

## Original Research Article

# “A Structural Analysis of Mending Wall by Robert Frost: Uncovering the Hidden Structures”

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**Abstract:** This research paper's objective is to undertake a structural analysis of Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall," in which the researcher will look at the form and poetic devices that Frost uses to emphasize his point. The researcher to conduct this study uses the formal method, and content analysis is used to interpret the text. This study also exposes unseen patterns that connect to broader themes and problems in American culture. In order to better understand the cultural and historical environment in which this American classic was created, the researcher will disclose the hidden structures underlying it in this research paper. The researcher will explore the influences of solitude, tradition, masculinity, and the human need for social interaction on American society. In addition, Frost uses a number of literary elements, such as irony, metaphor, and repetition, to further emphasize his point. For future researchers interested in studying American literature, specifically poetry, this research will have significance.

**Keywords:** Mending wall, structural analysis, Robert Frost, poetic devices, American literature.

## Introduction

Structuralism is a theoretical perspective that places more importance on the connections among structural parts than on the elements themselves. It aims to comprehend how these components interact to provide meaning.

Structuralists claim that literature, especially poetry, shapes reality through language rather than solely reflecting it. In this sense, a poem is more than just a list of words; it is also a carefully organized system of symbols that convey meaning.

The goal of structuralism is to discover fundamental structures and comprehend how they interact to produce meaning. The poem's tone is quite basic, and its structure is vividly depicted, but its underlying message is serious. The poet's use of literary elements and appropriate punctuation gives the poem a very lovely rise and fall. In this sense, the researcher analyses Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" using structuralism.

When it comes to poetry, Robert Frost is now a well-known name; he is regarded as one of America's brightest poets and a key role in the Modernist movement. Frost is a modernist poet who uses straightforward language and the events of his ordinary life to convey complexity and depths of meaning in his poetry. In "Mending Wall," one of his most well known poems, Frost explores how people struggle with the borders that divide them. Several commentators have examined the poem as an evidence of Frost's profound insight of the human experience.

The genre of poetry is entirely made up of words because poetry has a strong structure and is focused, it does not allow the author to create freely. Poetry utilizes fewer words than other forms of literature, yet by doing so, it can explain more situations. A poem is made up of energetic words that are full of life and sense and are arranged in such a way that the readers find it exciting and captivating to read and to take in the poet's objective reality.

Robert Frost published a poem titled "Mending Wall" in 1914. It is regarded as one of Frost's most well known and frequently published poems. The poem has forty-five lines arranged into two sections and is written in blank verse. Two neighbours who meet

yearly to repair the wall between their properties are the subject of a narrative poem. The poem appears to be about repairing a wall on the surface, but it is actually a reflection on boundaries and our need to establish them. Both academics and readers have spent decades analyzing and interpreting "Mending Wall." It is regarded as a remark on the need for community and connection among people as well as a reflection of the individuality and self-reliance that characterize American culture. The poem is regarded as a classic example of American literature because of Frost's skillful use of language and imagery. In order to comprehend "Mending Wall," an American classic, the researcher will examine it in more detail in this paper. He will look at its themes and underlying structures.

In conclusion, "Mending Wall" offers a compelling analysis of human nature and human ability to interact. Frost uses the metaphor of the wall to highlight the harmful and destructive impacts of our propensity to separate and split as well as the significance of removing hurdles and accepting change in order to develop deep relationships with people.

## Research Questions

How does the poem portray American culture and society through poetic devices?

How does the poem influence American culture and society?

How does the poem through its form and structure contribute to its overall meaning?

What are the major themes of the poem?

## Objectives of research

- To portray American culture and society through poetic devices.
- To study the influence of poetry on American culture and society.
- To discover the overall meaning of the poem through its form and structure.
- To Explore the major themes of the poem.

