



The Characteristics of Rhetorical Questions in the Uzbek Language

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to study characteristics of rhetorical questions in the Uzbek language. The author mostly focuses on the usage of rhetorical questions in Uzbek literary texts. Most common examples in Uzbek prose and poetic works are analyzed.

Keywords:

Rhetorical question, literary text, poetry, prose, implicit, self-evident, dialogic speech, monologue, protagonist;

Introduction

The question is usually about something the speaker does not know and it is used to get information, it requires a response that conveys the message; but there are also those that do not require an answer. For example: *"Bizdan baxtli bormi, yoronlar!?"* (Is there anyone happier than us, guys!?) This sentence represents strongly the meaning of *"no one is happier than us, we are the happiest people"*. This is called a rhetorical question.

Uzbek poetry, prose texts must contain all the features of the language. Because, the creator of any national literature is a representative of the people. Therefore, all the possibilities and properties of a certain language are reflected in the samples of his creations. Only then his works, whether prose or poetic, reach the heart of the reader more quickly and find their reader. That's why, our writers use different forms of linguistic means in their works to enhance the aesthetic effect. Among them rhetorical questions are of particular importance.

Rhetorical questions, their peculiarities, their usage in the literary text should be studied in Uzbek linguistics. That's why, the subject of this work is of particular importance.

In Uzbek linguistics this issue was studied by Abdurauf Fitrat, Ayub Gulomov, S. Nurmonov, N. Mahmudov, B. Ahmedov, and H. Ismatullayev. However, in Uzbek linguistics, the issue of rhetorical questions was not studied as the object of research.

In a rhetorical question, its answer is also understandable. Rhetorical questioning serves as a stylistic tool for emotional, affective speech:

"Bolani kim sevmaydi?!" (Who doesn't love a child?!) (Everybody loves)

This type of question makes the thought emotional, strong, expressive and influential.

Rhetorical questions are the study of the different meanings, feelings and interrogations of a sentence that represents a different attitude of the speaker to reality.

The rhetorical question and an answer to it are self-evident in the sentence itself, the speaker answers it himself. For example, *Shunday go'zal vatan bormi jahonda!?* (Is there such a beautiful country in the world!?) (There is no other beautiful country like this in the world!)

In rhetorical questions a predicate is often in the negative form but it confirms: *"Buni*

kim bilmaydi?!” - “hamma biladi” (Who doesn't know that?!- “Everyone knows”).

Rhetorical question, as we saw above as a purely linguistic phenomenon is a type of interrogative sentence that does not require an answer. Rhetoric interrogative questions include meanings, such as, implicit affirmation, implicit denial, surprise, anxiety, concern, anger, suspicion, strong excitement. These characteristics of rhetorical questions are used effectively by writers and poets in fiction. With the help of this, they increase the aesthetic value and artistic effectiveness of the work of art (whether it is poetry or prose). In Uzbek literary text it is impossible to find any single sample that does not contain a rhetorical question. This is, especially, evident in poetic texts. But prose texts are not an exception.

--- *Sadqai odam keting-e, ayb emasmi?! (“isn't it a shame?”)*

“Isn't it a shame?” in context is a rhetorical question which means that it is a shame. That's to say, it is not a genuine question. There is a hint of covert affirmation through denial.

---*Karima xolani to'yga Toshkentdan tez chaqirish kerak. Nima qilamiz?*

---*Telegraf-chi?! (What about telegraph?!)*
(*We can use telegraph*)

The rhetorical question in the example we tried to analyze above is used in dialogic discourse, but in some prose works it actively participates in the structure of monologue speech. The author portrays the protagonist's thoughts, self-questions and answers through such statements:

--- *Hech narsa deyolmayсан! Qaysi yuz bilan gapirasan?!*

(*“You can't say anything!” How can you say?!*)

Like in prose works, rhetorical sentences can be found in many poetic works. Such statements are real decoration of poetry, a means of expression and influence. We know that in poetic works the protagonist is one or two and mainly one person, especially, the lover is addressed. One of the most effective and concise means of expressing an idea in such situation is the effective use of rhetorical utterances in this verse. From the works of our ancestor Navai, who is the sultan of poetic

property, to the present day, our poets have skillfully used such words in their works.

Hunarni asrabon netkumdur oxir (After all, what shall I do saving metier?)

Olib tufroqqami ketkumdur oxir? (Shall I take the soil and leave?)

(*A.Navai. “Farkhad and Shirin”*)

At the end of rhetorical questions, sometimes the question mark itself, sometimes the interrogative and exclamation marks are set:

“Dunyoda onadan ulug' zot bormi?!”

(*“Who is greater than a mother in the world ?!”*)

In this case, of course, first, question mark is put, then an exclamation mark is followed.

Rhetorical questions increase the emotional impact of works of art, were also actively used to express emotions and feelings in oral speech. In some examples of the rhetorical questions we can see the active use of lexical units such as *who*, *perhaps*, *possible*. Because in rhetorical questions participles like *nahot*, *nahotki (really)* and the pronoun *kim (who)* are important and in that case the answer to the question is clear. That is why these tools are actively used in rhetoric questions.

Onani kim sevmaydi, vatanni kim sevmaydi?!

(*Who does not love a mother, who does not love a motherland?!*)

Questions usually require an answer from the listener. In rhetorical question no answer is required, as the question itself is often affirmative. The answer is obvious. In such sentences the tone of the speech is very important:

Biz baxtli bo'lamiz, xudo xohlasa, (We will be happy, if God shows us)

Xudo xohlamasa, uchrasharmidik?! (If God did not, did we meet?!)

(*Muhammad Yusuf*)

It is also clear from the above analysis that it is impossible to imagine poetic texts without rhetorical questions. They provide the identity of the poetic text through a number of embedded meanings, that's based on the multiplicity of meanings in short lines. That's

why, poets address this linguistic means again and again.

In conclusion, the answer to the rhetorical question is self-evident, the speaker is responsible. Rhetorical questions do not require an answer. In this case, the content of the confirmation is given by questioning (hidden confirmation). This type of question makes the speech and thought emotional, strong, expressive, and influential.

In general, rhetorical questions are very active in poetic texts in the monologue of the protagonist and they make his thoughts and inner experiences more effective, they enhance the artistic and ethical value of the work. In dialogic speech, the speaker influences the listener, affirming or denying an opinion. That is why, skilled writers use rhetorical questions skillfully in their works.

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