



## A STUDY ON FIGURES OF SPEECH IN WILLIAM WORDSWORTH'S POEM "DAFFODILS"

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*<https://doi.org/10.51453/2354-1431/2024/1238>*

### Article info

*Received: 28/10/2024*

*Revised: 29/11/2024*

*Accepted: 26/12/2024*

### Keywords:

*Romantic poetry,  
figures of speech,  
literary devices,  
"Daffodils", , reader  
response, aesthetic  
analysis.*

### Abstract:

This research examines the intricate use of figures of speech in William Wordsworth's celebrated poem "Daffodils," alternatively titled "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud." The study aims to conduct an in-depth analysis of how various rhetorical devices enhance both the aesthetic quality and emotional depth of the poem. Through descriptive analytical methods, this paper investigates Wordsworth's sophisticated employment of figurative language in creating vivid imagery and fostering profound emotional connections with readers. The findings reveal that Wordsworth demonstrates exceptional mastery in interweaving multiple figures of speech, particularly personification, simile, and metaphor, to construct a multi-layered poetic experience. These devices work in concert to transform a simple encounter with daffodils into a profound meditation on nature's impact on the human psyche. The research illuminates how Wordsworth's strategic deployment of these literary devices not only captures the physical beauty of the natural world but also conveys complex emotional states and philosophical insights. Furthermore, this study demonstrates how these carefully chosen figures of speech contribute to the poem's enduring appeal and its ability to resonate with readers across generations. Through close textual analysis, this research enhances our understanding of how Wordsworth's masterful command of figurative language elevates a straightforward nature observation into a timeless piece of Romantic poetry.



## NGHIÊN CỨU VỀ BIỆN PHÁP TU TỪ TRONG BÀI THƠ “HOA THỦY TIÊN” CỦA WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

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<https://doi.org/10.51453/2354-1431/2024/1238>

### Thông tin bài viết

Ngày nhận bài: 28/10/2024

Ngày sửa bài: 29/11/2024

Ngày duyệt đăng: 26/12/2024

### Từ khóa:

Thơ lãng mạn, hình thái tu từ, biện pháp tu từ văn học, “Hoa thủy tiên”, William Wordsworth.

### Tóm tắt

Nghiên cứu này xem xét cách sử dụng phức tạp các biện pháp tu từ trong bài thơ nổi tiếng “Daffodils- Hoa thủy tiên” của William Wordsworth, còn có tên khác là “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud- Là đám mây tôi lang thang phiêu bạt”. Nghiên cứu này nhằm mục đích tiến hành phân tích sâu về cách các biện pháp tu từ khác nhau nâng cao cả chất lượng thẩm mỹ và chiều sâu cảm xúc của bài thơ. Thông qua các phương pháp phân tích mô tả, bài báo này nghiên cứu cách Wordsworth sử dụng ngôn ngữ tượng hình tinh vi để tạo ra hình ảnh sống động và thúc đẩy mối liên hệ cảm xúc sâu sắc với người đọc. Những phát hiện cho thấy Wordsworth thể hiện sự thành thạo đặc biệt trong việc đan xen nhiều biện pháp tu từ, đặc biệt là nhân cách hóa, so sánh và ẩn dụ, để xây dựng nên trải nghiệm thơ nhiều lớp. Các biện pháp này phối hợp nhịp nhàng để biến một cuộc gặp gỡ đơn giản với hoa thủy tiên thành một sự chiêm nghiệm sâu sắc về tác động của thiên nhiên lên tâm lý con người. Nghiên cứu làm sáng tỏ cách triển khai chiến lược các biện pháp văn học này của Wordsworth không chỉ nắm bắt được vẻ đẹp vật lý của thế giới tự nhiên mà còn truyền tải các trạng thái cảm xúc phức tạp và hiểu biết triết học. Hơn nữa, nghiên cứu này chứng minh cách các biện pháp tu từ được lựa chọn cẩn thận này góp phần tạo nên sức hấp dẫn lâu dài của bài thơ và khả năng tạo được tiếng vang với độc giả qua nhiều thế hệ. Thông qua phân tích văn bản chặt chẽ, nghiên cứu này giúp chúng ta hiểu rõ hơn về cách Wordsworth sử dụng thành thạo ngôn ngữ tượng hình để nâng tầm quan sát thiên nhiên đơn giản thành một tác phẩm thơ lãng mạn vượt thời gian.

