

# Satirical Discourse in The Prose of Kim Yujeon: A Linguistic Perspective

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**Abstract:** This article examines satirical discourse in the prose of Kim Yujeon from a linguistic and discourse-analytical perspective. Unlike traditional literary approaches, the study focuses on how satire is constructed through language structures, pragmatic strategies, and discourse mechanisms. The research analyzes linguistic means of irony, evaluative modality, lexical repetition, colloquial register, metaphorization, and pragmatic implicature. Special attention is paid to how satirical meaning emerges through interaction between explicit and implicit levels of utterance. The study demonstrates that satirical discourse in Kim Yujeon's prose functions as a complex linguistic system of evaluation, where meaning is produced through contextual inference and pragmatic contradiction. The findings show that satire operates as a discourse strategy that encodes social criticism through linguistic ambiguity, evaluative markers, and interactional positioning. The article contributes to discourse linguistics by revealing how satirical meaning is structurally embedded in language use rather than solely in literary form.

**Keywords:** Satirical discourse, discourse linguistics, pragmatics, irony, evaluation, modality, implicature, Kim Yujeon, linguistic stylistics, colloquial register.

**Introduction:** In contemporary linguistics, satire is increasingly studied not only as a literary phenomenon but also as a discourse strategy grounded in language use, pragmatics, and interactional meaning-making. From this perspective, satirical discourse is understood as a linguistically encoded form of evaluation in which meaning is constructed through indirectness, ambiguity, and contextual inference. The prose of Kim Yujeon provides a productive material for linguistic analysis because it demonstrates a high density of evaluative and pragmatic mechanisms. Rather than functioning solely as a narrative or aesthetic device, satire in his texts operates as a structured system of linguistic opposition between explicit content and implied meaning. The aim of this article is to analyze satirical discourse in Kim Yujeon's prose as a linguistic phenomenon. The study focuses on how irony, modality, lexical choice, and discourse organization contribute to the production of satirical meaning. The

research shifts attention from literary interpretation to linguistic mechanisms of meaning construction.

**Theoretical framework: satire as discourse and pragmatic phenomenon.** From a discourse-linguistic perspective, satire is defined as a type of evaluative discourse characterized by indirectness, pragmatic contradiction, and multilayered meaning. It relies on the gap between literal meaning and intended communicative effect, which is resolved by the reader through inferential processes. Pragmatics plays a central role in satirical interpretation. According to Gricean theory, satire frequently violates conversational maxims, especially the maxims of quality and relevance, thereby generating implicatures. These implicatures are essential for reconstructing the intended critical meaning.

Key linguistic features of satirical discourse include:

1. → pragmatic ambiguity and inferential meaning;

2. evaluative lexical and grammatical markers;
3. irony as a mismatch between propositional content and communicative intention;
4. modality expressing speaker attitude and judgment;
5. discourse cohesion through repetition and contrast;
6. contextual dependency of meaning interpretation. In this framework, satire is not merely a stylistic device but a structured linguistic mechanism of evaluation embedded in discourse.

**Methodological approach.** The analysis is based on discourse analysis and pragmatic interpretation of selected narrative fragments from Kim Yujeon's prose. The focus is placed on:

1. lexical-semantic analysis of evaluative vocabulary;
2. identification of ironic structures;
3. analysis of modality and speaker stance;
4. examination of discourse cohesion and repetition patterns;
5. interpretation of implicatures and contextual meaning. This approach allows for the identification of systematic linguistic patterns that generate satirical meaning.

**Irony as a pragmatic mechanism.** Irony in Kim Yujeon's prose functions as a primary pragmatic mechanism of satirical discourse. Linguistically, irony emerges when the surface meaning of an utterance contradicts its intended evaluative meaning. At the lexical level, irony is often constructed through positive evaluative expressions applied to negative situations or behaviors. This creates semantic dissonance, which signals the presence of implicit criticism. At the pragmatic level, irony depends on shared contextual knowledge between speaker and reader. The reader must recognize that the literal meaning is not intended as truthful, but as a vehicle for indirect evaluation. Situational irony is also linguistically encoded through narrative structures in which expected outcomes are systematically reversed. This reversal functions as a discourse marker of evaluative stance, highlighting the discrepancy between expectation and reality. Thus, irony operates as a pragmatic strategy of meaning inversion, where evaluation is conveyed indirectly

through contradiction.

