



Annotation

This article analyzes the role of morphological means in humorous texts and their semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic functions. It highlights the importance of morphological devices (affixes, word-formation suffixes, verb forms, diminutive and affectionate forms, comparative degrees) in creating humorous images and elements of irony in children's literature. Within the study, the morphological features of humorous speech in Uzbek children's works especially in the writings of X. Tukhtaboyev and others are scientifically examined. The interrelation between humor and morphology is theoretically substantiated, emphasizing its significance in revealing the aesthetic potential of language in contemporary children's literature.

Keywords: morphological means, children's literature, irony, word formation, affix, grammatical form, linguopragmatics.

Аннотация

В статье анализируется роль морфологических средств в юмористических текстах, их семантические, прагматические и стилистические функции. Подчеркивается значение морфологических средств (аффиксов, словообразовательных суффиксов, глагольных форм, уменьшительно-ласкательных форм, сравнительных степеней) в создании юмористических образов и элементов иронии в детской литературе. В рамках исследования научно рассматриваются морфологические особенности юмористической речи в узбекских детских произведениях, особенно в произведениях Х. Тухтабоева и других. Теоретически обосновывается взаимосвязь юмора и морфологии, подчёркивается её значение в раскрытии эстетического потенциала языка в современной детской литературе.

Ключевые слова: морфологические средства, детская литература, ирония, словообразование, аффикс, грамматическая форма, лингвопрагматика.

Introduction

Humor is one of the most expressive genres of literature, conveying social flaws, shortcomings, and realities in a critical and humorous way. In children's literature, humor serves not only as a means of entertainment but also as an educational and moral tool that shapes thinking and instills ethical values in young readers. From this perspective, linguistic means particularly morphological ones play a crucial role in humorous works for children.

Morphology, as a branch of linguistics studying grammatical structures, word forms, and their changes, conveys not only grammatical but also stylistic and emotional meaning. In humorous texts, morphological means are used to add irony and laughter into words. For example, diminutive and affectionate suffixes (-chak, -jon, -vachcha, -toy) enhance humor while maintaining the sincerity typical of children's speech.

From the second half of the 20th century, humorous tendencies in Uzbek children's literature began to develop actively. Writers such as Khudoyberdi Tukhtaboyev, and skillfully used the possibilities of morphology to portray funny situations in children's lives and to reveal their psychology through humor. They effectively expressed character traits, unexpected plot turns, and moral ideas through the system of word formation.

In modern linguistics, the study of humorous texts often employs linguostylistic, pragmalinguistic, and cognitive approaches. However, the morphological representation of humor remains insufficiently explored. Therefore, this article analyzes the role and function of morphological means in humorous texts based on examples from Uzbek children's literature.

Methodology

A complex linguistic approach was used to identify the morphological characteristics of humorous texts and their functions in children's literature. The main research methods included morphological analysis, linguostylistic analysis, comparative method, as well as descriptive and content analysis.

Firstly, the morphological analysis method helped to determine word formation models, affix systems, and grammatical categories performing stylistic functions in humorous texts. For instance, suffixes like *-voy*, *-qaq*, *-vachcha*, *-gina*, *-chin*, *-gir*, *-mand*, *-zor* often intensify humor. With their help, humorous words such as *jirkangichcha*, *tartibbuzarcha*, *loqaydgina* are formed, adding irony and comic effect. Secondly, the linguostylistic analysis method aimed to reveal the stylistic function of morphological means in creating humor. Humor is expressed not only through content but also through form.

Thirdly, using the comparative analysis method, the use of morphological means in Uzbek humorous texts was compared with that of world children's literature (e.g., *Doctor Aibolit*, *Karlson*, *Pinocchio*). This comparison helped to identify universal and national aspects of humor. For instance, in Russian or English children's literature, verb forms often express action, whereas in Uzbek literature, word formation tools are more frequently used to express ironic character traits.

Fourthly, the cognitive approach was applied to study how children perceive humorous images. Morphological means in humorous texts serve not only grammatical but also emotional and moral purposes. Diminutive suffixes (*-cha*, *-vocha*, *-gina*) evoke not only laughter but also feelings of affection and warmth in children.

Fifthly, through the descriptive method, each morphological means was described according to its humorous function. For example, in X. Tukhtaboyev's *"Riding the Yellow Giant"*, verbs like *o'ynabyugurgan*, *yuguribqopti*, *qo'rqqoldi* convey movement in a vivid and humorous way through verb morphology.

The study's source base consisted of Uzbek children's literature written between 1950–2020, including works such as X. Tukhtaboyev's *"Riding the Yellow Giant"* and humorous stories by A. Obidov and others. During the analysis, two main groups of morphological means were distinguished:

1. Word formation means (affixation, compound words, abbreviations);
2. Grammatical means (verb forms, degree categories, gender and number suffixes).

Based on this classification, a morphological model of humor was constructed. Each morphological unit in a humorous text performs at least two functions: it conveys grammatical meaning and enhances stylistic (emotional, humorous, or ironic) impact. Methodologically, the

study relies on the theoretical works of Sh. Safarov, D. Khodjayeva, R. Hasanov, and Russian and English linguists such as M. Bakhtin, V. Vinogradov, and N. Amosova. These frameworks made it possible to scientifically interpret the morphological mechanisms of humor.

Humorous literature especially that written for children plays an essential role in expressing humor, irony, and critical meanings through the word-formation potential of language. Through humor, children's literature not only makes readers laugh but also conveys moral and ethical education and reveals social shortcomings. Therefore, analyzing morphological means those that create meaning through word formation and grammatical structures is crucial for understanding the expressive power of language in humorous texts.

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