

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF STYLISTIC DEVICES
IN ABDULLA QAHHOR'S "O'G'RI" AND O. HENRY'S "THE LAST LEAF"

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Abstract. *This thesis explores the comparative use of stylistic devices in Abdulla Qahhor's Uzbek short story "O'g'ri" and O. Henry's English short story "The Last Leaf". The study identifies similarities and differences in lexical, syntactic, and figurative devices, emphasizing how cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts shape stylistic expression. The research also highlights the role of these devices in conveying themes, character development, and emotional impact.*

Keywords: *stylistic devices, Uzbek literature, English literature, comparative analysis, short stories, figures of speech, literary translation.*

1. Introduction

Stylistic devices are essential tools in literature that not only enrich texts but also convey complex ideas, emotions, and authorial intent. They allow writers to create vivid imagery, emphasize themes, and evoke specific reactions from readers. While English literary stylistics has been widely studied, research on Uzbek literary texts, especially in comparative perspective, remains limited.

Abdulla Qahhor's "*O'g'ri*" and O. Henry's "*The Last Leaf*" offer a unique opportunity for comparative analysis because both stories use stylistic devices to convey profound human experiences, yet they emerge from distinct cultural and historical contexts. "*O'g'ri*" reflects social, moral, and ethical issues in Uzbek society, while "*The Last Leaf*" explores themes of hope, sacrifice, and human resilience in early 20th-century Western culture.

Objectives:

Identify key lexical, syntactic, and figurative stylistic devices in both texts.

Compare the functions and effects of these devices in Uzbek and English literature.

Explore how historical, cultural, and linguistic contexts shape stylistic choices.

Examine the challenges of translating stylistic nuances across languages.

Research Questions:

What are the most frequently used stylistic devices in "*O'g'ri*" and "*The Last Leaf*"?

How do these devices differ in their usage and function across the two languages?

How do culture, history, and social context influence stylistic expression?

What are the main challenges in translating stylistic devices without losing meaning or effect?

Significance:

Comparative stylistic analysis enhances literary understanding by revealing both universal and culture-specific patterns.

It also informs translation practices, supports literature education, and fosters intercultural literary appreciation, which is particularly important for promoting Uzbek literature to international audiences.

2. Literature Review

Stylistics studies the artistic use of language, including devices such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, irony, symbolism, and syntactic patterns.

English scholars like Leech (1969) and Simpson (2004) stress the use of rhetorical and figurative devices to convey emotion and theme.

Uzbek researchers, including Yuldashev (2010) and Akbarov (2015), note the prevalence of metaphors, proverbs, epithets, and culturally-rooted imagery in classical and modern texts.

Comparative studies are scarce, making this analysis significant.

3. Methodology

Research Design: Qualitative comparative method.

Data Collection:

Uzbek text: Abdulla Qahhor's "*O'g'ri*"

English text: O. Henry's "*The Last Leaf*"

Data Analysis:

Identify stylistic devices.

Categorize into lexical, syntactic, and figurative devices.

Compare usage, function, and cultural significance.

Provide examples and discuss literary effects.

4. Analysis

4.1 Lexical Devices

O'g'ri: Metaphors, epithets, and repetition convey the thief's inner struggle and social critique, reflecting ethical and cultural values.

The Last Leaf: Word choice evokes emotions, character moods, and the theme of hope.

4.2 Syntactic Devices

O'g'ri: Combines complex and simple sentences to mirror psychological and external events.

The Last Leaf: Short, rhythmic sentences enhance suspense and emotional engagement.

4.3 Figurative Devices

O'g'ri: Metaphor and symbolism depict social injustice; irony subtly critiques society.

The Last Leaf: Symbolism (the last leaf) and personification represent hope and sacrifice; irony highlights human vulnerability.

5. Findings

Shared Devices with Distinct Emphasis: Both texts employ metaphors, similes, personification, symbolism, and syntactic devices like parallelism and repetition. However, "*O'g'ri*" often uses these devices to reflect social norms, ethical dilemmas, and communal values, while "*The Last Leaf*" focuses on individual experiences, emotional states, and universal human themes like hope and perseverance.

Lexical and Figurative Choices: In Qahhor's text, metaphors often draw from local culture, religion, and folk traditions, creating a socially grounded narrative. In contrast, O. Henry's metaphors and symbols are psychologically oriented, highlighting human emotion, empathy, and philosophical reflection.

Syntactic Patterns: Uzbek sentences in "*O'g'ri*" are longer and more descriptive, sometimes reflecting oral storytelling traditions. O. Henry uses shorter, rhythmic sentences to build suspense and emotional impact, reflecting Western narrative style.

Cultural Influence: Stylistic devices in both texts are shaped by cultural and historical contexts. The Uzbek story emphasizes community, morality, and historical social structures, while the English story emphasizes individual heroism, emotional resilience, and aesthetic presentation.

Translation Implications: Translating stylistic devices from one language to another presents challenges, such as preserving metaphorical meaning, cultural connotations, and emotional tone. For example, Qahhor's culturally specific metaphors may require explanatory adaptation for English readers, while O. Henry's idiomatic expressions may need equivalent phrasing in Uzbek to retain the same literary effect.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that stylistic devices, though structurally similar across languages, function differently depending on cultural, historical, and linguistic contexts. In "*O'g'ri*", devices like metaphor, symbolism, and repetition serve to convey social, ethical, and communal themes. In "*The Last Leaf*", they highlight psychological depth, individual struggle, and universal human experiences such as hope and resilience.

Understanding these differences is essential for effective literary analysis, accurate translation, and fostering cross-cultural appreciation. Comparative stylistics not only enriches the study of literature but also enhances teaching, translation, and international literary communication. Future research could expand this comparative framework to include other languages and literary genres, uncovering both universal patterns of stylistic expression and culturally specific nuances.

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