

Minimalism in Mawlana's Masnavi

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Abstract

Minimalism means the writer uses minimum words and brevity to express a story in a simple plan. Although it is a new category in west, there are extensive examples in Iran comprehensive literature which are coincident with the features of minimal stories. Mawlana's Masnavi Manavi is significant based on storytelling in addition to its content value, religious, moral and mystic teachings. Brevity, realism, the simplicity of the language, having an attractive theme are the most important features of minimalism that this study could achieve ten features through revising and comparing two first books which have conformity with minimalism process. This study attempts to investigate the matter of telling these fictions and tales in two first books of Masnavi along features of minimal story.

Keywords: Mawlana, Masnavi Manavi, Minimalism

1. Introduction

Dare it is said that almost different customs and cultures which are popular among different nations and races included stories, fictions and tales that had been oral and chest to chest then changed to written form, transformed from generation to generation and they could retell society events, shortages and people's wishes in the society of those days as stories. Based on these explanations and this fact that the language and literature of a society are feedbacks and derived from events and occurrences of the days of a society, so, the new emersion of a new kind of the story, short story or minimalism which is called in Persian "Khordegeraee" and its bases are extreme compaction and brevity that can be known as the feedback of nowadays society. But through studying the features of this new form, it is understood that although it is newfound in west, there are many stories and fictions in Iran classic literature in the form of prose or poetry which are significantly coincident with these newfound phenomena. Therefore, this fact encouraged us to study and assess this new form of storytelling in Mawlana's great work "Masnavi Manavi" although shortly.

Of course, it should be confessed that the author has been encountered with many problems such as newness of the subject, lack of enough sources and proper sample. Based on this point one of the authors' problem through his study is that any independent study in relation to this subject has not been performed in the field of Masnavi heretofore and because minimalism works are usually related to art works.

He just achieves the limited books and essays such as: "Some Words about Minimalism" by John Bard, "Morphology of Minimalism Stories" by Mohammad Javad Jazini and an essay "Minimalism and Persian Literature (the Comparison study of Golestan with Minimalism Stories)" by Seyed Ahmad Parsa, and also the essay "Mawlana and Minimalism", "studying minimalism stories in Divan-Kabir" by Ramin Sadeghnejad and the essay "the Story of a Couplet, a New Story Form" by Zamir (2007), academic member of Arak Islamic Azad University and four essay by Nizami and minimalism style.

After studying different works in relation to minimalism, first, minimalism is introduced and then Masnavi is read and its stories are extracted and introduced ten common features respectively which have been registered. But in this study, some of them are mentioned because of the shortage of space.

The method is library-research one which has analyzed and extracted the minimalistic patterns in two first books of Masnavi. Through these process by study other books and essays, we could find footprints of minimalism even little ones and so the followed materials are extracted that they can be a solution for people who want to

research in the same field.

The author has received the results by studying slight works in this field that they are stated as followed. For instance, features and elements of minimal stories are studied to achieve a framework of a minimal story. The minimal story is a realistic narration of a usual life and important events but usually it has extensive impact on readers. The first thing which is obvious in minimal stories is a kind of disorganization and meaninglessness in human's identity which is inducted to readers. The artistic miracles of this literary works and these stories have changed them to a powerful prose and poetry. Actually a minimal story is a short spark which has decision to show a big image of today human's life.

In research and theoretical books in fiction such as "Fiction" by Jamak Misadeghi and "the Art of Storytelling" by Hassanzadeh Tavakoli (2009) they have considered elements and bodies such as: an introduction (start), an attractive theme, the story language, the short volume, the plot, the narrator, characters' limitation, dialogue, conflict and etc., for today stories like novels and short stories and poetry.

In this research, the elements used in minimal have been studied in both books, the couplets with common elements have found and they have been analyzed. In this part, the explanations of these features, elements and their usages with examples are stated in both books of Masnavi. The main source of this research is "Masnavi by Karim Zamani" and numbering of couplets is based on numbering in first and second book in this Masnavi.

2. First Feature: Start

According to this fact that every successful story follows compiled artistic principals, therefore, every story is made of three parts "start", "body" and "end". The start is an important point as the great writers know this part as a sensitive part of a story.

From the beginning, the start in short stories has been one of structural elements and great writers such as: Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, and Maupassant have known it as a way to enter to the story. Anton Chekhov, one of short stories commentator says: "the story should grasp immediately at reader's mind and draw him to his feeling and thought realm".

In minimalism, it is not necessary that how a story is started but its start should be in the way that amazes readers with its extreme attraction and charm. Certainly, the kind of starting is depended on the subject of the story. This is the writer who decides how to starts to make the reader to accompany by himself.

Tomas affirms this point in his essay "How to Write a Flash Fiction?" and says: the start of a story should not be by an introduction and setting. We should not allocate several sides for describing the background of the adventure during creating the short story. A solution should be found that the whole adventure summarized in a paragraph. So, we can start from middle of the story".

