

LINGUISTIC FOUNDATIONS OF CREATING HUMOROUS SITUATIONS IN UZBEK AND ENGLISH

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Abstract: *This article examines the linguistic foundations of creating humorous situations in Uzbek and English from a comparative perspective. The study analyzes the phonetic, lexical, phraseological, grammatical, and pragmatic means that contribute to the formation of humorous effects in both languages. Particular attention is paid to the influence of national culture, mentality, and communicative context on the creation and interpretation of humor. The research demonstrates that although Uzbek and English employ similar linguistic mechanisms such as irony, ambiguity, exaggeration, and semantic incongruity, their realization differs due to cultural traditions, linguistic structures, and pragmatic conventions. The findings contribute to the fields of comparative linguistics, pragmatics, discourse analysis, and translation studies by identifying both universal and language-specific features of humorous discourse.*

Keywords: *humor, humorous situation, linguistics, pragmatics, stylistics, phraseology, comparative linguistics, discourse, communication.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most significant manifestations of human cognition and serves as a reflection of a nation's culture, worldview, traditions, and values. Besides functioning as a means of communication, language also performs expressive, aesthetic, and evaluative functions. Humor represents one of the most remarkable manifestations of linguistic creativity, enabling speakers not only to entertain but also to criticize social phenomena, expose contradictions, and express attitudes toward reality in an indirect manner.

The study of humor has become an important interdisciplinary field involving linguistics, pragmatics, stylistics, psychology, philosophy, and cultural studies. In contemporary comparative linguistics, increasing attention has been devoted to investigating how different languages create humorous effects through various linguistic devices. Although humor exists in every culture, its linguistic realization is strongly influenced by national mentality, cultural traditions, communicative norms, and language-specific structures.

Uzbek and English belong to different language families and represent distinct cultural traditions. Consequently, the mechanisms through which humorous situations are created differ considerably. Uzbek humor largely relies on folklore, proverbs, phraseological expressions, irony, and contextual interpretation, whereas English humor frequently employs wordplay, ambiguity, understatement, and verbal irony. These differences present significant

challenges not only for linguistic analysis but also for intercultural communication and translation.

The purpose of this study is to identify and compare the principal linguistic mechanisms involved in creating humorous situations in Uzbek and English. Particular attention is devoted to lexical, phraseological, grammatical, and pragmatic devices that contribute to humorous discourse. Furthermore, the study aims to determine both universal and culture-specific characteristics of humor in the two languages.

Research Methods

The present study employs a combination of qualitative comparative linguistic methods designed to investigate the mechanisms through which humorous situations are created in Uzbek and English. Since humor is a multidimensional phenomenon involving linguistic form, semantic interpretation, pragmatic inference, and cultural knowledge, no single analytical method is sufficient to explain its complexity. Therefore, the research integrates several complementary approaches.

Comparative Method

The comparative method constitutes the primary methodological framework of the research. It enables systematic comparison of linguistic mechanisms responsible for creating humorous situations in Uzbek and English. The analysis focuses on similarities and differences at phonetic, lexical, phraseological, grammatical, stylistic, semantic, pragmatic, and discourse levels. Particular attention is devoted to identifying universal characteristics of humorous discourse as well as language-specific features influenced by cultural traditions and communicative norms.

Descriptive Method

The descriptive method is employed to classify, systematize, and explain the linguistic phenomena observed during the analysis. This method facilitates detailed examination of various linguistic units involved in humorous communication, including lexical items, idiomatic expressions, grammatical constructions, stylistic devices, and conversational structures. The descriptive approach also enables the identification of recurring patterns across different examples.

Semantic Analysis

Semantic analysis investigates the role of lexical meaning in generating humorous effects. Particular emphasis is placed on polysemy, homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, semantic shifts, conceptual incongruity, metaphorical reinterpretation, and lexical ambiguity. The study explores how semantic opposition between literal and implied meanings contributes to humorous interpretation in both languages.

Pragmatic Analysis

Pragmatic analysis examines humor within its communicative context. The analysis considers speaker intentions, hearer interpretation, conversational implicatures, politeness strategies, contextual presuppositions, speech acts, deixis, and violations of Grice's

Cooperative Principle. The study also investigates how contextual knowledge and shared cultural assumptions influence humorous understanding.

Discourse Analysis

Discourse analysis focuses on humor beyond individual sentences by examining conversational organization, interactional structure, turn-taking, narrative development, contextual coherence, and communicative strategies. Special attention is paid to how humorous situations evolve dynamically throughout conversations and how participants collaboratively construct humorous meanings.

Stylistic Analysis

Stylistic analysis explores expressive linguistic devices contributing to humorous discourse. These include irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, understatement, metaphor, simile, paradox, repetition, rhetorical questions, allusion, euphemism, and various figures of speech. The research compares the frequency and communicative functions of these stylistic devices in Uzbek and English humorous texts.

Phraseological Analysis

Since phraseological expressions represent one of the richest sources of humor, the research includes separate analysis of idioms, proverbs, fixed expressions, and culturally specific phraseological units. Their semantic reinterpretation, modification, and contextual transformation are examined as important mechanisms for generating comic effects.

Contextual Analysis

Because humorous interpretation depends largely upon communicative context, contextual analysis investigates social setting, cultural background, participant relationships, communicative purpose, and situational factors affecting humorous discourse. This method explains why identical linguistic expressions may produce different humorous effects under different communicative conditions.

Data Collection

The research data consist of humorous texts collected from Uzbek anecdotes (latifalar), English jokes, literary works, television dialogues, films, online humorous materials, social media discourse, and conversational interactions. The selected examples represent naturally occurring humorous communication and provide sufficient linguistic diversity for comparative investigation.

Research Procedure

The analysis follows several stages:

- Collection and selection of humorous examples from Uzbek and English sources.
- Classification according to linguistic level.
- Comparative examination of linguistic mechanisms.
- Semantic and pragmatic interpretation.
- Identification of universal and language-specific characteristics.
- Formulation of theoretical conclusions regarding the linguistic nature of humorous discourse.

The integration of these analytical methods provides a comprehensive framework for investigating humor from structural, semantic, pragmatic, stylistic, and cultural perspectives. Consequently, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of humorous discourse in comparative linguistics while offering practical implications for translation studies, foreign language teaching, intercultural communication, and discourse analysis.

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