



THE ROLE OF VERBAL DETAILS IN REVEALING THE MAIN IDEA IN ABDULLA QAHHOR'S STORY "THE THIEF"

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Annotation

This article analyzes the artistic and aesthetic function of verbal details in revealing the main idea of Abdulla Qahhor's story "The Thief". Although the story is compact in volume, it deeply highlights such issues as social injustice, the indifference of officials, the helplessness of ordinary people, and social inequality. In the story, the main idea is revealed not directly through the author's narration, but through the speech of the characters, dialogues, forms of address, folk expressions, ironic sentences, and repetitions in speech. In particular, the tone of helplessness, pleading, and despair in Qobil bobo's speech expresses the social condition of ordinary people, while the coldness, formality, and arrogance in the officials' speech show the existing system's indifference to human fate.

Keywords

Abdulla Qahhor, "The Thief", verbal detail, main idea, dialogue, artistic speech, social criticism, Qobil bobo, realism, character, satire.

In Uzbek literature, Abdulla Qahhor's work is distinguished by realism, vitality, conciseness, and the precision of artistic details. In his stories, the writer does not rely on excessive description, extended narration, or artificial dramatism. On the contrary, he reveals human character, the atmosphere of the period, and painful social problems through brief yet highly expressive artistic devices. In this regard, "The Thief" is one of the brightest examples of Abdulla Qahhor's prose. The story "The Thief" describes the theft of the ox belonging to an ordinary peasant, Qobil bobo. At first glance, the work may seem to narrate the loss of property by a poor man. However, the inner meaning of the story is much broader. Through the theft of a single ox, the author exposes an entire social environment, an unjust administrative system, the indifference of officials, and the helplessness and lack of rights of ordinary people. Thus, the main idea of the story is to reveal the absence of justice in society, the inability of a poor person to defend his rights, and the indifference of officials to the suffering of the people [1].

In the work, this idea is expressed not through open moralizing or the author's direct judgment, but through artistic details, especially verbal details. A verbal detail is a specific word, phrase, sentence structure, form of address, repetition, irony, or element of dialogue in a character's speech that serves to reveal the character's personality, psychological state, and the ideological content of the work. Abdulla Qahhor skillfully uses this device in the story "The Thief".

At the center of "The Thief" stands the image of Qobil bobo. The theft of his ox is not merely a personal tragedy, but a disruption of the entire life of a poor peasant. For Qobil bobo, the ox is not just an animal; it is a tool of labor, a source of livelihood, and the main means connected with the sustenance of his family. Therefore, the disappearance of the ox is portrayed as a serious economic and psychological blow to Qobil bobo. In the story, the main idea is gradually

revealed through the development of events. First, the theft occurs. Then Qobil bobo, seeking justice, turns to various people. However, every official or responsible person he encounters does not sympathize with his pain; instead, each tries to benefit from the situation. Through this process, the author shows the true face of the administrative system in society. In particular, the inner world of the characters is revealed through their speech: in one person's speech there is indifference, in another's words there is irony, and in yet another's speech there are signs of careerism or corruption. Therefore, verbal details in the story are not merely a means of enlivening the events, but an important artistic factor that brings the main idea to the surface.

In a literary work, a detail often appears small, yet it carries significant meaning. A detail may be expressed through an object, action, clothing, facial expression, landscape, portrait, or speech. A verbal detail appears through a character's speaking style, word choice, expressions, form of address, silence, or repetition. The main functions of verbal detail are as follows. First, it reveals the character's personality. The way a person speaks shows who they are, what social environment they belong to, their psychological state, and their attitude toward life. Second, verbal detail reflects the atmosphere of the period. Social relations, class differences, and the distance between the people and authority in a certain historical period are reflected in the speech of the characters. Third, verbal detail strengthens the ideological content of the work. Especially in satirical or critical works, the author exposes social vices through the speech of the characters.