By stating this fact that minimal stories do not need a setting and introduction and describing details of past adventures, it does not mean they are easy. So, for writing a short story, it is necessary to think as much as a novel. Writing a minimal story can be performed by the one who can bear writing a story. Based on found couplets in these two books and studying them, it is understood that Mawlana has done his duty in this relation greatly. As it said, at the start every story should have a start, main body or climax and end. In these minimal couplets, all of them can be seen as all couplets have a proper start, climax and end and it reveals this fact that Mawlana has followed the principals of short story from a couplet to at least four couplets and changed the couplet to a short story. Some of couplets are followed:

- Someone had a donkey but it did not have any packsaddle/ finally he found it but wolf ate the donkey (Barth, 1989)

- He was searching water with a jug / he found water but the jug was broken (Barth, 2002)

These couplets are used in the story of "the Prince and Handmaid"

The summery of the story: A prince was going to countryside at the middle of his way, he saw a beautiful handmaid and fall on her and paid and bought her by money. After a while, she got sick and physicians could not cure her and finally an old man told her sick was not physical but mental and she was in love with a goldsmith in Samarkand. The goldsmith was brought and they married but after 6 months the prince killed him.

Mawlana has composed these couplets exactly when the prince bought the handmaid and he thought he could achieve everything by money or any things but unexpectedly she got sick. By bringing this couplet as an allegory, he wants to say happiness and pleasures in life are never perfect but they are with sorrow and pain because human's wish and needs are endless.

It is the story of soul separation from mental world and his attempt for back to the world where he is isolated from. For doing this, he should scarify everything between material world and himself. In continue the handmaid is the symbol of soul, the goldsmith is the body and the prince is the mental world. These couplets can be understood by everybody because of their attractive theme such as animals, and five elements especially water more than the others, also a created wonderful loop in addition to using simple plot.

It is one of minimal couplets in Masnavi because of its limitation of characters in these couplets, also using brevity figures which is one of prominent features in minimal stories, the narrator's presence, using story language which is affected, using the time element that the story happens in the minimum of the time and finally the plot is so simple like minimal stories means the start and end of the story are close to each other.

- The sun which lights the world/ if it comes closer it will entirely burn the world (Barth, 1989)

This is stated in the story of "the Prince and Handmaid".

Mawlana has brought it as 141st couplet in the story and especially addressed his followers and Hessam al-Dyn, wared them for their jealousy about Shams and worn them to observe their limitations and here has stated the couples as an allegory that if this sun which lights everywhere comes closer to world it will burn everything. Therefore if Shams or real sun of human entity becomes impatient, he will ruin everything.

Symbolism: the sun and light is Shams Tabrizi's symbol or real sun.

These couplets can be considered as minimal couplets in Masnavi through their simple plot, an attractive theme (the sun, lightening and burning), the characters' limitation, using time and place elements in the minimum time, the narrator's bold presence, also the significant usage of brevity, proper plot and loop, using the story language which is clear and simple and finally short volume of the words.

3. Second Feature: The Story Language

Another feature of minimal story can be its simple language. The prose in short minimal story is very simple and completely empty of feelings. The narrator's monotone, cold, unexcited words in almost minimal stories make them same as no writers interfere in their writing (Ghanavati & Vakilian, 2014). The linguistic feature in minimal stories can be explained in this way that their language should be as much as powerful to complete the events and characters' empty places.

The language in these stories is unaffected and clear and words have their real meanings. This story does not have words full of features and prolocutor in one position. Undoubtedly, Masnavi audiences' role and people who listen to the stories in Mawlana's presence with heart in addition to mentioned points have significant impact on Mawlana's language.

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Mawlana has composed these couplets when the prince bought the handmaid and he thought he could achieve everything by money or any things but unexpectedly she got sick. By bringing this couplet as an allegory, he wants to say happiness and pleasures in life are never perfect but they are with sorrow and pain.

This couplet is a minimal one because of its simple language and an attractive theme (jug, water and etc.,) the limitation of characters and words, the narrator's presence, realism and brevity.

- The appearance of silvery dish is white and new/ but it may blacken hands and clothes

This couplet is told about the story of "the Jewish King who killed the Christians".

The summery of the story: he has used it in the place where the king apparently invited Christians to legerity in religion but actually he weakened their souls. Mawlana points that if Vazir's appearance is white and thriving like silver but his soul and words are black and blackens other sprite.

This couplet is a minimal one because of its simple language and simple plot, the words and characters' limitation, the narrator's presence, realism and brevity.

- When a child is not active and running / he just rides his father's neck

- When he meddles and moves his hands and legs/ he attempts and hurts and becomes livid (Parsa, 2006)

The above couplets are about the story of “the Lion and the Beasts”.

