



## THE ROLE OF SIMILES IN THE LANGUAGE SYSTEM AND LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

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Article history:	Abstract:
<b>Received:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	<i>In this article, the role of similes in the language system and their study within the framework of linguistics is examined comprehensively and systematically. In particular, simile is considered as an important expressive tool at the lexical, semantic, and stylistic levels of language, and its functional significance in the speech process is highlighted.</i>
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Aristotle considered similes to be an important means of speech and literary representation, and discussed this issue mainly in his works "Poetics" and "Rhetoric"; according to him, similes clearly and vividly demonstrate the properties of one object through another, while metaphor is a concealed simile, relying on the ability to perceive similarity; Aristotle argued that such abilities are connected with innate talent, and emphasized that the appropriate and moderate use of similes and metaphors makes speech beautiful and understandable, whereas excessive use leads to artificiality.

E.A.Nekrasova divides comparisons into two main groups: general linguistic comparisons in which the features of the subject and object are already known, and comparisons based on the juxtaposition of unexpected and unfamiliar features to the general public.

According to the scholar, the second type of comparison has an literary nature and reveals various poetic possibilities. She also characterizes the first group of similes as simple-character similes, and the second group as complex-character similes<sup>1</sup>.

The language of fiction is one of the central issues of stylistics, and one of the theoretical and practical tasks of linguostylistics and speech stylistics is the study of the expressive means used in it. That is why Academician

V.V.Vinogradov once stated: "The study of figurative means in the national language is very important." He emphasized that the laws of verbal art in artistic creation, the writer's work, the direction of individual

speech, the creation of images, and expressive diversity are revealed through the laws of language development in works of art<sup>2</sup>.

Descriptive means in the language of fiction simile, epithet, metaphor, antithesis, etc. are objects of study of both literary science and linguistics. If in literary studies the role of figurative means in artistry and imagery is studied, then in linguistics it is important to determine which lexical or grammatical elements serve as the material basis of a particular means of expression and to determine their semantic and stylistic possibilities.

Speaking about the function of simile in the language system,

M. V. Rumyantseva emphasizes the following: "Logical similes within grammatical categories serve to satisfy a person's basic need for the similarity and difference of objects compared. Figurative comparisons are among the most expressive linguistic means and are evaluated in cognitology as a means of obtaining new knowledge about the world. Such comparisons reveal previously unknown aspects of existing objects in language by interpreting them in unexpected ways"<sup>3</sup>.

In Uzbek linguistics, M.Mukarramov, R.Kungurov, S.Karimov, B.Umurkulov, N.Mahmudov, M.Yuldashev, D.Khudoybeoganova, M.Yakubbekova, F.Usmanov seriously studied the linguistic aspects of comparison. M.Mukarramov initially analyzed the classification of simile, its relationship with other tropes such as epithet, metaphor<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Языковые процессы современной русской художественной литературы. – М.: Наука, 1977. – С. 241.

<sup>2</sup> Виноградов В.В. О языке художественной литературы, М, 1959, 196-бет.

<sup>3</sup> Румянцева М.В. Типологические особенности компаративных конструкций (на материале русского и немецкого языков): Автореф. дисс. канд. филол. наук. – Челябинск, 2007. – С.9.

<sup>4</sup> Мукаррамов М. Ўхшатиш таснифи. – Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти», 1968, 5-сон, 62–63-бетлар; Мукаррамов М. Метафора ясовчи ўхшатиш воситаларининг маънолари ҳақида. – «Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти», 1971, 2-сон, 51-бет; Мукаррамов М. Нутқ маданияти ва ўхшатиш тасвирий воситаси. – Нутқ маданиятига оид масалалар, Тошкент, 1973, 179–182-бетлар; Мукаррамов М. Кўчимларнинг



The peculiarities of similes were first discovered in Uzbek linguistics.

M. Mukarramov studied it in a monographic study. In his research, the scholar paid special attention to the issue of comparison in the Uzbek language and sought to highlight the role and importance of this figurative device in the language system. The widespread use of similes in proverbs, riddles, and aphorisms created on the basis of similes in the work is explained by their characteristics of imagery, clarity, and emotionality. The author also divides similes into concrete and abstract types. According to the nature of application, traditional and individual (authorial) are distinguished, and according to the content and structural components, various types of similes are distinguished. The study also analyzes the linguistic means of expressing similes in detail and comprehensively<sup>5</sup>. In general, this monograph is the first source that collects general information about similes in the Uzbek language and serves as an important basis for further research.