## 1. Introduction

This study explores the use of figures of speech in William Wordsworth's poem "Daffodils," intending to deepen our understanding of how his linguistic choices enhance the poem's emotional and aesthetic appeal. "Daffodils" is celebrated in both global and Vietnamese contexts for its vivid portrayal of nature and human emotion, yet many studies have not focused on the specific rhetorical devices that contribute to this effect (Abrams, 2015). While previous studies have analyzed Romantic themes broadly, they rarely address the rhetorical devices that Wordsworth uses to bring a powerful poetic experience (Hirst, 2003; Richardson, 2012). To minimize this gap, this research focuses on tackling two questions: (1) What are the primary figures of speech used in "Daffodils," and how are they identified within the text? and (2) How do these figures of speech contribute to the poem's overall impact? Through qualitative and quantitative analysis, the study investigates how each device shapes the poem's themes, tone, and emotional resonance. The findings will offer new insights into Wordsworth's work, encouraging a closer study of rhetorical devices in Romantic poetry within Vietnamese and international educational frameworks.

## 2. Literature Review

Research on figures of speech in poetry has demonstrated that rhetorical devices are essential for conveying complex themes and intensifying the emotional resonance of Romantic poetry. Scholars emphasize that Romantic poets, including William Wordsworth, frequently used metaphors, similes, personification, and vivid imagery to express subjective experiences, transforming simple natural scenes into profound reflections on human emotions and the spiritual significance of nature (Romanyshyn, 2023). Romanyshyn (2023) notes that such figures of speech are not mere embellishments but are fundamental to expressing the poet's inner experiences and deep connection with the natural world. This perspective aligns with Romantic poets' philosophies, which often

considered nature not just as a backdrop but as a source of inspiration and spiritual reflection. Despite these contributions, much of the existing scholarship primarily focuses on the aesthetic functions of rhetorical devices in Romantic poetry, often overlooking their psychological impact. Addressing these limitations could provide new insights into the interpretive and emotional experiences evoked by Romantic figures of speech, particularly in poems like "Daffodils", where Wordsworth explores themes of joy, solitude, and nature's healing influence (Humagain et al., 2023).

Focused studies of "Daffodils" (also known as *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*) reveal that Wordsworth's use of personification and vivid imagery plays a pivotal role in his Romantic vision, endowing the poem with a sense of nature's joy and vitality. Tahani (2023) analyze the daffodils' "dance" as a form of personification that enlivens the scene and elicits an emotional response from readers. Similarly, Nguyễn Hòa (2020) suggest that such rhetorical choices emphasize Wordsworth's belief in nature as a profound source of healing and inspiration, capable of uplifting the human spirit. Romanyshyn (2023) further highlights the significance of similes and metaphors in the poem, noting that these devices serve as expressions of Wordsworth's wonder and delight, drawing readers into his experience of nature. While these insights are valuable, much of the analysis remains limited to the aesthetic effects of these figures of speech, without fully examining how they function as cognitive and emotional tools that engage readers in a shared experience of nature's beauty. This gap suggests a need for research into how figures of speech in "Daffodils" influence reader response, enhancing empathy with Wordsworth's perspective and allowing readers to experience his deep connection with the natural world.

In Vietnam, studies on figures of speech in poetry have typically emphasized their role in enhancing expressiveness and emotional depth, particularly within traditional Vietnamese poetry. Thâm and Luân (2021) discuss the aesthetic functions of metaphor and simile in Vietnamese

literature, suggesting that these devices are essential for conveying complex emotions and concepts concisely and impactfully. Similarly, Châu and Thanh (1996) explore how figures of speech in poetry allow poets to capture intricate human emotions - a perspective that resonates with Romantic ideals and aligns with Wordsworth's thematic focus. Nguyễn Hòa (2020) also highlight personification and imagery as key elements in Romantic poetry, proposing that these devices transform nature into a living entity that resonates with the human spirit. While these studies offer valuable insights into the expressive power of rhetorical devices across cultures, most Vietnamese scholarship has concentrated on traditional and modern Vietnamese poetry, with limited focus on English Romantic poetry and its unique use of figures of speech. Consequently, the distinctive way in which Romantic poets like Wordsworth use personification, metaphor, and other rhetorical devices to animate the natural world and imbue it with spiritual and emotional significance remains underexplored within Vietnamese scholarship.

