



**Studying Rhetorical Sentence Through the Semantic-Syntactic Analysis Of Its Interrogative
And Negative Constructions (On The Examples Of Uzbek And English Languages)**

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Abstract: *This scientific study is devoted to the study of the rhetorical sentence as a little-studied syntactic, grammatical and even semantic element of linguistics through a detailed analysis of its interrogative and negative structure. In particular, a detailed description of interrogative and negative syntactic constructions is given through the prism of their rhetorical orientation. The author also gives a number of examples of interrogative and negative sentences in English and Uzbek with a clear explanation. The given research also aims to describe the main lexical and semantic features of a relatively understudied sentence type (rhetoric) through the prism of structural components and to identify its most important semantic elements. The components of a rhetorical utterance constitute a single grammatical form that is subject to the expression of certain objective and subjective meanings and is reproduced in the utterance. The scope of negation extends both to the utterance as a whole and to its individual components. In this context, a distinction is made between general and special rhetorical expressions of negation, which differ in the degree of categorical negation.*

Keywords: *Rhetoric sentence, semantic, syntactic, grammatic interrogative, question, negative, construction, pragmatic, components, illocutionary, locutionary, proposition,*

1. Actuality

The relevance of the study of the rhetorical sentence and its interrogative and negative constructions in the comparative linguistic plane (in English, Russian, and Uzbek) lies primarily in the low level of knowledge of this syntactic-lexical element of discourse and language as a whole, despite the fact that lexicology and syntax are rather old branches of linguistic science. Rhetorical questions have been analyzed by logic and rhetoric since ancient times; for a long time, questions and rhetorical sentences have also been studied by stylistics, linguistic poetics, theoretical and practical grammar. In the 20th century, rhetorical questions became the object of attention of psychologists and linguists because of their contradiction with the archetypal features of interrogative sentences. Grammatology as a branch of linguistics also turned to the study of the nature and functional conditions of rhetorical questions, suggesting a contradiction between form (question) and content (all kinds of semantic content outside the question). In our opinion, the speaker's pragmatic attitude can bring some clarity into the understanding of the nature of interrogative/rhetorical sentences.

Interrogativeness as a universal language property, as a universal linguistic category, is inherent in all existing languages (Zhinkin 1955, Grozdev 1965, Rosenthal 1976, Gak 2000, Shmelev 2002, Paducheva 2010, Valgina N.S.). It is parallel to such mental procedures as affirmation and demand. Both in the classical and in the functionally oriented grammars of the Russian, German and French languages, the classification of sentences according to their

communicative orientation is indisputable and can be divided into three types: declarative, interrogative and imperative sentences. Interrogative sentences are characterized by the presentation of the "question" as a form of thought, and for narrative and incentive sentences - the presentation of



calls and incentives for judgment and action, respectively. Interrogative sentences have a long and fruitful tradition of research in domestic and foreign linguistics.

2. Aim

The aim of this article is to provide certain semantic and syntactic analyzes of the rhetorical sentence and its interrogative negative form, as well as to identify the most significant lexical-semantic, emotional-evaluative structural components, which distinguishes the rhetorical evaluation from all other types of sentences. The results of the investigation are also in the investigative analysis of rhetorical statements in Uzbek and English languages.

3. Materials And Methods

Speaking of the materials, used for organizing the given linguistic investigation, it's necessary to study formal and meaningful components, that are syntactic and semantic elements of a sentence. Formal-syntactic and meaningful-semantic components are a typological classification of interrogative sentences. The main element base of the typological classification of interrogative sentences is also formed by formal-syntactic and content-semantic components.

