



# IJTIMOIIY-GUMANITAR SOHADA ILMIY-INNOVATSION TADQIQOTLAR

ILMIY METODIK JURNALI



**VOL.3 № 3**

**2026**

## **KINEMATIK DIALOGDA STILISTIK VOSITALAR: “JOHNNY ENGLISH” FILMIDA METAFORA, TAKROR VA UNDERSTATEMENTNING TAHLILI**

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### **Annotatsiya**

Mazkur maqolada Britaniya komedik filmi Johnny English dialoglarida qoʻllanilgan stilistik vositalar — metafora, takror va understatement tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda film dialoglaridan tanlab olingan misollar asosida ushbu vositalarning qahramonlar nutqidagi funksiyasi hamda hazil va badiiy ifodani kuchaytirishdagi oʻrni oʻrganiladi. Tahlil natijalariga koʻra, metafora voqealarning ahamiyatini kuchaytirib, obrazli tasvir yaratadi; takror esa emotsional taʼsirni va pragmatik maqsadni taʼkidlaydi, understatement esa yengil ifoda bilan jiddiy vaziyat oʻrtasidagi qarama-qarshilik orqali komik effektni yuzaga keltiradi. Umuman olganda, ushbu stilistik vositalar kinematik dialogning ifodaviylikini oshirib, filmning komedik taʼsirini kuchaytiradi.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** kinematik diskurs, stilistik vositalar, metafora, takror, understatement, dialog tahlili, Britaniya kinosi.

## **СТИЛИСТИЧЕСКИЕ СРЕДСТВА В КИНЕМАТОГРАФИЧЕСКОМ ДИАЛОГЕ: АНАЛИЗ МЕТАФОРЫ, ПОВТОРА И НЕДОСКАЗАННОСТИ В ФИЛЬМЕ «JOHNNY ENGLISH»**

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### **Аннотация**

В данной статье рассматривается использование стилистических средств в диалогах британского комедийного фильма Johnny English, с акцентом на метафору, повтор и недосказанность (understatement). На основе анализа отобранных фрагментов диалогов исследуется их роль в речи персонажей, а также вклад в создание юмористического и художественного эффекта. Результаты анализа показывают, что метафора формирует яркие образные представления и подчеркивает значимость событий, повтор усиливает эмоциональную выразительность и прагматические намерения, а недосказанность создает комический эффект за счёт контраста между мягким выражением и серьёзной ситуацией. В целом данные стилистические средства усиливают выразительность кинематографического диалога и комедийный эффект фильма.

**Ключевые слова:** кинематографический дискурс, стилистические средства, метафора, повтор, недосказанность, анализ диалога, британское кино.

## **STYLISTIC DEVICES IN CINEMATIC DIALOGUE: A STUDY OF METAPHOR, REPETITION AND UNDERSTATEMENT IN THE FILM JOHNNY ENGLISH**

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### **Abstract**

This article examines the use of stylistic devices in the dialogue of the British comedy film Johnny English, focusing on metaphor, repetition, and understatement. The study analyzes

selected examples from the film to explore how these devices function in character speech and contribute to humor and narrative expression. The analysis shows that metaphor creates vivid imagery and emphasizes the significance of events, repetition highlights emotional intensity and pragmatic intentions, while understatement produces humor through the contrast between mild expression and serious situations. Overall, these stylistic devices enhance the expressiveness of cinematic dialogue and strengthen the comedic effect of the film.

**Keywords:** cinematic discourse, stylistic devices, metaphor, repetition, understatement, dialogue analysis, British cinema.

Language plays a crucial role in cinematic storytelling, as it functions not only as a means of communication between characters but also as a stylistic instrument that shapes narrative meaning, emotional expression, and character development. In film discourse, dialogue often carries significant stylistic and pragmatic functions that contribute to the overall artistic structure of the narrative. Through carefully constructed speech patterns, filmmakers are able to convey humor, tension, irony, and other communicative effects that enhance the audience's interpretation of the story. As many scholars note, the analysis of cinematic dialogue provides valuable insights into the relationship between language, narrative structure, and audience perception [2; 24-25]

In contemporary cinema, especially in comedic genres, stylistic devices embedded in character speech play a particularly important role. Comedic films frequently rely on figurative language, rhetorical devices, and pragmatic strategies in order to produce humorous effects and shape character identities. These stylistic features often reflect patterns of everyday conversational language while simultaneously serving artistic and narrative purposes [4; 78-80] Consequently, the study of stylistic devices in cinematic dialogue allows researchers to explore how language contributes to the creation of humor and narrative dynamics within film discourse.

