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The Comparative Study of Irony Elements in the Two Works of Farhad Hasan Zadeh and Megan McDonald (Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor and Stick Adventures)

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Abstract

Children's literature is one of the most important literary branches in the world. One of the ways to make children's literature enjoyable is using irony that causes happiness, entertainment and provokes thoughts. Children irony must have a childish atmosphere, in other words it must express children attitude not adults. If it is associated with imagination, fantasy, discovery and surprise, children will enjoy more. In recent years, many attempts were made to enter irony into children's literature, whether through compilation or translation of foreign books. The present study aims to examine the techniques of irony in ironic works of two contemporary authors by content analysis method. The study results show that in these woks, social-psychological motifs in addition to political ones in the works of Megan MacDonald are used to discuss the problems of society with a critical approach. In both works, the techniques of irony, satire, hyperbole, litotes, repetition, pun and language games were shown that show the dominance of the two authors on common techniques of irony. In the works of Farhad Hasan Zadeh, the irony technique of repetition and in the works of Megan McDonald, the irony technique of hyperbole was highly reflected.

Keywords: comparative children's literature, irony techniques, Farhad Hasan Zadeh, Megan McDonald

Introduction

Comparative literature is one of the masterpieces of literary criticism that deals with the works, elements, types, styles, periods, movements and literary characters and in general compares literature in its several concepts in two or several different cultures and language.

Literary works can be divided in two serious and non-serious in terms of content. Lyric, ethical and drama works are in serious group and irony, parody, satire, joke, and jest are in non-serious group (Halbi, 1985). A variety of irony was common among different nations since many years ago. Although irony is based on laugh, it uses laugh only as a tool to achieve a superior goal and inform people about the depth of wickedness (Aslani, 2006).

The purpose of irony is correction and purification not people abuse. Its laugh is the laugh of sympathy and interest, makes people sad but makes them think too. Huars, the big humorist, summarizes the total performance of literature including irony into two words: teaching ad entertainment (Polard, 1999).

Irony as a literary genre or an advanced and effective tone in structure of texts could change the bitter and sullen atmosphere of children stories that always led to ethical results due to its complex nature. In recent years, Iranian authors have paid more attention to the production of children ironic works. Also, the foreign ironic works have been regarded by translators. The purpose of this study is the comparison of ironic structures in two Persian books of Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor (3), let me go to the school Shimpaloo and Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor (4), do not eat crow without salt Shimpaloo by Farhad Hasan Zadeh and two foreign works of Stink and the stinkiest sneakers in the world and Stink, the weird child who becomes short by Megan McDonald to each other. It is expected to answer the following questions after the analysis of irony in these two books.

1. What are the similarities and differences between these two works?
2. Which technique of irony is more used in any works of these authors?

Our hypothesis is based on the issue that both authors could cause enjoyment and entertainment for this age group due to their previous successful works in the area of children's literature and are so well dominant on a variety of irony techniques.

Persian researches have carried out some studies on irony and its constructive elements in different works but no study has been done so far on the comparative study of the works of Farhad Hasan Zadeh and Megan McDonald. Chitsazi Elaheh in issue 168 of children book journal studies irony in story literature of children in the 1370s in the age group of A, B and C. Hessan Pour Saeed and Dehghanian Javad and Khavari Sedigheh in issue 3 of children's literature studies journal studied irony and humor techniques in the works of Hushang Moradi Kermani. Safaei Ali, and Adhami Hussein in issue 32 of Persian language and literature study journal studied the expression of irony techniques in the works of Samad Behrangi and Shel Silverstein in issue 6 of comparative literature studies journal.

Research methodology

Farhad Hasan Zadeh

Farhad Hasan Zadeh was born in Abadan on Farvardin 20th, 1962 and has written different stories in all literary fields from children stories to novels for adults. His first book the stories of fox and bee was published in Shiraz in 13701. From that time onward, he worked professionally in the field of children's literature and more than 60 works have been published by him. He is the member of the founding committee of children's writers association and has received more than 20 awards until now for his works. One of his most important awards is the golden month award from the big festival of the winners of children's literature. This humorist has written significant works in the field of irony. For example, the series of Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor.