More recent linguists have focused their attention on the pragmatic characteristics of interrogative structures, focusing on functioning in discourse/speech, emphasizing situation and context. This method of linguistic analysis of interrogative constructions and discourse in general is fully suitable for the linguistic interpretation of linguistic signs according to K. Pais, V. Gak, who are the founders of semiotic science . Interrogative rhetorical constructions are the subject of stylistics. Just as with phonetics and grammar, including grammatically oriented stylistics, in which not the formal properties of interrogative sentences come to the fore, but their functions and extralinguistic possibilities. Formal signs of interrogative statements (constructions) in different time periods refer to the intonation design of speech, the sequence of its components (the syntactic structure of the interrogative sentence), linguistic means of expression, interrogative words, pronouns, particles and question marks (V. Zhinkin-1955, E. Grozdev-1965, Rosenthal- 1976-Shapkova-1989, Valgina-2000, Lekant- 2019, D. Gak 2001, etc.)

Based on the universality of language categories, in particular the category of interrogative sentences, foreign languages also distinguish such communicative sentences as interrogative sentences, the formal (lexical and grammatical) features of which are intonation, word order and lexical elements (particles, interrogative words). Of these features in Russian, only the order of the



components of a sentence is irrelevant as a grammatical means of expressing interrogative sentences, which is a feature of the syntactic structures of German, English and Uzbek languages. The researchers have defined questions as speech acts, established the status of an interrogative sentence as a unit of syntax, drew attention to its function and identified criteria for distinguishing between interrogative and rhetorical questions. In the article of the Russian psychologist N.I. Zhinkin "Questions and interrogative sentences" this type of sentence is considered within the framework of the typological classification of narrative-interrogative- inductive and the tasks facing linguistics at that time are indicated. The question posed in the title of the article, i.e. the interrogative sentence, as well as the delimitation and distinction of these formations, are crucial for determining the status of rhetorical questions; N.I. Zhinkin argues that interrogative sentences are understood as "a certain communicative goal, namely, inducing the interlocutor to answer the statement addressed to him" (Zhinkin 1955:23), and understands the interrogative sentence as a directly embodied thought. Grammatically, the scientist calls such sentences "sentences with a definite construction (Zhinkin 1955:23)". Like other sentences, he identifies interrogative sentences with judgments. Assuming that the use of special words (particles, conjunctions), certain sequences of words, certain intonation, etc., characteristic of interrogative sentences, is a condition for their existence, he specifies that there are interrogative sentences that do not satisfy these conditions. One more renowned English linguist Espersen O. noted about rhetorical compositeness of interrogative construction. He singles out such interrogative sentences into a separate group, which he calls rhetorical interrogative sentences .

In rhetoric, linguistics, psycholinguistics and formal logic, there is a long tradition of raising the question about the status of a question-answer. At this stage, summarizing the knowledge about the linguistic understanding of rhetorical interrogatives, two important points should be noted. In other words, rhetorical questions can be considered as a linguistic realization of the category of interrogative sentences. At the same time, most researchers who call rhetorical questions interrogative sentences emphasize their contradictory and ambiguous nature in relation to the communicative purpose of the question / request for information and, accordingly, the illocutionary potential of the interrogative sentence. They give rhetorical interrogative sentences a "secondary function" (Paducheva 2010, Gak 2000), P.A. Lekant speaks of "sentences that do not contain questions, but have interrogative forms" (Lekant 2019: 356), N.I. Zhinkin calls such quasi- interrogative sentences "rhetorical interrogative sentences" (Zhinkin 1955, Grozdev 1965), N.S. Valgin and D.E. Rosenthal



define the features of such constructions as "interrogative rhetorical sentences with affirmation or denial" (Valgina 2000) or "affirmation or denial in the form of a question that is not expected to be answered" (Valgina 2000), N.I. Zhinkin 1955, Grozdev 1965).

S.V. Valgin and D.E. Rosenthal, on the contrary, describe the features of such constructions as "interrogative rhetorical sentences with affirmation or negation" (Valgina 2000) or "interrogative rhetorical sentences with affirmation or negation in the form of a question to which no answer is expected" .

The methodological basis of this study is the syntactic, semantic, typological and structural analysis of the rhetorical sentence and its direct interrogative and negative discursive constructions. Many researchers note that the form of interrogative rhetoric is not consistent with the semantics of questions, hence the semantization of the interrogative form, i.e. rhetorical sentences can relate to the area of the question only in terms of formal grammatical parameters (intonation, the order of the components of the sentence, etc.).

