



## EXPRESSION OF ALLEGORICAL MEANING IN LITERARY TEXTS

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**Annotation.** This article discusses the expression of allegorical and figurative meanings in literary texts, as well as their artistic techniques and linguistic features. It analyzes the semiotic characteristics of allegory, the relationship between allegory and symbol, allegory and metaphor, the discursive peculiarities of allegorical texts, and the distinctive features of everyday, literary, and religious allegorical texts. The study also addresses genre-specific traits of allegorical works and the expression of allegorical meaning in fairy tales and fables, providing reflections on research and findings in these areas.

**Keywords:** linguistics, literary studies, literary text, allegory, allegorical-figurative meaning, symbol, metaphor, genre, religious, semiotic, discursive peculiarity.

### Introduction.

In literary texts, the life, values, and culture of the Uzbek people—of the nation itself—are expressed through artistic imagery. These cultural markers of the people are fully transmitted to future generations through the medium of the Uzbek national language. Literary texts serve not only to depict the universe, environment, various events and phenomena, human life, and emotions, but also as a means to broaden the reader's perception and lead them toward deeper imagination and reflection. The text resembles a “repository of ideas, meanings, emotions, wonder, and cultural thought”. Indeed, in literary works, the writer's or creator's finest ideas, meaningful thoughts enriched with beautiful metaphors and comparisons, and expressive depictions that stir and amaze the reader's emotions are all presented vividly.

To this day, in linguistic research, the expression of allegorical and figurative meaning has served as an object of study within the field. Research has been conducted on topics such as the semiotic characteristics of allegory, the relationship between allegory and symbol, allegory and metaphor, the discursive peculiarities of allegorical texts, as well as the distinctive features of everyday, literary, and religious allegorical texts, and the expression of allegorical meaning in fairy tales and fables. Numerous works have been presented as the result of these studies. However, in existing research, the investigation of methods for expressing allegorical and figurative meaning from a linguo-semiotic perspective remains insufficient in scope. Moreover, the allegorical meanings found in different types of discourse have not yet become a separate object of linguistic analysis. The understanding of the discursive peculiarities of allegorical meaning as one of the indicators of professional communicative competence also remains incomplete.

In world literature, revealing a character's inner psychological world, their imagination and worldview, behavior and self-conduct before the reader's eyes has long been a central concern of writers, poets, and masters of literary language. The formation and depiction of human character and inner world, as well as the reflection of the spirit of the era, have always occupied a crucial place in their creative aims. Writers have not been content with merely

disclosing the psychological state of their characters; they have also used the expression of allegorical and figurative meaning as an independent stylistic device to concisely, clearly, and vividly portray the essence and potential of human character.

### **Literature Review And Methodology.**

The expression of allegorical and figurative meaning requires artistic imagery that enables a deeper and more authentic understanding of the character's spiritual world, behavior, and moral qualities. Allegory, as a means of figurative expression, has been studied and analyzed within the fields of literary criticism, folklore studies, stylistics, literary theory, and linguistics [1].

In Russian linguistics, the methodological foundations of such research have been established in the frameworks of semiotics (S.S. Averintsev, Y.S. Stepanov, A.F. Losev, F. Rastier), discourse theory (W. von Humboldt, N.D. Arutyunova, G.G. Slyushkin, E.I. Sheigal), and the theory of artistic text (G.E. Lessing, A.A. Potebnya, V.Y. Propp, L.S. Vygotsky, M.M. Bakhtin, F.I. Buslayev, V.P. Moskvina, N.I. Prokofiev).

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Uzbek linguistics has also paid particular attention to the study of literary texts. Among Uzbek scholars who have conducted valuable research on the anthropocentric features of literary texts are N. Mahmudov, D. Khudoyberganova, Sh. Usmonova, F. Usmonov, A.E. Mamatov, B. Umurqulov, N.N. Jo'rayev, Z. Muqimova, M. Yo'ldoshev, D. Andaniyozova, M. Yakubbekova, and N.O. Kobilov.

Thus, in both world and Russian literary and linguistic studies—as well as in Uzbek linguistics – the expression of allegorical, that is, figurative meaning in literary texts has remained a relevant and important topic, particularly in exploring and revealing the inner psychological world of characters before the reader [2].

### **Discussion And Results.**

In literary texts, allegorical or figurative expressions are created to form imagery through a specific meaning and to enrich the overall content of the text. By *allegorical or figurative meaning*, we understand the use of a word or phrase beyond its direct meaning, expressing a new or extended sense in relation to its original meaning.

The expression of figurative meaning in literary texts – through artistic imagery and metaphors – plays a positive and effective role in influencing the reader's perception, imagination, and emotions. When conveying figurative meanings in literary texts, it is necessary not only to use the aesthetic possibilities of language effectively and appropriately but also to reveal the deeper meaning of the literary work itself [3].

This involves the use of various figurative devices such as metaphor (comparison), metonymy (substitution of one thing for another), synecdoche (using a part to represent the whole or vice versa), and symbolism (creating meaning through signs or symbols).

In literary works – particularly in artistic texts – words or phrases with hidden meanings are used to convey allegorical or figurative expression. Especially in classical literature, we often encounter the depiction of abstract phenomena through material images. In such works, objects, birds, animals, and other beings are often personified or used symbolically [4].

The expression of allegorical and figurative meaning is vividly represented in folk tales. There, the participation and depiction of animals and birds embody certain human qualities – for example, the fox symbolizes cunning, the rabbit represents cowardice, and the bear personifies foolishness. This style of depiction has transitioned from oral folklore traditions into folk tales.

It is important to note that without understanding allegorical and figurative expressions, it is impossible to analyze literary texts properly. Moreover, it should be emphasized that some scientific interpretations mistakenly describe expressions such as “*the cunning of the fox*” or “*the cowardice of the rabbit*” as allegory.

Based on our research and analysis, we have come to the conclusion that when figurative images “speak in their own language” or participate in the narrative, attempting to reveal their own flaws or vices – that is when true allegory occurs [5].

It is always necessary to distinguish allegorical or figurative expressions from symbols, similes, metaphors, and periphrases. Indeed, in many researchers’ studies, allegory has been interpreted as a type or form of symbol. However, it must be emphasized that when interpreting allegorical and figurative meanings, one should never confuse universal symbols, cultural symbols, personal symbols, archetypal symbols, contextual symbols, religious or spiritual symbols, political-social symbols, and symbols of nature or the environment with allegorical symbols.

To be more precise, allegorical or figurative symbols embody ironic or abstract thoughts and ideas, moral and didactic lessons, as well as complex concepts. For example, when we think of the wolf, it immediately evokes an image of evil, greed, and cruelty; when we think of the fox, it symbolizes cunning and deceit – these are clear examples of allegorical and figurative expression [6].

The expression of allegorical and figurative meaning is a very complex and often misinterpreted artistic technique. Therefore, when analyzing literary works from the perspective of allegorical or figurative meaning, one must approach the process carefully – identifying the plot, allegorical imagery, meaning, and content of the text. First and foremost, attention should be paid to the genre and theme of the work being studied.

### **Conclusion.**

In literary texts, the process of expressing and systematically creating allegorical or figurative meaning develops gradually (evolutionarily). This gradual process involves the integration of artistic images and representations, resulting in the deepening and complication of meaning. Throughout this evolutionary stage, figurative expressions move away from literal or expected meanings, transforming the reader’s emotions and perceptions in the process.

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