

**STYLISTIC FEATURES OF HUMOUR IN “SHUM BOLA” BY G’AFUR G’ULOM  
AND “MY FAMILY AND OTHER ANIMALS” BY GERALD DURRELL****Adizova Madina Komilovna**A Teacher at the Department of foreign languages and social science  
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**Abstract:** This article examines the stylistic features of humour in G’afur G’ulom’s *Shum Bola* and Gerald Durrell’s *My Family and Other Animals*. The study focuses on how humour is created through childhood perspective, colloquial language, exaggeration, irony, satire, characterization, and comic situations. Although the two works belong to different literary and cultural traditions, both writers use humour not only to entertain readers but also to reveal character, expose human weaknesses, and present childhood as a unique way of understanding the world. The findings show that humour in *Shum Bola* is more closely connected with Uzbek folk speech, social satire, and the image of a clever mischievous child, while humour in *My Family and Other Animals* is mainly based on comic description, eccentric family members, animal imagery, and affectionate irony.

**Keywords:** humour, stylistics, *Shum Bola*, G’afur G’ulom, Gerald Durrell, irony, satire, childhood perspective, comic description.

**Introduction**

Humour is one of the most effective stylistic devices in literary texts. It can make a story enjoyable, but at the same time it may express serious ideas about society, people, and human behaviour. Writers often use humour to criticize social problems, reveal the weaknesses of characters, or show the absurd side of ordinary life. For this reason, humour should not be understood only as a source of laughter. In literature, it can also be a meaningful artistic and communicative tool.

G’afur G’ulom’s *Shum Bola* and Gerald Durrell’s *My Family and Other Animals* are two literary works in which humour plays a central role. *Shum Bola* is an important work of Uzbek literature. It reflects Uzbek social life, folk humour, colloquial speech, and the adventures of a clever young boy. *My Family and Other Animals* is an autobiographical work by Gerald Durrell, describing his childhood on the Greek island of Corfu. The book presents family life, animals, and everyday situations in a humorous and affectionate way.

Although these two works are different in culture, setting, and literary tradition, they share an important similarity: both of them present the world through a child’s perspective. This child-centred view creates many comic effects because children often see reality differently from adults. They notice unusual details, misunderstand adult behaviour, and react to the world with curiosity and directness.

The aim of this article is to analyze and compare the stylistic features of humour in *Shum Bola* and *My Family and Other Animals*. The article focuses on the main devices used by both authors and explains how humour functions in each work.

**Methods**

This study uses a comparative literary analysis method. The two selected works, *Shum Bola* by Gʻafur Gʻulom and *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell, are analyzed according to their stylistic features of humour.

The analysis focuses on the following aspects:

1. a role of childhood perspective in creating humour;
2. use of colloquial and expressive language;
3. exaggeration and hyperbole;
4. irony and satire;
5. comic characterization;
6. situational humour;
7. cultural differences in the expression of humour.

The comparative method helps to identify both similarities and differences between the two works. The article does not aim to retell the full plot of the works. Instead, it concentrates on how humour is constructed stylistically and what functions it performs in the texts.

### Results

The analysis shows that both Gʻafur Gʻulom and Gerald Durrell use humour as a major stylistic device, but they create it in different ways.

#### Childhood Perspective as a Source of Humour

In both works, the child's point of view is one of the main sources of humour. In *Shum Bola*, the main character is clever, energetic, and mischievous. His actions often create funny situations, but his behaviour is also connected with poverty and the need to survive. He is not simply a naughty child; he is a lively and intelligent figure who uses humour and quick thinking to face difficulties.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, Gerald's childhood perspective is more observant and curious. He is deeply interested in animals and nature. Humour often appears when Gerald's serious attitude toward animals contrasts with his family's fear or irritation. For him, animals are fascinating creatures; for his family, they often become a source of panic and disorder.

Therefore, childhood perspective in *Shum Bola* is adventurous and socially active, while in Durrell's work it is calm, observational, and closely connected with nature.

#### Colloquial Language and Folk Humour in *Shum Bola*

One of the strongest stylistic features of *Shum Bola* is its lively colloquial language. Gʻafur Gʻulom uses natural speech, expressive phrases, witty remarks, and culturally specific humour. The dialogues sound close to everyday Uzbek conversation, which makes the comic scenes more realistic and memorable.

The humour in *Shum Bola* is also connected with Uzbek folk tradition. Many comic moments are based on oral storytelling, popular jokes, exaggeration, and the speech habits of ordinary people. This gives the work a national flavour and makes the humour warm and natural.

At the same time, the humour has a satirical function. Behind the funny adventures of the boy, the writer shows poverty, inequality, greed, and social injustice. The reader laughs at the comic situations, but also understands the serious problems hidden behind them.