In other words, the formal grammatical features of a rhetorical interrogative sentence correspond to the features of a proper interrogative sentence, but the semantic and communicative features of a rhetorical interrogative sentence are not an expression of interrogativeness. A similar point of view can be found in the works of American, British and German researchers (for example, R. Hudson 1975, Konrad 1978, 1982, Yu. Rudanko 1993). Indeed, Y. Rudanko states: "Rhetorical questions should not provoke answers, but in order to understand how rhetorical questions function as powerful arguments, it is useful to evaluate potential answers in terms of their form and meaning". T. Ballmer also sees the mismatch between the local (linguistic) means of questioning, the propositional attitude and the quasi-question statement as a linguistic problem. "The resolution of the problem posed by the question usually leads to a series of other related actions, such as an answer, a counter-question, or a refusal to continue" (Ballmer 1981: 13). The weakness of research on the semantics and pragmatics of rhetorical questions was also noted by the German researcher J. Schwitala. Schwitala emphasizes that "rhetorical questions do not express a demand for new knowledge and do not imply an answer, as many researchers have done": "Besides the fact that rhetorical questions do not express a demand for new knowledge, they do not imply an answer, as many researchers do, All this concerns the definition of a rhetorical question" (Schwitalla 1984: 133). Even if a consensus has been reached on the grammaticality of rhetorical questions, specific issues such as (1) the definition of the meaning of



rhetorical questions and (2) the mechanisms of decoding and attributing the meaning of rhetorical questions (the latter system of signification, the ambiguity of the referential relation of the literary text to reality, its aesthetic function and its specificity to a particular genre) are still a matter of debate today.

(One of the most difficult problems of our time is the problem of the genre-specificity of texts.) One of the most difficult problems of our time is the problem of identifying the linguistic units that represent the rhetorical features of the text in question. German linguists argue that in the case of rhetorical questions it is almost impossible to enumerate the linguistic signs of their rhetorical nature and that non-linguistic factors such as the communicative situation are more important for rhetorical questions to function well. The existence of this problem is also noted by

M.A. Krongauz. "Given the content of propositional attitudes and the categories involved, the problem of identifying and classifying the linguistic means of expressing propositional attitudes arises".

3. Results and Discussion

My scientific hypothesis assumes that for a successful understanding of rhetorical questions it is necessary to take into account the background knowledge, possible assumptions and inferences of the recipient along with the specific communicative situation. Therefore, when trying to explain the rhetorical nature of questions, it is useful to analyze not only the linguistic design of the question, i. e. the vernacular means, but also the semantics of the question, i. e. the propositional content. In our view, it is the illocutionary force and the illocutionary potential of the sentence, proposed by J. Searle and J. Austin, that play an important role in understanding and analyzing rhetorical questions. Therefore, it can be assumed that the problem can be successfully solved at the level of linguistic pragmatics rather than at the level of syntax and semantics. 'As an alternative approach to the reductionist analysis rejected for the reasons given above, we do not leave the problem of identifying illocutionary genres to syntax and semantics alone, but to the specifically pragmatic part of grammar, which deserves the name pragmatic analysis insofar as it accounts for the interaction of the components of expression, meaning and case. Presentation. [9, p. 88]. In other words, R. Conrad argues that the typification of speech acts is not based on the speech features and propositions made explicit by speech acts, but that speech and propositions are complemented by a third analytical component, the situation. One type of rhetorical question is so called "false question":



(1) If only! What is the use of making useless wishes forever? / And the years go by – the most beautiful years! (Lermontov M. Y. “And bored and sad”).

(2) To love: But to whom? Labor for time is worthless, / And it is impossible to love forever. (Lermontov M. Y. 'And bored and sad').

(3) What is emotion? - Sooner or later, its sweet torment / Will be destroyed by the word of reason. (Lermontov M. Yu. "And Bored and Sad").

(4) I am writing to you. / What else can you say? (Pushkin A. S. "Eugene Onegin").

