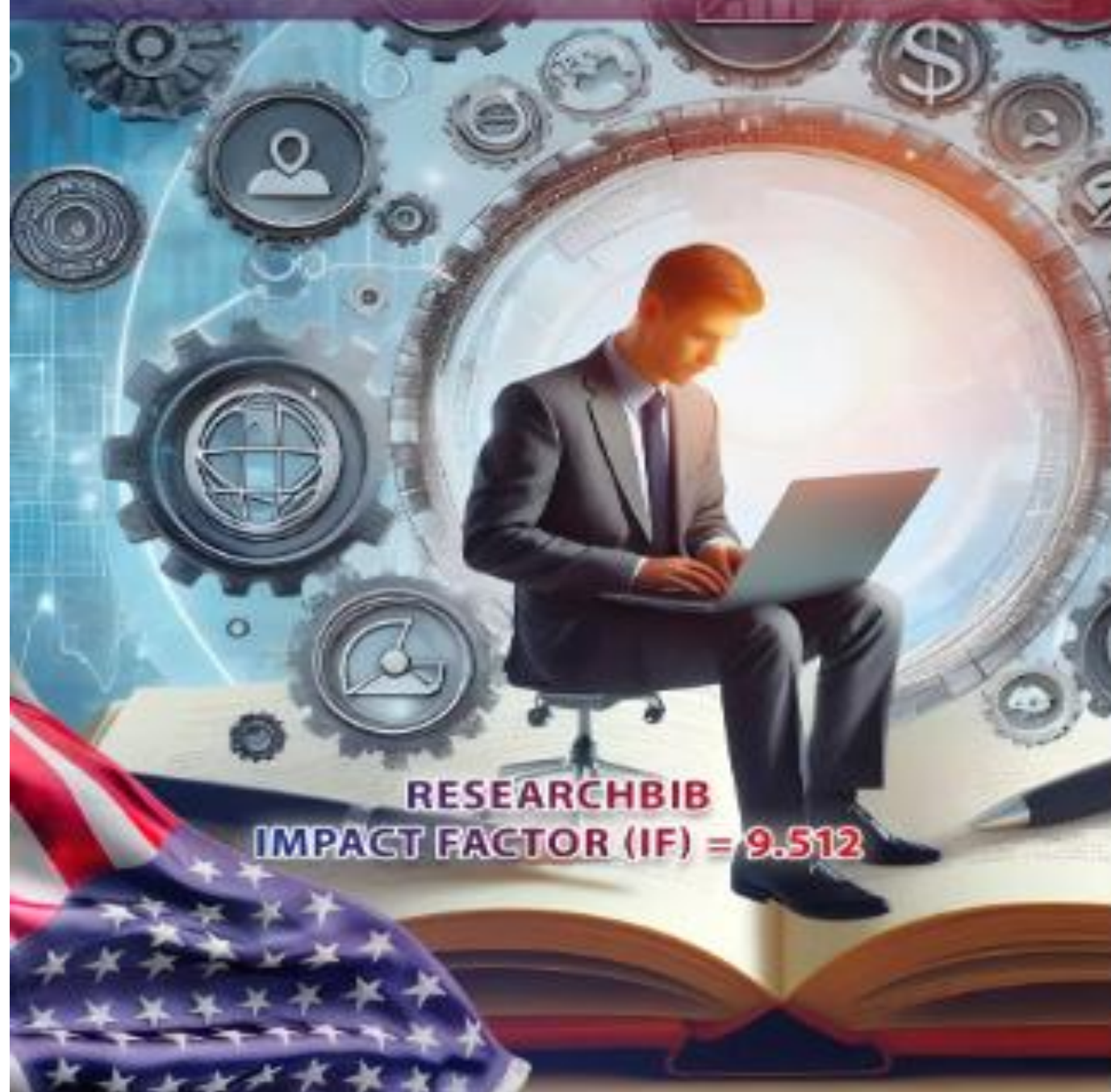


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THE PECULIARITY OF LITERARY DEVICES IN THE WORK OF KHALED HOSSEINI'S "KITE RUNNER"

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Abstract

This article analyzes the literary devices used in Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner*. The novel makes use of devices such as symbolism, irony, flashback, metaphor, and imagery. The article explores what the author aims to express through the use of these techniques. The purpose of the study is to highlight how literary elements influence the artistic imagery and the deeper meaning of the novel, and how they encourage readers to think critically.

Introduction. The Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, through his novel *The Kite Runner*, vividly portrays the events unfolding in Afghanistan during that time, and how these circumstances impacted both society and individuals—particularly the novel's main characters—often leading to deep internal and interpersonal conflicts. Throughout the story, we witness a range of emotional experiences in Amir's life, including moments of joy, sorrow, and heartache.

The novel places strong emphasis on universal themes such as friendship, love, loyalty, compassion, devotion, and conscience. As we progress through the narrative, it becomes clear that Hosseini masterfully employs various literary devices—including symbolism, illusion, imagery, flashbacks, metaphors, irony, hyperbole, and parallelism. These elements not only enhance the emotional depth of the story but also allow readers to fully immerse themselves in the historical context, feel the characters' emotions, and vividly envision the unfolding events.

