

THE ROLE OF HYPERBOLE IN EXPRESSIVE AND CHARACTER-BUILDING
FUNCTIONS IN LITERATURE: A CASE STUDY OF MATILDA

Saparova Dilafruz Muhiddin qizi

Lecturer at the Department of Foreign Languages,
Faculty of Philology, Alfraganus University

Abstract: This study is devoted to analyzing the expressive and character-building functions of hyperbole in literary texts, using Roald Dahl's Matilda as a case study. The research examines how hyperbolic expressions are employed to create vivid characters, dramatize events, and convey the author's social critique. Hyperbolic devices in the novel enhance the psychological portrayal of characters and emphasize the intensity of the social environment. The findings demonstrate that hyperbole in literature functions not only as a stylistic tool for aesthetic effect but also as a semantic mechanism for conveying the author's ideas.

Keywords: hyperbole, children's literature, stylistics, character, expressiveness, satire.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur tadqiqot badiiy matnda giperbola stilistik vositasining ekspressiv va obraz yaratishdagi funksiyalarini tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan bo'lib, unda "Matilda" asari misolida ushbu tropning badiiy imkoniyatlari o'rganiladi. Tadqiqot davomida giperbolaning bolalar adabiyotida xarakter yaratish, voqealarning dramatzimini oshirish hamda muallifning ijtimoiy tanqidini ifodalashdagi roli ochib beriladi. Asarda qo'llangan giperbolik ifodalar orqali qahramonlarning psixologik portreti va ijtimoiy muhitning keskinligi kuchaytirilgani tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari giperbola badiiy matnda nafaqat estetik ta'sirni kuchaytiruvchi vosita, balki muallif g'oyasini yetkazishda muhim semantik mexanizm sifatida namoyon bo'lishini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit so'zlar: giperbola, bolalar adabiyoti, stilistika, obraz, ekspressivlik, satira.

Introduction

Stylistic devices in literature play a crucial role in conveying the author's aesthetic intentions. Hyperbole, as one of these devices, exaggerates reality to amplify the impact of characters and imbue the text with emotional resonance. In children's literature, hyperbole is particularly effective for highlighting character traits and capturing the reader's attention. Roald Dahl's Matilda exemplifies the extensive use of hyperbole. The adult characters, particularly Matilda's parents and the school principal, are depicted with exaggerated traits, which intensifies the contrast between good and bad behaviors and accentuates social critique. This study aims to examine the expressive and semantic functions of hyperbole in Matilda and analyze its role within the literary text.

Literature Review and Methodology.

Hyperbole as a stylistic device has been explored by numerous linguists and literary scholars. Classical stylistics interprets hyperbole as a tool for increasing the expressive power of language, whereas modern research highlights its role in shaping the semantic structure of a text. In children's literature, hyperbole serves to animate events and characters, making them memorable and engaging. In Matilda, hyperbolic expressions allow the author to present social issues with humor and satire.

The following methods were employed in the study:

- Conceptual analysis – to define the theoretical basis of hyperbole;
- Textual analysis – to identify and examine hyperbolic expressions in the novel;
- Interpretive method – to explore the semantic value of literary expressions;
- Comparative approach – to analyze hyperbole in relation to other stylistic devices.

This methodological framework enables a comprehensive study of hyperbole's functional role in literary texts.

Results

The analysis revealed several key functions of hyperbole in *Matilda*:

1. Characterization: Hyperbole serves as a primary tool for character development. Exaggerated traits of adult characters make their personalities sharply defined.
2. Satirical Effect: Hyperbole enhances satire. Dahl exaggerates the negative behaviors of adults to create humor and social critique.
3. Emotional Expressiveness: Hyperbolic depictions evoke strong emotional responses in readers, heightening engagement.
4. Social Critique: Hyperbole communicates criticism of social and familial environments. Issues in family life, educational institutions, and adult behavior are magnified for critical reflection.

Thus, hyperbole functions as a multi-purpose stylistic device in the novel.—**Discussion**

The findings demonstrate the significance of hyperbole in children's literature. In *Matilda*, hyperbole not only generates humor but also conveys Dahl's social commentary. The contrast between adults and children is intensified through hyperbolic descriptions, allowing young readers to perceive moral distinctions clearly. Moreover, hyperbole interacts with other stylistic devices, enriching the overall literary structure and enhancing its expressive potential.

Conclusion.

The study concludes that hyperbole in *Matilda* serves as an essential stylistic device. It facilitates character development, emotional expressiveness, and social critique. In contemporary children's literature, hyperbole functions not only as an aesthetic tool but also as a crucial mechanism for delivering ideological and pedagogical content. Therefore, examining hyperbole's role in literary texts is an important scholarly endeavor.

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