The Summary of the Story: in a meadow, beasts were living together in peace but a lion disturb and embittered their lives. One day, they agreed to send a beast to lion by lot for his food. Then one day when it was the turn of the hare to be delivered up as a victim to the lion and he thought about a trick to free themselves from lion forever. So he went to lion late and explained because he saw a foreign lion in its way. The lion disturbed and asked the rabbit to show the place of foreign lion. He took the lion to a well and the lion after seeing his picture on the water he thought there was a real lion. He plunged into attack him and was drowned. These couplets point to struggle and trust which should be together.

The above couplets are minimal ones in Masnavi because of an attractive start, the short volume of words, using the minimum of time and place elements, the simple story language and understandable for all, the simple plot, realistic story. An attractive theme (a child and his father’s neck and meddle), using the significant element of brevity and finally characters’ limitation in the story (Zamani, 1993).

4. Third Feature: Short Volume (Words)

Probably, one of significant features for minimal stories than other stories is short volume. Certainly, there is not any exact indicator for volume of these stories. For example, James Tomas in “Best kid in the world” has gathered stories which have 75 words or Steave Mass has published a collection “55-words Fictions” and therefore different narrations report their number up to 2000 words. So, we have decided to count the number of words that are used by Mawlana in his couplets. So, all minimal couplets of these two books have been studies and the results are that he uses minimum 6 words and maximum 12 words. We have segregated them based on numbers and put them in the table 13 and 14 for simplicity.

- When a poor asks for a help/ there is clamor in the sky army (Golpinarli, 2010)

The above couplets are about the story of “the Lion and the Beasts”.

The Summary of the Story: in a meadow, beasts were living together in peace but a lion disturb and embittered their lives. One day, they agreed to send a beast to lion by lot for his food. Then one day when it was the turn of the hare to be delivered up as a victim to the lion and he thought about a trick to free themselves from lion forever. So he went to lion late and explained because he saw a foreign lion in its way. The lion disturbed and asked the rabbit to show the place of foreign lion. He took the lion to a well and the lion after seeing his picture on the water he thought there was a real lion. He plunged into attack him and was drowned.

He has composed these couplets at the end of story of the “the lion and the Beasts”: when the king was drowned in a well. He mentions although the cruelty is powerful, it is not stable. Although the lion is powerful apparently, the great God is more powerful and also if a weak asks God for help there will be clamor in the sky for God to revenge for him.

This couple is minimal because of its short volume, the simple plot, the limitation in characters and words, the simple story language and brevity.

- Like a hunter finds a shadow/ how a shadow changes to an asset for him (Barth, 2002)

This couplet is composed about the story of “the Caliph and the Arab Man.

It points to this fact that people who love God and generality they never love a component because all creature are lights from his real existence so the lover should move toward real love and be ambitious and look at extreme aim and love unlike a hunter who is searching a shadow and he thinks it becomes an asset for him which is impossible.

This couple is minimal because of its short volume, the simple plot, the limitation in characters and words, an attractive theme (hunt, hunter, shadow, and asset) and brevity.

- When see a child rubs his mother / to awake her and asks for a meal (Barth, 2002)

This couplet is composed in relation to the story of “an old woman”

The Summary of the Story: a goshawk was trained by the price flew from the palace to an old woman’s cottage and sit. She caught it and sympathized with it and cut its long nails. After a while, the prince found it in the old woman’s cottage after a long search and he sympathized with it and told it was a punishment for the one who escaped form a palace to a ruin cottage. Mawlana wants to express this fact that God gives mercy to his servants based on their demand and permanently he asks them to come to him.

The above couplet is a minimal because of its short volume, the character’s limitation, the simple story language, brevity and an attractive theme and realism.

5. Fourth Feature: Dialogue

The dialogue is one of the most important elements in all novels and minimal short stories that extends the plot and it bears the duty of displaying theme and also plays more role in introducing characters and at last expedites the event and story (Khademee Kolae, 2014)

A speech among characters or extensively in a character's mind in any literary work is called a dialogue (Jazini, 2015). As it is said in minimal stories, all elements are used partially, but "dialogue" has the most usage because through this element easily it is possible to increase the speed of transferring information.

Now, Mawlana has used the best usage from the dialogue between two characters in some of his couplets for expressing better concept. Also he has used this element where he has felt understanding the subject is hard for readers or for more impact of some subjects like followed example:

- One told: this column is for the castle/ the other asked: how this column is achieved?

- He bought it or he got as heritage? / The graceful is one who hastens to meaning

The above couplets are mentioned in a section as "talking in present language and understanding it" and it is expressed "to be careful and not drown in face and ignore the meaning".

The Summery of the Story: a person came to another to learn chess and he told: "this column is for the castle" and the learner instead of paying attention to the game, he started to silly scrutiny and answered "from where it got it? Did it buy it or get it as a heritage? And also asked other improper questions.