Vietnamese scholarship, including works by Châu and Thanh (1996), has analyzed figures of speech from structural and semantic perspectives. However, there remains a need for research that examines the psychological and emotional effects of these devices, especially in Romantic poetry. Most Vietnamese studies have focused on the structural and aesthetic roles of rhetorical devices without fully addressing their impact on reader perception and emotional resonance, particularly in English Romantic poetry. This gap highlights an opportunity to explore how figures of speech in Wordsworth's "Daffodils" foster empathy, introspection, and a connection to nature - core elements of the Romantic pursuit of solace and self-reflection. By investigating how rhetorical devices in "Daffodils" engage readers in Wordsworth's experience of nature and enhance their interpretive and emotional responses, this study aims to bridge Vietnamese scholarship on figures of speech with Western Romanticism. Such an approach can deepen cross-cultural rhetorical

analysis, expanding Vietnamese literary studies to encompass the distinct qualities of Western Romantic poetry and offering Vietnamese readers a richer understanding of the universal impact of poetic language and the enduring appeal of Romantic ideals.

### 3. Methods

To systematically analyze figures of speech in "Daffodils", this study utilizes a content analysis framework, adapted specifically for identifying rhetorical devices in poetry. The primary data collection instrument is a coding sheet designed to categorize instances of figures of speech, including similes, metaphors, personifications, hyperboles, and other rhetorical devices (Creswell, 2014). This coding sheet enables consistent identification and categorization of each device, promoting accuracy in data collection. Furthermore, each figure of speech identified in the poem is noted along with its line reference, facilitating a clear mapping of how these devices are distributed across the text. By incorporating both literary and linguistic criteria, the coding sheet provides a structured approach that is widely endorsed in poetry analysis research (Jones, 2019).

In addition to the coding sheet, the study employs analytical notes to capture observations about the aesthetic and emotional impacts of each figure of speech. This instrument allows the researcher to document insights on how each device contributes to the reader's emotional experience and interpretive understanding of the poem. Together, these data collection instruments support both quantitative and qualitative insights, balancing objective identification with interpretive analysis, an approach that aligns well with mixed-methods research in literary studies (Merriam & Tisdell, 2015).

The data collection process begins with a careful reading of "Daffodils" to familiarize the researcher with the text and its overarching themes. This initial reading helps establish a contextual foundation for the analysis of individual figures of speech. The researcher then

proceeds to a detailed line-by-line examination, identifying and categorizing each instance of figurative language based on the coding sheet. Once identified, each figure of speech is recorded according to its type (e.g., simile, metaphor, personification), its occurrence within the text, and any initial observations on its aesthetic or emotional resonance (Silverman, 2020).

Following categorization, the researcher undertakes a deeper analysis to interpret the contribution of each figure of speech to the overall aesthetic and emotional impact of the poem. This involves reflecting on how devices like personification and simile shape the reader's perception of nature and amplify the emotional depth of Wordsworth's writing. Patterns of usage are then analyzed quantitatively, enabling a clear understanding of the frequency and types of figures of speech Wordsworth employs. Additionally, the researcher compares these observations with existing scholarship to contextualize findings within the broader literary tradition of Romantic poetry (Smith, 2021).

The final phase of data collection involves synthesizing insights from the coding sheet

and analytical notes to form a comprehensive interpretation. This step aims to elucidate how Wordsworth's figures of speech collectively enhance the poem's beauty and emotional impact, offering readers a sense of awe and unity with nature. By following this structured approach, the researcher ensures that data collection is systematic and thorough, adhering to best practices in both quantitative and qualitative literary analysis (Creswell, 2014).

#### 4. Results

##### 4.1. Figures of speech in "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth

In "Daffodils", William Wordsworth employs several primary figures of speech to enhance the poem's imagery and emotional depth. The most prominent include personification, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole. Each of these devices serves to evoke the beauty and vitality of nature, imbuing the scene with the Romantic ideals of wonder, introspection, and an intimate connection with the natural world.

##### 4.1.1. Personifications

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Personified Element	Human Characteristic
3	"When all at once I saw a crowd,"	Daffodils	Crowd-like gathering
4	"A host, of golden daffodils"	Daffodils	Welcoming hosts
6	"Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"	Daffodils	Dancing
12	"Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"	Daffodils	Tossing heads, dancing
13, 14	"The waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee"	Waves and daffodils	Dancing and feeling glee
15, 16	"A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company"	Daffodils	Company, joyous presence
21	"They flash upon that inward eye"	Daffodils (memory)	Flashing

In "Daffodils", Wordsworth frequently employs personification to imbue the natural elements with human-like qualities. The poem begins with the speaker encountering "a crowd" of daffodils, where the flowers are described as a collective group, suggesting they possess the ability to gather like people. Wordsworth further personifies the flowers as "a host," endowing them with a welcoming, almost social quality, as if they were gracious hosts greeting him. The

daffodils are also depicted as "fluttering and dancing in the breeze," attributing them with the human capability to dance and move expressively, which reflects the poet's animated perception of them. In the line "tossing their heads in sprightly dance," the flowers are described as if they have heads that can move energetically, enhancing their personified vitality. Additionally, Wordsworth extends this personification to the surrounding "waves beside them," which are also described

as “danced” and filled “with glee,” suggesting both the daffodils and the waves share in a joyful, celebratory moment. Finally, the flowers “flash upon that inward eye” of the speaker, as if they possess the power to imprint themselves actively on his memory. Each instance of personification

emphasizes the human-like qualities of the natural elements, presenting them as more than mere scenery but rather as companions in the speaker’s emotional experience.