**Evaluative lexis and modal structures.** A significant linguistic feature of satirical discourse in Kim Yujeon's prose is the use of evaluative vocabulary. Lexical items carry implicit judgment, often signaling negative assessment of social behavior, norms, or institutions. Evaluative adjectives, adverbs, and verbs function as markers of speaker stance. These linguistic units encode attitude without explicit commentary, allowing evaluation to be embedded in description. Modal structures also play a crucial role. Epistemic and deontic modality express uncertainty, obligation, or judgment, contributing to the construction of satirical meaning. For example, modal verbs may indicate normative expectations that are implicitly violated within the discourse. The interaction between evaluative lexis and modality creates a layered system of meaning in which judgment is distributed across grammatical and lexical levels.

**Colloquial register and pragmatic contrast.** Kim Yujeon's prose frequently employs colloquial language, which serves as an important linguistic resource for satire. The use of everyday speech introduces a contrast between informal expression and socially significant content. From a discourse perspective, colloquial register functions as a marker of social positioning. It reflects the limited cognitive and ideological frameworks of characters, thereby generating implicit evaluation. This contrast between simple linguistic form and complex social meaning produces pragmatic irony. The reader perceives a gap between what is said and what is meant, which is essential for satirical interpretation. Colloquial expressions also contribute to authenticity while simultaneously exposing ideological simplification in character speech.

**Repetition, formulaicity, and ideological language.** Repetition is a key cohesive device in satirical discourse. In Kim Yujeon's prose, repeated lexical units, clichés, and formulaic expressions function as indicators of ideological rigidity. From a linguistic perspective, repetition reduces semantic variability and highlights the mechanical nature of social discourse. It signals the absence of critical reflection in character speech. Formulaic language often reflects socially accepted norms that are implicitly questioned through narrative context. The repetition of such

expressions creates a contrast between linguistic form and pragmatic inadequacy. Thus, repetition functions as a discourse strategy that exposes the emptiness of conventional ideological language.

**Metaphor and semantic extension.** Metaphor in satirical discourse operates as a mechanism of semantic extension, allowing concrete linguistic expressions to acquire abstract evaluative meanings. In Kim Yujeon's prose, metaphorical structures often transform everyday objects and actions into representations of social behavior. This process creates a secondary layer of meaning that is accessible through contextual interpretation. From a linguistic standpoint, metaphor contributes to conceptual framing. It organizes perception of social reality through symbolic mapping, where physical or concrete domains represent abstract social values.

**Discourse structure and evaluative positioning.** Satirical discourse in Kim Yujeon's prose is also constructed through narrative organization and evaluative positioning. The narrator often adopts a seemingly neutral stance while simultaneously guiding interpretation through subtle linguistic cues. This strategy creates a dual-layer discourse structure: explicit descriptive level, implicit evaluative level. The reader is required to reconstruct the evaluative layer through inference. This process is central to pragmatic interpretation of satire. Discourse cohesion is achieved through contrastive structures, where opposing values, behaviors, or outcomes are juxtaposed. This structural opposition reinforces evaluative meaning.

**Pragmatic implicature and inferential meaning.** A key mechanism of satirical discourse is pragmatic implicature. Meaning is not directly stated but inferred from context, contradiction, and linguistic cues. In Kim Yujeon's prose, implicatures arise when characters' utterances violate pragmatic expectations. The reader interprets these violations as signals of hidden evaluation. This inferential process is essential for understanding satire as a linguistic phenomenon. It demonstrates that meaning is not fixed in lexical units but emerges through interaction between text and context. Thus, satirical discourse relies heavily on the reader's pragmatic competence.

## CONCLUSION

From a linguistic perspective, satirical discourse in Kim

Yujeon's prose is a complex system of pragmatic, lexical, and structural mechanisms that generate evaluative meaning. Irony, modality, repetition, colloquial register, and metaphor function as interconnected linguistic tools for encoding indirect criticism. The study demonstrates that satire should be understood not only as a literary device but as a discourse strategy grounded in language structure and pragmatic inference. Meaning in satirical texts emerges through the interaction of explicit linguistic forms and implicit contextual interpretation. By analyzing satirical discourse through linguistic methods, this article highlights the importance of pragmatics and discourse analysis in understanding how social evaluation is encoded in language. Kim Yujeon's prose thus provides a valuable case for exploring the intersection of language, meaning, and ideology in narrative discourse.

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