

ABSTRACT

SERAPHINE, AGNES. (2025). **Appreciation for Evolution through the Poetic and Performative Elements of Harry Baker's "A to Z of Time and Space"**. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Spoken word poetry is a contemporary poetry written to be performed. Its history is scattered around periods of time from the emergence of jazz poetry in the 1920s up to the surge of spoken word poetry's popularity in 1984, after the first poetry slam was held in Chicago. Despite its immense social and educational impacts, as of June 2025, spoken word poetry is still scarcely researched for its intrinsic elements. Moreover, most poetry studies still examine poetic and performative elements separately, creating a study gap in the holistic interpretation of spoken word poetry.

Responding to these concerns, the exploration of Harry Baker's spoken word poem "A to Z of Time and Space" in this study was conducted for three objectives. The first objective is to comprehend its poetic elements. The second one is to comprehend its performative elements. Then, the third one is to interpret how both poetic and performative elements reveal the theme of appreciation for evolution.

The New Criticism approach, along with library research, was implemented in this study. The primary source was the video recording of Harry Baker's spoken word poetry performance "Harry Baker - A to Z of Time and Space || Spoken Word Poetry ||" on I Am Loud Production's YouTube channel, supported by his poetry collection book *Unashamed* (2022). The secondary sources are books, journal articles, and websites related to the concept of spoken word poetry, the theory of poetic and performative elements in spoken word poetry, the theory of theme, the theory of appreciation, and the theory of evolution. These theories are used as a framework to answer the problem formulation.

The result of the study reveals that "A to Z of Time and Space" is constructed through the poetic elements of diction, figurative language, musical devices, point of view, and tone, as well as the performative elements of live interaction, body language, and orality. The dynamic interplay of these elements reveal the theme of appreciation for evolution and resolves the chief tension between insignificance and meaningfulness through five forms of appreciation: the collective act of re-perceiving the origin of time and space, the collective act of re-experiencing the emergence of human species, the collective act of re-experiencing the active involvement of humankind in the dynamic of evolution, a direct reflection upon the relationship between human existence and the evolution, and a series of detailed instructions for both the spoken word poet and the audience to respond to the phenomenon in the present.

Keywords: *contemporary poetry, performative elements, poetic elements, spoken word poem, poem analysis*

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Spoken word poetry merupakan *genre* puisi kontemporer yang ditulis dengan tujuan dipentaskan. Sejarahnya tersebar sejak kemunculan *Beat Poetry* pada tahun 1940-an hingga peningkatan popularitas *spoken word poetry* pada tahun 1984, setelah *poetry slam* pertama diadakan di Chicago. Walaupun memiliki dampak yang besar di bidang sosial dan pendidikan, hingga Mei 2025, unsur-unsur intrinsik *spoken word poetry* masih jarang diteliti. Selain itu, sebagian besar kajian puisi masih meneliti unsur *poetic* dan unsur *performative* secara terpisah, sehingga menimbulkan kesenjangan pengetahuan dalam pemahaman *spoken word poetry* yang menyeluruh.

Untuk menanggapi permasalahan tersebut, penelitian terhadap *spoken word poem* karya Harry Baker yang berjudul "A to Z of Time and Space" ini dilaksanakan dengan tiga tujuan. Tujuan pertama adalah untuk memahami unsur-unsur *poetic*. Tujuan kedua adalah untuk memahami unsur-unsur *performative*. Lalu, tujuan ketiga adalah untuk menafsirkan bagaimana kedua unsur tersebut menciptakan sebuah dinamika yang mengungkapkan tema apresiasi terhadap evolusi.

Pendekatan *New Criticism* dengan metode *library research* digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Sumber utamanya merupakan rekaman video puisi pertunjukan "Harry Baker - A to Z of Time and Space || Spoken Word Poetry ||" di kanal YouTube I Am Loud Productions, dilengkapi dengan buku kumpulan puisi *Unashamed* (2022) karya Harry Baker. Sumber sekundernya terdiri dari buku, jurnal, dan situs web yang berkaitan dengan konsep *spoken word poetry*, teori unsur *poetic* dan *performative* dalam *spoken word poetry*, teori tema, teori apresiasi, dan teori evolusi. Teori-teori ini digunakan sebagai kerangka analisis untuk menjawab rumusan masalah.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa "A to Z of Time and Space" terdiri dari unsur-unsur *poetic* berupa diksi, majas, perangkat bunyi, sudut pandang, dan nada, serta unsur-unsur *performatif* berupa interaksi langsung, bahasa tubuh, dan oralitas. Interaksi dinamis antara unsur-unsur ini mengungkapkan tema apresiasi terhadap evolusi dan menyelesaikan ketegangan utama antara ketakberartian dan kebermaknaan melalui lima bentuk apresiasi: tindakan kolektif untuk melihat kembali asal-usul ruang dan waktu, tindakan kolektif untuk mengalami kembali kemunculan spesies manusia, tindakan kolektif untuk mengalami kembali keterlibatan aktif manusia dalam dinamika evolusi, refleksi langsung terhadap relasi antara keberadaan manusia dan evolusi, serta serangkaian instruksi yang terperinci bagi *spoken word poet* dan penonton untuk merespons fenomena tersebut di masa sekarang.

Kata kunci: *contemporary poetry, performative elements, poetic elements, spoken word poem, poem analysis*