4.1.2. Simile

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Simile Phrase	Compared Elements
1	“I wandered lonely as a cloud”	lonely as a cloud	The poet’s solitude and a cloud
7	“Continuous as the stars that shine”	as the stars that shine	The daffodils and shining stars

This sheet systematically identifies similes in “Daffodils” by highlighting specific lines where Wordsworth uses direct comparisons involving the word “as.” The sheet shows how Wordsworth creates parallels between natural imagery and human experience by isolating the simile phrases and the elements being compared. The “Textual Evidence” column includes exact quotations from the poem that contain simile phrases. For example, in line 1, Wordsworth describes himself “wandering lonely as a cloud.” This phrase is recorded in the “Simile Phrase” column as “lonely as a cloud,” marking the poet’s explicit use of “as” to draw a comparison. The “Compared Elements” column then specifies what is being

compared—the poet’s sense of loneliness with the solitary nature of a cloud. This identification allows readers to see how Wordsworth employs a simile to parallel his emotional state with a natural element. Another simile instance is in line 7, where Wordsworth describes the daffodils as “continuous as the stars that shine.” Here, the “Simile Phrase” column records “as the stars that shine,” identifying the explicit comparison with “as.” The “Compared Elements” column notes that Wordsworth compares the countless daffodils with the stars in the sky, emphasizing their continuous and far-reaching presence.

4.1.3. Metaphor

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Metaphor Phrase	Implied Meaning
4	“A host, of golden daffodils”	A host	The daffodils are compared to a welcoming group of people, implying warmth and companionship.
15-16	“A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company”	jocund company	Nature, represented by the daffodils, is likened to cheerful companions, suggesting it provides emotional support.
18	“What wealth the show to me had brought”	wealth	The daffodils are described as bringing an experience that enriches the poet emotionally.
21-22	“They flash upon that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude”	inward eye	“Inward eye” represents memory or imagination, indicating that the daffodils remain in the poet’s mind as a source of joy.

The coding sheet meticulously analyzes the use of metaphors in the poem, illustrating how these literary devices enrich the text’s meaning and emotional resonance. Each entry in the table dissects specific lines, identifying the metaphorical language and elucidating its implied significance. In line 4, the phrase “A host, of golden daffodils” employs the metaphor “a host” to liken the

daffodils to a welcoming assembly of people. This comparison suggests a sense of warmth and companionship, as if the flowers are inviting the observer into their midst, creating an image of a hospitable and vibrant natural scene. Lines 15-16, “A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company,” further develop this theme by describing the daffodils as a “jocund company.”

Here, the metaphor equates the flowers to cheerful companions, implying that nature, represented by the daffodils, offers emotional support and joy to the poet. This personification of nature underscores its role as a source of happiness and solace. In line 18, the metaphor “wealth” in “What wealth the show to me had brought” conveys the idea that the daffodils provide an enriching experience. This metaphorical language suggests that the beauty of the flowers brings emotional and spiritual wealth to the poet, highlighting the profound impact of

nature on human well-being. Finally, lines 21-22, “They flash upon that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude,” use the metaphor “inward eye” to represent memory and imagination. This metaphor indicates that the sight of the daffodils remains in the poet’s mind, serving as a lasting source of joy and inspiration. The phrase “bliss of solitude” further implies that these memories provide comfort and happiness during moments of solitude.

#### 4.1.4. Hyperbole

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Hyperbolic Phrase	Exaggerated Element
7	“Continuous as the stars that shine”	Continuous as the stars	Implies endless numbers of daffodils
9	“They stretched in never-ending line”	never-ending line	Length of the daffodil line
11	“Ten thousand saw I at a glance”	Ten thousand	Exaggerated quantity of daffodils seen
12	“Tossing their heads in sprightly dance”	sprightly dance	Implies unusually lively movement

The poem uses hyperbole to create vivid imagery and emphasize the abundance and liveliness of the daffodils. In line 7, the phrase “Continuous as the stars that shine” suggests an endless number of daffodils, much like the countless stars in the sky. Line 9’s “They stretched in never-ending line” further exaggerates the vastness of the daffodil field, implying an infinite stretch of flowers. The hyperbole continues in line 11 with “Ten thousand saw I at a glance,” which emphasizes

the overwhelming quantity of daffodils seen at once, creating a sense of grandeur. Finally, line 12’s “Tossing their heads in sprightly dance” uses exaggeration to depict the daffodils as unusually lively and animated, enhancing the dynamic and joyful scene. Together, these hyperbolic phrases enrich the poem’s imagery and convey the poet’s awe and admiration for the natural beauty of the daffodils.