These couplets are minimal based on their simple plot, the character's limitation, an attractive theme (playing chess and castle column), the simple story language, short volume of words and the notability of dialogue elements.

- A Grammarian sat in a ship / talked to sailor proudly

- Told: have you ever read grammar? Sailor told: no / told: a half of your life has ruined

The beginning couplets are the story of "the Grammarian and the Sailor".

The Summery of the Story: a Grammarian boarded a boat and proudly asked the sailor that if he knew and read anything about grammar and he told that he knew nothing and he never read grammar. The expert mocked him and told that he ruined his life. The sailor remained silent and was deject. After minutes, the boat caught up in a storm in the middle of the ocean. The sailor asked to expert that he knew swimming because the boat was drowning and it was a time to save his life by swimming so all his life was ruined. The expert remained silent.

In these couplets, Mawlana has used irony and taunted experts and people about their pride and vanity in relation to their knowledge and who claim uselessly. These couplets are minimal one too because of their attractive theme, the character's limitation, the short volume of the story, simple story language, good scenery, brevity and especial usage of dialogue.

- The Hanane pillar is crying for Prophet's separation / it is crying as a wise master

- The Prophet asked it: what do you want? / It answered: my heart is bleeding for your separation

It is used for "Harper" story.

The Summery of the Story: In the time of the Caliph Omar there lived a harper, whose voice was sweet and he was in great request at all feasts. But he grew old, and his voice broke, and no one would employ him any longer. In despair he went to the burial-ground and played his harp to God, looking to Him for recompense. Having finished his melody he fell asleep, and dreamed he was in heaven. The same night a divine voice came to Omar, directing him to go to the burial-ground, and relieve an old man whom he should find there. Omar proceeded to the place, found the harper, and gave him money. The harper cast away his harp, saying that it had diverted him from God, and expressed great contrition for his past sins, and sang no more.

Usage of couplets: Mawlana has used this allegory in the story of Harper when God directed Omar to go to the burial-ground, and relieve an old man whom he should find there. He believes everything and everybody can hear this call even a stone and wood and they confess to God's divinity. Here, he mentions an admirable story as Hanane pillar that Prophet always rested at this when he was saying sermons and then a rostrum was made for him. That pillar cried for his separation so Prophet hugged it and ordered to bury it as a human being to gather with him on judgment day. He wants to conclude that "human! You are not less than a piece of wood. So, do not prefer your world than last judgment.

It is a minimal couplet for its beautiful start, the minimum use of time and place element, the short volume of

used words, the simple story plot, the character's limitation, the simple and conceptual language for all people, realism and brevity.

6. Fifth Feature: Characterization

The next important feature is characterization in the minimal story. The structure of these stories usually is based on a character or an especial event and the writer instead of following the revolution process in a character he displays an especial moment in the life (Jazini, 2015).

Characters in minimal stories usually are ordinary people and they never have a hero aspect. In these stories, energetic characters are seldom seen. The character has no changes and revolution. Therefore, the minimal writer is a narrator of events and characters and he never judges about probable events instead he puts the judgment upon readers. The writer just imagines the scenes and because the concentration of the story is on one character, there is not anti-character. So, there is not any opportunity for conflict.

The numbers of events are less in them and usually, they concentrate on the main story which is the peak moment in the character's life.

- The one who is away from leaders by evil / he finds him alone and cuts his head

The above couplet is about the story "God's revelation to Moses why he did not come for his pray".

The Summary of the Story: once a day a revelation comes to Moses from God "why you did not hospitalize me when I was sick". Moses answered: God! You are pure of any defect and blemish. I do not understand you". God said: "one of my especial servants is sick; you do not know he is me? So, go and visit him".

Here, Mawlana through this story has said the mystic principal "the union of figure and symbol". He mentions that the one who is away from leaders, he will be alone and weak then ruin. So, human needs the presence of God's prophets and he should take care to not away from them even for a moment.

The above couplet is minimal because of its words and character's limitation, realism, brevity, an attractive theme (evil, leaders, cutting head) and an especial feature of characterization.

- Youssef is virtuous and this world is like a well / this thread is patience by God's command

The above couplet is composed about the story "the Order of Caliph to a Man who planted thistle on the Road".

The Summary of the Story: a man-tormenting person had cultivated thistles on the road where passengers had passed and gradually they had grown and passengers' feet were teased and their dresses became tear. How much the Caliph told and worn him; he did not listen and those thistles became stronger daily and removing them was not easy.

Mawlana has wanted to say that every absence feature in human is like a thistle. If it is not removed soon, it will be placed in human's body and character. So, human's great sprite! This world is like a well for you. You should escape yourself from it and get God's threat which is a certain sign for saving men.

These couplets are minimal for having a good start, the word and character's limitation, an attractive theme (Prophet Youssef Story) and the significant feature of characterization.