## Significance of Research

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" is a well-known American poem that has been the subject of research and analysis by literary experts. The relevance of tradition, communication, and the force of nature are revealed when the paper's researcher explores deeply into the poem's hidden structures. The writer of this research believes that readers may have a deeper understanding of this well-known piece of literature and some of the subtleties of Frost's writing because of this investigation. In addition, this study will demonstrate that structural analysis is still valid and appropriate for literary analysis. When analyzing poems that use a structural approach, in particular, this study may be used as an alternate source of information for literary studies, literary criticism, and further research.

Furthermore, analyzing poetry structurally can help us comprehend the many poetic traditions and styles, as well as how they have changed over time. Eventually, analyzing poetry from a structural viewpoint can help us better appreciate and comprehend the art form while also allowing us to connect with the poet's voice and vision on a deeper level.

## Literature Review

This section highlights the different reviews related to structure, structuralism, poetry, and the relationship between structuralism and poetry.

Structures are a focus of structural research, which explores the rules by which they operate as well as the relationships between them. The structure of relationships between units serves as the foundation for structuralism's activity. As a result, the form is crucial, while the information is secondary and accessible only via this form. The approach to texts taken by structuralism is analytical rather than judgmental (Eagleton, 1983). Structuralism can provide light on the composition of poetry works and the derivation of meaning from them. Additionally, it is asserted that structuralism can offer a framework for comprehending the various ways that poetic works can be understood. Furthermore, structuralist analysis can assist in identifying the poetic devices that are employed to convey meaning in a poetic work.

Culler (1975) argues that the foundation of structuralism is the understanding of the basic system of differences or patterns that enable meaning. Every genre has its own set of rules for reading. He thinks that the reader should first consider the work literary before learning more about the techniques used in each genre.

One genre of literature is poetry. Poetry has always been a major topic of study in literary studies. The poem is written in a language whose individual lines are as strong as those that came before them, either due to their brilliance or their focus. The vocabulary used in the poem frequently lowers, providing both light and heat (Perrine and Arp, 2005). Arnold (1973) stated that poetry attaches the emotion to the idea; the idea is the fact. A poem may be in free verse or metrical form and may have a special way of communicating. It is the process of inventing experience, life, and imagination. Alliteration, metaphors, altered syntax, and other language deviations are examples of the outward characteristics of a poem. Poetry often deviates from the "rules" of language, yet by doing so, it engages us in novel, original communication (Lazar, 1993).

According to Wainwright (2004), poetry is placed away but also a component of how our language functions and gestures. It implies that poetry's diction is different from terms used in everyday language with literal and lexical meanings. A poem is an artistic creation that necessitates the participation of two people: the reader and the listener (Robert, 1986). Poems, in the opinion of Perrine (1992), are a special kind of language that expresses ideas more

deeply than regular speech. According to Roberts and Jacobs (1995), poetry has a vast range of spoken and written forms, styles, and patterns in addition to a large range of subjects. Analysis of poetry may reveal that it simply contains a few components. Yet, it typically has a deep meaning. One cannot create a single, all-inclusive definition of poetry due to the diversity of various patterns and elements.

Poetry and structuralism are related. Structuralism offers a theoretical framework for examining and comprehending the formal and linguistic structures found in poems as well as how these structures contribute to the overall meaning of the poem. A structuralist looks for the hidden patterns that underlie a poem's meaning and value. In addition to identifying repeating themes and symbols in various poems or genres, structuralist analysis of poetry can also shed light on the deeper societal and cultural systems.

(Structuralism and its Application to Literature)

The Prague Circle and Ferdinand de Saussure's writings at the start of the 20th century gave rise to the linguistic movement known as structuralism. It started as a response to the 19th-century relativism and the idea that language and meaning were individualized. Instead, Structuralists believed that beneath the surface of every language there were underlying structural principles that could be discovered and investigated. They aimed to establish the universal elements that underlie language and mind.

