

Title:

Classical Definition of Ghazal

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Summary:

Ghazal ! The word originates from arabic, meaning, ^way or mannerism of talking to or talking

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Article Body:

Ghazal ! The word originates from arabic, meaning, ^way or mannerism of talking to or talking

To better understand the finer nuances of Urdu ghazal it is imperative to understand the struc

Classical Definition of Ghazal

Briefly stated Ghazal is a collection of Sher's which follow the rules of `Matla`, `Maqta`, `E

To understand these terms easily , we will take an example.

1. koi ummid bar nahin aati

koi surat nazar nahin aati.

2. aage aati thi haale dil par hasi

ab kisi baat par nahin aati

3. hum wahan hain, jahan se humko bhi

kucch hamaari khabar nahin aati

4. kaabaa kis muh se jaaoge `Ghalib`

sharm tumko magar nahin aati

What is a Sher ?

It's a poem of two lines. This definition is deceptively simple. Please note that, every Sher

So Ghazal is necessarily a collection of two-line-poems called Sher. [So the Rafi solo ^rang

What are other restrictions ? Many, and important ones.

[Any collection of Sher's is not Ghazal. Some good examples are ; the famous Mukesh song from

What is `Beher` ?

`Beher` is the `meter` of the Sher's. It can be considered as the length of the Sher. Both the

Small :

ahale dairo-haram reh gaye

tere deewane kam reh gaye

[Also Talat song, ^dil-e-nadan tuze hua kya hai~]

Medium :

umr jalwo me basar ho, ye zaruri to nahin

har shab-e-gam ki seher ho, ye zaruri to nahin

[And by Gulzar, ^ruke ruke se kadam, ruk ke baar baar chale~]

Long :

ai mere humnashin, chal kahin aur chal, is chaman me ab apanaa guzaaraa nahin

baat hoti gulon ki, to seh lete hum, ab to kaaton pe bhi haq hamaaraa nahin

[The filmfare winner, ^Manzile apani jagah hai~ !! Yes ! It IS a Ghazal. And the Shayar is Pr

So Ghazal is a collection of Sher's of SAME `Beher`.

What is `Radif` ?

In a Ghazal, second line of all the Sher's MUST end with the SAME word/s. This repeating commo

What is 'Kaafiyaa' ?

'Kaafiyaa' is the rhyming pattern which all the words before 'Radif' MUST have. In our example

So Ghazal is a collection of Sher's of same 'Beher', ending in same 'Radif' and having same 'K

What is 'Matla' ?

The first Sher in the Ghazal *MUST* have 'Radif' in its both lines. This Sher is called 'Matla

What is 'Maqta' ?

A Shayar usually has an alias ie. 'takhallus' eg. Mirza Asadullakhan used 'Ghalib' as his 'tak

koi nam-o-nishan puchhe to ai kaasid bataa denaa,
takhallus 'Daag' hai, aur aahiqon ke dil me rehte hai

and

jab bhi milte hain, to kehte hain, ^kaise ho 'Shakil'~,
iske aage to koi baat nahin hoti hai

The first one uses the meaning of the 'takhallus' to create the magic, and the second one is j

To summarize, Ghazal is a collection of Sher's (independent two-line poems), in which there is

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