

Poetic Devices of Character Portrayal in The Short Stories of Somerset Maugham And Abdulla Kahhor

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Abstract: This article examines the use of poetic devices in character portrayal in the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. Using comparative, typological, and textual analysis, the study explores how both writers employ dialogue, psychological detail, irony, satire, and symbolism to reveal the inner world of their characters. The analysis shows that Maugham often relies on subtle irony and psychological observation, while Kahhor uses expressive dialogue, satire, and realistic details to create vivid character images. Despite differences in literary tradition and cultural background, both authors successfully employ poetic devices to deepen characterization and strengthen the artistic impact of their stories. The study concludes that poetic devices are essential to the portrayal of literary characters.

Keywords: Poetic devices, character portrait, dialogue, psychological portrayal, irony, satire, symbolism, artistic technique.

Introduction: Character portrayal has always been one of the central concerns of literary art, as literary characters serve as the primary medium through which writers express ideas, emotions, and social realities. The effectiveness of a literary work largely depends on the author's ability to create convincing and memorable characters whose actions, thoughts, and behavior reflect the complexities of human nature. For this reason, the study of character portrayal occupies an important place in literary criticism and poetics. In fiction, characters are not presented solely through direct description. Writers employ a variety of poetic devices, including dialogue, portrait description, psychological detail, irony, satire, symbolism, and artistic detail, to reveal both the external appearance and the inner world of their characters. These devices contribute to characterization by exposing emotions, motivations, values, and personal conflicts. As a result, character portrayal becomes a complex artistic process that combines narrative techniques with psychological and aesthetic expression. The significance of poetic

devices is particularly evident in the short story genre. Due to its concise form, the short story requires writers to reveal character through carefully selected details and limited narrative space. Consequently, artistic techniques play a crucial role in creating vivid and realistic character images. Through dialogue, symbolic elements, and psychological observations, authors are able to present complex personalities within a relatively brief narrative structure. Among the writers who achieved remarkable success in this respect are Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. Although they belonged to different literary traditions and cultural environments, both authors demonstrated exceptional skill in portraying literary characters. Maugham is known for his subtle irony, psychological observation, and indirect characterization, while Kahhor employs expressive dialogue, satire, realistic details, and national color to create memorable character images. Through these artistic techniques, both writers reveal the inner qualities of their characters and present a deeper understanding of

human behavior. Therefore, this article examines the poetic devices used in character portrayal in the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. Particular attention is given to the role of dialogue, psychological detail, irony, satire, symbolism, and artistic description in the creation of literary characters. By comparing selected stories of both authors, the study seeks to identify the similarities and distinctive features of their artistic mastery in character representation.

METHOD

Poetic devices play a fundamental role in the portrayal of literary characters. Through various artistic techniques, writers reveal not only the external appearance of characters but also their emotions, motivations, values, and psychological experiences. Character portrayal therefore becomes one of the most important components of literary poetics, allowing authors to create convincing and memorable images that reflect the complexity of human nature. In the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor, poetic devices function as essential means of characterization and contribute significantly to the artistic effectiveness of the narrative. One of the most frequently employed devices of character portrayal is dialogue. Dialogue enables writers to disclose the intellectual level, emotional state, social background, and personal attitudes of their characters. Through speech, readers gain insight into the inner world of literary figures without the need for extensive authorial explanation. In many cases, dialogue reveals contradictions between what characters say and what they actually think or feel, thereby adding psychological depth to characterization. As a result, dialogue serves not only as a means of communication but also as an important instrument for revealing personality. Another significant device is psychological detail. Psychological portrayal allows writers to explore the hidden dimensions of human consciousness, including fears, desires, doubts, anxieties, and internal conflicts. Rather than relying solely on external actions, authors frequently employ subtle observations, emotional reactions, gestures, and inner experiences to reveal character psychology. Such details help readers understand the motives behind behavior and contribute to a more comprehensive representation of human individuality. Portrait description also occupies