- Alum! If you know your obscenity / like snow, you will be melted (2322)

This is about the story "the Caliph and Arab Man".

Mawlana has used this couplet where a woman advised an Arab man to not play with words and pretend to a false asceticism because he understood the meaning of contentment by mistake. "You should not sit and ask God for food, this is not contentment and it is vainglory". If he knew about himself he would be doomed like an alum, if it knew about its obscenity, it will melt like snow.

The above couplet is minimal because of its simple plot, the word and character's limitation, the simple story language, an attractive theme (the alum, snow, obscenity, melt) and the significant feature of characterization.

7. Sixth Feature: Scenery (Attractive Themes)

The next feature is the scenery of the story. There is not any place for scenery because of short volume and limited space. Therefore, some time and places are mentioned generally. The scene (place and time) or it can be said that an attractive theme, place and time are other elements which are considered in the story. Almost minimal stories are happened in limited time or shorter than a day, some hours or sometimes some moments. And also, in some cases, the place changes seldom happen. In minimal stories the time and place are limited because of short volume (Khademee Kolae, 2014).

As it is said, there is not any time and place in minimal couplet because of short volume and the audiences can understand time and place elements themselves. This element can create an attractive theme for the poetry. For instance, an illusion to Ismael's slaughter time in the poetry makes the background more beautiful and attractive to aid the poet to tell his purposes easier. Mawlana has used the attractive themes in both first books for 250 couplets. For example:

- If you buy a pomegranate, buy a smiling one / to call smile each of its seeds

It is about the story of the "Jewish King Persecuted Christian".

Mystics believe that divine leaders are mercies and heavenly gifts and save people from concupiscence. Mawlana in this allegorical couplet has mentioned the time when a mystic leader speaks and his graceful and nice words should lighten peripatetic soul and then he decides that the peripatetic should follow an honest leader not a tortuous one who misleads him and avoids him from right path.

This couplet is minimal because of having a good start, the simple story language, the word and character's limitation, brevity and the significant element of attractive theme.

- For hunting in the sprite's wood, be a goshawk / like the sun in the world, be open

It is used for "Harper" story.

The Summary of the Story: In the time of the Caliph Omar there lived a harper, whose voice was sweet and he was in great request at all feasts. But he grew old, and his voice broke, and no one would employ him any longer. In despair he went to the burial-ground and played his harp to God, looking to Him for recompense. Having finished his melody he fell asleep, and dreamed he was in heaven. The same night a divine voice came to Omar, directing him to go to the burial-ground, and relieve an old man whom he should find there. Omar proceeded to the place, found the harper, and gave him money. The harper cast away his harp, saying that it had diverted him from God, and expressed great contrition for his past sins, and sang no more.

Mawlana has stated this allegory in the story when he has released the harper of any dialogue in the story and drawn in the elegy of death and disdain and said that for receiving spiritual and divine knowledge should be like a high-flying and sharp-claws hawk to fly in the knowledge and reality sky and like sun to denote its everything to reach to desirable perfection.

The above couplet is minimal too because of its good start, the simple story language, the short volume of the words, the character's limitation, brevity and the significant element of the attractive theme.

8. Seventh Feature: the Character's Limitation

In the minimal stories which characters are limited and sometimes alone and unique, naturally, there are less characters' diversity; because their plot and narration talk about an especial and justifies situation in the life. Therefore they have limited characters. The characters are usually ordinary people and even in some cases, they narrate one character that is disappointed and wounded.

Through these explanations and having short volume and limited character, the poet or writer for example Mawlana does not have enough space for characterization and because he wants to narrate a story in a couplet and does not enough space for proceeding to rest of the story and people, therefore he just tells about an especial moment about one character's action and reaction to state the whole story in one couplet as possible and even a characteristic revolution or event happens for the character in that couplet .

Besides these explanations, Mawlana has used couplets with character's limitation in two first books which is considered as one of minimal elements greatly that they are more than 130 couplets, 81 in book one and 41 in book two. For example:

- When God gave a spade to his servant / even wordless creature understood his purpose

It is about the story of "the Hunt Lion".

Mawlana has stated this couplet when the lion has known the trust inadequate and said besides trust, there should be attempt and God has created instruments for any work. In continue he has told that your members are like a spade for working so try with them and as it is against the rule of nature if you do not use your body and members, it is against the creature law and God's wisdom if you do not use creature instruments.

The above couplet is minimal too because of its simple plot, the simple story language, the short volume of the words, the character's limitation, brevity and the significant element of the attractive theme (spade, God, and the servant).

- If the old pagan is regretted / if God brings reasons, he will become Muslim

It is about the story of “the Caliph and the Arab”.