(5) What do I want? For what purpose / I open my soul to you? (Pushkin AS. "Eugene Onegin").

(6) 'And who is the judge here? - Lyapkin-Tyapkin. - And send Lyapkin-Tyapkin here! " (Gogol N. V., “The Inspector”).

(7) Gorodnichii (In the heart). (What are you laughing at? - I laugh at myself! " (Gogol N. V., “The Inspector”).

(8) Artemy Filipovic (to the audience). And not witty. Yarmuk-covered pigs. Where is the pig covered in yarmoukette? (Gogol N.V., Inspector).

(9) Who are the judges - they draw their verdicts from forgotten newspapers / from the time of Ochakovsky and the conquest of Crimea (Griboyedov A.S., "Disaster Turns into Blessing"). The quoted rhetorical question is a precedent sentence, recognizable and obvious to the 'naive' reader.

Similar 'quasi-questions' can be found in Russian poetry:

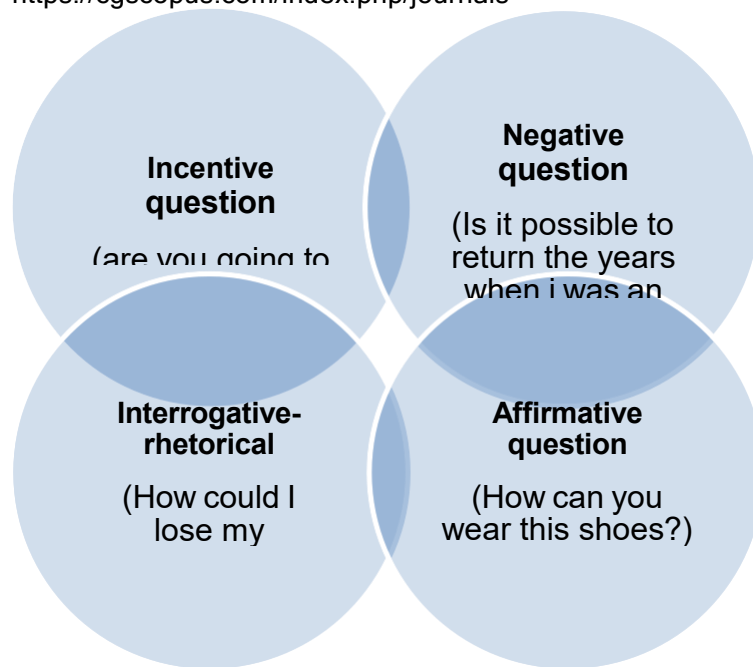
(What is this world of luxurious splendor? / What is our world of luxurious splendor? / Blurred traces are erased, / Lightning empties its tail in the empty night. P.R. Boyarsky) .

(2) 'Who will confess his corruption? / The tsar boasted of the greatness of his punishment, / Even when he almost nailed the psalmist to the wall with a spear, / Per. Mykushevich."

(3) "What: Should kites eat forget-me-not grass? / The jackal becomes a hare.

Summing up the mentioned above information, we can conclude that basically rhetorical questions can be of four types. They are:

Figure 1.



As can be seen, the grammatical meaning of the question is weakened. The hero of the eponymous lyric asks himself a question, the answer to which is found in the question itself or in the answer that follows it. Structurally, interrogative rhetoric has a two-part structure. The first component of the statement is the question posed by the lyric hero to an imaginary reader or to himself, which is justified by the criteria of idiomatic design (the presence of question words, sentence punctuation, the order of sentence components). The exemplified propositions are also not esoteric and the reader will undoubtedly solve the question sentence rhetorically, in particular as a 'half/false question'. In this case, a sentence with question structure and semantics can be said to represent a hidden judgment.

