POETRY AND LANGUAGE

Michael Ferber’s accessible introduction to poetry’s unusual uses of language tackles a wide range of subjects from a linguistic point of view. Written with the non-expert in mind, the book explores current linguistic concepts and theories and applies them to a variety of major poetic features. Equally appealing to linguists who feel that poetry has been unjustly neglected, the broad field of investigation touches on meter, rhyme (and other sound-effects), onomatopoeia, syntax, meaning, metaphor, style, and translation, among other topics. The poetic examples are mainly in English, but the book also focuses on several French, Latin, Greek, German, and Japanese examples, to show what is different and far from inevitable in English. This original and unusually wide-ranging study delivers an engaging and often witty summary of how we define what poetry is.

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The Linguistics of Verse

MICHAEL FERBER
To Charles and Helen Simic
Contents

List of Illustrations  page viii
Acknowledgments  ix

1  Introduction  1
2  Meter and the Syllable  16
3  Rhyme  58
4  Onomatopoeia and Sound Symbolism  86
5  Unusual Word Order and Other Syntactic Quirks in Poetry  104
6  The Meaning of a Poem  142
7  Metaphor  195
8  Translating Poetry  238

Appendix: Quantity and Pitch in Greek Verse  260
Works Cited  263
Index  270
Illustrations

1.1 The six factors of a speech event  page 3
2.1 The pattern of English stops  20
2.2 The nine English fricatives  21
2.3 The vocal tract  24
2.4 The International Phonetic Alphabet for American English  26
2.5 The structure of the syllable  30
2.6 Four basic types of meter  50
2.7 Timing an ionic foot  51
2.8 Timing the dactylic hexameter line  53
3.1 The structure of the syllable  59
3.2 The English stops  68
5.1 Example of a chiasm  128
6.1 Second-person pronouns in English  155
6.2 Second-person pronouns in the possessive case  156
6.3 Second-person pronouns in French  156
6.4 Distinctive features of phoneme /m/  186
7.1 Simple Venn diagram  198

viii
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