

## An Introduction to the Theory of Prose

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### Abstract

The widespread use of prose in written and spoken language has not led experts to regard it as an equivalent of verse. On this basis, we do not yet have a specific definition of prose. Perhaps the reason for this shortcoming is either the difficulty of defining this kind of speech or its existential self-evidence. But philosophers, rhetoricians, orators, stylists, critics, and linguists have, more or less, tended to describe, and sometimes define, prose. Adopting a descriptive-analytical method, the present article has tried to offer a logical definition for prose after introducing the existing definitions. Having assessed the views of the predecessors, the article concludes that prose is “connected speech”, but the feature that distinguishes prose from verse is that in prose only the phonetic-syntactic rules of language dictate the order of the discourse, whereas in verse, meter and rhythm are loaded with rules that determine the arrangement of words. Moreover, the paper discusses rhythmic prose, prose poetry and rhyming prose in terms of their prosaic and verse properties.

**Keywords:** Prose, Poetry, Verse, Rhythmic Prose, Prose Poetry

### Extended Abstract

#### 1. Introduction

Although we speak in prose and most written works are in prose, the need for a definition of prose is still critical. Without a definition of

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prose, it is impossible to understand it or other forms of verbal communication. The present paper tries to examine the existing definitions of prose and offer a more comprehensive one. Attempt is made here to investigate the nature of prose as an important issue in the theory of prose.

## **2. Theoretical Framework**

Different definitions and descriptions of prose by numerous scholars have been studied closely in the present paper in an attempt to offer a more comprehensive definition of the prose.

## **3. Methodology**

The present paper applies the descriptive-analytical method to the study of the main ideas in the theory of prose in order to come up with a new definition for prose.

## **4. Discussion and Analysis**

To define the prose, its nature and distinctive features are of importance. It can be concluded that prose is “connected speech”, but the feature that distinguishes prose from verse is that in prose only the phonetic-syntactic rules of language dictate the order of the discourse, whereas in verse, meter and rhythm are loaded with rules that determine the arrangement of words. In this study, rhythmic prose and prose poetry have been also discussed in terms of their specific features.

## **5. Conclusion**

The results of our investigation into the ideas of scholars from the past and present show that prose is connected speech, while poetry is disconnected speech. In other words, prose follows phonetic-syntactic rules and poetry is based on rhythm and meter. And while connection in prose is the ordinary form of speech, in poetry disconnection is intentional in order to achieve poetical purposes. Moreover, rhythmic prose can be defined as prose combined with rhetorical meter, and prose poetry emerges when poetry and rhetorical prose are combined.

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