

COMPARATIVE STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF EPITHETS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK FICTION

Dilfuza Ochilova

Academic Degree: Master of Arts in Linguistics

Affiliation: Department of English Linguistics, Berdakh Karakalpak State University, Nukus, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

This paper investigates the stylistic features of epithets in English and Uzbek fiction, focusing on their semantic, emotional, and cultural dimensions. The study aims to demonstrate how epithets enrich fictional discourse, reflect national worldviews, and serve as powerful tools of characterization. Drawing upon comparative and descriptive methods, the research highlights the stylistic diversity of epithets in the works of Charles Dickens and Erkin Vohidov. The findings show that while English literature often employs epithets for psychological depth and social commentary, Uzbek fiction emphasizes moral values and national identity.

Keywords: epithet, stylistics, English fiction, Uzbek fiction, comparative linguistics

Introduction

Epithets are among the most significant stylistic devices used in fiction. They convey emotional evaluation, provide vivid imagery, and reveal cultural perspectives embedded in language. In both English and Uzbek literary traditions, epithets have a rich history and play an essential role in artistic expression. The relevance of this research lies in the growing interest in comparative stylistics and intercultural discourse studies. By analyzing the stylistic role of epithets in two distinct literatures, the research contributes to broader understanding of linguistic creativity and national worldview representation.

Literature Review

The stylistic functions of epithets have been examined by numerous scholars. I. R. Galperin (1977) defined epithets as emotionally colored attributes that reveal the writer's evaluation. Leech and Short (2007) emphasized their role in shaping literary style. In Uzbek linguistics, scholars such as G'. Salomov and M. Quronov investigated epithets within poetic and prose discourse. Despite extensive research, a comparative study of English and Uzbek epithets remains underexplored. This gap provides the scientific basis for the present work.

Methodology

The study employs comparative, stylistic, and semantic analysis methods. Selected texts include Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*, as well as Erkin Vohidov's *O'zbekim* and *Tong Nafasi*. Epithets were identified, classified according to Galperin's taxonomy (logical, emotive, fixed, transferred), and analyzed in terms of their stylistic and cultural significance.

Analysis and Discussion

In Dickens' works, epithets often serve to highlight social inequality and psychological traits of characters. For example, phrases such as "the miserable outcast" or "the pitiful orphan" not only describe external features but also reveal Dickens' criticism of Victorian society. Emotive epithets dominate, creating a strong emotional impact on readers.

In contrast, Uzbek literature, particularly the poetry of Erkin Vohidov, employs epithets to emphasize national pride, moral values, and the beauty of the homeland. Expressions like

“aziz yurtim” (my dear homeland) or “sahovatli xalq” (generous people) carry deep cultural and emotional meaning. Unlike Dickens’ socially critical epithets, Uzbek epithets highlight collectivism, spiritual richness, and cultural identity.

The comparison demonstrates that English epithets are more individualized and socially oriented, while Uzbek epithets are more collective and value-driven.

Conclusion

The comparative analysis reveals that epithets in English and Uzbek fiction share a universal stylistic function of emotional evaluation but differ in their cultural orientation. English literature tends to use epithets for psychological depth and social critique, whereas Uzbek literature employs them to reinforce moral ideals and national identity. This study contributes to the field of comparative stylistics by providing insights into how epithets reflect different worldviews and enrich fictional discourse.

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