Many literary writings, including works of fiction, poetry, and theatre, have been structuralized. In particular, structuralist approaches to poetry have sought to elucidate the fundamental elements of poetic form, such as meter and rhyme, and to investigate how these elements influence how the poem is understood. As a result, there is now a better knowledge of how language, society, and meaning interact in poetry as well, as how literary devices like word patterns can convey meaning. Poetry, according to Ollila and Janntas (2006), is any form of verbal or written language that has a rhythmic framework and is intended to tell a story. Short and incomplete sentences are a common feature of several poems, as seen in books, magazines, and other media. According to Carter (1996), linguistic levels determine how each text and writing style differs from the rest. Poetic language may in many different ways, some blatant, some subtle, violate or vary from the commonly accepted standards of the language (Leech, 1969).

(The relationship between structuralism and poetry)

The foundation of structuralism is the view that a text may be broken into smaller components, or "structures," and then put back together again to reveal a deeper meaning. This method is especially helpful when studying poetry since it enables the reader to delve into the poem's frequently unseen aspects of symbolism and purpose.

Poetic language is described as expressing more and executing so more strongly than regular language (Perrine, 1974). As a literary idea, structuralism aims to comprehend the underlying structures that give literary works their form. Poetry has long been the focus of structuralist analysis as a form of aesthetic expression. Understanding how poets employ language in their works can be done using structural theory. Birch (2005) stated that the words always have the dominant position over language and style.

Overall, structuralism gives a framework that sheds light on a text's shape, structure, and other poetic components. The complex nature of poetic language can be better understood within this approach. In addition, by offering fresh viewpoints and ideas, structuralism can contribute in the analysis of literary works. At the same time, structuralism can help poetry by enabling a deeper examination of its constituent parts. As a result, it may be said that structuralism and poetry complement one another, each making a distinctive contribution to study of literature.

## Research Methodology

This research is carried out through a structural approach and a formal technique. The formal technique and structural analysis could not be separated. The elements themselves are the essence of the formal method; this is also true of structuralism theory. The structuralist approach to appreciating poetry is systematic, objective techniques that take main concern more than a poem's inherent components. Since that, the concept of structure involves both content and form, the researcher decided to employ a structural analysis. While interpreting a poem, the researcher examines each part separately, then combines them and examines how they relate to one another. Close reading and content analysis methods were used for the analysis.

## Discussion and Analysis (A concise idea of the poem)

The poem "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost is a classic of American literature and is renowned for being both straightforward and profound at the same time. In this paper, the researcher will examine the poem's structure to see how it contributed significantly to the poem's overall meaning.

The poem's opening line, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall," introduces the concept of separation. This starts a disagreement between the speaker and his neighbour, who thinks a wall is necessary to divide their holdings. The poem emphasizes the neighbor's belief in this division through the statement "Good fences make nice neighbours," even while the speaker disputes the necessity of such a restriction. The enjambment used to create a sense of movement between stanzas and the addition of dialogue make the structure of the poem more complex as it moves forward. The conversation between the speaker and his neighbour emphasizes the contrast between their two points of view, with the speaker's skepticism in contrast to the neighbor's realism. Enjambment emphasizes the ongoing character of the battle by establishing a sense of continuity between the stanzas.

A sense of clarity is provided by the poem's final stanza, which has the phrase "Good fences make good neighbours" repeated three times. The speaker's failure to persuade his neighbour of his viewpoint is highlighted by the repeat of this sentence, which also emphasizes the repetition and routine themes. The poem is closing two lines, "He will not go behind his father's saying," and "And he likes having thought of it so well," highlight heritage and the opposition to innovation, which eventually justifies the upkeep of the wall.

In conclusion, the poem "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost has an important structure that contributes to its overall meaning. The recurrence of important lines highlights the continuing nature of the battle, whereas the usage of conversation and enjambment give a feeling of flow and continuity between stanzas. In the end, the poem's structure draws attention to the conflict between heritage and doubt, which is its central issue.

## (The historical and cultural context of the poem)

Understanding the historical and cultural setting in which Robert Frost wrote "Mending Wall" is crucial for understanding the poem. The poem was initially published in 1914, a year in which America witnessed profound shift. The nation was moving from an agricultural to an industrial civilization, and this change had a significant impact on how people lived and communicated with one another.

