

One of the most important artistic techniques which is so characteristic of both Donne's and Eliot's poetics is "metaphysical" wit. It tends to create such a surprising effect, that is achieved by comparison and drawing of totally different ideas and images together. In order to express wit "Metaphysicians" use conceit - a complex, widespread metaphor that can express both intellect and fantasy at the same time.

One of the most famous examples of a conceit in Donne's poetry is found in his late poem called "Hymn to God, my God, in my Sickness". Here the author identifies himself with a map, whereas he calls the doctors cosmographers. The same artistic effect is noticed in Eliot's famous poem "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock". In this poem the stillness of the evening is compared to a patient "etherized upon a table". There are lots of such imitations of Donne's poetry in Eliot's works.

These very parallels of Donne's and Eliot's lyrics are discussed in my thesis, where I try to demonstrate how the influence of the 17th century poetry worked on Eliot's early poems