

UNDERSTANDING HUMOR AS A TOOL OF SATIRE

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Abstract. *When humor deployed through satire, it often sheds its playfulness and becomes a disruptive weapon that exposes societal, political, and moral issues. English literature is rich with examples where humor is not simply used for entertainment but functions as a sarcastic reflection. This paper highlights the relationship between humor and satire in English literature, particularly George Orwell's Animal Farm, arguing that satire uses humor to both mask and amplify its critique. The goal of this paper is to understand how humor functions in a literary satirical work Animal Farm written by a British profound writer George Orwell.*

Keywords: *satire, humor, critique.*

Annotatsiya. *Satira orqali qo'llanganda hazil ko'p hollarda o'zining komik xususiyatini yo'qotib, ijtimoiy, siyosiy va axloqiy masalalarni fosh etuvchi qurolga aylanadi. Ingliz adabiyoti hazil faqatgina ko'ngilochar vosita sifatida emas, balki istehzoli kuzgu sifatida ham qo'llanadigan ko'plab misollar bilan boy. Ushbu maqolada ingliz adabiyotidagi hazil va satira o'rtasidagi bog'liqlik, xususan Jorj Oruellning "Molxona" asari tahlil qilinadi. Maqola hazilning satirik asarda qanday ishlashini tushunishga qaratilgan bo'lib, satira hazilni tanqidni ham yashirish, ham kuchaytirish uchun qo'llashini ko'rsatadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *satira, hazil, tanqid.*

Аннотация. *Когда юмор используется через сатиру, он часто теряет свою игривость и превращается в разрушительное оружие, обнажающее социальные, политические и нравственные проблемы. Английская литература богата примерами, где юмор используется не только для развлечения, но и как саркастическое отражение. В данной статье подчеркивается взаимосвязь юмора и сатиры в английской литературе, в частности в «Скотном дворе» Джорджа Оруэлла. Автор утверждает, что сатира использует юмор как для маскировки, так и для усиления своей критики. Цель статьи – понять, как функционирует юмор в сатирическом произведении «Скотный двор», написанном выдающимся британским писателем Джорджем Оруэллом.*

Ключевые слова: *сатира, юмор, критика.*

Theoretical Background

Satire is an employment of irony, wit, sarcasm, parody, burlesque and etc. in order to ridicule or critique some absurdities, human follies in a social group or individual. As McClennen (2011) noted the ability of satire is to highlight the absurdity and commonly accepted prejudices by provoking critical reflection. The plot in satiric novels neither purely made up nor purely truth; rather, it has the tense space between both. Charney stated that humor usually intended to cause 'amusement' (2005). While humor is intended to make people laugh, satire frequently masks serious critique beneath comic language. Satire as an multi-functional tool can be social, aggressive, and an intellectual (Simpson, 2003). It should be clearly understood that making others laugh is not the goal of satire, yet humor is a part of it which contributes to the reception of it. As once Bukowski stated "If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh, otherwise they will kill you" (Cherkovoski, 1991). Samuel Johnson defines satire as "A poem in which wickedness or folly is censured".

George Orwell's satiric novel *Animal Farm* (1945) is a profound example of humor weaponized to critique society and expose totalitarianism. Ostensibly a simple literary work featuring talking animals, employs satirical humor to parody the revolution. Orwell's skillfully use of anthropomorphism is both entertaining and thought provoking. The reader soon recognizez what is hidden under whimsical world and allegorical parallels to the historic reality.

Indeed, no longer able to withstand humilty of master Jones, animals revolt against him led by Napoleon and Snowball. Afterwards, the animals establish a new community which turns out to be a nightmare. Napoleon, Squealer and Snowball, heads of the new community, promise prosperity and equality by renaming their farm, creating Commandments and giving motivational speeches. It is bitterly funny that animals have even their own governing philosophy called 'Animalsm' which is based on the revolutionary principles of Old Major. It is more funny when the Commandments are changed throughout the novella just because they don't fit anymore the interests of Napoleon. The commandments, which were originally meant to ensure equality among all animals, are subtly changed by Squealer in order to suit the pigs' increasing power:

"Four legs good, two legs bad" to "Four legs good, two legs better."

"No animal shall wear clothes" - but they wear clothes anyway.

"No animal shall sleep in a bed" to "No animal shall sleep in a bed with sheets."

"No animal shall drink alcohol" to "No animal shall drink alcohol TO EXCESS."

"No animal shall kill any other animal" to "No animal shall kill any other animal without cause."

"All animals are equal" to "All animals equal, but some animals are more

equal than others" (Orwell, 1945).

Orwell's humor emerges especially as the pigs gradually adopt human habits, particularly bad ones. At first glance, this play on words may elicit laughter, but it also trigger the mind and creates unease in the heart. One of the most effective uses of humor and satire in the novel is how pigs conduct manipulative speeches and justify their own abuses with ridiculously illogical arguments:

"You do not imagine, I hope, that we pigs are doing this in a spirit of selfishness and privilege? Many of us actually dislike milk and apples. [...]. Day and night we are watching over your welfare. It is for YOUR sake that we drink that milk and eat those apples" (29).

His contradictory explanations are a comic parody of human flaws in power. The final line, "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig... but already it was impossible to say which was which" (107), is not comic anymore.

Conclusion

Satire and humor are similar to a revolver loaded with cartridges and is very lethal when used by those who know where to shoot at. The outstanding example of how to use this weapon skillfully is George Orwell's literary novel *Animal Farm*. This essay has argued that humor, when embedded in satire, is often masks a critique or discomfort that slowly emerges from beneath its comic surface. Meanwhile, it is also believed that humor and satire together allows repressed emotional aggression to let go and emotionally accept the harsh realities of society through critique and laughter. "The main purpose of laughter is may be to allow the individual to alert others [...] that nothing to worry about" (Charney, 2005). It arouses another question: Did satirists seek to raise awareness or make us accept absurdities and human follies? This question will be investigated in our future works. Overall, humor is not always innocent, it is sometimes deliberate, dangerous with deeply revealing results. In the example of English literature, satire once again proves that the most sharpest critiques are made through hidden comic language.

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