## 4.2. The effects of figures of speech in the poem “Daffodils” by William Wordsworth

### 4.2.1. Personifications

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Personified Element	Human Characteristic
3	“When all at once I saw a crowd,”	Daffodils	Crowd-like gathering
4	“A host, of golden daffodils”	Daffodils	Welcoming hosts
6	“Fluttering and dancing in the breeze”	Daffodils	Dancing
12	“Tossing their heads in sprightly dance”	Daffodils	Tossing heads, dancing
13, 14	“The waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee”	Waves and daffodils	Dancing and feeling glee
15, 16	“A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company”	Daffodils	Company, joyous presence
21	“They flash upon that inward eye”	Daffodils (memory)	Flashing

To analyze the effects of personification in William Wordsworth’s poem ““Daffodils”,” we can explore how Wordsworth imbues natural elements with human characteristics, enhancing the emotional connection between the reader and the natural landscape.

Wordsworth begins by describing the daffodils as a “crowd” (Line 3), attributing a human social behavior to the flowers. This portrayal transforms the daffodils from individual blooms into a unified group, enhancing their visual impact and creating a sense of community within nature. This depiction reflects the poet’s awe and admiration, suggesting that the daffodils are not merely part of nature but active participants in a communal gathering that mirrors human society. In Line 4, the daffodils are described as “a host,” implying a welcoming presence similar to human hosts greeting guests. This personification conveys hospitality and warmth, making the flowers appear inviting and fostering an emotional connection with the reader. Wordsworth evokes a sense of comfort and solace in nature, as if the daffodils themselves are extending an invitation to share in their beauty. Wordsworth further animates the scene in Lines 6 and 12 by describing the daffodils as “fluttering and dancing in the breeze” and “tossing their heads in sprightly dance.” This comparison to dancing, a distinctly human activity, evokes joy and freedom. The personification not only brings the daffodils to life but also mirrors the poet’s emotional response, imbuing the scene with a joyful, spirited atmosphere that resonates with the reader. In Lines 13 and 14, both the daffodils

and the waves are depicted as “dancing” and feeling “glee,” amplifying the sense of harmony and unity in the natural setting. By attributing human characteristics to inanimate elements like flowers and waves, Wordsworth creates a lively, celebratory ambiance, underscoring the theme of unity between nature and human emotions. The personification continues in Lines 15 and 16, where the daffodils are described as “a jocund company,” suggesting that the flowers provide joyful companionship. This implies that the natural world offers solace and joy, alleviating the poet’s solitude by serving as an uplifting presence. By personifying the daffodils as joyous companions, Wordsworth emphasizes the therapeutic effect of nature, highlighting its power to uplift and comfort the human spirit. Finally, in Line 21, Wordsworth refers to the memory of the daffodils as something that “flashes upon that inward eye,” suggesting that the daffodils hold a lasting impact within his mind. By assigning a human-like quality to the daffodils in his memory, he emphasizes the enduring joy they bring, symbolizing nature’s ability to provide lasting solace and inspiration.

Through these instances of personification, Wordsworth not only brings the daffodils to life but also bridges the gap between the human and natural worlds. The poem’s personified descriptions transform the daffodils from simple flowers into symbols of companionship, joy, and memory, deepening the reader’s emotional connection to nature and reinforcing the themes of reflection and unity with the natural world.

#### 4.2.2. Simile

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Simile Phrase	Compared Elements
1	“I wandered lonely as a cloud”	lonely as a cloud	The poet’s solitude and a cloud
7	“Continuous as the stars that shine”	as the stars that shine	The daffodils and shining stars

