

**POETRY OR PROSE  
POETRY IN DECLINE THE RISE  
OF PROSE  
OR  
THE END OF POETRY**

By

Colin leslie dean

**B,Sc, BA, B.Litt(Hons), MA, B.Litt(Hons), MA,**

**MA (Psychoanalytic studies), Master of Psychoanalytic studies,**

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# AUSTRALIAS LEADING EROTIC POET COLIN LESLIE DEAN FREE DOWNLOAD AT

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STATES

POETRYOR PROSE

Nearly all that goes for poetry these days is just prose

Technically you can only call something poetry if it has structure ie metre or rhythm

read definition of poetry as distinct from prose

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosody\\_%28poetry%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosody_%28poetry%29)

”In poetry, metre (meter in American English) is the basic rhythmic structure of a verse or lines in verse “

Here are 3 more definitions of poetry all requiring metre or rhythm ie structure

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/poetry>

1.  
the [art](#) of rhythmical [rhythm is structure] composition, written or spoken, for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts.
2.  
literary work in metrical [metre is structured] form; verse.
3.  
prose with [poetic](#) qualities [this is a circular definition as poetic is defined to be processing poetry qualities ie metre rhythm structure]

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/poetry>

1

a: metrical [METRICAL WRITING IS STRUCTURED] writing: verse b: the

productions of a poet: poems[ FROM a THAT MEANS POEMS ARE STRUCTURED  
2

: writing that formulates a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience in language chosen and arranged to create a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm [LOOK UP ITS DEFINITION IT MEANS STRUCTURED]

<http://contemporarylit.about.com/cs/literaryterms/g/poetry.htm>

**Definition:** Poetry is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language [ie structured language]

Here is a definition of “poem” note a poem is distinct from prose by being structured ie metre rhythm

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/poem>

1. A verbal composition designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way, characterized by the use of language chosen for its sound and suggestive power and by the use of literary techniques such as meter, metaphor, and rhyme.
2. A composition in verse rather than in prose.
3. A literary composition written with an intensity or beauty of language more characteristic of poetry than of prose.

FREE VERSE IS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS

FREE[UNSTRUCTURED] VERSE[STRUCTURED]

Thus most of 20th century poetry is really just prose as **it has no form or structure** and most of what is called poetry on poetry forums is really only prose ie unstructured

If you say modern poetry is unstructured poetry this is a contradiction in terms as poetry

by definition is structured if the writing is unstructured ie no metre then it is not poetry but only prose

Some say poetry is not subject to fixed objective but goes through fashions Fact is poetry is defined to be structured –this has been the accepted criteria of poetry for other cultures as well as since the beginnings of the western culture

If the definition changes all the time to fashion then poetry as a category is meaningless  
 IE THEN WE CANNOT COMPARE POETRY WRITTEN AT OTHER TIMES WITH A DIFFERENT DEFINITION TO TIMES WHERE THE DEFINITION OF POETRY IS DIFFERENT

If poetry due to fashion is unstructured you may just as well call everything poetry and do away with the term prose but then how do you distinguish say shakespeare from a 10 year olds poetry

then the telephone directory is poetry  
 or articles in the news paper are poetry  
 poetry is distinguished from prose by being structured very simple

If unstructured can be poetry then the first law of thermodynamics is poetry as it is a poem

or better still the Encyclopedia Britannica is an anthology of meaningful poetry

by calling unstructured poetry you views do away with the category prose-unstructured - and make everything poetry

sorry only talentless people will argue that way

only talent can write structure-real poetry

only talentless want to call unstructured writing poetry

If one is going to write unstructured prose then don't call it poetry by all means coin a new term but you cannot call it poetry

If a piece of writing is a mix of structured and unstructured invent a new term for it but you can't call it poetry. Similarly if there are hundreds of different mixed types of writing then call them each by a different name but you cannot call them all poetry.

Now a poem is an objective thing just like a chair or electron it is objective in that you or any one else can hear the structure of the poem. The essence of poetry is a structure without structure a work cannot be called poetry. A completely meaningless bunch of gibberish would still be poetry if it is structured as you could hear the structure. Things like metaphor enjambement epanalepsis synaesthesia rhyme alliteration etc are techniques i.e. embellishments used to embellish the structure of a poem. If these embellishments are present in a non-structured work i.e. prose then that work is not poetry—you are free to call such a work anything you want but you can't call it poetry—as the embellishments are not essential to poetry or prose for that matter—the only essential thing to poetry is structure. Poetry being an objective thing i.e. structure means there are objective criteria to judge a poem namely whether the structure is perfect or if there are flaws in structure. The content or use of techniques i.e. embellishments are irrelevant as to whether a poem is good or bad. To judge a work good or bad based upon content or these techniques i.e. embellishments is only arbitrary subjective value-laden judgment—the history of poetry shows how these things come into fashion and go out of fashion. **A poem firstly and lastly is good or bad if its structure is good or bad.** Any other criterion is just subjective arbitrary value judgment—open to changing fashion—which has no place in judging a poem. Oscar Wilde said it correctly

“There are no such things as a moral or immoral book

Books are well written or badly written That is all”

Thus if Shakespeare and a 10 year each write a perfect structured sonnet then all we can say is they both are good poets any other judgment based on content or embellishments is only arbitrary subjective value laden judgment-the history of poetry show how these thing come into fashion and go out of fashion

Example a sonnet is defined to have 14 structured lines A sonnet has 14 lines so to qualify for being called a sonnet it must have 14 structured lines A Shakespearean, or English, sonnet consists of 14 lines, each line containing ten syllables and written in [iambic pentameter](#), in which a pattern of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable is repeated five times. The rhyme scheme in a Shakespearean sonnet is *a-b-a-b, c-d-c-d, e-f-e-f, g-g*; the last two lines are a rhyming couplet.

