

Irony and Sarcasm in English Humour

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Abstract: This article reveals the similarities and differences between irony and sarcasm in English humor, and gives definitions given to them by several scholars. However, there are views about the popularity of English humor around the world for its sarcastisizm and ingenuity, but not everyone is able to fully understand and master English humor, and for this, as they say, "he must be born English."

Key words: irony, sarcasm, stylistic method, ridicule, literary medium

An important stylistic component of the art of speech and the work of art is ingenuity, that is, the combination of ideas that have never been in a relationship before, always unexpectedly. Ingenuity and resourcefulness perform different functions in speech: they help to communicate with the audience, to restore lost attention when logical methods are weak. But most importantly, he can strike at an ideological opponent and make social-community flaws laugh in public.

This ability has both positive and negative characteristics. Bitter remarks that put their author above others can help put competitors in the most awkward position. There are two types of such ingenuity. The first is irony. Usually, it is non-aggressive, polite, sarcastic, and positive. The irony is used to draw attention to it. A person with a sense of humor often takes a place in people's hearts. The second type is sarcasm. Sarcasm is actually a bit of a veil, but a malicious and clever joke that shows those around it that the person to whom it is directed is not so smart. Such ridicule always requires witnesses, because it is foolish to show ingenuity in the face of a less intelligent interlocutor who is ridiculed. People who use satire always strive for a grateful audience [1,120].

While a sense of humor is a feature of the psyche, it is socially conditioned and directed, while satire is always based on bias. Different audiences laugh at different events.

A necessary condition for the effectiveness of the laughter of the audience or readers is a sense of this strict norm, as well as a high artistic taste. Rude jokes and misplaced pitching can cause irreparable damage to creativity.

In modern society, irony and sarcasm have taken on a new meaning. These stylistic styles are actively used in the Internet, mass media, as well as in the works of art of modern authors. Stylistic techniques are often used to hide a reaction that is considered a movement ton, beyond the norm.

The irony and sarcasm in English humor reflect national values, as irony reflects culturally dominant and moral-ethical values in world culture.

The history of the term irony dates back to ancient times. Irony as an event has been studied even by ancient thinkers. Aristotle gave the following definition of irony: "It is such a thing that when we speak differently than we feel, it seems ridiculous. In everyday life, it's like saying, "I say one thing, but I think another."

According to Plato, "irony is not just a lie and nonsense, it is something that represents a lie only externally and is the complete opposite of what is not expressed in essence. It is a kind of mockery or ridicule aimed at achieving a higher just goal through self-deprecation, which has a very clear seal."

Socrates was considered the brightest carrier of irony. With its help, Socrates asked his interlocutor his endless questions, as a result of which the truth would be revealed to him. Socrates' irony served the truth.

Ariston Keosky (3rd century BC) believed that the tendency to irony was a sign of hidden arrogance. Ariston included Socrates among the arrogant and proud philosophers [2, 105].

Eventually, in the ancient Greek language, "irony" began to mean "lying," "mocking," "deception," and "ironic" meant "one who deceives with words".

Of course, there is a difference in the irony: some people humiliate others and hit the ground running and elevate themselves. The content of irony, the technique and function of its expression, generally correspond to the modern understanding of the dual nature of irony:

1. Irony is a way of expressing the opposite of the idea being expressed. I say the opposite of what I mean. In form, it's "praise, but in fact I condemn." Or vice versa: I despise by form, but in fact I glorify, praise, cares. In Irony, my "yes" always means "no," and my "no" always means "yes."
2. No matter how noble the purpose of irony is, for example, to create a lofty idea, to open one's eyes to something, including opening eyes to the person himself, the idea is still ironically confirmed by negative means.
3. Ironically, despite the goodness of the goal, or even its impartiality, irony leads to self-satisfaction. In fact, it's just aesthetic self-satisfaction.
4. The person who uses irony is said to be characterized by subtle intellect, observation, "slowness," "the inaction of the wise" (not speed). Aristotle even referred to the ironic "greatness of his spirit." Russian linguist and culturologist researcher A.F. Losev argues that irony, though ultra-intelligent (as a sign of "subtle mind"), noble (as a sign of "greatness of the soul"), elegant (giving aesthetic pleasure with its subtlety), is a protective mechanism [3, 106].

