Introduction:

The poem "My Last Farewell" was written by José Rizal, a Filipino nationalist and polymath. It was written in 1896, the year of Rizal's execution by the Spanish colonial government in the Philippines. The poem is a farewell message to his beloved country, expressing his love and patriotism towards the Philippines and his willingness to sacrifice his life for the country's freedom.

Analysis:

The poem is structured into 13 stanzas, each consisting of five lines, with the rhyme scheme ABABA. The poem uses vivid imagery and figurative language to convey Rizal's love for his country and his willingness to die for its freedom.

The first stanza expresses Rizal's love for his country, describing it as a "Pearl of the Orient Sea" and a "region of the sun caressed." He expresses his willingness to give his life for his country's welfare.

In the second stanza, Rizal compares himself to other soldiers who have died for the country in battle. He states that it does not matter where he dies, whether on the battlefield or the scaffold, as long as it is for the sake of his country.

The third stanza is a metaphorical representation of Rizal's death. He compares his death to the sunrise, stating that his blood will be the color of the morning sky, and it will be spread to give his country's morning glow.

In the fourth stanza, Rizal recalls his dreams as a youth to see his country free from oppression, with a smooth brow and without shame.

In the fifth stanza, Rizal expresses his passion for his country, stating that he would willingly die for it and give it his life.

In the sixth stanza, Rizal asks that if someone were to visit his grave, they bring a flower and kiss it to give him the warmth of their breath.

In the seventh stanza, Rizal expresses his desire to be remembered and asks that the moon, dawn, and wind sing for him, and a bird intones a song of peace over his grave.

In the eighth stanza, Rizal asks that his death be remembered, and prayers be offered for those who have died in the struggle for freedom.

In the ninth stanza, Rizal asks that his grave not be disturbed, and that if someone hears music, it is he who is singing a song to his country.

In the tenth stanza, Rizal asks that his ashes be scattered to the wind so that he can become a part of his country's atmosphere.

In the eleventh stanza, Rizal bids farewell to his loved ones, including his parents, friends, and the stranger who brightened his way.

In the twelfth stanza, Rizal expresses his relief at the end of his suffering.

In the thirteenth and final stanza, Rizal bids a final farewell to his country and expresses his desire to go to a place where there is no oppression, tyranny, or injustice.

Conclusion:

"My Last Farewell" is a powerful poem that expresses José Rizal's love and patriotism towards his country. The poem's structure, with its use of vivid imagery and figurative language, adds to its emotional impact. Rizal's willingness to sacrifice his life for his country's freedom remains an inspiration for Filipinos today.