The summary of the book let me go to the school Shimpaloo

Ruzbeh Ruzbehani is a boy who has rules for himself and the third rule discussed in this book (nobody should be scared for nothing). On the first day of Mehr and on the way to school, Shimpaloo a wicked and dirty man who annoys and harasses people makes Ruzbeh go to the school lately. After several days, Ruzbeh talks about it with Jijoor (his robot) and decide to fight with Shimpaloo. He makes his robot wear the clothes of his mother and then go to the school to face Shimpaloo. The events happen on that day make Shimpaloo go away for a while, so that Ruzbeh could be safe.

The summary of the book do not eat crow without salt Shimpaloo

The fourth rule discussed in this book is (we should not prevent others be happy and play). It was holiday when Ruzbeh and Jijoor leave the house to play. They decide to make a kite and tie its thread to a tree. Shimpaloo eats

their kite. Jijoor attempts to compensate for it, and when Shimpaloo goes to the lake, Jijoor sews the clothes of Shimpaloo and sends them to the air as a kite.

Megan McDonald

Megan McDonald was born in Virginia State in February 1959. He spent her elementary school in Virginia school and got her master degree on library and information sciences from Pittsburg University. She published her first book at the age of 10 in the newspaper of her school. One of her famous books is the series of fickle Judie that were translated into different languages and have received many awards in recent years. The series of Stink adventures are from this author and two volumes of this series were studied in this research.

The summary of the book Stink and the stinkiest sneakers in the world

The main character of this story is Stink. He is a boy who studies at the second grade of elementary school and experiences funny and adventurous stories. Stink and his friends visit the museum of sciences to see the exhibition of "disgusting". In this journey, funny things happen. During the story, he competes with his intimate friend to participate the competition of the stinkiest sneakers in the world. Finally, one of the judges does not come and he is selected as the competition judge due to hi strong sense of smell.

The summary of the book Stink, the weird child who becomes short

In this book, Stink asks his sister to measure his height every day. He looks for a solution to be tall until when his health teacher guides him. In the class, it is his turn to take an animal to the house, take care of it and write down about what happens. Unfortunately, with the carelessness of his sister, the animal dies. Then, the teacher gives a research topic to students and Stink tries to relate his short weight to the research characters and makes some adventures.

The study of irony techniques

The base of irony is laughing that is not an easy job but has some methods such as using elements of rhetoric. Literary types take the benefit of imagery and literal-spiritual figure of speech but the use of elements of rhetoric depends on specific methods that irony creates. Using any element of rhetoric is not considered as element of rhetoric until it does not make an ironic image (Bagheri Khalili, 2009). With this introduction, first the identified techniques of irony arte introduced and then the examples of each work are presented.

Findings

Metonymy

Metonymy is a sentence or combination in which the aim of the author is not explicit meaning but there should be a symmetry that guides the audience to implicit meaning (Shamsia, 1997). Metonymic irony refers to the works in which the purpose is mentioned as an implicit way with ambiguity, allusion or metaphor. In this type of irony, discovering the purpose of authors' needs accuracy in phrases and searching the implicit meaning of words and sentences (Eslami Rad, 2003).

In these words, metonymy is in form of short sentences that sometimes approach the pop culture. Some examples of common humors were given.

Table 1: Metonymy technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor
Growth. Even the size of a human Stink to Sophie said, "but I assure you he outsmarted my sneakers shoes you (Stink and the stinkiest sneakers in the world 2014) - Judie said, "Mr from toe to head, nose!" (ibid: 22) - All gathered. Everyone was listening. Even barking dogs did not come (ibid:73) - Stink was not even one centimeter hair, no! (ibid: 6 and5) - Judoe said: "Sure! It means that it grows. By contrast, some of the people! " ((ibid:31)	I went to school the first day of October Shimpaloo green was my way (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) If I wanted a day of private lessons and I remember how the school to kill sludge (ibid: 13) Went to school, but I did not understand Shimpaloo in which the mouse hole to hide. (ibid:27) I said, "Go. In this computer game? Do you like least? (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) He said: "Oh! Donkey brain that I would not do this to wash. Do not talk and look. "(ibid:26)

The humorist uses metonymy to give the sense of enjoyment and self-confidence to the audience. Both authors used metonymic irony in these works to some degree. Metonymic expressions that were used in the works of Farhad Hasan Zadeh are a little unfamiliar for age group B but these expressions are tangible and understandable for group C in the works of Megan McDonald.