First, it is important to note the difference between irony and rationalization: irony is the ability to reflect, to come out of a complete surrender to a situation. This situation, if not above the situation, will be next to it, not inside. Standing next to it gives the person strength and gives him an advantage. It has the ability to distance itself, to alienate, not to make it its own, to make it a stranger, this means now the ability to look at the situation in a new way.

Modern scholars have several definitions of irony. Irony is a stylistic method based on the use of a word (phrase) in the opposite sense, for example: "You're smart, brother!" (about the ignorant man), "Good job!" (about something you don't like very much), A fine friend you are (about a friend who betrayed). The irony is also featured in the titles of popular novels: "The Silent American," "The Death of a Hero."

Irony is a secondary definition based on the principle of substitution, but unlike metaphor and metonymy, it is based on contradiction rather than on similarity. It is necessary to distinguish between irony as an aesthetic category and a language category. E. Riesel had called language category as "an irony in the narrow sense."

The stylistic function of the irony is to create humorous connotations, as well as ridiculous, sarcastic connotations

It is important to remember that the term "irony" has many meanings. In stylistics, in addition to irony-trope, it is important to understand irony as an author's attitude, which can be absorbed into individual pieces or works of art. The irony represents some of the statements of the protagonist (author), but does not imply a passage on contradiction. Such irony does not imply contradiction, but can be created by other means of language. For example, in the sentence "The bookshelf boasted half a dozen of books", the ironical meaning is based on metaphor.

Examples of ironies:

- Stoney smiled a sweet smile of an alligator.
- She was a charming old lady with a face like a bucked of mud.
- Brandon liked me as much as Hiroshima liked the atomic bomb.

Sarcasm, like irony, does not have a single definition. Its scientific definition is as follows: Sarcasm (Greek for "breaking the flesh") is a form of satirical revelation, a poisonous mockery, the highest level of ridicule, which is based not only on the intensification of the intended and expressed contrast, but also the deliberate disclosure of what is intentionally intended.

Sarcasm (Greek "I tear the flesh") - one of the comic types; the highest level of ridicule, evil and ruthless ridicule over what is depicted.

The Macmillan Dictionary describes:

Sarcasm – the activity of saying or writing the opposite of what you mean, or of speaking in away intended to make someone else feel stupid or show them that you are angry. [6]

Longman publishing house gives the following definition in the “Dictionary of English Language and Culture”:

Sarcasm n. Speaking or writing using expressions, which clearly mean the opposite to what is felt, especially in order to be unkind or offensive in an amusing way: She was an hour late. «Good of you to come,» he said with heavy /withering sarcasm. [5, 1528]

Almost all satirical literature is filled with elements of sarcasm. Examples of sarcasm are also found in Uzbek folk poetry. This comic genre is widespread in lyrical and didactic genres, as well as in the art of oratory, due to its exposing, accusative forms. Sarcasm is one of the most important stylistic tools used in satire and humor.

In fact, it was widespread during the development of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy. Many philosophers actively used irony to ridicule rulers and high officials. During the Renaissance, sarcasm was evident in literature and even in painting.

As a literary tool, irony gives an expressive expression to the content of a work, and a methodological originality to the form of narration. A sarcastic commentary can demonstrate the author’s attitude to the character or the situation being portrayed, emphasizing the absurdity of the situation, the pathos of the images, and the imaginary significance.

In short, sarcasm is applied to ruthless criticism, thereby taking away the ugliness of personal human qualities or the immorality of life positions, i.e., not only takes the form of a caricature, but also leads to uncompromising criticism from the public.

However, the following differences between irony and sarcasm can be distinguished:

- Irony is a method of giving a hidden, negative assessment of a speech object.
- Sarcasm - a trophy represented by a figurative meaning that reveals a figurative sentence to a minimum.
- An ironical statement is always positive, and unlike a secret mockery, its meaning leads to laughter.
- A sarcastic statement or reference is a direct reference to an object of discriminatory criticism.
- The irony is used as a unique comic in humorous literary works and in oral figurative speech.

- Sarcasm is never gentle; it is commonly used as a sharp satirical means of artistic expression in accusatory rhetorical speeches and in journalistic texts of socio-political content.

From a stylistic point of view, sarcasm, although somewhat similar to irony, is incompatible with this notion. In the state of sarcasm, we observe a person's sharper, sometimes even sarcastic attitude toward what is happening or the behavior of another person. Its use as a means of expression is conditioned by a desire to critically evaluate something. Irony, on the other hand, cannot be described as such a sharp and bitter tool; it is characterized by more veiled and positive qualities.

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