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The Role of Stylistic Devices in Representation of Cultural Concepts in the Fictional Text

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ANNOTATION

The article focuses on stylistic devices that are actively used in the literary text to show stylistic approaches in which the author's word choice, sentence structure, figurative language, and sentence arrangement all work together to establish mood, images, and meaning in the text. It also presents the importance of stylistic devices in the depiction of literary text.

KEYWORDS: Stylistics, stylistic devices, word, literary text, figure of speech.

Stylistics as a branch of linguistics is a ramified and multifaceted science. The area of its theory and practical application covers the entire speech activity of modern society, in the diversity of the life of society and the individual. Stylistics formulates the principles of the use of linguistic means in accordance with the tasks facing speakers or writers. It helps to choose among similar in meaning, but not completely equivalent linguistic means that are most suitable in a given speech context. Since the language is in a state of continuous development, for a correct stylistic assessment of a linguistic phenomenon, stylistics must take into account the historical changes of the language; rely on the data of the history of the language, the history of its vocabulary and grammatical structure.

Linguistic stylistics is interested in the stylistic characteristics of linguistic means and the ways of their use in different speech styles. Literary stylistics deals with the study of the individual style of the writer, the use of ideological and artistic content depending on the ideological and artistic content of the work, on the author's intention, as well as on the genre of the work and its subject matter. Stylistics is the study of the ways in which meaning is created through language in literature as well as in other types of text. To this end, stylisticians use linguistic models, theories and frameworks as their analytical tools in order to describe and explain how and why a text works as it does, and how we come from the words on the page to its meaning. The analysis typically focuses qualitatively or quantitatively on the phonological, lexical, grammatical, semantic, pragmatic or discourse features of texts, on the cognitive aspects involved in the processing of those features by the reader as well as on various combinations of these.

Historically, stylistics may be seen to date back to the focus on the style of oral expression, which was cultivated in rhetoric following the tradition of Aristotle's *Rhetoric*. The real flourishing of stylistics, however,

was seen in particular in Britain and the United States in the 1960s, and was largely spurred by work done in the field by proponents of Russian Formalism such as Roman Jakobson and Viktor Shklovsky. The Russian Formalists wished to make literary inquiry more 'scientific' by basing it firmly on explicit observations about the formal linguistic features of the texts under scrutiny. They were particularly interested in 'literariness' and devoted their stylistic study to phonological, lexical and grammatical forms and structures such as parallelism and linguistic deviation which would make a text 'poetic'.

The formalists focused their stylistic investigations almost solely on poetry. While praised at least in stylistic circles for their devotion to the linguistic aspects of literary meaning-making, and for the systematic and rigorous nature of their work, formalist stylisticians were sometimes criticized for their overriding focus on linguistic form at the expense of the function and effects of the formal features put up for examination, and for their tendency to ignore the significance of contextual factors such as the pragmatic, social and historical contexts of these texts.

Analyzing a literary text, it is important to determine the author's attitude to what is depicted, its conditionality, the artistic manner of the image, to express your opinion. Reasoning must be supported by a system of evidence, material of the work, quotations from it. It is not necessary to analyze every scene in which the hero acts - it is enough to dwell on the main episodes that reveal the main features of the character, the versatility of his image.

Every word in the language has a nominative meaning. It helps to relate speech to reality and express thoughts. In addition to the main meaning, most words are included in a certain associative array and have an additional symbolic meaning, which is most often figurative. Such a lexical property is actively used by poets and writers to create works of fiction, and this phenomenon is called the stylistic devices. They give the text expressiveness and help to convey your thought more accurately.

Stylistic devices are interesting or creative ways of using language that go beyond expected or straightforward usage. According to the stylistic devices definition, stylistic devices add an additional dimension to language beyond its literal meaning. Stylistic devices can also be called rhetorical devices because they are often used in rhetoric, the discipline that covers effective and persuasive language use. Stylistic devices can also be called figures of speech because they often involve non-literal or figurative language. Stylistic devices are often studied in the context of literature, where they are frequently employed by writers. Stylistic devices can also occur in rhetorical contexts, such as speeches, and in everyday conversation. Oftentimes, people employ stylistic devices without even realizing it.