Traditionally, English poets employ [iambic pentameter](#) when writing sonnets, but not all English sonnets have the same metrical structure: the first sonnet in [Sir Philip Sidney's](#) sequence [Astrophel and Stella](#), for example, has 12 syllables: it is [iambic hexameters](#), albeit with a turned first foot in several lines. In the [Romance languages](#), the [hendecasyllable](#) and [Alexandrine](#) are the most widely used [metres](#)

Now we have different types of sonnets with 14 structured lines but with different rhyme schemes and each with a different name

A Shakespearean, or English, sonnet

Petrarchan or Italian sonnet

Spenserian sonnet

Caudate sonnet

Curtal sonnet

Pushkin sonnet

So if you write a sonnet it must have 14 structured lines and if you invent a new rhyme scheme then you call it a different name but you cant call it say a Shakespearean sonnet unless it has the Shakespearean rhyme scheme As you cannot call a work a sonnet unless it has structure and 14 lines

Example in physics many different particles have been discovered electron proton positron neutron etc each is a different thing so each has a unique name The same applies to poetry/prose Each new variation hybrid mixture should have its own unique name To call them the same thing creates confusion-as it would in physics if all the particles were called the same name

Now modernist poets use the sonnet but with free verse-ie the 14 lines but in free verse ie unstructured

This is a contradiction in terms as to be a sonnet/poem it must be structured So they should use a new term for what they call a free verse sonnet as a so called free verse sonnet is not even a sonnet as it has no structure but only 14 lines As pointed out below free verse is a contradiction in terms you can't have unstructured poetry (structured)-thus free verse is by the definition of poetry not even poetry

Some say poetry is an evolving thing

sure

but if poetry is defined to be structured ie metre then any writing that does not meet the definition is not poetry coin a new term for it but don't call it poetry

Some say Whitman did away with metre and is America's greatest poet

but if he is not using metre then by definition his work is not poetry but instead just prose Whitman should have called what he wrote some new term but he should not have called it poetry Whitman may have been a new voice but he was not a new voice in American poetry as what he wrote was not poetry but only unstructured prose or what is called free verse-which is a contradiction in terms

thus it is claimed that Whitman is America's greatest poet but acknowledge that he wrote not in metre thus if he is calling himself a poet that **then makes him America's greatest bad poet**

if you say he or others write in free verse

that is a contradiction in terms verse/poetry is by definition structured you cannot have unstructured structured poetry ie non-metre but metre poetry

take physics that is evolving to but an electron is defined by certain characteristic if a particle is to be called an electron then it must meet the definition if it does not then it is not an electron

same goes for poetry if writing does not meet the definition of what poetry is then it is not poetry

**BY DEFINITION POETRY IS STRUCTURED BY METRE**

**IF WHITMAN or any one else IS NOT USEING METRE ie structure THEN BY DEFINITION HE IS NOT A POET**

Again if it is said that what poetry is changes to fashion this only adds to confusions

In all cultures and in our western culture poetry has always been structured the pre-

Whitman American poets would have regarded poetry as structured

From the Sumerians Babylonians Egyptians Greeks Indians Chinese Chaucer

Shakespeare Milton Byron Shelly Keats all would have thought of poetry as structured and any thing else as mere prose ie unstructured

Again by definition if the work is not structured ie metre -but has nevertheless

song/cadence-then the work is not poetry –so call it a new name but you cant call it

poetry

The definition is clear poetry is structured ie metre if the work has no metre Whitman and the rest are by definition not producing poetry or can be called poets

Thus modern modernist poetry which is unstructured cannot be really called poetry by historical consensus from the Sumerians then to pre-Whitman American poets if a work is unstructured then it is nothing but prose

Of one of Americas great modernist poets Allen Ginsberg even William Carlos William said “most people, most critics<sup>1</sup> would call (Allen Ginsbergs collection called “Empty Mirror”{1947-1953)) just prose”

Thus when poetry is called free verse or unstructured poetry this really means POETRY IS DEAD OR THE END OF POETRY

**WHEN PROSE IS CALLED POETRY LIKEWISE POETRY IS DEAD OR AT AN  
END**

## **WHAT YOU HAVE JUST READ IS A MODERNIST POEM**

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<sup>1</sup> William Carlos William in “Allen Ginsberg Collected Poems”, Penguin books, 2009,p.817