



## THE USAGE OF SATIRICAL EXPRESSIONS IN POLITICAL DISCOURSE

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**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada, satira va satirik birikmalarning siyosiy nutqlarda qanday ishlatilishi, ularning o'zgaruvchan jamiyatdagi roli va kuchli tanqidiy vosita sifatida ahamiyati o'rganiladi. Satira ([lotincha](#): satira- qurama) komiklik turi, tasvir obyektni ayovsiz kulgi vositasi orqali anglash. Voqelikni badiiy aks ettirishning o'ziga xos usuli bo'lib, unda jamiyatdagi bema'ni, asossiz, noto'g'ri hodisalar, illatlar fosh qilinadi.

**Abstract.** In this article, the use of satire and satirical expressions in political speeches, their role in a changing society, and their importance as a powerful critical tool will be explored. Satire (from Latin: satira — mixture) is a form of comedy, a method of understanding the object of depiction through merciless humor. It is a distinctive way of artistically reflecting reality, in which the senseless, baseless, and incorrect phenomena, and vices in society are exposed.

**Аннотация.** В этой статье будет исследовано использование сатиры и сатирических выражений в политических речах, их роль в изменяющемся обществе и их важность как мощного критического инструмента. Сатира (от лат. satira — смесь) — это вид комедии, метод восприятия объекта изображения через беспощадный смех. Это своеобразный способ художественного отражения реальности, в котором



*разоблачаются бессмысленные, необоснованные, неправильные явления и пороки в обществе.*

**Keywords.** *Satire, satirical expressions, J. Kennedy, B. Obama, Th. Roosevelt, D. Trump.*

**Introduction.** Political discourse, often a battlefield of competing ideologies and carefully crafted rhetoric, sometimes takes an unexpected turn: satire. From biting cartoons to witty remarks, satirical expressions have long been a weapon (or shield) of choice in the political arena, offering a unique, albeit often controversial, lens through which to view power, policy, and personality. But what is the true impact of this razor's edge, and is its usage a sign of a healthy democracy or a descent into unproductive cynicism?

At its core, satire uses humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues. It acts as a societal pressure valve, allowing citizens to voice dissent and challenge authority in a manner that can be both entertaining and thought-provoking. Think of Jon Stewart skewering political hypocrisy on "The Daily Show," or political cartoons depicting world leaders as caricatures of their perceived flaws. These are examples of satire at work, holding a mirror up to power and forcing uncomfortable truths into the light.

One of the key benefits of satirical expressions in political discourse is their accessibility. While complex policy debates can often be dense and inaccessible to the average citizen, satire can distill these issues into easily digestible, often humorous, narratives. This can lead to increased public awareness and engagement with political topics, particularly among younger audiences who may be more receptive to humor-based content. Furthermore, satire can empower marginalized groups to challenge dominant narratives and give voice to alternative perspectives.



By using humor to subvert established power structures, satirical expressions can create a sense of solidarity and collective action.

However, the use of satire in political discourse is not without its drawbacks. One significant concern is the potential for misinterpretation. Satire often relies on irony and exaggeration, which can be easily missed, leading to the perpetuation of misinformation or the reinforcement of existing biases.

Moreover, satire can be accused of trivializing serious issues. By reducing complex problems to simple jokes or caricatures, it may discourage nuanced thinking and contribute to a climate of political cynicism. Critics argue that relentless satire can desensitize the public to real-world problems and foster a sense of helplessness, discouraging meaningful action.

The ethical implications of satire are also worth considering. While satire often aims to expose wrongdoing and hold powerful figures accountable, it can also be used to target individuals or groups with personal attacks and harmful stereotypes. The line between legitimate criticism and malicious defamation can be blurry, particularly in the context of political satire, where the stakes are often high.

Ultimately, the value of satirical expressions in political discourse lies in their ability to provoke critical thinking and challenge established power structures. However, its effectiveness depends on the audience's ability to understand the intent and nuances of the satire, as well as the speaker's ethical responsibility to avoid perpetuating misinformation or causing undue harm. In a world increasingly saturated with information and misinformation, the razor's edge of satire must be wielded with caution and a keen awareness of its potential impact, both positive and negative. A healthy democracy requires both serious deliberation and the occasional, well-aimed satirical jab. The main purpose of satire is to encompass criticism, encourage reflection, and present serious issues in a light or humorous way. Satirical expressions are words or phrases used in the creation of satire, which



are applied in a unique, humorous, or serious manner. These expressions are often used with a critical and humorous point of view towards social or political situations, or the mistakes of individuals or groups. They are commonly used to present serious issues in a light and engaging way.

Satire is not just a source of laughter; it is a powerful social and political tool that helps bring about change. Politicians, public figures, and artists use satire and satirical expressions in their speeches to draw attention to important societal issues. American presidents have frequently used satire and satirical expressions in their speeches. For example, Senator John Kennedy went after President Joe Biden during a speech at CPAC on Thursday. “My God, President Biden has been spectacularly awful,” Kennedy said after naming several of Biden’s policy areas like inflation and the border. He used short and humorous satirical expressions to criticize outstanding figures and opponents in politics. Additionally, Barack Obama criticized his political opponents through humor and satire, encouraging the public to reflect and urging them to think critically. For example, “This weird obsession with crowd size”. Obama made a “size” joke about Donald Trump.

