



# LINGUISTIC FEATURES AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING SATIRE AND HUMOR IN WASHINGTON IRVING'S PROSE

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## Abstract

This article analyzes the role of linguistic features in enhancing satire and humor in Washington Irving's prose. It examines the author's artistic language devices, including irony, stylistic and lexical tools used to create satirical and humorous effects. The study also explores the influence of folklore elements and historical-stylistic layers on the literary text. The findings show that Irving's style is strongly grounded in linguistic mechanisms that effectively convey satire and humor.

**Keywords:** Washington Irving, satire, humor, linguistic features, stylistics, irony, literary text, prose.

## Introduction

### Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada Vashington Irving prozasida lingvistik xususiyatlarning satira va yumorni kuchaytirishdagi o'rni tahlil qilinadi. Yozuvchining badiiy til vositalari, jumladan kinoya, ironiyaga asoslangan ifodalar, leksik va stilistik birliklar orqali satira va yumor qanday yaratilishi ko'rib chiqiladi. Shuningdek, Irving ijodida xalq og'zaki ijodi elementlari va tarixiy-uslubiy qatlamlarning badiiy matnga ta'siri yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari yozuvchining uslubi satira va yumorni ifodalashda muhim lingvistik asosga ega ekanligini ko'rsatadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Vashington Irving, satira, yumor, lingvistik xususiyatlar, stilistika, ironiya, badiiy matn, proza.

### Аннотация

В данной статье анализируется роль лингвистических особенностей в усилении сатиры и юмора в прозе Вашингтона Ирвинга. Рассматриваются художественные языковые средства писателя, включая иронию, стилистические и лексические приёмы, с помощью которых создаются сатирические и юмористические эффекты. Также исследуется влияние элементов народного фольклора и историко-стилистических слоёв на художественный текст. Результаты исследования показывают, что стиль Ирвинга имеет важную лингвистическую основу в выражении сатиры и юмора.

**Ключевые слова:** Вашингтон Ирвинг, сатира, юмор, лингвистические особенности, стилистика, ирония, художественный текст, проза.

Satire (from Latin *satura* – “mixture, diverse”) is a literary form that critically depicts and mockingly exposes negative social phenomena, flaws of certain groups, or individuals. Satirical works may appear in various genres such as novels, stories, poetry, and others, and are accordingly called satirical novels, satirical stories, etc. [1, p.199]. Satire plays an important role in literature. Works by François Rabelais, Jonathan Swift, V.V. Mayakovsky, N.V. Gogol, W. Irving, and Charles Dickens are outstanding examples of satirical literature of their time. Satire is characterized by sharp ridicule, sarcasm, and irony directed at human weaknesses and social flaws. It reveals hidden immoral habits and shortcomings of individuals.

A satirical character differs from a purely negative character in that satire openly ridicules social flaws using sarcasm and irony. A humorous-comic character, on the other hand, is associated with laughter and light humor, aiming to correct social imperfections.

**Table-1 Frequency of Artistic Devices in Washington Irving’s Works**

| Satire | Humor | Simile | Allegory | Hyperbole | Description | Irony | Epithet | Metaphor | Fantasy |
|--------|-------|--------|----------|-----------|-------------|-------|---------|----------|---------|
| 85     | 21    | 5      | 13       | 6         | 14          | 26    | 5       | 10       | 7       |

Simile (11.15%) is used in describing mountains and the passage of time. Description (9.01%) is used to depict nature, human qualities, and mystical atmosphere. Satire and humor constitute 36.4%, hyperbole 8.6%, irony 6%,



epithet 2.1%, fantasy 5.57%, allegory 4.3%. These results show that satirical and humorous expressions dominate among linguistic and stylistic devices.

### **Main Analysis**

The writer uses hyperbole and fantasy to exaggerate events deliberately. In Irving's works, especially *Rip Van Winkle*, *The Ghost Bride*, and *The Secret Ship*, the author does not simply mock individuals but exposes human weaknesses and behaviors through exaggeration.

In the story *Rip Van Winkle*, the protagonist Rip becomes a symbol of satire reflecting both individual and social tragedy. The story vividly portrays his fate, family situation, and his inability to keep pace with society.

For example: "In 1760, Rip Van Winkle lived in a village in the Catskill Mountains, in the American colonial territory inhabited by the English. Rip was not a hardworking man, but all the children in the village liked him because he always played with them. He also helped his neighbors, but he never worked for his family, so his family was very poor." [5]

Rip escapes from his family and wife, goes to the mountains, and falls asleep for a long time, losing many years of his life. When he returns, everything has changed. His dog, once loyal, now does not recognize him: "The house was in ruins: the roof was broken, the windows were crooked, and the door hinges were torn off. A thin, half-starved dog resembling a wolf was wandering nearby. Rip called him, but the dog only growled and moved away. This deeply hurt him: 'Even my own dog has forgotten me,' sighed poor Rip." [6]

The story ironically shows how twenty years pass in one night of sleep, emphasizing the meaningless passage of Rip's life. The phrase "take the world easy" highlights Rip's laziness in a satirical manner.

His children also inherit his laziness: "His children were like neglected orphans, dirty and careless. His son Rip was exactly like his father, and it was clear that he had inherited not only his father's ragged clothes but also his character."

### **Humor and Satire in the Story**

Rip constantly receives criticism from his wife, so he escapes to a village club of idle men. Irving ironically calls them "philosophers," thereby mocking their useless debates.

Hyperbole is also widely used, for example when a teacher is described as a “great scholar” despite being insignificant, creating comic and satirical effects.

The leader of the group, Nicholas Vedder, is also portrayed ironically as a wise man, while in reality he is simply a passive observer sitting under a tree all day.

The humor is also visible in the depiction of Rip’s dog, whose bravery disappears in front of his wife’s harsh words.

### **Social and Historical Satire**

After waking up, Rip finds a completely changed world. The American Revolution has taken place, and the colony has become independent. However, these political changes do not interest him. The author ironically shows that Rip is only concerned about escaping his wife’s dominance, which symbolizes colonial oppression. At the end of the story, Rip becomes “a happy father, a happy widower, a free citizen of a bourgeois republic, and a respected elder.”

### **Conclusion**

Thus, Washington Irving uses Rip Van Winkle to depict social changes, human weaknesses, conservatism, and identity crisis. Rip’s character reflects both old and new ways of life. His transformation demonstrates the contrast between tradition and modernity. From a deconstructive perspective, the text allows multiple interpretations and breaks stereotypical perceptions.

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