Mawlana has stated this couplet when the Arab man told his wife that he was not against her and he was regretted from his previous words and then he obeyed her. Here, Mawlana has started to praise God and expressed that: “your mercy is permanent and everlasting as much if an old man has been pagan for all his life and he has become regretted at the end of his life, you will forgive him and accept his contrition.

The above couplet is minimal too because of its features such as a proper start, simple plot, and the simple story language, the short volume of the words, the character’s limitation, brevity and the significant element of the attractive theme (an old pagan, regret and Muslim).

9. Eighth Feature: the Scene (Place and Time)

The time and place are other elements considered in the story. Almost minimal stories are happened in a limited time or lesser than a day, several hours or sometimes some moments. And also, in some cases place changes seldom happen. In minimal stories the time and place are limited because of short volume (Khademee Kolae, 2014).

As it is said in minimal stories, because of short volume, there is not any place and time in some couplets and the audience can find them based on the other elements that this element can be an attractive theme for the poet to states his purposes.

Mawlana has used the scene element in two first books in 250 couplets, 107 couplets in book one and 143 couplets in book two.

- How a stone can grow because of spring / be soil to grow flowers by different colors

It is said in the story of “the Merchant and the Parrot”. He has stated that how much a person is perfect he should rely on God and he is nothing without God’s help. So, in the time of poverty, you should pretend to death and reach to mystic degree. For reaching to mystic degree, you should observe the perfection of courtesy and be unpretentious like soil which grows colorful flowers in spring because of its unpretentiousness.

Mawlana has brought this couplet where the parrot pretended to death after hearing the story of Indian parrots and after he was dropped out of the cage by merchant, it became alive and started to fly. Actually, it can be said that it mentions the tradition of “before dying naturally, dying intentionally”.

It is a minimal couplet for having scenery element (time and place), simple plot, an attractive theme (spring, green stone and colorful flowers) and the character’s limitation and brevity.

- The sheep are drawn from desert/ the one which is fatter is drawn lightly

It is said about the story of “the Caliph and Arab”.

An Arab lived with his wife in the desert in extreme poverty, so that they became a reproach to their neighbors. The wife at last lost patience, and began to abuse her husband, and to urge him to improve their condition. She directed him to go and represent their case to the Caliph at Bagdad, and to make him an offering of a pot of water, that being the only present they could afford to make. Accordingly the Arab travelled to Bagdad, and laid his offering at the feet of the Caliph, who received it graciously, and in return filled the pot with pieces of gold, and then sent him back to his home in a boat up the river Tigris. The Arab was lost in wonder at the benignity of the Caliph, who had recompensed him so bountifully for his petty offering of a drop of water.

Mawlana has composed this couplet when the Arab rebuked her for her covetousness, reminding her that “the poverty is my glory,” and showing her how poverty was a better preparation for death than richness, “because pain and wound are parts of death and if you tolerate them easily, the death will be sweet for you but if you love material pleasure and happiness then your death will be bitter so but loving this material world make not yourself fat and like a slaughter”, but the wife did not accept.

It is a minimal couplet for having scenery element (time and place), the simple plot, an attractive theme (the fatter sheep, lighter) and the word and character’s limitation, realism, the simple story language and brevity.

10. Ninth Feature: Scenery

- A fly with a little wing destroys Nimrud / it cleaves his head fearlessly

It is about the story of “the Lion and the Beasts”.

The Summary of the Story: the above couplets are about “the Lion and the Beasts” that its summary is so: in a meadow, beasts were living together in peace but a lion disturb and embittered their lives. One day, they agreed

to send a beast to lion by lot for its food. Then one day when he was the turn of the hare to be delivered up as a victim to the lion and he thought about a trick to free themselves from lion forever. So he went to lion late and explained because he saw a foreign lion in its way. The lion disturbed and asked the rabbit to show the lace of foreign lion. He took the lion to a well and the lion after seeing his picture on the water he thought there was a real lion. He plunged into attack him and was drowned. These couplets point to struggle and trust which should be together.

This couplet is in the story of the Lion and the Beasts and Mawlana has used it when the lion and the hare were companied to kill foreign lion and then caused lion drowned. He has mentioned that rival should not be considered less. It is obvious that the hare with his small body and big mind could finally kill the lion like a fly went to Nimrud's head and destroyed him. Mawlana wants to say that everything is easy through real reliance and submission to God's command and reached to victory and triumph.

This couplet is minimal because of having a good start, the short volume of words, the story and familiar language for readers, limited time and place, simple plot, an attractive theme (Nimrud and the fly), the significant brevity, the character limitation and realism.

11. Tenth Feature: Realism

The feature for minimal stories is being realistic (Parsa, 2006, p. 39). The writers in these kinds of stories usually try to attract readers' attention to the most usual life experience and the realities which are sometimes usual for them and deepen their look to human' vital matters. Therefore, their motives are usually today human life matters. Actually, the duty of minimal stories is to wash the dust from habit face. Where we can see an irregular behavior changes to a habit for people in the society, it is the minimal writer's duty to criticize that irregular behavior but the criticism for remembrance, notification and a flick not for complain. For instance, when we see the rise of divorce statistics and know the others look at this as usual news, it is the minimal writers' duty to notify its results and increased reason and tell them each of divorce can be a disaster for a society.

