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ARTISTIC AND FIGURATIVE DEVICES IN LITERARY DISCOURSE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MARK TWAIN'S AND KHUDOYBERDI TOKHTABOYEV'S WORKS

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Abstract: This article investigates the artistic and figurative devices employed in the literary works of Mark Twain and Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev. The study focuses on stylistic elements such as metaphor, irony, hyperbole, symbolism, and personification, examining their role in shaping narrative structure, enhancing aesthetic value, and conveying ideological meaning. Through a comparative literary analysis, the article demonstrates how both authors utilize figurative language to reflect social realities, develop characters, and engage readers. Despite differences in cultural and historical contexts, Twain and Tokhtaboyev share a common artistic approach in their effective use of figurative devices to combine humor, criticism, and moral reflection.

Key words: figurative language, artistic devices, metaphor, irony, symbolism, comparative literature, Mark Twain, Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev.

Introduction

Artistic and figurative devices occupy a central position in literary discourse, functioning as essential instruments for expressing ideas beyond their literal meanings. In literary studies, figurative language is considered a fundamental component that enriches textual meaning, intensifies emotional impact, and reveals deeper ideological layers. Writers employ stylistic devices to foreground significant themes, portray social realities, and shape readers' interpretations.

This article aims to analyze the use of artistic and figurative devices in the works of Mark Twain, a prominent representative of American realism, and Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev, a distinguished Uzbek writer known for his imaginative and didactic prose. By comparing their stylistic approaches, the study seeks to highlight both universal and culturally specific features of figurative language in literary art.

Theoretical Framework of Figurative Devices

Figurative language refers to linguistic expressions that deviate from direct, literal meaning in order to achieve aesthetic, emotional, or rhetorical effects. According to Leech (1969), stylistic deviation and foregrounding are key mechanisms through which literary language attracts attention and conveys complex meanings. Figurative devices are not merely decorative but serve cognitive and communicative functions within the text.

Among the most frequently used artistic devices are metaphor, simile, irony, hyperbole, symbolism, and personification. These devices enable authors to compress meaning, evoke imagery, and articulate abstract concepts through concrete representations. In narrative prose,

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figurative language contributes to character development, thematic cohesion, and narrative depth.

Figurative Language in Mark Twain's Works

Mark Twain's literary style is characterized by realism, humor, and sharp social criticism. In works such as The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Twain extensively employs irony and satire to expose moral hypocrisy and social injustice. Irony functions as a dominant stylistic device, allowing the author to contrast societal ideals with actual behavior.

Metaphor and symbolism also play a significant role in Twain's narratives. The Mississippi River, for instance, symbolizes freedom, moral choice, and spiritual escape. Hyperbolic descriptions of childhood adventures enhance the humorous tone while simultaneously criticizing rigid social norms. Through figurative language, Twain achieves a balance between entertainment and profound ethical reflection.

Artistic Devices in Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's Works

Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev's prose is distinguished by vivid imagery, symbolic representation, and expressive exaggeration. His works, particularly Sariq devni minib (Riding the Yellow Giant), reflect a strong connection to national culture, folklore, and child psychology. Figurative language in Tokhtaboyev's narratives serves both aesthetic and educational purposes.

Symbolism occupies a central position in his works, where fantastical elements often represent moral dilemmas, social challenges, or the inner world of the child protagonist. Personification and hyperbole intensify emotional expression and make abstract ideas accessible to young readers. Unlike Twain's overt satire, Tokhtaboyev employs a softer, didactic tone aimed at fostering ethical values and imaginative thinking.

Comparative Analysis

Despite differences in cultural background and literary tradition, Mark Twain and Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev demonstrate notable similarities in their use of artistic devices. Both authors rely on irony and exaggeration to critique social norms and convey moral lessons. However, Twain's irony is predominantly satirical and critical, whereas Tokhtaboyev's figurative language is more symbolic and pedagogical.

Cultural context significantly influences their stylistic choices. Twain's figurative language reflects nineteenth-century American society and realist aesthetics, while Tokhtaboyev integrates elements of Uzbek folklore and post-Soviet social realities. Nevertheless, both writers illustrate the universal function of figurative language as a tool for artistic cognition and ethical reflection.

Conclusion

The analysis demonstrates that artistic and figurative devices constitute an essential component of the literary creativity of both Mark Twain and Khudoyberdi Tokhtaboyev. Through metaphor, irony, symbolism, and hyperbole, the authors enhance narrative expressiveness, deepen thematic meaning, and engage readers intellectually and emotionally.

A comparative approach reveals that while figurative language is shaped by national and cultural contexts, its aesthetic and cognitive functions remain universal. Therefore, the study of

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artistic devices not only enriches textual interpretation but also contributes to broader comparative literary scholarship.

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