

ANALYSIS OF SEMASIOLOGICAL-STYLISTIC DEVICES IN THE GREEN DOOR BY O.HENRY

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Abstract: This article aims at analyzing application of stylistic devices in literature as an example of a short story "The Green Door" by O.Henry. The formative features, such as description of characters, setting, feelings and thoughts of bodies, are considered thoroughly with a view to acquire better comprehension of deep notions of the literary work. The stylistic analyze of the short story covers an array of stylistic categories, namely phonetical stylistic devices (annotation, alliteration, consonance, rhyme), lexical stylistic devices (parallelism, repetition) and semasiological stylistic devices (simile, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole). Finally, deductions on focused items are provided after extensive discussions.

Key words: stylistic device, lexical stylistic device, phonetic stylistic device, semasiological stylistic device, contextual meaning, lexical meaning.

1. Introduction

The use of stylistic devices is widely reflected in any literary genre in order to convey the original value, essence and aesthetic skill of the writer to the reader. In The Green Door William Sydney Porter uses variety of stylistic devices to give real feelings of "a true adventurer", Rudolf Steiner. He is a young man who adores confronting with strange things. He goes out evenings with the intention of facing with something new that makes him have strange feelings.

"The Green Door" by O. Henry is a short story known for its clever plot twists and irony. Analyzing semasiological-stylistic devices involves examining how language choices contribute to meaning and stylistic effects. Here are some aspects to consider in the context of "The Green Door": Symbolism: Explore the symbolism of the green door itself. What does it represent in the story? How does O. Henry use it to convey deeper meanings or themes? Irony: O. Henry is renowned for his use of irony. Analyze instances of situational irony, where there's a contrast between what is expected to happen and what actually occurs. How does this contribute to the story's impact? Wordplay and Puns: O. Henry often

employs wordplay and puns. Look for instances where the choice of words creates double meanings or adds a humorous twist to the narrative. Dialogue and Diction: Examine the characters' dialogue and the author's choice of diction. How does O. Henry use language to characterize individuals or create a specific atmosphere? Repetition: Identify any patterns of repetition in the story. Repetition can emphasize certain ideas or themes, contributing to the overall stylistic effect. Rhetorical Devices: Look for rhetorical devices such as metaphors, similes, and hyperbole. How do these enhance the narrative or create vivid imagery? Remember to provide specific examples from the text to support your analysis. O. Henry's distinctive style often involves a blend of humor, irony, and wordplay, so pay attention to how these elements are interwoven in "The Green Door."

"Rudolf Steiner was a true adventurer. Few were the evenings on which he did not go forth from his hall bedchamber in search of the unexpected and the egregious. The most interesting thing in life seemed to him to be what might lie just around the next corner. Sometimes his willingness to tempt fate led him into strange paths. Twice he had spent the night in a station-house; again and again he had found himself the dupe of ingenious and mercenary tricksters; his watch and money had been the price of one flattering allurement. But with undiminished ardour he picked up every glove cast before him into the merry lists of adventure."¹

2. Semasiological stylistic devices

Stylistic semasiology analyses the semantic relations and changes that create and image and thus form expressive means and stylistic devices.²

The study of lexicology of the language is a very broad field, which includes a number of such things as the formation of words, the enrichment of the vocabulary and speech, its use, the change of meanings, narrowing and expanding, and the use of various terms. Because of this, there are separate fields that study different aspects of the lexicon.

Semasiology studies language units in terms of meaning. The field that studies the semantic construction of language units, primarily lexical units, and related issues is called semasiology. This field studies all meaningful units of the language. The semantic construction of a word consists of the meaning (meanings and additional stylistic meanings) specific to this word.³

- **Simile** is a comparison of two items by the use of “like”, “as” and “than”.

Similes are used to emphasize or exaggerate a specific quality of one thing by comparing it to something else. Similes are effective because they “show” rather than “tell” (i.e., they use descriptive language to convey an idea instead of stating it as fact).