In ““Daffodils”,” Wordsworth uses similes to vividly convey his emotional state and connection to nature. At the outset, he describes himself as “lonely as a cloud” (Line 1). This simile compares his solitude to the isolation of a drifting cloud, evoking a sense of wandering and detachment from the world below. The choice of a cloud emphasizes his emotional distance and aimlessness, as clouds float



freely without a specific path or purpose. This comparison also suggests a feeling of lightness and freedom in his solitude, framing it as an experience that allows him to drift through his thoughts and surroundings, open to the beauty around him. By portraying himself as a cloud, Wordsworth not only communicates his sense of isolation but also invites the reader to experience his perception of the natural world from an elevated, ethereal perspective, setting the tone for his encounter with the daffodils. In Line 7, Wordsworth uses another simile, describing the daffodils as “continuous as the stars that shine.” This comparison enhances the imagery by emphasizing the daffodils’ vastness and their endless presence along the shore. The simile highlights both the beauty and the overwhelming scale of the flowers, linking them to the timelessness and grandeur of the night sky. Just as stars are countless and awe-inspiring in their vast, glittering expanse, the daffodils stretch endlessly, creating a vision that feels both

infinite and sublime. This simile not only captures the visual splendor of the scene but also conveys a sense of wonder and connection to the universe, as the daffodils become symbols of something larger and more enduring than the poet’s solitary experience.

Through these similes, Wordsworth deepens the reader’s emotional engagement with the poem. His descriptions move beyond mere observations of nature, transforming his experience with the daffodils into a moment of introspection and unity with the world. The figures of speech elevate his solitary state into one of spiritual connection, using the natural imagery of clouds and stars to bridge his inner feelings with the outer beauty he perceives. These poetic comparisons help readers to feel the poet’s initial loneliness and then, ultimately, his joy and wonder as he immerses himself in the sight of the daffodils, capturing the restorative power of nature.

#### 4.2.3. Metaphor

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Metaphor Phrase	Implied Meaning
4	“A host, of golden daffodils”	A host	The daffodils are compared to a welcoming group of people, implying warmth and companionship.
15-16	"A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company"	jocund company	Nature, represented by the daffodils, is likened to cheerful companions, suggesting it provides emotional support.
18	"What wealth the show to me had brought"	wealth	The daffodils are described as bringing an experience that enriches the poet emotionally.
21-22	"They flash upon that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude"	inward eye	"Inward eye" represents memory or imagination, indicating that the daffodils remain in the poet’s mind as a source of joy.

Wordsworth uses metaphor to transform a simple scene in nature into a profound, emotionally rich experience. In line 4, he describes the daffodils as “a host of golden daffodils,” comparing them to a welcoming group of people. This metaphor implies that the flowers are not merely plants but friendly, inviting figures offering warmth and companionship. This image helps readers feel the poet’s sense of belonging and comfort in nature, suggesting that even in solitude, he is not truly

alone because of the connection he feels with the daffodils. Through this metaphor, Wordsworth expresses the emotional support nature can provide, portraying the daffodils as friends who lift his spirits and fill his loneliness with a sense of presence and unity. Further into the poem, in lines 15-16, Wordsworth describes the daffodils as “a jocund company,” likening them to cheerful companions who bring him joy. This metaphor emphasizes the joyful, uplifting atmosphere the

daffodils create, transforming the landscape into a scene filled with the companionship of “friends” who offer emotional solace. By attributing human qualities like “jocund” (meaning cheerful or lighthearted) to the daffodils, Wordsworth implies that nature has the power to evoke happiness and alleviate sadness. This reinforces the idea that the natural world can be a source of healing and emotional nourishment, bringing joy even in moments of solitude. In line 18, Wordsworth uses the metaphor of “wealth” to describe the emotional value the daffodils bring him, saying, “What wealth the show to me had brought.” Here, “wealth” symbolizes the profound enrichment he gains from experiencing the beauty of the flowers. This metaphor suggests that the joy and inspiration he derives from nature are as valuable as material wealth, underscoring the poem’s theme that true richness lies in emotional and spiritual fulfillment rather than in physical possessions. The daffodils become a source of inner abundance, providing him with a sense of happiness that endures long after he leaves the scene. Through this metaphor, Wordsworth elevates the daffodils from mere visual pleasure to a gift that enriches his soul. Finally, in lines 21-22, Wordsworth refers to his “inward eye,” a metaphor for memory and

imagination, which allows him to recall the daffodils even when he is alone. This “inward eye” becomes a source of joy that he can access whenever he desires, embodying the lasting impact of his experience with the flowers. By using this metaphor, Wordsworth highlights the power of memory to preserve moments of beauty and happiness, suggesting that the daffodils’ effect on him is enduring. The phrase “bliss of solitude” conveys how these memories provide comfort and joy during solitary moments, showing that the daffodils have become a permanent source of happiness within him. This metaphor encapsulates the transformative and lasting impact of nature on the human spirit, as Wordsworth’s memory of the daffodils continues to bring him joy and peace long after he leaves their presence.

Through these metaphors, Wordsworth emphasizes the themes of companionship, emotional wealth, and lasting joy derived from nature. His use of metaphor not only deepens the imagery but also conveys the profound influence that the natural world can have on the inner life of an individual, turning an ordinary sight into a wellspring of emotional resilience and spiritual wealth.