The poem is set in rural New England, a region known for its long agricultural history and strict communities. Even in these little communities, though, neighborly tensions were beginning to

surface as people started to place a higher importance on their individuality and privacy than on their sense of community and cooperation. This shifting dynamic is depicted in Frost's poem, which features two neighbours who are divided by a wall that requires continual upkeep. However, "Mending Wall" also addresses more significant political and cultural challenges in America. Frost was alive at a period of remarkable change that saw two world wars, much sorrow, and the Civil Rights Movement. His poetry, which includes "Mending Wall," which might be interpreted as a reflection on the differences that were beginning to appear in American society, addresses many of these topics.

Overall, in order to fully appreciate the ideas and messages of "Mending Wall," one must be aware of its historical and cultural background. We can learn more about Frost's poetry and the manners in which it connects to common human experiences by examining the social and political challenges that were widespread in America at the time.

## (Analysis of the poem's form and structure)

Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" has a form and a structure that are key to its power. Blank verse is used in the poem. This structure establishes an attractive yet sophisticated tone that is natural and conversational. The poem's organization reflects its theme, which is the process of mending a wall. All through the poem, the line "Good fences make good neighbours" is used to emphasize the value of boundaries and separation between individuals.

The speaker questions the necessity of the repair while the neighbour insists on its significance as the operation of fixing the wall is recounted in detail. As a result, there is tension between the two characters, which is represented in the poem's organization. The poem's use of imagery and metaphor also gives its form and structure another complexity. The wall itself serves as a metaphor for the lines we draw to separate ourselves from other people and the work of mending it is a representation of the continual battle to uphold those lines. The poem conveys the continuous aspect of life and the certainty of change using natural imagery, such as the apples and pine trees.

Overall, "Mending Wall" has a complex relationship between its form and structure and its meaning and relevance, resulting in a poem that is both attractive and thought provoking.

## (Analysis of Poetic devices)

**Repetition:** To express the speaker's dissatisfaction at the wall's split, Frost used repetition in the poem. The sense that there is some elusive, illogical cause for the separation is emphasized by the statement "Something there is," which is used repeatedly. In addition, the phrase "good fences make good neighbours" is used frequently, highlighting the neighbor's intent on maintaining the wall in ironic duality to the speaker's belief that the wall is not required.

**Irony:** The poem also employs irony to highlight the speaker's perspective on the wall. Despite having different grounds, the speaker wonders why the neighbour is so concerned on having the wall. The speaker does not believe that a physical barrier is required for two people to reside together. Irony can also be found in the phrase "mending wall" in the title. The relationship between the speaker and the neighbour is unharmed, and neither is the wall itself.

**Metaphor:** Frost uses metaphors to explain the importance of the wall. The wall is defined as "something" that "spills" the boulders to the ground" and "does not "enjoy" the forests. The wall is personified, conveying its malice and giving the impression that it is a hostile force in nature. This metaphor emphasizes how the wall is opposed to human interaction and nature.

Imagery: Two men cooperating to repair a stone wall is one of the poem's most striking imagery. This picture represents the commitment required for people to continue their relationships. It indicates that relationships can be maintained by communication and understanding, just as a wall can be constructed through unity. A tree falling on a wall is another significant image from the poem. This picture shows the dreadful power of miscommunication and misunderstandings. It means that when people are unable to communicate, it can result in conflict and, ultimately, the breakdown of relationships. The arrival of spring after a long winter is the poem's climactic image. This picture reflects regeneration and hope, emphasizing that even when circumstances look grim and dark, there is always a chance for fresh starts. This hope enables us to persevere even under trying circumstances.

### **Robert Frost's writing with reference to "Mending Wall"**

In "Mending Wall," Robert Frost uses straightforward language that is still captivating and places a strong emphasis on the natural environment. Couplets and repetition, which give the poem a rhythmic feel and accentuate the speaker's ideas and feelings, are also significant aspects of its structure. In this poem, Frost makes extensive use of symbolism and metaphors, which is a crucial aspect of his literary style. For instance, it is possible to see the wall that the speaker and his neighbour are mending as a metaphor for the barriers that people erect to keep them apart. The speaker repeatedly questions its necessity and ruminates on the nature of boundaries, which reveals the wall's symbolic significance.

