

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF STYLISTIC DEVICES IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

Dilshoda Nabiyeva Davronbek qizi

Bachelors 3rd grade student of Fergana State University

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Abstract

This article presents a comparative analysis of stylistic devices in the Uzbek and English languages. Stylistic devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and irony play a key role in enriching the emotional and artistic quality of both spoken and written language. The Uzbek and English languages belong to different linguistic families—Turkic and Germanic, respectively—yet they share a wide range of stylistic tools. However, their use and cultural implications often differ. This paper explores how these devices function in both languages and how cultural background influences their application. The goal is to assist language learners and literature enthusiasts in recognizing and appreciating the use of **stylistic techniques across languages**.

Introduction

Stylistics is the branch of linguistics that studies the expressive means and stylistic devices of language. It focuses on how writers and speakers use language to create certain effects, convey deeper meanings, and evoke emotions. While all languages have stylistic features, their use is closely tied to cultural norms and language structures. English, as an international language, has a vast literary heritage and a highly developed stylistic system. Uzbek, being rich in oral and written traditions, also reflects deep cultural values through its stylistic features. This study compares several common stylistic devices in both languages, including metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, and irony.

Metaphor

A metaphor is an indirect comparison in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

English example:

“Time is a thief.” – Time is imagined as a thief that steals moments from us.

Uzbek example:

“Yoshlik daryo, oqib ketadi.” – Youth is a river that flows away.

Both examples use metaphor to describe abstract concepts emotionally. In English, metaphors often draw on modern life or abstract ideas, while Uzbek metaphors frequently use elements of nature, daily life, and traditional symbols.

Simile

A simile is a direct comparison between two things using the words “like” or “as.”

English example:

“She is as brave as a lion.”

Uzbek example:

“U sherday jasur.” – She is brave like a lion.

Both languages use similes to describe qualities or behaviors. Uzbek similes often rely on national values and honor, comparing individuals to strong animals or respected figures.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the use of extreme exaggeration to make a point or show emphasis.

English example:

“I’ve told you a million times!”

Uzbek example:

“Ming marta aytdim-ku!” – I told you a thousand times!

The structure and use of hyperbole are similar in both languages, but in Uzbek, it is often used with stronger emotional tones in daily conversation and folklore.

Personification

Personification gives human traits to non-human objects, animals, or abstract ideas.

English example:

“The sun smiled down on us.”

Uzbek example:

“Quyosh bizga kulib boqdi.” – The sun looked at us smilingly.

This device helps writers and poets create vivid imagery. Both languages use personification widely in poetry and storytelling, especially to describe nature.

Irony

Irony is the use of words that mean the opposite of what one really means, often for humorous or emphatic effect.

English example:

“Oh great! Another rainy day.” (when the speaker actually means the opposite)

Uzbek example:

“Voy, juda yaxshi bo‘ldi-da!” (sarcastically used when something bad happens)

Irony depends heavily on context, tone, and culture. While both languages use it, understanding irony in Uzbek often requires deeper cultural and situational knowledge.

Cultural Context and Influence

Stylistic devices in both languages reflect cultural values. Uzbek literature emphasizes respect for elders, nature, family, and moral values. This is seen in metaphors and similes based on traditional life, like farming, seasons, and animals. English, influenced by a long history of literary movements, shows more abstract, symbolic, or individualistic expressions. Modern English texts often use irony and metaphor in more layered ways, especially in satire and postmodern literature. For instance, the English phrase “the pen is mightier than the sword” conveys a metaphor rooted in politics and education. In Uzbek, a similar idea might be expressed with: “So‘z qilichdan o‘tkir.” (A word is sharper than a sword.)—which carries similar meaning but comes from oral tradition and proverbs.

Practical Value for Language Learners

For Uzbek learners of English, recognizing stylistic devices helps improve reading comprehension, writing, and speaking. It enables deeper understanding of English idioms, humor, and literary texts. Similarly, English speakers learning Uzbek will find that mastering stylistic tools enhances their appreciation of Uzbek poetry, storytelling, and even daily communication. Comparative learning also improves translation skills. Literal translation of

stylistic expressions may cause misunderstanding, so knowing their figurative meaning is essential.

Conclusion

Stylistic devices serve as bridges between thoughts and emotions in both Uzbek and English. Despite cultural and linguistic differences, both languages share common devices that function to beautify language, express emotion, and create deeper meaning. By comparing them, learners can enhance their literary appreciation, improve their own expression, and develop cross-cultural understanding. This comparison also shows that beauty in language is universal, even if its expression is unique.

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