R. Kungurov studied the phenomenon of simile in both purely linguistic and semantic-stylistic aspects. The scientist's first works in this direction are known as "Grammatical means of creating similes in a sentence," in which morphological and lexical means of creating similes are analyzed. Also, in this study, characteristic examples of the omission of one of the means of comparison or their combined use are given. The scholar later revised this work and included it in his monographs "Essays on the Stylistics of the Uzbek Language"<sup>6</sup> and "Figurative Means of the Uzbek Language"<sup>7</sup>

The article "Similes in the Language of Zulfiya's Poetry," published on the basis of the theoretical conclusions of S. Karimov and R. Kungurov on similes, is noteworthy for its dedication to the study of the figurative means of simile in a new - linguopoetic aspect.

According to S. Karimov, simile is a subjective comparison based on the proximity of objects and phenomena, as well as the concepts that express them, in the process of speech according to certain aspects and reasons<sup>8</sup>. Comparisons are a means of expression

that reveals a common feature in objects or events by comparing one object's feature to another based on the similarity of certain features. As many researchers acknowledge, simile and comparison are among the most commonly used methods in human thinking, and their verbal expression shows that language nomination is a multifaceted and complex phenomenon<sup>9</sup>.

The issue of interpreting similes as an important linguistic means of expressing emotionality, as well as the specific features and functional tasks of similes in literary speech, are comprehensively covered in B. Umurkulov's scientific works devoted to the study of artistic speech. In his research, the scientist analyzes the importance of similes in enhancing imagery in a literary text, expressing the author's attitude, and producing an emotional and expressive impact on the reader. Also, B. Umurkulov, on the basis of evidence, shows that similes perform various stylistic functions depending on the speech situation, and that their possibilities as a means of artistic expression are extensive. These views contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of similes in literary speech<sup>10</sup>. In his article "Linguopoetics of Similes in Oybek's Poetry," N. Makhmudov notes that the originality and uniqueness of similes used in Oybek's poetry contribute to the perfect formation of poetic content. According to the scientist, extraordinarily beautiful images are created through similes with an unconventional structure, and such expressions ensure the linguopoetic effectiveness of Oybek's poetry<sup>11</sup>.

Concerning the essence of similes, Prof. N. Makhmudov notes the following. ..."It can be said that comparison plays an enormous role in a person's understanding of the world. Comparison, comparison in order to identify similar or different aspects of two or more objects or concepts is observed in almost all spheres of human activity as one of the most common logical methods of cognizing the external world"<sup>12</sup>.

Another major study devoted to the study of the linguopoetics of texts of oral folk art is the doctoral

ўзаро муносабати. – Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти», 1976, 5-сон, 50–54-бетлар ва бoшқалар.

<sup>5</sup> Мукаррамов М. Ўзбек тилида ўхшатиш. – Тошкент, 1976. – 88 б.

<sup>6</sup> Қўнғуров Р. Ўзбек тили стилистикасидан очерклар, 1-қисм, Самарқанд, 1975, 212–233-бетлар.

<sup>7</sup> Қўнғуров Р. Ўзбек тилининг тасвирий воситалари, Тошкент, 1977, 34–78-бетлар.

<sup>8</sup> Каримов С. Бадий услуб ва тилининг ифода тасвир воситалари. – Самарқанд: СамДУ нашр. 1994. – Б. 8.

<sup>9</sup> Қаранг: Худойберганова Д. Ўзбек тилидаги бадий матнларнинг антропоцентриқ талқини. – Б. 171.

<sup>10</sup> Умуркулов Б. Бадий адабиётда сўз. – Тошкент, 1993.; Шу муллик: Бадий наср жозибаси. – Тошкент, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Махмудов Н. Ойбек шеърисидаги ўхшатишларнинг лингвопозитикаси. Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти. 1985, 6-сон, 48–51-бетлар.

<sup>12</sup> Махмудов Н. Ўхшатишлар– образли тафаккур маҳсули// Ўзбек тили ва адабиёти, 2011.-3-сон, 19-бет.



dissertation of M. Yakubbekova entitled "Linguopoetic Features of Uzbek Folk Songs."<sup>13</sup>.

The second chapter of the dissertation, devoted to the study of the linguopoetic features of similes in folk songs, contains observations on the structural and compositional structure, lexical and grammatical features, and poetic nature of this figurative device. In this chapter, comparison is interpreted as a comprehensive, multifaceted phenomenon, and it is substantiated that it is a product of such logical operations as analysis, synthesis, abstraction, comparison, and generalization. According to M. Yakubbekova, "similarity is one of the most important tools of thinking in the process of searching for and discovering something new"<sup>14</sup>.