Here, Mawlana has used realism element in 7 couplets obviously and two of them are mentioned as followed:

- A Roman man who is forging / his face color will be changed by smoke

The story is about the Man who boasted that God did not punish him for his sins, and then Shuaib's answer to him.

The Summery of the Story: That fool person said in the time of Shuaib claimed he did so many sin but God did not punish him. God revealed a message to Shuaib and said: How many times do I smite you, and you do not know? You are bound in my chains from head to foot. Your punishment is that I take the pleasure of praising from you.

Mawlana says: most of the time divine torment is revealed not obvious but sometimes silent and hidden and enchains him as he never feels the torment and this kind torment is harder than obvious one. Like a white skin person who is forging and gradually his white face changes to black.

This couplet is minimal because of its simple plot, words and character's limitation, the story language and the significant element of realism.

- Without pain for mothers in child birth / there is not any way to deliver a baby

The above couplet is said in the story of the Prophet and the reason of pain in a person was rudeness in pray.

The Summery of the Story: one day Prophet visited one of his processors and asked the reason of his sickness. He answered that he did a sin and asked God to give his punishment in this world.

Mawlana has brought this couplet as an allegory and stated that always do against yourself even it invites you to pray because this pray is according to habit and repetition and for result, it draws human's pain of passion and reaches him to God's union. For instance, if a mother does not pain for baby birth, the baby cannot find a way to birth.

This couplet is considered minimal because of its simple language, the word and character's limitation and an attractive theme (birth).

The table of used words in minimal couplets in book one in Masnavi. The couplets start from 6 words which are 6 cases in this group and reach to 12 words with 3cases.

Table 1. The classification of words in book one

	Words	Number	Couplet Number
2	6words	6	1923-3171-2808-2303-2047-1315
3	7words	19	3648-3647-3316-3692-2237-1971-309-154-1599-1498-1212-1028-582-386-2471-1212-2428-2382-2225
4	8words	55	597-409-377-301-244-211-210-178-151-20-1817-1727-1534-1498-197-1189-1188-616-2691-2631-2444-2046-1980-1947-1934-1872-3378-3222-3056-2844-2332-2113-2098-2835-2472-1659-1658-1213-1100-1099-711-3887-2787-2226-1999-1659-1658-1497-1164-385-384-3249-2930-2381
5	9words	42	543-451-410-407-376-302-150-112-228-227-1533-988-982-923-861-718-678-672-631-2344-2240-2114-2023-1873-1818-1659-1658-712-3718-3867-3412-3249-2887-2378-2379-3250-1998-1213-1027-584-583-2423-2422
6	10words	33	932-924-679-450-449-408-377-15-141-42-41-2302-2219-2022-1979-1609-1606-1294-1252-581-3866-3514-3315-3223-2877-2876-2809-3262-2929-2427-1922-1598
7	11words	12	2785-3413-3057-2788-1911-987-581-321-308-3261-1165
8	12words	3	2836-2343-535

The diagram for number of used words in minimal couplets in book one from 6 words to 12 words.

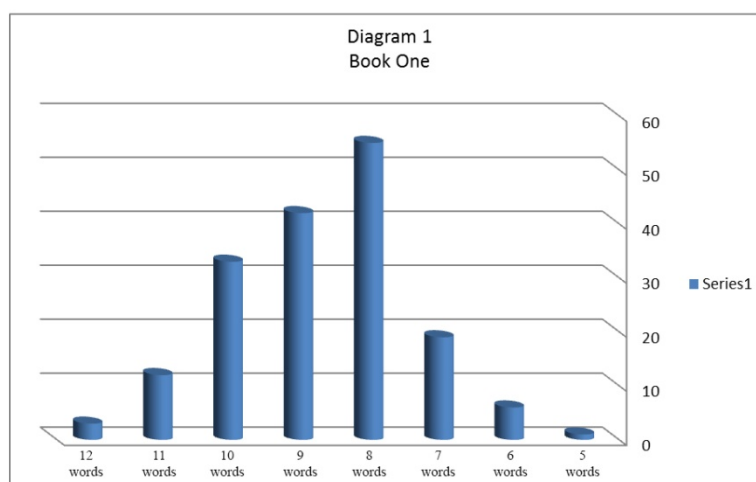


Figure 1. Words diagram

The table of used words in minimal couplets in book two in Masnavi, the couplets start from 6 words which are 1 case in this group and reach to 12 words with 7cases.