Hyperbole

One of the common methods that is used in most ironic subsets is hyperbole in description of ethical and external characteristics and also maximize the defects and shortcomings (Hesam Pour, Dehghanian & Khavari, 2011). Humorist uses hyperbole to show the importance of the subject to the audience and in this way , he creates an ironic situation, hyperbole can be used in description of face, body, beauty, knowledge, religion and etc. according to Shamsia, hyperbole is the result of simile and metaphor (Shamsia,1997).

This figure of speech is available in the works of the two authors. Hyperbole and exaggeration are the tools of authors for social or personal criticism to the attitude of adults. Also, this tool provokes the laugh and surprise of the audience ad makes them pay attention to the exaggerated reality. As if the story characters want to induce a different meaning to their audience.

Table 2: Hyperbole technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor

A little trip to the closest point on the Earth's funky! (Stink and the slinkiest sneakers in the world 2014) - Judie said: "You could run a circus clown! Nineteen-inch with a nose like a man! " (ibid: 24) - - Funky than a smelly skunks. Hundred years remained smell like vomit (ibid:28) - Sophie asked, "Now what do you want with this funky aroma, take away the vampires?" - (ibid: 43) - The shortest student in the second grade in class 2. Perhaps the shortest guy in the world. (Stink, the weird child who becomes short 2014) -	It was as if Shimpaloo had heard the saddest song of his life. (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) He went up and down and sews the sleeves of dress and holes. (ibid: 28) was surprised that I had my horn, said, "This is bad jijoor (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) I myself was crumpled, but what is all shook his shock and his eyes came out like missiles back in place let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014)

Hyperbole in the works of Farhad Hassan Zadeh was mostly used as metonymy and simile. In the works of Megan McDonald, hyperboles are mostly simile and comparison. In the comparison of these two works, the obtained results show that: hyperbole in foreign works have had higher percent to Persian works.

Litotes

Javadi in the book "history of irony in Persian literature" writes about this irony technique: the author underestimates the person who wants to criticize. This can be done in different ways such as physically, spiritually or other ways. (Javadi, 2005).

Sometimes, this technique is done by comparison or analogize human to animal.

In theory of superiority (Jon Morreall, 2014), the factor of laugh is the sense of being superior to others. Internal failure at the discussion by accepting laughing words with litotes has strengthened this technique. Perhaps for this reason, John Crysostom, one of the scholars of Christianity, wrote: laugh has an origin called rudeness. (Crysostom, 1889)

Table 3: Litotes technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor
Suphie said: we have to call you nose, you know how smell better than a dog. ((ibid:19) - Judie said: you could be a clown in a circus. (ibid: 24) - -number 6 , your sneakers are more stinky than the breath of a donkey (ibid:74) - Poor thing, (Stink, the weird child who becomes short 2014)	I on that day, he opened his hands and said: where are you going with this speed? (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) Like a laugh that was similar to the horse neigh he winked and said: with the permission of my parents, yes (ibid: 19) He said: this smell that is always with me is for the Sinkhole, isn't it? (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) Then I thought if you put the brain of a donkey on a robot it becomes so good (ibid:28)

The use of litotes technique in the works of MacDonald is more obvious and highlighted than the works of Hassan Zadeh. In both works, simile to animals was used.

Language games

One of the widely used techniques of irony is language games. This method is mostly used in jokes. Language has a dialogue nature. (Birch, 1991). In the dialogues of book "playing games with morphological and syntactic rules, playing with alphabets, playing with numbers, playing with school and lesson, creating a new word or removing a part of word, creating changes in works and common interpretations fazing words and guarantee of sentence are the examples of this method.

