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In Pablo Neruda's poem "*Always*," he delves into the many dynamics that fall into an intimate relationship. In the poem, a significant lover has many past relationships that take a toll on the speaker. The speaker is persistent to display his love to the significant other, in the process he accepts the past as well. In the end, the speaker fantasizes about a world where only their love is dictated by them two instead of the past. Neruda clearly communicates that sometimes in relationships, a person may have a past that makes it an obstacle in a relationship. Sometimes people have to be persistent to express love to the significant other, and acceptance of their past to move on to create a better future. Thus, the unity of two people are created and so is love. The poet uses the literary devices of diction and tone to artfully craft his theme. Through an affirmative yet compassionate tone, love is communicated.

The poetic device of diction is used to communicate that the past of a significant other in a relationship can become an obstacle. In the beginning of the poem the poet writes, "I am not jealous/of what came before me" (1-2). The tone here is affirmative because the speaker is making a statement about how the past doesn't matter to him. He is the present and the past insignificant relationships of the significant other do not matter. The poet chooses to write, "of what came before me" to show that the past is merely important. It shows the importance that the speaker is worried about the present, and has come to the acceptance of the past of the significant other. The poet later states in the lines below:

Come with a man

on your shoulders,

come with a hundred men in your hair,

come with a thousand men between your breasts and your feet (3-6).

It is clearly being communicated that even with all the men surrounding this lover, the speaker would still want her. They may be in her 'hair,' meaning constantly giving her attention and being around her. Her intimate past with men don't faze the speaker. The different dynamics of a relationship are portrayed in the lines, "come with a thousand men between your breasts and your feet." 'Breast' symbolizes a sexual intimate past that the significant other may have had with men, and the feet symbolizes how men have always been rather 'worshipping' the significant other. The significant other has had dominance and control because men effortlessly gave themselves willingly to her. With all that has happened, the speaker is still passionate about being with his lover. Although it is an obstacle because the speaker has to sift through the past to get to the significant other, and show that he is resilient. The past may have consisted of infinitesimal relationships, but the speaker is holding hope to maintain a momentous relationship.

The poet uses diction to portray that it takes persistence to express love to the significant other. This will portray to them that the intentions are genuine and they are not merely being used. In the middle of the poem Neruda writes, "come like a river/ full of drowned men/... to

the eternal surf, to Time!” (7-10). The speaker is telling the significant other to come forth with her past and flaws into this relationship. The speaker has come to terms with the past; there were a lot of men before him, but they have ‘drowned.’ The diction in the line “ full of drowned men,” is negative. It shows that those men from the past relationship since they have no meaning, they have evidently died and have no importance **to their present relationship**. The speaker is evidently in love and countless times he has brought up the significant others past to say that he is there. Furthermore, when the poet says “to the eternal surf, to Time!” it shows that the speaker is willing to take time to work with the past. The diction in “to time,” is positive because it shows the speaker is committed, and is willing to look past the amount of insignificant lovers that had existed.

In the end of the poem the speaker is ready to move on into the future. He fantasizes about the relationship between him and the significant other will only be based on them two. The past has been overlooked and won’t be haunting them. The poet writes, “we shall always be alone/we shall always be you and I” (12-13). The poet fantasizes about him and his significant other finally united in the sense of being committed to a relationship. He further goes to explain that this relationship will last long. When the speaker says “ We shall always be you and I,” he is saying that from now on the past will not dictate their relationship. The poet uses positive diction yet again to get across his message. When the speaker says ‘Always,’ it is something signifying devotion to something that will be around forever. The relationship the speaker and the significant other have can now be built upon leaving the past and moving forward in life. The unity in the relationship between the couple is finally formed and it hints at something greater that will last into the future.

Therefore, an individual in a relationship should be able to look beyond their partner’s past to make their present relationship fruitful expressed in Pablo Neruda’s poem, *Always*. The importance of accepting the past, influences actions to make a better future. Neruda communicates that persistence is a sure sign to keep a relationship intact. When people are persistent they are usually able to sway the opinions of others. This skill is needed when it comes to loving someone, it helps signify genuine feelings one has towards a significant other. It is also concluded that when the past is forgotten, it no longer holds the ability to dictate the future affairs.