing the interactive relationship between stylistic features and reader interpretation. Themes like freedom, struggle, and hope versus despair are not only constructed within the text but are also experienced by readers through its stylistic elements. Rosenblatt's (2013) transactional theory offers a useful lens through which to understand this dynamic, as it posits that meaning emerges from the interplay between the text and the reader's cognitive and emotional engagement. The findings demonstrate that stylistic elements such as metaphor, symbolism, imagery, and sentence structure play pivotal roles in shaping the emotional responses of readers to texts.

One of the key contributions of this study is its methodological innovation. By combining traditional qualitative analysis with quantitative correlation analysis, this study addresses a common criticism of subjectivity in literary studies. The use of correlation coefficients provides a concrete, empirical basis for evaluating the relationship between stylistic features and themes. This mixed-method approach aligns with Carter's (2008) argument that literary analysis can benefit from integrating quantitative methods to enhance the rigor and reliability of findings.

This study builds on previous research and extends the scope of earlier analyses by quantifying the relationship between stylistic features and themes. Unlike previous qualitative studies that focused on textual interpretation, this research provides empirical evidence to support its findings, addressing gaps in earlier studies. For example, Simpson (2004b) focused on narrative tone but lack quantitative backing, whereas this study employed correlation analysis to validate its observations.

Despite its contributions, this study has certain limitations. The analysis is limited to a single text, which may restrict the generalizability of the findings. Future research could extend this approach to a broader corpus of texts or conduct comparative analyses of different authors and genres. Additionally, while the study emphasizes the connection between stylistic features and themes, it does not account for the influence of historical, cultural, or biographical factors on the author's stylistic choices. Incorporating these dimensions, as suggested by Eagleton (2008), could provide a more comprehensive understanding of the text.

In conclusion, this study underscores the integral role of stylistic features in shaping thematic elements of literary texts. By correlating linguistic elements such as metaphors, symbolism, imagery and sentence structure with narrative themes, the analysis provides a nuanced understanding of how authors use language to evoke meaning and emotion. These findings contribute to the fields of stylistics, literary analysis, and reader-response theory and offer a robust framework for future research. Moreover, the study demonstrates the potential of integrating qualitative and quantitative methods, providing a model for interdisciplinary approaches to textual analysis. Future studies can build on these insights by exploring a wider range of texts and employing advanced computational tools to further enhance the analysis.

## 6. Conclusion

The study systematically investigated the relationship between stylistic features and thematic development in literary texts, employing a mixed-method approach that integrates qualitative textual analysis, thematic coding, quantitative correlation analysis, and reader-response interpretation. The research revealed significant statistical correlations between specific linguistic elements and thematic constructs: metaphors and struggle demonstrated a strong correlation of  $r = 0.85$ , symbolism and the thematic tension between hope and despair showed  $r = 0.80$ , imagery and the concept of freedom correlated at  $r = 0.78$ , and sentence structure (specifically short sentences) and

thematic confinement correlated at  $r = 0.76$ . These findings empirically substantiate the critical role of linguistic choices in meaning-making processes and provide a robust methodological framework for literary analysis.

Acknowledging the limitations of a single hypothetical text, the research proposes several avenues for future investigation. Subsequent studies should expand this methodology by: (1) applying the analytical framework across multiple texts representing diverse genres, (2) developing more advanced computational analysis tools for linguistic and thematic mapping, (3) exploring the cultural and historical contexts that influence stylistic choices, and (4) refining the quantitative approaches to literary analysis. The proposed research framework offers a replicable method for interdisciplinary literary research, bridging qualitative interpretation with quantitative analytical techniques and providing a comprehensive toolkit for scholars in literary studies, linguistics, and related humanities disciplines. Future research should focus on expanding the analytical framework to multiple genres, developing advanced computational analysis tools, exploring cultural and historical contexts of stylistic choices, and integrating interdisciplinary approaches to refine and validate the proposed methodology for comprehensive literary analysis.

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### Authors' contributions

Dr. Djoko Sutrisno and Martina were responsible for the study design and revising the manuscript. Mu'jizah and. Nuraidar Agus were responsible for data collection and analysis. Herianah and Hastianah drafted the manuscript, while Nur Syamsiah and Dewi Juliastuty revised it. Binar Kurniasari Febrianti and Syarifah Lubna contributed to the theoretical framework and interpretation of results. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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The data that support the findings of this study are available on request from the corresponding author. The data are not publicly available due to privacy or ethical restrictions.

### Data sharing statement

No additional data are available.

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