#### 4.2.4. Hyperbole

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Hyperbolic Phrase	Exaggerated Element
7	“Continuous as the stars that shine”	Continuous as the stars	Implies endless numbers of daffodils
9	“They stretched in never-ending line”	never-ending line	Length of the daffodil line
11	“Ten thousand saw I at a glance”	Ten thousand	Exaggerated quantity of daffodils seen
12	“Tossing their heads in sprightly dance”	sprightly dance	Implies unusually lively movement

Wordsworth employs hyperbole to heighten the sense of awe he experiences in the presence of nature, particularly when encountering the vast field of daffodils. One example appears in line 7, where he describes the daffodils as “continuous as the stars that shine.” This exaggeration suggests an endless number of flowers stretching across the landscape, mirroring the vastness of the night sky filled with countless stars. By comparing the

daffodils to stars in their continuity, Wordsworth creates a powerful visual image of an endless sea of flowers. This hyperbole captures the poet’s overwhelming sense of wonder and the impression that nature’s beauty is boundless, encouraging the reader to share in his awe. In line 9, Wordsworth uses another instance of hyperbole, describing the daffodils as stretched in a “never-ending line.” This phrase exaggerates the length of the daffodil field,

suggesting that the flowers extend as far as the eye can see. This depiction emphasizes both the visual impact of the scene and the sense of eternity that the poet feels while observing it. By presenting the daffodils as an infinite line, Wordsworth conveys a feeling of nature's boundless beauty, which seems to transcend human limitations and evoke a sense of the sublime. The hyperbolic "never-ending line" invites readers to imagine a scene of breathtaking beauty that is both overwhelming and almost surreal in its scale. Another instance of hyperbole appears in line 11, where Wordsworth states that "ten thousand saw I at a glance." This exaggeration emphasizes the sheer number of daffodils present in the scene. By using a large, round number like "ten thousand," Wordsworth not only intensifies the visual impact of the flowers but also suggests that their beauty is so vast that it becomes almost incomprehensible. This hyperbole serves to heighten the emotional effect of the scene, allowing readers to sense the poet's amazement at the abundance of natural beauty before him. The enormity of "ten thousand" adds to the sense of being overwhelmed by nature's grandeur, leaving an impression that the daffodils are a spectacular, almost otherworldly sight. Finally, in line 12, Wordsworth describes the daffodils as "tossing their heads in sprightly dance." Here, the word "sprightly" implies an unusually lively, joyful movement among the flowers, as if they are engaged in a cheerful dance. This hyperbole brings the scene to life, making the flowers seem animated and full of energy, rather than static parts of the landscape. By using this exaggerated imagery, Wordsworth infuses the scene with a sense of vitality, depicting nature as something active and responsive. The "sprightly dance" adds to the poet's own feelings of joy and excitement, as if the flowers are not only companions but also participants in a shared celebration of life.

Through these hyperbolic expressions, Wordsworth conveys the overwhelming impact of nature's beauty on his soul. The use of hyperbole emphasizes the abundance, liveliness, and almost magical quality of the daffodils, suggesting that

nature possesses a grandeur that is both joyous and infinite. This exaggeration allows Wordsworth to communicate the profound effect that the natural world has on him, transforming an ordinary field of flowers into a sublime experience that fills him with awe and inspiration.

## 5. Conclusion and Discussion

In conclusion, this study on the figures of speech in William Wordsworth's poem "Daffodils" reveals how carefully crafted literary devices enhance the depth and emotional resonance of the poem. By examining the use of personification, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole, we gain insight into how Wordsworth transforms a simple natural scene into a profound experience of beauty, companionship, and emotional fulfillment. Personification gives life and personality to the daffodils, allowing readers to perceive nature as an animate, interactive presence. Similes and metaphors create strong visual and emotional connections, equating the daffodils with boundless and valuable treasures that enrich the poet's inner life. Hyperbole amplifies the scale and impact of the daffodils' beauty, evoking a sense of awe that underscores the poem's celebration of nature.

The findings underscore the power of figures of speech to evoke emotional responses and highlight how Wordsworth's poetic techniques invite readers to experience nature as he does - transforming solitude into joy and reflecting a deep connection with the natural world. This study also opens doors for further exploration into how figures of speech function in Romantic poetry to convey complex relationships between humans and nature. Future research could expand this analysis to compare Wordsworth's use of these devices with other Romantic poets or to investigate how such figurative language impacts readers' perceptions of the environment, potentially informing ecological awareness and appreciation.