Similes are commonly used in literature, speeches, advertising, and everyday speech. They can be used to create vivid images and to make surprising connections between two dissimilar things. However, they should be avoided in formal contexts like academic writing.⁴

"Every half minute he chanted a harsh, unintelligible phrase akin to the jabber of car conductors and grand opera."

In *The Green Door* the author uses the word *akin* in order to compare the *unintelligible phrase* with *the jabber of car conductor*.

• **Synecdoche** is a rhetorical device which makes use of a term that refers to a part of something to substitute for the whole thing⁵ or reversely, by the whole thing to mean the part.

"She began to tell him her little story. It was one of a thousand such a city yawns every day."

¹ <https://americanliterature.com/author/o-henry/short-story/the-green-door>

² <https://studfile.net/preview/9175043/page:23/>

³ O.S.Ahmedov. *Semasiology is the world of meaning of words and phrases.*

⁴ <https://www.scribbr.com/rhetoric/simile/>

⁵ <https://byjus.com/english/synecdoche/>

• **Personification** is a kind of metaphor in which you describe an inanimate object, abstract thing, or non-human animal in human terms. It is used to create more interesting and engaging scenes or characters.⁶

“In the big city the twin spirits Romance and Adventure are always abroad seeking wooers”.

• **Hyperbole** is a figure of speech in which an author or speaker purposely and obviously exaggerates to an extreme. It is used for emphasis or as a way of making a description more creative and humorous. It is important to note that hyperbole is not meant to be taken literally; the audience knows it's an exaggeration.⁷

O. Henry creates the image of Rudolf Steiner as a true adventurer and explains that there are few evenings when he does not leave his bedroom in search of something unexpected and terrifying. Therefore, as Rudolph searches for adventure in his immediate area, his actions seem less than expected. One of the main themes of O. Henry is the claim, the desire to show someone as a constant theme.⁸

• **Oxymoron** is a figure of speech that puts together opposite elements. The combination of these contradicting elements serves to reveal a paradox, confuse, or give the reader a laugh. *“She began to eat with sort of dainty ferocity”*

• **Irony** is when there are two contradicting meanings of the same situation, event, image, sentence, phrase, or story. In many cases, this refers to the difference between expectations and reality.

Ironically, Rudolph longed for adventure and romance green door. However, when she knocked on The Green Door, it was only poverty - a sick girl who needed help. He found the green door, but only the wrong one. In fact, a mistake seems to have occurred when a negro gave him a card advertising a Green Door performance in his town. It lies in the difference between what is expected from the title and what we read in the story and what actually happens when the young man opens the green door instead of going to the theater, except that there are other shades of green. doors.⁹

Conclusion

In conclusion, O. Henry's "The Green Door" is a masterful example of semasiological-stylistic devices that contribute to the story's richness and impact. The green door itself serves as a powerful symbol, representing the mysterious and unexpected opportunities that life may present. The author's adept use of irony adds layers to the narrative, creating a sense of surprise and engaging readers in a thought-provoking exploration of fate and chance. Wordplay and puns, hallmarks of O. Henry's style, infuse the story with a clever wit, elevating the narrative beyond a simple plot. The characters' dialogues and the author's choice of diction contribute to the creation of a distinct atmosphere, enhancing the overall reading experience. Repetition, in subtle forms, emphasizes key elements and themes, reinforcing the story's underlying messages. O. Henry's utilization of rhetorical devices, such as metaphors and similes, adds depth and vividness to the narrative, making it a memorable literary piece. "The Green Door" stands as a testament to O. Henry's mastery of semasiological-stylistic devices, showcasing how language choices can elevate a short story into a timeless work of art. Through these devices, O. Henry invites readers to ponder the uncertainties of life and the unforeseen opportunities that may lie behind the enigmatic doors we encounter on our journey.

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⁶ <https://literaryterms.net/personification/>

⁷ <https://literaryterms.net/hyperbole/>

⁸Zainab Ali Abed, 2009. *Stylistic Analysis of the Selected Short Stories by Mary Flannery O'Connor and William Sydney Porter*

⁹ Zainab Ali Abed, 2009. *Stylistic Analysis of the Selected Short Stories by Mary Flannery O'Connor and William Sydney Porter*

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