

THE LIGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF TERMINOLOGY RELATED TO CRAFTS IN  
THE STORY OF "A ROSE FOR EMILY" BY WILLIAM FAULKNER

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**Abstract:** *This thesis investigates the language choices made in William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" and how they affect the themes of decay, control, and isolation in the narrative. In order to examine how these components contribute to the psychological portrait of the protagonist in the story, it concentrates on the language associated with crafts, particularly needlepoint and the architectural features of Emily's home. The analysis looks into: The way in which craft words like "needlepoint" and "architectural details" are figuratively employed to characterize Emily's character and her interaction with the outside world. It also focuses on the relationship between terms associated with craftsmanship and their connotations of control, accuracy, and preservation.*

**Key terms:** *linguistic features, crafts terms, craftsmanship, applied, resemble*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is a scheme of using words to communicate with other people. Specialized language has the same role but on a different level. Learning and mastering the vocabulary of an exact field gives us the ability to understand particular topics and discuss them. For example, to engage in conversations about politics, it is necessary to know the appropriate terms within the context to use them effectively in discussions. If you are interested in reading articles about cinema or art, you initially need to learn the vocabulary of that domain. In this article, some terms related to handicrafts existing in English language are explained by referring to the story "A Rose for Emily".

Main body. "A Rose for Emily" is a short story written by William Faulkner and published in 1930. It tells the story of an isolated Southern woman who lives in a large, beautiful Southern-style home after her father's death. Throughout the story, the reader learns about Emily's heart-breaking life and her loneliness. She refuses to admit change after his death and even denies that he died. When she finally gets a chance at happiness and a relationship, she is willing to kill to retain it forever.

"The house was [...] a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily ornamented style of the seventies. It looked like a bridal cake that had been left out in the rain, with its icing running down in thin streams, and the paint peeling from the weather, streaking and scaling like a leprosy"<sup>32</sup>. This description totally aligns with Southern-style homes, in one of which Emily lived and they were built of wood and carpenters used to decorate the exteriors of these houses. From the landscape in the story we know that carpenters

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<sup>32</sup> William Faulkner. A Rose for Emily and Other Stories. 1930

accented on barge boards while decorating the house and applied carving was used in the decoration of exterior walls. Some terms being discussed are "barge boards" and "applied carving". Barge boards are those attached to the outer common rafters on a gable roof and are flat resembling a 'barge' which in its turn means a long flat-bottomed boat for carrying freight on canals and rivers, either under its own power or towed by another. Another term "applied carving" means carving that has been worked separately and then applied, rather than being cut or fashioned in situ.

Although "A Rose for Emily" doesn't specifically describe Emily's handicrafts, we can deduce some from the elements of the story: The narrative makes reference to Emily's "elaborate and grotesque" needlepoint, which features a "damask rose." This suggests a commitment to traditional crafting processes and her proficiency in embroidery. Housekeeping and Domesticity: Emily's careful upkeep of her home is highlighted throughout the book, indicating that she is skilled in things like knitting, repairing clothes, and sewing curtains. She must have had some practical talent and ingenuity because she kept up her house for decades after her father passed away.

Here's a description from the story where "needlepoint" is mentioned:" Miss Emily's house was a mausoleum of faded grandeur, its once-white paint peeling like a leprosy, its ornate balconies draped in cobwebs. Inside, the air hung thick with the scent of dust and decay, and the furniture, shrouded in dust covers, resembled relics from a bygone era. Yet, amidst the gloom, there were glimpses of a vibrant past – a tapestry depicting a gallant knight, its threads meticulously woven in a forgotten language of needlepoint, hung over the fireplace. The meticulous craftsmanship of the tapestry, with its intricate detail and faded colors, mirrored Miss Emily's own life, a meticulously crafted existence frozen in time, clinging to a past that refused to let go"<sup>33</sup>.

Let's examine the linguistic characteristics of "needlepoint" that add to its unique meaning and importance: 1. Compound Word: \* The words "needle" and "point" are combined to make the compound word "needlepoint". This one term is succinct and descriptive since it captures the fundamental instruments and methods of the craft. The combination alludes to a focused and exact activity, reflecting the craft's attention to detail. 2. Use of Metaphors: \* The term "needlepoint" is frequently used figuratively to refer to any finely detailed or complex task. You could say, for instance, "The architect created a needlepoint plan for the building" to imply careful preparation and attention to detail. The relationship of needlepoint with accuracy and meticulousness is reflected in this metaphorical extension.

Conclusion: This linguistic study of craft terms in "A Rose for Emily" shows how Faulkner skillfully uses these ostensibly straightforward terms to paint a nuanced and moving picture of a woman caught in a web she has made for herself. The narrative examines the complex relationship between craft, control, and the protagonist's fight against time's unstoppable march through painstakingly detailed descriptions of architectural and needlework elements. Emily's struggles to maintain control over her life and a vanishing past are symbolized by her needlework, which is a tribute to her

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<sup>33</sup> William Faulkner. *A Rose for Emily and Other Stories*. 1930.

painstaking skill. Her efforts to preserve a static and unchanging reality are reflected in the fine details of her work, such as the faded tapestry hanging in her home.

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