These insights have broader implications for the study of poetry and literature, particularly in understanding how language shapes our emotional

and philosophical responses to the world around us. The application of such research extends beyond literary studies, offering a framework for exploring how art and language foster connections with nature and enhance personal well-being. Wordsworth's use of figures of speech in "Daffodils" serves as a powerful example of how poetic language can evoke lasting impressions, deepen emotional engagement, and inspire a greater appreciation of the natural world.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made it possible for our research team to complete this study. My heartfelt thanks go to Dr. Vuong Thi Hai Yen, my supervisor, whose guidance, encouragement, and invaluable expertise have been crucial throughout this journey. Her insightful feedback and dedication provided me with the tools needed to refine my research and deepen my understanding of the topic. I am also immensely grateful to the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Hanoi Metropolitan University for their support and resources, which have greatly contributed to the successful completion of this study. This work would not have been possible without their continuous assistance and encouragement.

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## Supporting Materials

### 1. Coding Sheet 1

Line number	Text Excerpt	Figure of Speech	Brief Explanation of Effect
1	"I wandered lonely as a cloud"	Simile	Compares the poet's solitude to a cloud, emphasizing a feeling of isolation yet freedom.
3	"When all at once I saw a crowd"	Personification	Gives the daffodils a crowd-like, lively quality, enhancing the feeling of companionship.
4	"A host, of golden daffodils"	Metaphor / Hyperbole	Compares daffodils to a welcoming group, implying abundance and warmth.
6	"Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"	Personification	Imbues the daffodils with lively human actions, creating a joyful, animated scene.
7	"Continuous as the stars that shine"	Simile / Hyperbole	Compares daffodils to stars, suggesting an endless, vast line, adding to the scene's grandeur.
9	"They stretched in never-ending line"	Hyperbole	Exaggerates the length of the daffodils, conveying their endless beauty.
11	"Ten thousand saw I at a glance"	Hyperbole	Exaggerates the number of daffodils, intensifying the image of abundance.
12	"Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"	Personification	Imbues daffodils with a lively spirit, making the scene more joyful and energetic.
13-14	"The waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves"	Personification	Compares daffodils and waves, with daffodils appearing more animated and joyful, intensifying nature's liveliness.
15-16	"A poet could not but be gay In such a jocund company"	Metaphor	Likens nature to cheerful friends, suggesting that nature brings comfort and joy to the poet.
18	"What wealth the show to me had brought"	Metaphor	Describes the daffodils as enriching, suggesting their emotional and spiritual value.
21-22	"They flash upon that inward eye"	Metaphor	Represents memory or imagination, indicating that the daffodils stay with the poet as a source of joy and reflection.

2. Coding Sheet 2

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Personified Element	Human Characteristic
3	"When all at once I saw a crowd,"	Daffodils	Crowd-like gathering
4	"A host, of golden daffodils"	Daffodils	Welcoming hosts
6	"Fluttering and dancing in the breeze"	Daffodils	Dancing
12	"Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"	Daffodils	Tossing heads, dancing
13, 14	"The waves beside them danced; but they Out-did the sparkling waves in glee"	Waves and daffodils	Dancing and feeling glee
15-16	"A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company"	Daffodils	Company, joyous presence
21	"They flash upon that inward eye"	Daffodils (memory)	Flashing

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Simile Phrase	Compared Elements
1	"I wandered lonely as a cloud"	lonely as a cloud	The poet's solitude and a cloud
7	"Continuous as the stars that shine"	as the stars that shine	The daffodils and shining stars

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Metaphor Phrase	Implied Meaning
4	"A host, of golden daffodils"	A host	The daffodils are compared to a welcoming group of people, implying warmth and companionship.
15-16	"A poet could not but be gay, / In such a jocund company"	jocund company	Nature, represented by the daffodils, is likened to cheerful companions, suggesting it provides emotional support.
18	"What wealth the show to me had brought"	wealth	The daffodils are described as bringing an experience that enriches the poet emotionally.
21-22	"They flash upon that inward eye / Which is the bliss of solitude"	inward eye	"Inward eye" represents memory or imagination, indicating that the daffodils remain in the poet's mind as a source of joy.

Line Number	Textual Evidence	Hyperbolic Phrase	Exaggerated Element
7	"Continuous as the stars that shine"	Continuous as the stars	Implies endless numbers of daffodils
9	"They stretched in never-ending line"	never-ending line	Length of the daffodil line
11	"Ten thousand saw I at a glance"	Ten thousand	Exaggerated quantity of daffodils seen
12	"Tossing their heads in sprightly dance"	sprightly dance	Implies unusually lively movement