Overall, Frost's writing style in "Mending Wall" strikes a balance between simplicity and depth, using understandable language to explore difficult concepts about human relationships and the natural world.

### **Major themes in "Mending Wall"**

(The theme of division and unity)

The concept of division and unity is one of Robert Frost's most important topics in "Mending Wall." The two neighbours, whose properties are split by a stonewall, are the subject of the poem. The speaker challenges the necessity of such a wall, while his neighbour counters, "Good fences make good neighbours." Both characters have opposing perspectives on this wall. As it divides the two neighbours and their properties, the wall itself is a meaningful expression of division. However, because it draws them together every year to fix it, it is also a representation of unity. The wall's dual nature draws attention to the delicate link between division and togetherness. The poem also wonders if such distinctions are necessary. Is it essential to keep ourselves apart from others? Can we, on the other hand, find harmony despite our differences? With the metaphor of the wall and the divergent perspectives of the two neighbours, Frost examines these issues.

In the end, "Mending Wall" is a poem about a physical wall as well as a reflection on the barriers we erect between people and ourselves. It forces us to reflect on the significance of seeing unity in our diversity as well as the role that divisions play in our lives.

(Theme of Importance of tradition)

The value of tradition is one of Frost's most significant topics in "Mending Wall." In the poem, the speaker describes how he and his neighbour walk outside each spring to fix the wall that separate their properties. They keep doing this even though they do not actually need to because it is customary. This behavior serves as a metaphor for the value we place on tradition. It contributes in defining our identity and establishes a link to our past.

(Theme of power of nature)

The strength of nature is another subject in Frost's poem. The speaker describes how the tree roots are constantly pushing the stones out of the wall. This demonstrates how nature is constantly evolving and expanding despite our best efforts to regulate it. It serves as a gentle reminder that we are only a little portion of something far greater than we are.

(Importance of communication)

The significance of communication is the poem's final recurring theme. The speaker of the poem discusses how he and his neighbour do not communicate but continue to work together to fix the wall despite this. This demonstrates that it is crucial to interact with one another and cooperate for the common good even though we might not always agree.

### **(The poem's influence on American literature and culture)**

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" has had a significant impact on American literature and culture. Readers have been identifying with the poem's themes for ages, including the value of limits and the conflict between tradition and progress. The poem has become a favorite among many thanks to Frost's use of vivid imagery and natural settings. Frost's talent as a poet and his capacity to express universal topics in his writing are demonstrated by the poem's ongoing appeal. The fact that "Mending Wall" is still being read, discussed, and studied by readers and academics guarantees that its impact will last for many years.

The idea of limits and their significance in creating and maintaining relationships is one of the poem's key themes. The poem examines the conflict between the speaker and his neighbour over whether or not a wall separating their homes is actually necessary. Since personal space and limits are strongly prized in American culture, this topic has found resonance there. The speaker of the poem expresses a wish to communicate with his neighbour without a physical barrier and challenges the necessity of a wall, which is another theme of the poem. This topic has influenced American culture, which frequently values and celebrates individualism. Finally yet importantly, the poem explores the idea of togetherness as the speaker queries his neighbour on why they make good neighbours. The reader is prompted by this topic to reflect on the value of community and the part that limits have in preserving successful relations within a society.

Overall, the poem "Mending Wall" had a significant influence on American culture because it made readers think about the value of connection, individualism, and boundaries in their own lives.

### **(The poem's commentary on human nature and relationships)**

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" is a commentary on human nature and interpersonal connections in addition to a poem about a physical wall separating two neighbours. In the poem, the speaker contests the necessity of the wall and his neighbor's assertion that "good fences make good neighbours." According to Frost, the wall is a metaphor for the obstacles that people put in their way, both physically, socially, and emotionally.