Symbolism. Symbolism/Symbol: The use of specific objects or images to represent abstract ideas. A symbol must be something tangible or visible, while the idea it symbolizes must be something abstract or universal. [1, 8] While reading the novel, we come across certain words that carry symbolic meaning. For example, in Khaled Hosseini's story, the main symbol—the kite—is given a hidden mission. Through the text, the reader comes to understand that the kite represents friendship, love, and at times, betrayal. At the beginning of the novel, the kite

brings Amir and Hassan together and gives them joyful memories:

"We won! We won!" was all I could say. This was not happening. In a moment, I'd blink and rouse from this beautiful dream, get out of bed, march down to the kitchen to eat breakfast with no one to talk to but Hassan. Get dressed. Wait for Baba. Give up. Back to my old life. Then I saw Baba on our roof. He was standing on the edge, pumping both of his fists. Hollering and clapping. And that right there was the single greatest moment of my twelve years of life, seeing Baba on that roof, proud of me at last.

However, he was doing something now, motioning with his hands in an urgent way. Then I understood. "Hassan, we—" "I know, he said, breaking our embrace. "Inshallah, we shall celebrate later. Right now, I'm going to run that blue kite for you," he said. He dropped the spool and took off running, the hem of his green chapkan dragging in the snow behind him." [2,55]

The kite was not only a symbol of friendship for them, but also a crucial means for Amir to connect with his father. In this way, the kite transforms into a symbol of love:

"I opened the door to the smoky study and stepped in. Baba and Rahim Khan were drinking tea and listening to the news crackling on the radio. Their heads turned. Then a smile played on my father's lips. He opened his arms. I put the kite down and walked into his thick hairy arms. I buried my face in the warmth of his chest and wept. Baba held me close to him, rocking me back and forth. In his arms, I forgot what I'd done. And that was good." [2, 66]

It can be understood that the kite served as a bond between the two friends in the story. However, later on, this bond breaks—just like the string of a kite. This shift allows us to see how the kite transforms from a symbol of friendship into a symbol of betrayal:

"I had one last chance to make a decision. One final opportunity to decide who I was going to be. I could step into that alley, stand up for Hassan—the way he'd stood up for me all those times in the past—and accept whatever would happen to me. Or I could run. In the end, I ran." [2,65]

If we carefully read this excerpt from book, we can't really blame anyone in this situation. If we are to call Amir unjust, we must first analyze his circumstances. He is an ordinary young boy longing for his father's attention and affection, not yet fully able to distinguish between right and wrong. However, from a moral standpoint, the injustice he shows toward his loyal friend seems inappropriate, and such a thought comes to mind.

Imagery: The use of figurative language to create representations of actions, objects and ideas in our mind in such a way that they appeal to our physical senses

[1,5]

When analyzing a work, we inevitably encounter descriptive expressions. Khaled Hosseini, in his work, uses various types of imagery, which helps make the events unfolding in the story more vivid and gives clearer descriptions of them.

“Gingerly, I walked up the driveway where tufts of weed now grew between the sun-faded bricks. I stood outside the gates of my father's house. Feeling like a stranger. I set my hands on the rusty bars, remembering how I'd run through these same gates thousands of times as a child, for things that mattered not at all now and yet had seemed so important then.”[2,261]

As time passes, Amir returns to the house where he was once born and raised, and he recalls his childhood memories. For a moment, he even feels like a stranger. Indeed, time changes everything. He compares his past with his present. In this passage, the writer skillfully expresses Amir's entire childhood in just a few sentences through his recollections. At the same time, the reader can clearly sense Amir's inner reflections and emotions.

I leaned against the gray stone gateway to the cemetery where Hassan had buried his mother. The old metal gates hanging off the hinges were gone, and the headstones were barely visible through the thick tangles of weeds that had claimed the plot. A pair of crows sat on the low wall that enclosed the cemetery ". [2.264] Hosseini uses imagery to describe the scenery and setting throughout the novel. The imagery appeals to all of the senses through described scents, sight, and sounds. The imagery in the novel allows the reader to better experience the setting and the culture of Afghanistan. Because Hosseini's audience includes many who do not know the Afghan culture, it is important that he use great description that appeals to his audience. The imagery throughout the novel also informs the reader of the changes that take place. Throughout the beginning of the story, Kabul is an area thriving of color and life. However, towards the end of the novel Kabul is destroyed and transforms into a lifeless city full of violence and despair. Imagery allows the reader to understand the drastic changes throughout the novel. [3]

There is detailed imagery of Amir and Farid's entering Afghanistan. “We had crossed the border and the signs of poverty were everywhere. On either side of the road, I saw chains of little villages sprouting here and there, like discarded toys among the rocks, broken mud houses and huts consisting of little more than four wooden poles and tattered cloth as a roof. I saw children dressed in rags chasing a soccer ball outside the huts.”[2,231] Amir continues to describe the images of the soviet unions past presence with old tanks still in the streets. This imagery is very important as it to the reader understanding the risk and impact this journey will have on Amir. [3]