#### Comic Description in *My Family and Other Animals*



In *My Family and Other Animals*, humour is mainly created through vivid description and eccentric characterization. Durrell describes his family members in a comic but affectionate way. Each family member has a particular humorous quality: Larry is dramatic and intellectual, Leslie is practical and interested in guns, Margo is emotional and sensitive, and their mother tries to keep peace in the family.

Animals are also very important in the humour of the book. Gerald often treats animals with scientific seriousness, while his family reacts with fear, confusion, or annoyance. This contrast creates many comic scenes. Durrell's humour is often visual because his descriptions help readers clearly imagine the scene.

### **Exaggeration and Hyperbole**

Both authors use exaggeration to strengthen humour. In *Shum Bola*, exaggeration is connected with adventure and folk narration. The hero's cleverness, the foolishness of some adults, and the sudden changes in events are presented in a colourful and lively way.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, exaggeration is more connected with description and reaction. A small event may become a dramatic family crisis. A small animal may cause great panic. This makes ordinary family life appear theatrical and amusing.

Thus, exaggeration in *Shum Bola* gives the story energy and movement, while exaggeration in Durrell's work makes characters and situations more vivid.

### **Irony and Satire**

Irony appears in both works, but its purpose is different. In *Shum Bola*, irony is sharper and more socially critical. Some adult characters may seem respectable, but their behaviour reveals greed, foolishness, or hypocrisy. Through such irony, G'afur G'ulom criticizes social injustice and human weakness.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, irony is softer and more personal. Durrell does not usually criticize society directly. Instead, he gently laughs at family habits, human oddities, and everyday misunderstandings. His irony is affectionate rather than harsh.

### **Character-Based Humour**

In *Shum Bola*, humour is mostly centred on the main character. The mischievous boy is the main source of comic action. His intelligence, bravery, and unexpected behaviour move the plot forward and create laughter.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, humour is more collective. It comes from the whole family and their interactions. Each family member contributes to the comic atmosphere. Gerald himself is humorous because he is so serious about animals that he often ignores the trouble they cause to others.

### **Situational Humour**

Situational humour plays an important role in both texts. In *Shum Bola*, funny situations are usually connected with adventure, tricks, misunderstandings, and escapes. The story is dynamic and full of movement.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, situational humour usually appears in domestic life. A peaceful family moment can suddenly become comic because of an animal, a guest, or a misunderstanding. The humour is less dramatic than in *Shum Bola*, but it is warm and memorable.

### Discussion

The comparison shows that humour in both works is closely connected with childhood. However, the function of childhood is not exactly the same. In *Shum Bola*, childhood is linked with social experience. The boy's humour is a way of surviving in a difficult environment. His comic actions reveal not only his personality but also the social problems around him. For this reason, humour in *Shum Bola* has a strong satirical and social meaning.

In *My Family and Other Animals*, childhood is more connected with curiosity, imagination, and discovery. Gerald's humour grows from his unusual view of nature and his family's reaction to it. Durrell's comic style is less critical and more affectionate. He laughs at human behaviour, but he does not condemn his characters.

Another important difference is language. G'afur G'ulom's humour is strongly based on colloquial Uzbek speech and folk expression. This makes the work deeply national in style. Durrell's humour, on the other hand, depends more on descriptive language, visual imagery, and the contrast between scientific observation and domestic chaos.

Despite these differences, both writers use humour to make their characters more alive. Humour helps readers feel close to the characters and understand their inner world. It also makes the narrative more dynamic and emotionally rich.

Thus, humour in both works performs several functions. It entertains the reader, develops characterization, creates vivid scenes, and expresses deeper ideas. In *Shum Bola*, humour becomes a tool of social criticism. In *My Family and Other Animals*, it becomes a tool of affectionate memory and comic observation.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, *Shum Bola* by G'afur G'ulom and *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell both demonstrate the artistic power of humour. Although the two works belong to different cultures and literary traditions, both authors successfully use humour as a stylistic device.

In *Shum Bola*, humour is created through colloquial language, folk speech, satire, exaggeration, and the cleverness of the mischievous child. It reflects Uzbek social life and reveals serious problems through laughter. In *My Family and Other Animals*, humour is created through comic description, eccentric characters, animal imagery, contrast, and affectionate irony. It presents childhood as a world of curiosity, discovery, and funny misunderstandings.

The study shows that humour is not a simple decorative element in these works. It is a meaningful literary device that helps the authors express social, emotional, and artistic ideas. Through humour, both G'afur G'ulom and Gerald Durrell make childhood experience vivid, memorable, and deeply human.

### The list of used literature:

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