THE DIFFICULTIES OF DIFFERENTIATION OF APHORISM AS A SPEECH GENRE

Abstract

The article deals with the differential features of aphorisms (the presence of words-concepts in the structure, certification, reproducibility, brevity). The complexity of the linguistic and literary characterization of aphorisms still does not allow us to offer an unambiguous definition, the question of the nature of aphorisms remains debatable. Aphorism as a speech genre has its own peculiarities; it must be distinguished from the genres of literature, such as pun, fable, parable, essay, and joke. The methodological basis of the study is the functional study of aphorisms.

Keywords: aphorism as a speech genre, pun, differential features of aphorism.
subject matter of aphorisms, but also a coincidence of traditional views on their possible resolution in ancient and modern authors.

For example, about love:

To love means to wish for another what you consider good, and to wish not for your own sake, but for the sake of the one you love, and to try to give him this good as much as possible (Aristotle).

 Любить – значит жить жизнью того, кого любишь. To love is to live the life of the one you love (L. N. Tolstoy).

Or, about respect for parents:

Love for parents is the foundation of all virtues (Cicero).

 Любовь и уважение к родителям, без всякого сомнения, есть чувство святое. (Love and respect for parents, without any doubt, is a sacred feeling) (V. G. Belinsky).

It should be noted that the research material is presented in the Dictionary of Aphorisms of Russian Writers [4].

Methods and principles of research: semantic analysis of the corpus of aphorisms recorded in the Dictionary of Aphorisms of Russian Writers [4], as well as in the Super-Almanac of Folk Aphorisms. The Golden Series [8]. When extracting aphorisms from literary texts, to fix them in the dictionary, the method of selecting key words-concepts in the composition of the utterance was used.

Text of article

Aphorisms and puns

Puns, like paradoxes, should be distinguished from aphorisms, although there are very strong links between them. Of course, unlike the situation with the paradox, there is no indication that puns are considered a kind of aphorism. However, there is no indication of the fundamental difference between these phenomena.

Like the lexical unit "paradox", "pun" is interpreted in the dictionary of M. I. Mikhelson Russian Thought and Speech. Your Own and Someone Else's. Experience of Russian Phraseology. The author defines a pun as a play on words and gives numerous examples of the use of this lexeme in speech. As in the case of the paradox, the pun is not interpreted by M. I. Michelson as a term. The terminological nature of the pun was discussed later. In the dictionary of M. I. Mikhelson, a historical and etymological reference to the birth of this lexical unit and various hypotheses of its origin are given. However, unlike the dictionary entry on the paradox, the entry on the pun provides an example of this phenomenon itself.

The pun belongs to N. A. Nekrasov:

Вперед играть решительно
Не буду в преферанс!
Я – правилами строг!
В нем «взятки брать» приходится,
Извини меня Бог!
(In the future I will not play decisively
The game of preference!
I am strict with the rules!
In it, "taking bribes" is necessary,
God save me!) [7, P. 408].

In the Literary Encyclopedic Dictionary (1987), a pun is defined as "a play on words, the use of polysemy, homonymy or sound similarity of words in order to achieve a comic effect" [6, P. 145].

In the encyclopedic dictionary-reference book Expressive Means of the Russian Language and Speech Errors and Shortcomings (2005), the phenomenon of pun is investigated and interpreted in more detail. A pun is defined as "a kind of language game with a comic effect, which has stylistic figures as its constructive core, those are based on such paradigmatic relations in the vocabulary as polysemy, homonymy, antonymy and paronymy (in a broad sense, including paronomasia)” [10, P.149]. Then a classification of puns built on the basis of appearance is provided. All puns are divided into polysemic, homonymic, antonymic, and paronymic.

An example of a polysemic pun: Соль жизни в том, что она не сахар. (Interlinear translation: The tag line of life is that it is not sugar. In Russian “соль” (sol’) means 1) salt, 2) a tag line, e.g. “the tag line of a story”. Literary translation: The spice of life is that it is not sugar.)

An example of a homonymic pun: Раньше в нашей стране все решали деды, а теперь – «бабки». (Interlinear translation: Some years ago everything was decided by grandfathers in our country, and now – by "grandmothers". In Russian «бабки» (babki) means: 1) grandmothers, 2) (slang) money).

An example of an antonymic pun: Была бы жизнь дешевле – цены бы ей не было. (If life were cheaper, it would be priceless).

An important and convincing statement of the author of this dictionary entry, A. P. Skvorodnikov, is the thesis that "word-formation and phraseological contamination can have a punning character in cases where it is based on the corresponding paradigmatic relations” [10, P. 150]. A. P. Skvorodnikov gives examples of the most interesting for us punning phraseological contamination.

Красота – дело нашивное. Это точно знает хирург-косметолог Римма Евтушова, ведь свое лицо она сделала сама. (Interlinear translation: Beauty is a sewn-on thing. This is exactly what the cosmetic surgeon Rimma Yevtyushova knows, because she made her own face. In Russian there is a phonetic similarity between the words “нашивной” (“nashivnoj”), sewn-
In this case, we see that a pun can be used within the framework of phraseology, this trait is common to a pun and an aphorism. Despite the fact that puns are characterized by ambiguity, they can contain quite serious, important and even wise judgments in a witty and entertaining form. This trait brings together puns and aphorisms.

For example: "Пчелы сперва садятся, а потом берут взятки, в отличие от некоторых людей, которые взятки берут, но не садятся. (Interlinear translation: Bees sit down first, and then take bribes, unlike some people who take bribes, but do not go to prison. In Russian "сидятся" ("sadit’s’a", sit down) also means "go to jail"). Literary translation: Bees first spend time on the flowers, and then take bribes, unlike some people who take bribes, but do not do time in jail at all) (I. A. Krylov)."
Therefore, puns can be considered part of the aphoristics.

**Conclusion**

Aphorism is an ambivalent phenomenon, it requires different grounds for research. At present, there is a philosophical and literary understanding of aphorisms, a literary-journalistic and literary-artistic interpretation of aphorisms, etc.

We believe that aphorisms, both as a speech genre and as a language genre, should be studied from a linguistic point of view within the framework of phraseology. There are still several problems to be resolved, for example, the relationship of aphorisms and such phenomena as maxim, gnome, apophthegma, chria, which M. L. Gasparov considered to be the constituent structural parts of aphorism. [6, P. 43].

"We can assume that in aphoristics as a philological discipline, a systematic scientific view of aphorism is gradually being outlined – a linguistic one, which has every reason to develop into an independent field of knowledge about aphorisms, which can be defined as linguistic aphoristics" [3, P. 125].

**References**