The attribution that rhetorical sentences are condensed, expressive units containing 'hidden' negation is only the most common. Negation is the essence of a rhetorical sentence, its formally expressed meaning. Besides this, different rhetorical models contain a bright palette of modal, emotional and evaluative meanings. Their degree varies from specific negation to general negation (cumulative negation). The scope of negation also varies. What is negated is what is unacceptable in terms of the speaker's rational, emotional, ethical or aesthetic attitude. In rhetorical speech, the proposition as a whole or individual elements of the proposition are negated. Negation is motivated by various reasons that take place in different speech situations and are conditioned by the speaker's



specific intentions. Negations are the result of life observations, personal life experiences or generalizations of others' experiences, personal contradictions, conflicts of interest, evaluations and reevaluations. Denial is a disagreement, contradiction, objection or refutation of the other person's or one's own claims, opinions or beliefs that occurs before the moment of denial. All these elements are reflected in rhetorical expressions within the general semantics of negation. Negation in rhetorical expressions is a complex set of modal, emotional, evaluative, interrelated, interdependent and intertwined meanings that are united by the meaning of negation.

Let's take the semantics of negation in the Uzbek language as an lexical example in the native language. A comprehensive list of verbs shares this structural-semantic peculiarity: “qochmoq” – to avoid (colloq.), “e'tiroz bildirish”-challenge, “rad qilish” – to reject, “ishontirish” - to bring over, “ajratmoq”- to secede, “inkor etish” - уклоняться(colloq.), “janjallashish” - to dispute, to quarrel (colloq.), “qoralamoq” – to condemn (literary) “zid etish” – противоречить (literary).

- Authenticity and Realism: Our analysis demonstrates how argotisms are utilized in literary works, films, and other forms of art to create authentic and realistic portrayals of characters, settings, and dialogue. They facilitate the portrayal of specific social groups or time periods with accuracy .

1. Sociolinguistic Significance:

- Social Identity Markers: Argotisms serve as markers of group membership and social identity. Our findings indicate that specific argotisms are associated with particular social groups or subcultures, allowing individuals to signal their affiliation and establish a sense of belonging.
- Resistance and Countercultural Expression: Certain argotisms are employed as a form of resistance against mainstream language norms, challenging societal conventions and expressing countercultural ideas. They can be utilized to subvert or redefine existing linguistic and social hierarchies .

2. Language Variation and Change:

- Impact on Grammar and Syntax: Our analysis suggests that argotisms can lead to changes in grammar and syntax. They often introduce new syntactic patterns or alter existing ones within specific social groups. These changes reflect the dynamic nature of language and its capacity to adapt and evolve.
- Semantic Shifts: Argotisms contribute to semantic shifts, where words acquire new meanings or



nuances within particular contexts or communities. These shifts influence the ways in which words are used grammatically and contribute to language variation.

The results of our study provide valuable insights into the lexico-stylistic functions of argotisms in the English language. The findings highlight how argotisms expand vocabulary, enhance expressiveness, reflect social identities, and contribute to language variation and change.

4. Conclusion

As we have already understood, a rhetorical sentence, both in a negative form and in an interrogative construction, carries not so much a lexical and semantic foundation, but more of an emotional and evaluative background. The mentioned above lingual examples clearly demonstrate the communicative intention and purpose of the interrogative sentence as a poetic expression clearly contradicts the similar attitude of the interrogative sentence as a form of thought and its linguistic realization. This fact allows them to be called rhetorical interrogative sentences, since the author's intention is different from the interrogative sentence and the author's communicative intention is not to get an answer from the listener. Thus, rhetorical questions, a controversial phenomenon in classical and modern linguistics, are more dependent on background knowledge about the recipient, situation and context than other types of questions, and their formally uncontroversial analysis is characterized by contextual and extra-linguistic conditionality in semantic and pragmatic terms.

As for the negative syntactic-semantic components of rhetoric sentences are concerned, it should be added that the semantic tones of negative rhetoric are realized in the same way as the semantic tones specific to the vocabulary containing the holistic meanings of negation and the vocabulary containing the holistic meanings of emotional states. The components of a rhetorical sentence form a single grammatical form that is reproduced in speech depending on the expression of certain objective and subjective meanings [12, p. 53]. The scope of negation extends to the whole utterance as well as to its individual components. In this context, a distinction is made between general and special rhetoric of negation with different degrees of categorical negation.



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