The British comedy film *Johnny English* provides a compelling case for examining the interaction between stylistic language and cinematic storytelling. The film follows an inexperienced and overconfident intelligence agent whose attempts to complete a secret mission lead to numerous misunderstandings and comic situations. The humorous effect of the film is not only generated through visual action but also through the distinctive language used by the characters. The protagonist's speech frequently reflects exaggerated confidence, ironic misunderstanding, and conversational exaggeration, which serve as central elements of the film's comedic style.

Among the stylistic devices that appear most prominently in the film's dialogue are metaphor, repetition, and understatement. Metaphor enables speakers to convey abstract ideas through figurative comparisons, creating vivid imagery and enhancing the expressive power of language. Repetition functions as a rhetorical strategy that emphasizes particular ideas, emotional states, or pragmatic intentions within conversation. Understatement, a characteristic feature of British humor, involves deliberately describing a situation as less significant than it actually is, thereby producing ironic contrast between language and reality.

Literature Review. The study of stylistic devices in literary and cinematic texts has long been an important area within linguistic stylistics. Stylistics examines how linguistic choices contribute to meaning, aesthetic effect, and reader or viewer interpretation. According to Leech and Short, stylistic analysis provides a systematic approach for understanding how language functions within fictional discourse and how particular linguistic structures shape narrative style. Their work emphasizes that figurative language, rhetorical patterns, and lexical choices play a fundamental role in shaping the stylistic texture of literary and cinematic texts.

A number of scholars have highlighted the importance of figurative language in communication and discourse. Gibbs argues that figurative expressions such as metaphor are not merely decorative linguistic features but fundamental cognitive tools that shape human

understanding and interpretation of experience [1; 40-42] From this perspective, metaphors are not only rhetorical devices but also conceptual structures that allow speakers to interpret complex or abstract situations through familiar images.

Within stylistic theory, metaphor has been widely discussed as one of the most important forms of figurative language. Wales defines metaphor as a semantic process in which one concept is understood in terms of another, often creating vivid imagery and emotional resonance within discourse [6; 132-135] In cinematic dialogue, metaphors are particularly effective because they allow characters to express complex ideas quickly while simultaneously creating memorable and visually suggestive expressions.

Another stylistic phenomenon frequently discussed in discourse studies is repetition. Repetition is often associated with rhetorical emphasis and emotional intensity in spoken communication. Toolan notes that repetition in dialogue may serve several pragmatic functions, including emphasis, persuasion, clarification, and the expression of emotional states [5; 210-212] In cinematic narratives, repetition may also contribute to characterization by revealing a character's personality, emotional reactions, or communicative strategies.

Similarly, Simpson emphasizes that repetition in discourse can create rhythm, emphasis, and stylistic cohesion within texts [4; 78-80] In spoken dialogue, repetition often reflects natural conversational patterns and therefore contributes to the authenticity of character speech in literary and cinematic narratives.

Understatement represents another stylistic device that has received considerable attention in stylistic research, particularly in relation to British humor. According to McIntyre and Busse, understatement functions as a pragmatic strategy in which speakers deliberately minimize the seriousness of a situation in order to produce irony or humor [3; 16] This device is especially characteristic of British communicative culture, where subtle humor often emerges from the contrast between mild linguistic expression and dramatic contextual circumstances.

**METHODS:** Stylistic analysis, contextual, discourse analysis, descriptive.

**DISCUSSIONS AND FINDINGS.** This section discusses the results of the stylistic analysis of the selected dialogues from the film *Johnny English*. The findings reveal how metaphor, repetition, and understatement function within character speech and contribute to humor, narrative development, and the expressive nature of cinematic dialogue.

#### **METAPHOR IN CHARACTER DIALOGUE**

##### **Sample 1**

Johnny English: "This mission is a ticking time bomb"

This mission is extremely dangerous and could lead to serious consequences at any moment.

**Analysis:** This statement demonstrates the use of metaphor as a stylistic device in cinematic dialogue. A metaphor occurs when one concept is described in terms of another in order to highlight a particular characteristic or emotional effect. In this example, the mission is compared to a "ticking time bomb." Literally, a mission cannot be a bomb; therefore, the phrase functions figuratively.