If we inform about purpose of stylistic elements, there are many reasons, writers use stylistic devices or stylistic elements. Broadly speaking, a stylistic device can make a statement or description more interesting or meaningful. Stylistic devices can allow a sentence to say more than it seems to and can be a way to express ideas that add to the literal meaning that is conveyed. Stylistic Elements are also a way to add variety to language and express familiar concepts in new ways. Stylistic devices might increase the vividness of a description or the strength of a reader's emotional response. Finally, stylistic devices can be used simply because they make a text more enjoyable to readers.

There are various types of stylistic devices. The following subheadings provide stylistic device examples for the most well-known types.

1. Metaphor as a Stylistic Device

A metaphor is a type of stylistic device where the writer links disparate ideas that do not fit together literally but can be interpreted figuratively as a comparison. An example of a metaphor would be the statement, "This library is an ocean of knowledge." The library is obviously not an ocean, so a literal interpretation of the sentence would make little sense. However, interpreted figuratively, it is clear that the library is compared to an ocean in order to express that it feels vast and deep. The metaphor reveals an aspect of the library that may not come across as vividly if the writer simply said that the library was large. Another example of a metaphor would be if a writer stated, "The reader devoured the book." The person in question is not literally eating a book, but the metaphor of eating is used to portray the speed with which the person reads and takes in information.

Books are not literally food, but in a metaphor, a writer might suggest that they are.

2. Simile as a Rhetorical Device

A simile is a rhetorical device in which the writer asserts a similarity between things that do not actually have much in common in order to emphasize one particular feature that they do share. A simile can generally be distinguished from a metaphor by the presence of the word "like" or "as." For instance, the statement "The class was like a steep mountain" is a simile because the writer compares the class and a mountain to express that taking the class had certain features of climbing a mountain, such as being lengthy and difficult. Another example of a simile would be the statement, "The tree stood as tall as a skyscraper." In this simile, the tree is compared to a skyscraper in height in order to emphasize the way it towers over the viewer.

Trees are not very similar to skyscrapers, but a writer using a simile might say that a tree was as tall as a skyscraper.

3. Personification as a Figure of Speech

Personification occurs when a writer describes something as if it had the characteristics or agency of a person, even though it does not. An example of personification would be the sentence, "The stream whispered along the ground." The word "whispered" implies that the stream can talk as if it were a person. The personification allows the writer to make the sound of the stream more vivid in the mind of the reader. Another example of personification would be the sentence, "The door groaned as it was opened." Groaning is something that a person does to express irritation, but here the writer suggests that the door, which has not been opened in a long time, makes a sound like groaning as if it were irritated to be opened. In this way, the personification helps bring the scene to life.

4. Hyperbole as a Stylistic Device

Hyperbole occurs when a writer makes an obvious exaggeration in order to emphasize the extreme nature of the thing they are describing. For instance, it is hyperbole to say, "It was a thousand degrees outside," as it exaggerates the true temperature in order to express how hot it feels. Another example of hyperbole would be the sentence, "The snow formed drifts a mile high." The statement is not literally true, but the hyperbole conveys the fact that the drifts seem extremely high.

5. Oxymoron as a Rhetorical Device

Oxymoron is a rhetorical device in which two opposite ideas are linked in a single word or phrase. For example, if someone describes something as "bittersweet," the word is an oxymoron because bitterness and

sweetness are opposites that are combined together in one description. The oxymoron is used to emphasize the contradictory or dual nature of the experience, as the person feels both sad and happy at the same time. Another example of an oxymoron would be the sentence, "It was an honest betrayal." The words "honest" and "betrayal" clash because a betrayal involves deception, not honesty, but the writer might use such a phrase to emphasize that a particular action contained both betrayal and honesty.

We can actively analyze stylistic devices in order to illustrate the beauty of fictional text that can be written and spoken one. For instance:

What if I said, 'It feels like I walked 1,000 miles today' or 'I'm going to die if I have to sit through one more meeting.' If you interpreted either of those sentences literally, you would probably be concerned about the person saying them. But, if we look at these sentences figuratively, we know that the first sentence signifies someone who is exhausted, and the second reflects a person's lack of patience, attention, and overall boredom. Both of these sentences use stylistic devices to help the reader understand the emotion of the speaker and imagery of the idea being conveyed.

Basically, all stylistic devices refer to any of a variety of techniques to give an additional and/or supplemental meaning, idea, or feeling. Also known as figures of speech or rhetorical devices, the goal of these techniques is to create imagery, emphasis, or clarity within a text in hopes of engaging the reader.

Let's take a look at some examples to learn more about how to find and understand these devices.