In Abdulla Qahhor's stories, verbal detail performs a particularly strong artistic function. The writer can reveal an entire character through a single sentence or a short dialogue. The story "The Thief" is also noteworthy in this respect. Qobil bobo is the most moving character in the story. He seeks justice, but he does not have the strength to defend himself. His speech contains tones of respect, fear, pleading, and despair. He cannot speak to officials as an equal. On the contrary, he addresses them with requests. This situation shows how socially powerless an ordinary representative of the people is. One of the most important features of Qobil bobo's speech is that he expresses his pain not as a firm demand, but through pleading and hope. He does not demand his rights; he asks for help. This difference is very significant. In a society governed by justice, a citizen demands justice; in an unjust society, however, a poor person is forced to ask for even his own rights as a favor. Through Qobil bobo's verbal details, his psychological state is revealed. He suffers not merely because he has lost something, but because he has lost the very support of his life. His words reflect the inner trembling, fear, and insecurity of a poor person. The folk simplicity of Qobil bobo's speech also makes the character natural and lifelike. He does not speak in complex, bookish language. His speech is simple, understandable, and full of pain. It is precisely this simplicity that increases the emotional power of the story. Through Qobil bobo's speech, the main idea of the story becomes even clearer: in an unjust system, the word of an ordinary person is powerless, his pain is ignored, and his rights remain unprotected.

In the story, the force opposing Qobil bobo is the system of officials, local authorities, and responsible persons. Their speech is completely different from Qobil bobo's speech. If Qobil bobo's speech contains pleading and fear, the speech of officials is dominated by command, contempt, coldness, and sometimes irony. Officials do not perceive Qobil bobo's suffering as a human tragedy. For them, this event is an ordinary matter, even a convenient opportunity to



pursue their own interests. Their words contain not compassion, but formality and indifference. In this sense, the speech of officials strengthens the satirical direction of the story. In depicting the speech of officials, Abdulla Qahhor reveals their inner nature. For example, before helping Qobil bobo, they expect something from him, behave arrogantly, and tend to prolong the problem rather than solve it. Through such verbal details, the writer exposes corruption, bureaucracy, and indifference to human suffering in society [2].

An important detail in the speech of officials is that their words often do not offer a clear solution. They talk a lot, give advice, and seem to provide guidance, but in reality they do not give Qobil bobo any practical help. This creates a critical portrayal of the bureaucratic environment in the story. Dialogues occupy a very important place in "The Thief". Dialogues not only move the plot forward, but also show the social distance between the characters. In the conversations between Qobil bobo and the officials, there is no equality. On one side stands a suffering, helpless person in need of help; on the other side stand people who draw power from their positions and consider themselves superior. The short, sharp, and ironic sentences in the dialogues increase the dramatic tension of the story. Abdulla Qahhor does not give long explanations. He "exposes" the characters through their own speech. For example, one dismissive reply from an official is enough to reveal his entire character. Qobil bobo's short and broken phrases express his psychological oppression. Another important feature of the dialogues is that they contain hidden social criticism. The author does not openly say, "This official is bad" or "This system is unjust." However, when the characters speak to one another, this truth becomes clear by itself. This is one of the important signs of Abdulla Qahhor's artistic mastery. Another factor that ensures the emotional power of "The Thief" is folk speech. The characters in the story do not speak in artificial or bookish language; they speak in a language suitable to their social environment and life experience. The simplicity of Qobil bobo's speech, the anxious words of the old woman, and the conversations of the people around them give the story naturalness. Folk speech is one of the important signs of realism. In real life, people speak according to their social class, profession, age, experience, and psychological state. Abdulla Qahhor deeply understands this. He gives each character speech appropriate to that character. Therefore, the characters in the story appear like living people. Qobil bobo's speech is simple and full of sorrow. The officials' speech is cold and self-interested. In the words of ordinary people, bitter life truths are felt. Through this, a broad social environment is created in the story. Thus, verbal details reveal not only individual characters, but also the image of an entire society. Irony is an important artistic device in Abdulla Qahhor's work. In "The Thief", irony and satirical tone are also expressed through verbal details. The dismissiveness in the speech of officials, their seeming help that in fact causes Qobil bobo even more suffering, and self-interest hidden behind formal words all strengthen the satirical depiction.