The metaphor emphasizes the urgency and danger associated with the situation. A ticking bomb suggests that something catastrophic could happen at any moment, which intensifies the dramatic tension within the narrative. By describing the mission in this way, the character communicates the seriousness of the task in a vivid and memorable manner. From a stylistic perspective, metaphors are often used in cinematic dialogue because they create strong mental imagery. The audience can easily visualize the metaphorical comparison, which enhances emotional engagement with the scene. In addition, metaphors help condense complex ideas into brief expressions. Instead of explaining the risks of the mission in detail, the character conveys the same meaning through a single metaphorical phrase.

Furthermore, this metaphor also contributes to the parody element of the film. Spy movies often portray missions as extremely dangerous operations, and by using such dramatic language, the film imitates the stylistic conventions of traditional espionage narratives. However, in the context of a comedy, this exaggerated seriousness becomes humorous because the protagonist himself is often incompetent. Thus, the metaphor serves multiple functions: it intensifies dramatic tension, creates vivid imagery, and contributes to the comedic parody of spy film conventions.

### **Sample 2**

Johnny English: “The situation is a complete minefield.”

“The situation is extremely complicated and dangerous.”

Analysis: This sentence represents another example of metaphor in cinematic dialogue. In this case, the situation is described as a “minefield.” A minefield is an area filled with hidden explosives that can detonate if someone steps on them. By using this metaphor, the character implies that the situation is full of hidden dangers and unexpected risks.

The metaphor effectively communicates the complexity of the circumstances. Just as a person must move carefully through a minefield to avoid triggering an explosion, the characters must navigate the situation with caution in order to avoid further complications. The metaphor therefore highlights the precarious nature of the mission. From a stylistic perspective, metaphors such as this one help make dialogue more expressive and memorable. Rather than providing a straightforward description, the character uses figurative language to create a vivid image that captures the audience’s attention. Additionally, the metaphor reflects the conventions of action and espionage films, where dramatic language is often used to describe dangerous missions. In the context of a comedic film, however, such dramatic expressions may also contribute to humor, especially when the character who uses them is not particularly competent. Therefore, the metaphor not only intensifies the perceived danger of the situation but also reinforces the film’s comedic tone through the contrast between dramatic language and the protagonist’s behavior.

### **Sample 3**

Johnny English: “This operation is the key to everything”

This operation is extremely important for solving the entire problem.

Analysis: This example illustrates metaphor through the symbolic use of the word “key.” In literal terms, a key is an object used to unlock a door. In this sentence, however, the word is used metaphorically to represent something that provides access to a solution. By describing the operation as “the key to everything,” the character emphasizes its central importance in resolving the conflict within the narrative. The metaphor suggests that once the operation is completed successfully, the rest of the problems will be solved.

Metaphorical expressions like this are common in everyday speech because they allow speakers to convey abstract concepts through concrete images. In this case, the abstract idea of solving a problem is represented by the physical act of unlocking a door. From a cinematic perspective, metaphors contribute to the clarity and emotional impact of dialogue. They help the audience understand the stakes of the narrative while also making the language more engaging. Moreover, in a comedic spy film such as Johnny English, metaphors that emphasize the importance of the mission may also function as part of the film’s parody of traditional spy narratives, where missions are frequently portrayed as crucial for national security.

## **REPETITION IN CHARACTER DIALOGUE**

### **Sample 1**

Johnny English: “No, no, no... that’s not what I meant”

Analysis: This statement illustrates the stylistic device of repetition. Repetition occurs when a word or phrase is repeated in order to emphasize a particular idea or emotional state. In this example, the repeated word “no” indicates the character’s attempt to correct a misunderstanding. From a communicative perspective, repetition reflects the speaker’s urgency

and emotional intensity. By repeating the same word several times, the character attempts to quickly interrupt the conversation and clarify the situation.

In cinematic dialogue, repetition often enhances realism because it reflects natural patterns of spoken language. In everyday conversation, people frequently repeat words when they are surprised, confused, or anxious. In addition, repetition contributes to the comedic tone of the scene. The exaggerated reaction highlights the character's nervousness and confusion, which can be humorous for the audience. Thus, repetition functions as both a realistic representation of spontaneous speech and a stylistic device that intensifies emotional expression.

### **Sample 2**

Johnny English: "Wait, wait, wait! Listen to me."

