
THE SATIRICAL LINGUISTIC NATURE OF THE CHARACTER MATMUSA BY ERKIN VOKHIDOV

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Abstract: This article examines Matmusa, a satirical character created by the prominent Uzbek poet and satirist Erkin Vokhidov, as a distinctive linguistic and linguocultural phenomenon in Uzbek literature. The study focuses on the linguistic, stylistic, and pragmatic features of Matmusa's speech and explores their role in conveying social criticism through humor and satire.

Keywords: Erkin Vokhidov, Matmusa, Uzbek literature, satirical character, satire, humor, linguistic phenomenon, linguocultural analysis, linguopragmatics.

The character Matmusa, created by the prominent Uzbek poet and satirist Erkin Vokhidov, emerges in Uzbek literature as a linguistic phenomenon designed to convey social truth through humor [1]. Vokhidov constructs Matmusa's speech using colloquial expressions, ironic statements, and exaggerated descriptions, creating a style that is humorous on the surface yet serious in meaning. Through Matmusa's deliberately crafted language, the author exposes social issues such as hypocrisy, boastfulness, and pretended wisdom by employing targeted linguistic mechanisms. Semantic contrasts – such as portraying simple situations in an overly complex manner or describing serious events in a light tone—enhance the pragmatic effect of satire [2]. Although the ironic tone of Matmusa's speech initially provokes laughter, this humor often conceals deeper social realities that the author seeks to highlight.

Vokhidov's strategic deviation from normative linguistic forms gives Matmusa a distinctive literary voice. Linguocultural elements in the character's speech—folk sayings, everyday stereotypes, and figurative expressions – serve as markers of the society's cultural and moral atmosphere [3]. By means of satire, Vokhidov disrupts established linguistic codes and reconstructs them for comic and critical purposes. This linguistic play positions Matmusa not merely as a humorous figure but as a powerful

tool of cultural and social critique. The mismatch between communicative context and expression, along with logical inconsistencies embedded in his utterances, foregrounds the satirical essence of the character.

Another distinctive aspects of *Matmusa* is the character's speech behavior, which serves as a primary tool for satire. Matmusa's language is constructed using colloquial expressions, informal syntactic structures, and everyday vocabulary, closely resembling natural spoken Uzbek [6]. This linguistic choice enhances the authenticity of the character and strengthens the comic effect [4].

From a stylistic perspective, Matmusa's speech is rich in irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, and repetition. The excessive use of self-praise, illogical statements, and contradictory ideas reveals the character's intellectual limitations. Pragmatically, Matmusa's utterances often carry implicit meanings, where the surface humor conceals sharp social criticism. Such features make the text valuable for linguopragmatic and discourse analysis, as meaning is conveyed not only through lexical units but also through context and intention [5].

The analysis demonstrates that Matmusa, as a satirical character created by Erkin Vokhidov, is shaped through a deliberate combination of linguistic devices that serve both comedic and critical functions. His linguistic features – semantic contrast, irony, deviation from norms, and culturally embedded meanings – form a complex discursive structure that enhances the satirical message. Therefore, Matmusa stands as a significant linguistic and cultural phenomenon in Uzbek literature, reflecting societal realities and encouraging critical thinking through humor.

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