The irony lies in the fact that those who should ensure justice have themselves become part of the unjust system. The system that should find the thief further torments the person who has suffered from the theft. Qobil bobo loses his ox, but the more he searches for it, the more he suffers. This situation forms the bitter satirical content of the story. Through verbal irony, the author encourages the reader to understand the essence of the event more deeply. The reader realizes that behind some seemingly humorous situations lies tragic truth. This is a sign of the bitter laughter and satirical realism characteristic of Qahhor's stories. The main conflict in the story is not only between Qobil bobo and the thief. The real conflict is between Qobil bobo and



the existing social system. This conflict becomes even more powerful through verbal details. Qobil bobo's speech is a pleading speech directed from below upward. The officials' speech is a commanding and contemptuous speech directed from above downward. These two types of speech reveal social inequality in the work. One person's words contain pain; the other's words contain authority. One person's speech contains hope; the other's contains coldness. This contrast strengthens the main idea of the story. The writer interprets the event not as an ordinary theft, but as a conflict between the people and authority, the poor and the officials, truth and injustice.

In "The Thief", not only the characters' speech but also the author's narration is of great importance. Abdulla Qahhor, as the narrator, does not give excessive explanations and does not become overly emotional. His narration is concise, precise, and observant. This increases the impact of the story. The author's speech often reveals the psychological state of the characters through brief details. Qobil bobo's anxiety, confusion, and hopelessness are also felt in the author's narration. However, the author does not force the reader to draw a conclusion. He presents the events in such a way that the reader comes to the conclusion independently. The speech of the characters and the author's narration harmonize with each other and ensure the ideological and aesthetic unity of the story. Qobil bobo's difficult situation, the indifference of officials, and the injustice in society are all revealed through the unity of the author's narration and the dialogues.

The main idea of the work the oppression of ordinary people in an unjust society and the exposure of officials' indifference — is deepened precisely through verbal details in the story. If the author had simply stated, "Qobil bobo was poor" or "The officials were unjust," the story would not have had such a strong impact. Instead, Qahhor presents the characters through their own speech. Qobil bobo's broken, pleading speech reveals his tragedy [4]. The cold and arrogant speech of the officials exposes their inhuman nature. The irony in the dialogues makes the injustice in society even sharper. In this respect, the verbal detail in "The Thief" rises to the level of the main artistic device carrying the ideological burden of the work. Through verbal details, the reader comes to the following conclusions: Qobil bobo has lost not only his ox, but also the opportunity to demand his rights; the officials do not serve the people's pain, but subordinate it to their own interests; where there is no justice in society, the life of an ordinary person turns into suffering. In conclusion, Abdulla Qahhor's story "The Thief" is small in volume, but deep in social and philosophical meaning. Through the theft of one ox, the author reveals the unjust environment of an entire period, the lack of rights of ordinary people, and the indifference of officials. The main idea of the story is expressed not through the author's direct commentary, but through verbal details.

The pleading, fear, and despair in Qobil bobo's speech show the social helplessness of an ordinary person. The coldness, contempt, and irony in the officials' speech expose the inhuman nature of the existing system. Through dialogues, the social distance between the characters, the conflict between the people and authority, and the opposition between truth and injustice are vividly manifested. Thus, verbal details in "The Thief" are not a secondary device in the artistic structure of the work, but the main factor revealing the central idea. Through the speech of the characters, Abdulla Qahhor illuminates not only their personalities, but also the moral and social image of an entire society. Therefore, "The Thief" is valued as one of the perfect examples of creating social criticism through verbal details in Uzbek short-story writing.



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