Analysis: This dialogue demonstrates repetition used to attract attention and emphasize urgency. The repeated word "wait" signals the speaker's attempt to stop others from continuing their actions. The repetition serves an important pragmatic function. It interrupts the flow of conversation and forces other characters to pause and listen. As a result, the repeated word acts as a linguistic signal of urgency.

From a stylistic perspective, repetition also contributes to the dramatic rhythm of dialogue. The repeated command creates a sense of immediacy and tension within the scene. Furthermore, repetition is frequently used in comedic dialogue to emphasize the character's desperation or anxiety. In this case, the character's insistence may appear exaggerated, which can create humor. Therefore, repetition not only conveys urgency but also enhances the emotional and comedic impact of the dialogue.

### **Sample 3**

Johnny English: "I told you, I told you, I told you this would happen."

Analysis: This sentence demonstrates repetition used for emphasis and self-justification. The repeated phrase "I told you" emphasizes the character's attempt to prove that his earlier warning was correct. In discourse analysis, repetition is often associated with persuasive or argumentative speech. By repeating the same phrase, the speaker reinforces the message and attempts to convince others of its validity.

In cinematic dialogue, such repetition can also reveal aspects of a character's personality. In this case, the repeated phrase suggests that the character wants recognition for having predicted the situation. At the same time, repetition may produce humor when the character exaggerates their own importance or correctness. The audience may perceive the repetition as overly dramatic, which contributes to the comedic tone of the film.

## **UNDERSTATEMENT IN CHARACTER DIALOGUE**

### **Sample 1**

Johnny English: "I think we may have a small problem."

Analysis: This sentence demonstrates understatement, a stylistic device in which a speaker deliberately describes a serious situation as less significant than it actually is. In this example, the character refers to a dangerous or chaotic situation as a "small problem." The contrast between the mild description and the actual seriousness of the situation creates humor.

Understatement is a distinctive feature of British humor. Instead of exaggerating the problem, the speaker minimizes it, which creates an ironic contrast between language and reality. From a stylistic perspective, understatement highlights the character's attempt to remain calm despite the severity of the situation. At the same time, the audience recognizes the absurdity of the description, which produces a comedic effect.

### **Sample 2**

Johnny English: "That could have gone slightly better."

Analysis: This statement is another example of understatement. The character uses the phrase "slightly better" to describe a situation that was actually a complete failure. The

understatement creates humor by minimizing the seriousness of the mistake. The audience understands that the outcome was far worse than the character suggests.

In discourse terms, understatement can function as a strategy for softening criticism or embarrassment. By describing the failure in mild terms, the character avoids directly acknowledging the extent of the mistake. Such expressions are common in British conversational style, where understatement is often used as a subtle form of humor.

### **Sample 3**

Johnny English: “Well... that wasn’t ideal.”

Analysis: This sentence represents understatement through mild evaluation. The phrase “not ideal” is used to describe a clearly disastrous outcome. The contrast between the mild wording and the actual situation produces humor because the audience recognizes the understatement.

From a stylistic perspective, understatement allows the character to maintain composure while implicitly acknowledging that something went wrong. It also reflects the restrained communicative style often associated with British humor. Therefore, understatement functions as both a pragmatic strategy and a comedic device in cinematic dialogue.

### **CONCLUSION**

The analysis of character dialogue in Johnny English demonstrates that stylistic devices play a significant role in shaping both the linguistic and narrative structure of the film. Metaphor, repetition, and understatement function as important expressive tools that contribute to humor, characterization, and the overall effectiveness of cinematic discourse. The study shows that metaphor allows characters to communicate complex ideas through vivid figurative comparisons, thereby enhancing the dramatic and visual impact of dialogue. Repetition emphasizes particular ideas and emotional reactions while also reflecting natural patterns of spoken language. At the same time, repetition can strengthen the comedic effect by highlighting the characters’ confusion, urgency, or exaggerated self-confidence. Understatement, which is closely associated with British communicative style, produces humor by minimizing serious situations and creating a contrast between linguistic expression and contextual reality. Together, these stylistic devices enrich the dialogue of the film and reinforce its comedic nature. They help shape the audience’s perception of characters while also contributing to the parody of traditional espionage narratives. The findings of this study confirm that stylistic analysis of cinematic dialogue provides valuable insights into the interaction between language, narrative, and humor in film discourse. Further research may explore additional stylistic phenomena in cinematic texts in order to deepen the understanding of linguistic creativity in contemporary film narratives.

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