The poem might be interpreted as a reflection of the human desire to isolate and divide others from oneself. According to Frost, this desire goes against our nature towards social interaction and society. He demonstrates that, despite the wall maybe preventing the neighbours from physically breaking one another's boundaries, it ultimately has no positive effect on their social ties.

The poem also emphasizes the conflict between tradition and progress. The speaker's wish to tear down the barrier and build a link between them contrasts with the neighbor's obstinate

commitment to the proverb "good fences make good neighbours." Frost appears to indicate that our trust in tradition can keep us from accepting evolution and progress, and that the only way we can fully interact with people is by questioning the norms.

### (Contemporary interpretation and relevance of "Mending Wall")

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" is a traditional American poem that has survived the test of time. Despite being written more than a century ago, the poem still has an impact on audiences today. The poem has been interpreted in a variety of ways over the years, and academics and critics continue to look into its importance. According to one interpretation, the song "Mending Wall" is a remark on how divided people are and how barriers must be removed. The wall that divides two neighbours in the poem's main picture can be interpreted as a metaphor for the divisions that take place in society. In Frost's poem, it is suggested that these boundaries are frequently arbitrary and pointless, and that erecting them simply helps to further divide people.

"Mending Wall" may also be seen as a statement on people's need for structure and control. Even though it is unnecessary, the speaker of the poem is fixated on preserving the wall in good condition. This might be interpreted as a reflection of human urge to exert control over the environment and bring order to chaos. These concepts are still important in today's world. We continue to erect barriers between us, both physically and figuratively. As essential today as it was when Frost first wrote the poem is its message of tearing down boundaries and embracing our shared humanity. A reminder of the value of connection and unity in a sometimes divided society, "Mending Wall" is still a potent remark on the human condition.

### Conclusion and Final thoughts

Robert Frost's "Mending Wall" has established its rank and legacy as a timeless icon of American literature more than a decade after its initial release and continues to fascinate readers. The poem's intricate themes of tradition, boundaries, and individuality have resonated with readers across many decades and are now inspiring fresh perspectives and discussions.

Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" shows his perceptive and insightful viewpoint on the human condition. Its broken structure and blank verse style reflect the speaker's conflicted viewpoint. Frost emphasizes the idea of the conflict that results from an unneeded physical and mental wall using poetic methods like repetition, irony, and metaphor. The poem is evidence of the value of reflection and mindfulness in understanding human experiences.

The poem's famed first line, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall," has gained widespread recognition in American culture and had an impact on politics, literature, and even popular culture. An issue explored by Frost that is still important today is the conflict between the need for personal space and the desire for interpersonal connection. The poem challenges readers to consider their own relationships and the emotional and physical walls they erect. It challenges us to explore whether walls and barriers actually serve our best interests and to question their purpose.

Overall, American literature's best work, "Mending Wall," still challenges and inspires readers today. Its lasting impact is proof of poetry's ability to encapsulate the human experience and inspire awareness.

### Recommendations and suggestions

Researchers have the chance to interact with significant historical and cultural context through Frost's poetry. Researchers can learn more about historical literature and how it inspired existing literature by studying Frost's work.

Furthermore, using a structural perspective when analyzing poetry is crucial since it enables us to recognize and identify the basic themes and structures of the work. Future scholars can better understand the poet's choice of language and its effect on the reader by analyzing the structure of a poem. Scholars can learn more about the poem's themes, purpose, and underlying message.

Researchers can obtain a deeper understanding of literary and social communication traditions as well as a deeper awareness of the delicacy and variety of language by analyzing Frost's work in the classroom. Furthermore, researchers might develop a deeper understanding of the poetry's and language's beauty through analyzing his works.

In conclusion, there are multiple educational advantages to studying Robert Frost's poetry. Learners who interact with his writing can develop a love of reading, a sense of the delicacy of language, and an understanding of significant subjects. Hence, researchers and academicians of all levels may find that studying Frost's poetry is rewarding and enlightening.

Overall, structuralism can be an efficient approach for identifying the basic patterns that give rise to poetry as well as the manner in which poetry both mirrors and influences culture.

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