There are many stylistic devices in literature, but today we are going to focus on six specific devices that are used most commonly. One of the most utilized one is

Metaphor in fictional text. Metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things that share a common characteristic. When you use metaphor, you speak about something as if it were something else entirely.

For example, 'Juliet is the sun' is a famous line from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, where Romeo compares Juliet to the sun. Juliet is not literally the sun; however, Juliet and the sun share common traits that are implied through the metaphor. Juliet and the sun both shine bright in Romeo's eyes, and both are his life force.

Let's look at another example. 'Kathy got out of the car with an army of children.' Does Kathy literally have an army of children? No, but the metaphor in this sentence puts an image in the reader's mind that implies Kathy has a significant amount of children getting out of her car.

The next basic device is Simile that can be actively used in literary text. A simile is a figure of speech where two things are directly compared using the words 'like' or 'as.'

For example, 'When the donuts arrived, my dad popped out of his seat like a piece of toast.'

Dad's action of getting out of his seat is being compared to a piece of toast popping out of a toaster. We know a toaster shoots the toast up quickly when it has finished cooking, and therefore, the reader gets the image that the speaker's dad was excited about the donuts and jumped quickly out of his seat to get one.

The third one is Personification that is a figure of speech that gives inanimate objects human characteristics.

For example, take the sentence: 'Opportunity was knocking at her door.' Can opportunity literally knock on someone's door? No, but it implies that a great opportunity was coming her way and is seemingly unavoidable.

Or, how about the sentence, 'The house looked depressed.' Can a house literally be depressed like a human? No, but it does provide a picture in the reader's mind that the house was run down. One could envision broken windows, chipped paint, or missing shutters.

The another device is Hyperbole. This stylistic device is an exaggeration that is not meant to be taken seriously. A hyperbolic phrase grabs the reader's attention and provides an emphasis regarding a message the author intends.

For example, take the sentence, 'I told you a million times not to call her.' We know this person did not literally tell their friend a million times, but it reminds the recipient of the statement they were told repeatedly. It feels like an 'I told you so' will follow this conversation.

Actually, all stylistic devices are mostly used in literature to beautify and make sentences colorfully. Stylistic devices occur often in all kinds of literature. For instance, in Shakespeare's play *The Comedy of Errors*, Antipholus states that "I to the world am like a drop of water, / That in the ocean seeks another drop." This is a simile because Antipholus claims to be similar to a drop of water in order to represent his internal state.

Another example of a stylistic device is the line, "All the world's a stage," from Jaques in Shakespeare's play *As You Like It*. This is a metaphor because the line doesn't literally mean that the world is a stage, but rather is a way of noting similarities between life and theatre.

Pun is a humorous play on words, often involving double meanings. Examples: When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds. A man stole a case of soap from the corner store. He made a clean getaway.

Repetition is when an author repeats a word or phrase for effect. Example:

Remember the time you lent me your car and I dented it?

I thought you'd kill me...

But you didn't.

Remember the time I forgot to tell you the dance was formal, and you came in jeans?

I thought you'd hate me...

But you didn't.

Oxymoron is two opposite terms. Examples: a peaceful war, a generous cheapskate, dark sunshine.

Euphemism is a polite word or phrase used in place of one that may be too direct, unpleasant, or embarrassing. Examples: pass away = die; vertically challenged = short; let go = fired; pre-owned = used.

Imagery is when a writer invokes the five senses. Examples: The smell reminded him of rotting tomatoes. The fence was uneven, like baby teeth growing awkwardly in.

In conclusion, Stylistic devices are words or turns of speech in a figurative, allegorical meaning. Devices are an important element of artistic thinking. The use of devices in artistic speech creates new combinations of words with their new meaning, enriches speech with new shades of meaning, communicates to the defined phenomenon that meaning, the shade of meaning that the speaker needs, conveys his assessment of the phenomenon. Stylistic device is characteristic of colloquial speech, but tropes are especially widespread in artistic and literary creation, since they help the writer to individualize the phenomena he is talking about, to

give them assessments. Types of stylistic devices: metaphor, metonymy, personification, hyperbole, simile, etc.

To sum up, understanding style is an important aspect of modeling inherent subjectivity in text. We presented some basic stylistic devices with examples to understand and qualify stylistic aspects of text at lexical, syntactic, and semantic-level. Using stylistic devices everyone can present their own cultural concepts, notions, identities, ideas and view points in the communicative speech and literary text in the appropriate way through the usage of cultural elements.

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