an important place in character portrayal. Physical appearance often functions as more than a simple visual description; it may symbolize particular personality traits, social positions, or emotional conditions. Carefully selected details of clothing, facial expression, posture, and manner of movement contribute to the creation of distinctive literary images. Through portrait description, writers establish an immediate impression of a character and strengthen the connection between external appearance and inner nature. Irony and satire represent additional poetic devices that enrich characterization. These techniques allow authors to expose human weaknesses, contradictions, and social shortcomings. Through irony, a gap is created between appearance and reality, enabling readers to perceive aspects of a character that may remain hidden from the character himself or herself. Satire, meanwhile, serves to criticize negative behavior, pretension, hypocrisy, or ignorance while simultaneously creating memorable literary figures. Both devices contribute to a deeper understanding of character and society. Symbolism and artistic detail further enhance character portrayal. Objects, actions, or recurring images often acquire symbolic significance and reflect the emotional or psychological state of a character. Likewise, seemingly minor details may reveal important aspects of personality and provide additional layers of meaning. Such devices enrich the artistic structure of a literary work and strengthen the process of characterization. The analysis demonstrates that poetic devices constitute an essential element of character portrayal in short fiction. Dialogue, psychological detail, portrait description, irony, satire, symbolism, and artistic detail enable writers to create multidimensional literary characters and reveal the complexities of human experience. Through these artistic techniques, Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor achieve psychological depth, artistic realism, and expressive characterization, making their short stories significant examples of literary mastery.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The conducted analysis reveals that poetic devices occupy a central position in the portrayal of literary characters in the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. The study reveals that characterization in the works of both authors is

achieved not only through direct description but also through a combination of artistic techniques that allow readers to perceive the psychological, social, and moral dimensions of literary figures. As a result, poetic devices function as important instruments for constructing realistic and convincing character images. One of the principal findings of the research is the significant role of dialogue in the process of characterization. The analysis indicates that speech serves as a valuable source of information about a character's personality, worldview, emotional condition, and social background. Through dialogue, writers disclose inner qualities that may remain hidden in direct narration. Consequently, dialogue contributes to the creation of more dynamic and psychologically complex literary characters.

The study also confirms the importance of psychological detail in revealing the inner world of literary figures. Emotional reactions, gestures, thoughts, and subtle behavioral details enable authors to present the complexity of human experience. Such elements strengthen the psychological dimension of characterization and help readers understand the motives that shape individual behavior. Therefore, psychological portrayal emerges as one of the most effective means of creating artistic credibility. Another important finding concerns the role of irony and satire in character representation. These devices allow writers to expose contradictions between appearance and reality, thereby revealing hidden aspects of personality. Through ironic and satirical characterization, both authors criticize human weaknesses, social pretensions, and moral shortcomings while simultaneously creating vivid and memorable literary figures. The analysis further demonstrates that portrait description, symbolism, and artistic detail significantly enrich the process of characterization. These devices establish connections between external appearance and inner nature, providing additional layers of meaning within the narrative structure. As a result, literary characters acquire greater depth and individuality. Overall, the research indicates that poetic devices constitute an essential component of artistic mastery in the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. Despite differences in literary tradition and cultural background, both writers successfully employ a wide

range of characterization techniques to portray human nature. The findings confirm that poetic devices not only enhance the artistic quality of literary works but also contribute to a deeper understanding of character psychology and human experience.

CONCLUSION

The present study has demonstrated that poetic devices play a crucial role in the portrayal of literary characters in the short stories of Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor. The analysis shows that characterization in the works of both authors extends beyond simple physical description and is achieved through a variety of artistic techniques that reveal the psychological, moral, and social dimensions of human personality. Through the effective use of dialogue, psychological detail, portrait description, irony, satire, symbolism, and artistic detail, both writers create convincing and memorable literary characters. The research confirms that poetic devices serve not only as elements of artistic form but also as important means of understanding human nature. These techniques enable readers to perceive the inner experiences, motivations, emotions, and values that shape individual behavior. As a result, literary characters acquire greater depth, realism, and artistic significance. The study also indicates that, despite belonging to different literary traditions and cultural environments, Somerset Maugham and Abdulla Kahhor share a similar commitment to expressive characterization. Both writers successfully employ poetic devices to explore the complexity of human experience and to present multidimensional character images. At the same time, their distinctive artistic approaches contribute to the richness and diversity of character portrayal in modern short fiction. In conclusion, the findings of this research highlight the importance of poetic devices as fundamental components of literary characterization. The artistic mastery demonstrated by Maugham and Kahhor confirms that effective character portrayal depends not only on narrative content but also on the skillful use of poetic techniques. Therefore, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of character representation and emphasizes the significance of poetic devices in the analysis of literary texts.

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