The next major imagery is as Amir and Farid visit to Wahid's home and the meal that they share. The house is described as, "The adobe ceiling was low, the dirt walls are entirely bare, and the only light came from a pair of lanterns set in a corner. We took off our shoes and stepped on the straw mat that covered the floor. Along one of the walls sat three young boys, cross legged, on a mattress covered with a blanket with shredded borders". [2,234]

Flashback. Flashback is frequently used in the novel. The term flashback suggests to a scene or event from the past which is related as an aside during a story set in the present. When a character recalls a past event that is relevant to the current action of the story, flashback is taken place by the narrator. There is a moment of flashback in Chapter seven of the novel when Amir remembers that he and Hassan have 'fed from the same breast making them bonded by a brotherhood.' When Amir stays in the U.S.A., he tries to remember the past experience of his life very passionately. Hosseini, the narrator references this to make the next scene even more of a tragedy. [6,3]

Metaphor. Metaphor is a term taken from ancient rhetoric for a 'figure of speech'. Metaphors are linguistic images that are based on a relationship of similarity between two objects or concepts; that is, based on the same or similar semantic features, a denotational transfer occurs, e.g. The clouds are crying for It's raining. Metaphor is also frequently described as a shortened comparison, in which the comparison is nonetheless not explicitly expressed, but rather an implied comparison between two disparate objects, or an expression of one word or concept in terms of another. [4, 6]

Metaphors, that is, literary devices, enrich the language of a work. In my opinion, Khaled Hosseini also skillfully used significant metaphors in *The Kite Runner*.

Each one has its own meaning and place. Below are some examples:

Metaphor: "My father was a force of nature, a towering Pashtun specimen with a thick beard, a wayward crop of curly brown hair as unruly as the man himself.

hands that looked capable of uprooting a willow tree, and a black glare that would drop the devil to his knees begging for mercy.[2,11]

Target domain: father

Since babyhood, children view the father as a symbol of strength; this is evident in the above quote where Amir describes his father Baba

Baba is a towering man with a thick bread and curly brown hair. His star is frightening. After Amir stands up to Assef, he hallucinates in the hospital that he sees his father wrestling the bear; he has become that bear of strength, instead of a

coward.[4,36]

Metaphor: "Words were secret doorways and I held all the keys.[2,30]

If we analyze this metaphor, it is evident that it is connected to the emotions of the Amir. Words have such power that through them, a person can both hide and reveal their feelings. It is not false that Amir has writing skills, and this phrase further emphasizes his talent for writing. This phrase was used particularly when his father did not want him to become a writer.

Metaphor: "I only knew the memory lived in me, a perfectly encapsulated morsel of a good past, and a brushstroke of color on the gray, barren canvas that our lives had become." [2,123]

This metaphor describing how there live to a grey canvas that painted with was now strokes of color. It was a good memory that he could keep with him that over shadowed all the bad ones him and Hassan shared. This quote metaphorically compares Amir's life to a dull painting. The canvas, gray and barren like his life, only possesses sporadic color (events). The past tense in this quote implies that the present has brought better colorful days to Amir's life and the lives of those around him [4,34-35]

Language and the text

In *The Kite Runner*, we observe the uses of the Farsi language in some specific paragraphs. The novelist uses the Register of Farsi in *The Kite Runner*. By using this technique and method, the novelist actually provides the intense experience of the Afghan society to the reader and audience. The usage of Farsi words generates usual touch in discussion and conversation. It improves the familiar and informal level of the novel. For this purpose, the author uses the following Farsi words like- 'Baba', 'Baba Jan', 'Inshallah', 'Naan' and the names of the characters like 'Amir Jan' together with other too. The novelist uses words like 'Baba' or 'Baba Jan' instead of 'dad' or 'father'. He also uses words such as 'Inshallah' and 'Naan'. The reader will understand these words through the understanding of the context of the novel, indeed. [6,4]

Irony. Verbal irony: This is a statement in which the speaker means something very different from what he or she is saying. [5,5]

Example: During Amir's 13th birthday party Assef says "Happy birthday, Amir" [2,101]. We know that when Assef says "Happy Birthday" to Amir, he doesn't actually care about Amir's happiness. In fact, he clearly shows his hatred toward both Amir and Amir's father. He even tortures his best friend, Hassan. Based on all this, it's possible to interpret his words in an ironic or sarcastic way – the opposite of what they seem to mean.

Conclusion. Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* is a novel rich with analytical depth. Without understanding the literary devices employed throughout the work, it becomes exceedingly difficult to grasp the underlying meanings, to truly feel the emotional weight of the situations, or to make informed judgments about the characters. Neglecting these devices creates a void in the reader's ability to critically engage with the text. However, Hosseini's novel stands as an exception. The masterful use of literary devices enhances our capacity to interpret the story on a deeper level, offering profound insight into its themes and emotional nuances.

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