In linguistics, numerous scientific opinions have been expressed on the issues of the comparison standard and their definitions and descriptions have been developed. In these studies, the structural, semantic, and stylistic features of simile are comprehensively covered, and the role and functional significance of this figurative device in artistic speech are determined. In particular, M. Yuldashev divides comparisons into traditional and individual-author comparisons depending on whether the comparison standard is original or conventional. According to the scientist, while traditional comparisons are based on already established and widely used standards in language and culture, individual-author comparisons arise as a product of the author's individual thinking and creative approach. Such a classification contributes to a deeper understanding of the linguopoetic possibilities of similes, their aesthetic and expressive functions in a literary text<sup>15</sup>.

The study notes that as a result of the frequent use of traditional similes, they partly lose their freshness, and their level of expressiveness becomes relatively low. It is emphasized that individual-author similes arise on the basis of the writer's observation, artistic skill, and effective use of the rich possibilities of the national language. In such comparisons, imagery and expressiveness are consistently manifested vividly and impressively<sup>16</sup>.

One of the other important scientific works devoted to the study of similes is the candidate dissertation of D. Khudoyberganova. In this study, the stylistic and

semantic features of simile constructions are examined in a wide range through deep scientific analysis. The author elucidates the functional significance of similes in artistic speech, their role in expressing subtle shades of meaning, and their aesthetic impact through specific examples. The dissertation also analyzes in detail the role of comparative units in the language system, their semantic diversity, and stylistic possibilities depending on the context. This work is important as a significant scientific source for revealing the linguistic essence of the phenomenon of simile<sup>17</sup>.

In F. Usmanov's scientific research "Linguocultural Study of Comparisons in the Uzbek Language," the phenomenon of comparison is considered as an independent object of research. Focusing on this issue, the scientist substantiates that analogy is one of the important cognitive mechanisms in the process of human perception of reality. The study analyzes the process of human understanding of environmental phenomena, objects, and concepts, and reveals their essence through analogy

F.Usmanov explains the process of the emergence of analogy as follows: in the absence of a complete understanding of object "A" or in cases where some of its properties are unknown, this object is compared with object "B." As a result of this comparison, a common similarity between objects "A" and "B" - property "C" - is revealed, and on this basis, the content of object "A" is further clarified. According to the scientist, it is this process that determines the cognitive and linguocultural essence of simile.

The study also pays special attention to the issue of the inseparable connection between language and culture, as well as to the expression of national thinking and cultural values through comparisons. The author, using convincing evidence, highlights the role of similes as a linguocultural unit in reflecting the worldview, traditions, and mentality of the people. This research has important scientific significance in the study of Uzbek similes not only from a linguistic but also from a cultural and cognitive point of view<sup>18</sup>.

Comparison has been studied in linguistics since ancient times. It has mainly been examined within the fields of stylistics, the theory of artistic speech, and rhetoric. Scholars have evaluated simile as a figurative and

<sup>13</sup> Якуббекова М.М. Ўзбек халқ кўшиқларининг лингвопоэтик хусусиятлари: Филол.фан.д-ри. ... дис. – Т., 2005.

<sup>14</sup> Якуббекова М. Ко'rsatilgan manba, – В.24.

<sup>15</sup> Йўлдошев М. Чўлпон сўзининг сирлари. – Тошкент: 2002, 58-bet.

<sup>16</sup> Йўлдошев М. Ко'rsatilgan risola, 58–60-betlar.

<sup>17</sup> Худойберганова Д. Семантические и стилистические особенности конструкций уподобление в узбекском языке: дисс. канд. филол. наук. – Ташкент, 1989. – 119 с.

<sup>18</sup> Усмонов Ф. Ўзбек тилидаги ўхшатишларнинг лингвомаданий тадқиқи: филол. фанл. фалс. (PhD) док. автореферати. – Тошкент: 2020. – Б. 11-12.



expressive tool and have thoroughly analyzed its structure, semantic features, stylistic functions, and place in the literary text. Moreover, in modern linguistic research, comparison is studied in connection with human thinking, national culture, and worldview, with special attention paid to its cognitive and pragmatic aspects. Therefore, similes, while enhancing the artistic coloring of speech, play an important role in revealing the figurative possibilities of language.

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