Moreover, Theodore Roosevelt sometimes criticized his opponents with satirical expressions in his political speeches, offering humorous comments on political changes. In his speeches, satire served as a tool to highlight political competition and social injustice in society. “You’ve made this Grizzly look like a hairy cow” .

Satire in the speeches of presidents was used not only to criticize their opponents but also to draw attention to many social issues in society. Through satire, they expressed their political positions or important societal issues in a unique and light-hearted manner. The main aim of using satire in presidential speeches is to make the public reflect, especially encouraging broader thinking on political or social matters. Through satirical expressions, they not only created



humor but also uncovered complex or unreasonable decisions in political discourse. For instance, when Donald Trump referred to his political opponents as “Fake news,” he not only made a joke but also drew public attention to social issues in politics and encouraged reflection on those matters.

Trump’s self-congratulatory boasts about [what his return to the White House would mean for the nation were especially over-the-top](#). He dubbed the day of his inauguration as “a day of liberation.” He declared that “our golden age has just begun” and that “we stand on the verge of the four greatest years in American history.” His assertion that he seeks to be “a peacemaker and a unifier” was a real knee slapper. Trump made one claim that was singular, something never stated by any past president. Alluding to the assassin’s bullet that nicked his ear during the presidential campaign, Trump said, “I was saved by God to make America great again.”

An essential facet of Lincoln the man—and a huge contributor to his political success—was his witty, folksy humor and his talent for mimicry. An inveterate storyteller, Lincoln skillfully spun up puns, jokes, aphorisms and yarns to offset dicey social and political situations, ingratiate himself with hostile audiences, endear himself with the common man and separate himself from political opponents. As a [lawyer](#), Lincoln always made a point to speak plainly to the judge and jury, avoiding obscure or high-minded legal jargon. One day in court, another lawyer quoted a legal maxim in Latin, then asked Lincoln to affirm it. His response: “If that’s Latin, you had better call another witness.”

Moreover, Ronald Reagan used humor to take the sharp edge off serious messages, and he also used it to alleviate the hurt of detractors. Reagan’s age was the subject of many jokes during his presidency, and in a famous moment during the October 28, 1984, presidential debate with former Vice President Walter Mondale, President Reagan spun the issue in his own favor, deadpanning, “I want



you to know that also I will not make age an issue of this campaign. I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience." In another instance, he noted, "Thomas Jefferson once said, 'We should never judge a president by his age, only by his works.' And ever since he told me that, I stopped worrying."

In addition, satire encompasses several primary genres and styles: **Feuilleton**: Originating from the French word "feuilleton" (feuille — sheet, leaf), this is a literary-journalistic genre that addresses social issues through satire and humor, aiming for social critique. Feuilletons can be categorized into two types based on their purpose and objectives

**1. Fact-based Feuilleton**: Focuses on specific incidents, highlighting individual social flaws or shortcomings in activities. Examples include Furqat's "Hind nayrangbozi Yorkentda" and Abdulla Qodiriy's "Toshkent boylari."

**2. General Feuilleton**: Addresses broader social vices, flaws, and problems, offering satirical reflections and critiques on these matters. Notable examples are Abdulla Qodiriy's "Kalvak mahzumning xotira daftaridan" and Abdulla Qahhor's "Quyushqon."

Parody involves imitating the style of a well-known work or individual in a humorous manner to highlight the original's shortcomings. Irony utilizes the contrast between the literal meaning and the intended meaning to convey criticism. Exaggeration (Hyperbole) entails amplifying certain characteristics of an event or person to evoke humor.

Furthermore, satire holds significant socio-political importance: **Social Critique**: Through satire, injustices, inequities, and vices within society are exposed, prompting authors to encourage societal changes. **Political Critique**: By ridiculing politicians and their decisions, satire highlights their flaws, invigorates





political discourse, and enhances citizens' political awareness. Aesthetic Function: Satire serves to awaken and restore noble human emotions, standing in opposition to baseness, ignorance, and other social vices. Educational Function: Authors utilize satire to shed light on societal issues, urging readers to remain vigilant and fostering a sense of social responsibility.

**Conclusion.** In this article, the use of satire and satirical expressions in political speeches is analyzed. Satire has found its place not only as a source of humor but also as a powerful critical tool in political discourse. In presidential speeches, satire is often used to highlight social issues, criticize political opponents, and provoke public reflection. For example, politicians such as Barack Obama, John F. Kennedy, and Donald Trump have used satire and satirical expressions in their speeches, which proved to be effective tools for achieving their political goals and influencing the public. As a result, satire is widely used in political speeches, not only to criticize in a humorous manner but also to draw attention to serious social and political issues.

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