Table 4: Language games technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor
Stink read the advertisement and said: good! Look here (Stink and the slinkiest sneakers in the world 2014) - Stink said: never, I swear to our forg (ibid: 26) - -poor thing, (Stink, the weird child who becomes short 2014) - Judi said: perhaps I should say some magic words to him. Eye of Salamander , abracadabra (ibid:32)	I said: I want to learn things and become literate and a useful person in the future for … (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) I take the holes of my nose, give me that damn sandwich (ibid: 15) Why did you eat it Shimpaloo, shiiiiii (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) You mom says: whatever has replace does not have disease (ibid:25)

In Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor and Stink adventures, language games are seen as playing with alphabets, playing with words and common interpretations, creating new words, dictation mistakes and using colloquial terms. In the foreign example, the technique of language games was used more than the Persian work.

One of the features of literary styles that increase the music of word is repetition. Repetition technique does not make irony alone but has a helping role in creation of irony situation. Verbal and behavioral habitual phrase or the habitual phrase of story characters is some examples of using this technique.

Table 5: Repetition technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor
Stink stood up and shouted: hahaha I pulled your leg! (Stink and the stinkiest sneakers in the world 2014) - Stink said: shhhhhh (ibid: 22) - -as the same as the height of his hat, tall tall tall Stink, the weird child who becomes short (2014) - Judi showed her start bottom and said: galoomp galoomp (ibid:59)	Of course our school was different. Very very much difficult. (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) I said: oh oh. Why are you going on the school? (ibid: 8) Egg sandwich, ough! (ibid:14) He laughed, his laugh was dry ghzhhh (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) Stream and smoke came out of his mouth: pis ,,,s,,,s,,,s (ibid:24)

In the two studied foreign and Persian works, repetition technique was used as the repetition of vowel, syllable, word, and term. These repetitions have created an ironic situation. Repetition technique in Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor is more than the foreign work.

Pun

Pun technique is another method that creates coordination and music in words and sentences. (Shamsia, 2004)

Pun is in fact a music-making figure of speech and not humorist but in some cases like the displacement of the letters of a word and the changes in word, it is appropriate for the field of irony.

Table 6: Pun technique in the two works

Stink adventures	Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor
Wister asked: when are we going to eat lunch? My stomach is empty. (Stink and the stinkiest sneakers in the world 2014) - But what if the sneakers are stinky? Or even more stinky? (ibid: 17) The eye of Salamander , abracadabra (Stink, the weird child who becomes short -) - Judi said: how slipping is Newton. You have to call it Voolvooli (ibid: 38)	It was as if he wanted to take the sandwich (let me go to the school Shimpaloo 2014) I said: you have no idea in your mind? He said: idea? Mind mind? Mind? (ibid: 16) As he chewed his food he said: yes, I didn't see it was here. (do not eat crow without salt your 2014) He said: what did you say mish mishak? (ibid:20)

Pun technique in these two examples is seen more as pun, derivation and redundancy. The use of this technique makes music and creates an irony that attracts the audience.

Conclusion

The findings of the stud y of the works of Farhad Hassan Zadeh and Megan McDonald shows that both authors have used the irony techniques of metonymy, hyperbole, litotes, repetition, pun and language games that indicates their dominance eon the common techniques of irony. The books Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor by Farhad Hassan Zadeh are suspended between fantasy and realism. The author used a critical but mild approach to reflect the problems of society. Among the techniques of irony, repetition has a more manifestation and is seen everywhere in the story. The author in the first page of the story has introduced some rules that are not appropriate to this age group. The book Stink adventures by Megan McDonald is real with social, scientific and somehow political motifs. Since this book was written for age group G the children at this age have a lot of energy and this energy causes lots of movement in them. The book pictures complete the text and causes enjoyment and laugh for children. Among the techniques of irony, hyperbole has the highest manifestation. Megan McDonald does not limit himself to one story and writes several stories linearly and separately but all the stories end to each other. In a study on 60 students of the second and third grade of elementary school, most of them enjoyed both works. Especially the ironic parts of the stories and among the techniques of irony, language games were considered more. In the comparison of the works, Stink adventures was considered more and the attractiveness of the story was more satisfying than the story of Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor by Farhad Hassan Zadeh. The description of conditions and environment in the book Stink adventures made students to concentrate more. But in the comparison of the book Me, Shimpaloo Jijoor, some terms were not at the reading level of some students.

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