

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.

MICHAEL FERBER is Professor Emeritus at the University of New Hampshire. His previous publications include *Romanticism: A Very Short Introduction* (2010), *The Cambridge Introduction to British Romantic Poetry* (Cambridge, 2012), and *A Dictionary of Literary Symbols, Third Edition* (Cambridge, 2017).

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The Linguistics of Verse

MICHAEL FERBER



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To Charles and Helen Simic

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Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	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
<i>Appendix: Quantity and Pitch in Greek Verse</i>	260
<i>Works Cited</i>	263
<i>Index</i>	270

Illustrations

1.1 The six factors of a speech event	<i>page</i> 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

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