Table 2. The classification of words in book two

	Words	Numbers	Couplets Number
1	6words	1	2224
2	7words	41	2197-1945-1834-1832-1830-802-572-322-2008-1900-416-2688-2526-2330
3	8words	72	362-327-304-303-262-254-193-185-65-14-1482-1450-1406-1219-1057-1030-965-723-1968-1958-1952-1944-1943-1877-1835-1554-2138-2137-2087-2085-2084-1979-1976-1971-2728-2677-6-2527-2323-2274-2273-2165-277-920-914-913-2113-3080-2930-1981-1899-827-798-419-418-417-289-288-2351-2223-2116-2115-2114-2113-2112-2058-1741-1546-3694-2385-2382-2598
4	9words	78	724-573-352-314-266-127-91-40-35-33-22-1092-1090-1078-1073-990-803-768-767-1852-1850-1833-1731-1638-1557-1543-1508-2007-1980-1978-1961-1959-1948-1947-1946-915-912-2518-2511-2322-2321-2063-2057-828-800-792-279-264-929-925-922-917-916-2384-2383-2597-2353-2057-1982-1898-829-846-3695-3679-3597-3596-3595-3594-3593-1547-1368
5	10words	56	842-321-267-255-253-239-123-84-72-41-13-1277-1276-1220-1184-1100-1074-1059-894-2059-1979-1949-1838-1739-1483-1461-1379-3627-3379-3376-3355-3112-3010-2729-2060-278-263-928-927-924-923-919-918-3628—1366-1367-2599-2009-1980-801-799-791-3676-3678-848
6	11words	25	1057-1058-966-769-671-372-34-23-21-20-2102-1841-1612-1509-1504-1378-1342-1247-1742-3674-3637-2352-830-926-921-3535
7	12words	7	1369-847-3638-930-911-1344-195

The diagram for number of used words in minimal couplets in book one from 6 words to 12 words.

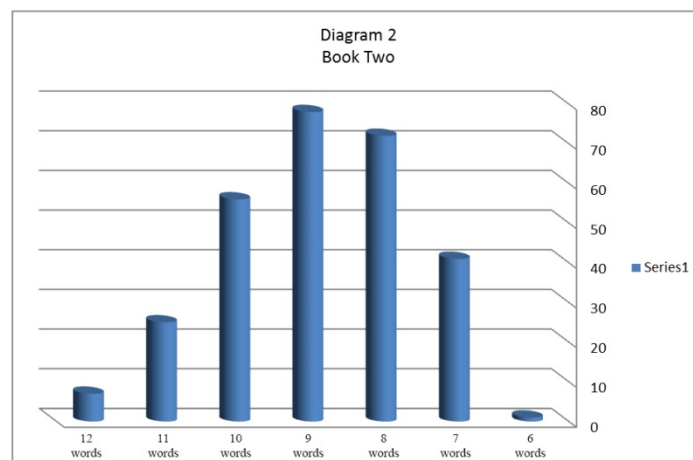


Figure 2. Words Diagram

12. Conclusion

Dare it is said that Mawlana has brought these couplet based on Quran method with two sides. It means each couplet has external and internal sides. And he has used the external one for inviting people in the society to his school and used external one for flicking for his especial followers like the holy Quran which has two internal and external meanings separately as 70 sides are considered for it.

Through studying two first books of Masnavi, 313 couplets in minimal format are driven with followed results:

Separately, Mawlana has used 131 and 182 minimal couplets in book one and two respectively and also, the used words in minimal couplets are 1841words in book one that the first minimal couplet has 7 words and the last has 8words and the least used words for a couplet is 6 words and the most used words are 12 words. But in book two, the used words in minimal couplets are 2541words in book two that the first minimal couplet has 10 words and the last has 8words and the least used words for a couplet is 5 words and the most used words are 12 words.

Based on performed research on these couplets, their elements and components are characters (the holy Quran Characters), jobs, animals, plants, five elements especially water that Mawlana has used it as the purest cleaner

which are used more as followed:

- Water says to a Polluted one: quickly, come in / he said: I am ashamed of water

- Water said: this sham wouldn't go without me/ when he becomes clean without me?

In some of his couplets, some events and stories have happened in short times and moments of minutes and seconds, many of them have one character and the maximum number is 3 or 4 characters. The subject and content of many couplets and stories are ordinary issues belonged to Mawlana's time and identical issues. If any subject has been believed hardly, he has used allegories from time and placed that readers have had information about them before to make it easy. Also, according to achieved result, Mawlana has introduced his poetry or story to the society even his main purposes in the mind of the society through bringing these couplets which are simple, concise and attractive apparently which all of the features of minimal stories and he could accompany different classes of the society with himself but not for himself and rather for society movement and human in all ages toward elevation and growth. We have analyzed and studied couplets based on different aspects (number of words, features, and elements and etc.) in diagrams and tables for better understanding and more and easier usage of couplets.

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