
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Irony in Storytelling of Two Short Stories, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Story of an Hour"

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| ABSTRACT

This paper is wholly designed to discuss the use of Irony in two famous classic short stories: Rip Van Winkle and The Story of an Hour. The two stories used Irony as a literary device in many positions to add a sense of humor and surprise in the reader's perception. Irony could take three shapes, as literature usually explains. Irony could be verbal, situational, or dramatic. Two types of these appeared in the two stories as literary devices and added a sense of weirdness and humor as expected when using Irony. Irony is widely applied as a useful literary device. This paper stresses the point that the two short stories, The Story of an Hour and Rip Van Winkle, use irony as a literary device. The paper used discourse analysis as a means to study Irony in the two stories. This paper depends on making a full survey of uses of irony in through different aspects. Subtitles are used separately to explain how examples of irony appeared in each short story. Content analysis was made to define each position of irony in the two stories. The conclusion explained that irony was used as a literary device and defined different positions of different types of irony in the two stories. Irony added a sense of humor and weirdness to the two stories and created excitement in Storytelling to prove its effectiveness as a literary device.

| KEYWORDS

Literary devices, verbal Irony, situational Iron, dramatic irony

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

Even in usual dialogue, discussions, and narration of life everyday stories, people find it luring and funny to have a piece of humor, surprise, and conflicting feelings. It is fair to admit that humans have this tendency to weirdness, absurdity and bitter humor. This may stem from the reality that a human feels he lives in this life, moving between feelings of tragedy and happiness. Therefore, humans interact with the idea of irony.

The word 'Irony' reflects these conflicting emotions of humans. It involves, according to definitions of this word, a mix of strange, surprise, weird, and unexpected. Hence, the meaning of the word 'Irony' could be understood in a wide range of expected and unexpected synonymous. This may be the reason for using irony as a literary device in almost all writings. The effectiveness of irony as a literary device depends on the reader's expectations and understanding of disparity.

The most common purpose of using irony is to create humor and/or point out to absurdity of life. Irony generally makes us laugh, even when the circumstances are tragic. We laugh not because the situations are tragic but because they violate our expectations. The contrast between people's expectations and the reality of the situation is not only funny but also meaningful because it calls our attention to how wrong human beings can be. The best Irony is that one creates a better, deeper understanding of the wisdom behind what is said.

The three main types of Irony are verbal, dramatic, and situational. Verbal irony expresses contradiction by saying the speaker said something while, in fact, aims to say something different. In dramatic irony, the audience know things that the characters do not know. Situational irony refers to circumstances that turn out to be the reverse of what is expected or considered appropriate. Essentially, verbal and situational irony are each a violation of a reader's expectations and conventional knowledge. When it comes to verbal irony, the reader may be expecting a character's statement or response to be one thing, but it turns out to be the opposite. For situational irony, the reader may anticipate an event's outcome in one way, though it turns out to happen in a completely different way.

Dramatic Irony is more of a vicarious violation of expectations or knowledge. In other words, the reader/audience is aware of pertinent information or circumstances of which the actual characters are not. Therefore, the reader is left in suspense or conflict until the situation or information is revealed to the characters involved. For example, a reader may be aware of a superhero's true identity, whereas other characters may not know that information. Dramatic irony allows a reader the advantage of knowing or understanding something that a particular character or group of characters does not. The importance of this study stems from the importance of irony as a literary device.

2. Literature Review

Rip Van Winkle and The Story of an Hour are two classic literary works. The two short stories reflect the developing style of writing in the USA during that period. Plots in these two stories are considered in the middle east nowadays as examples of literary works suitable for teaching students of language studies how plot and culture were presented at that period of time. These two stories are funny and rich in implications to the degree that me (the researcher) find it a useful example of studying irony in literature and how it shapes axial perception in building attractive stories through the ages, not just nowadays.

Irony is classified, according to linguistics books, into three types: verbal Irony often stems from an unexpected, while situational irony is defined as an unexpected outcome. An example of situational irony is when you tell a rude customer to "have a nice day" to say while you are walking into an empty theater, "it's too crowded". An example of situational Irony is when you state during a thunderstorm, "Beautiful weather we're having", or A fire station that burns A t-shirt with a "Buy American" logo that is made in China, or when Marriage counselor divorcing the third wife. The third type of irony is dramatic irony, which is connected with literary work. It happens when a reader knows something that the character doesn't know. This is actually made by an author who chooses to give the reader a piece of information while the character is blind mind.

The word irony comes from the Greek eiron, "dissembler in speech". In modern English, the term usually refers to speech incidents in which the intended meaning of the word is contrary to the literal interpretation.

The word irony, as a noun, is defined by some dictionaries as the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect. Another definition refers to it as a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often amusing as a result.

Irony (pronounced 'eye-run-ee') is when there are two contradicting meanings of the same situation, event, image, sentence, phrase, or story. In many cases, this refers to the difference between expectations and reality. Irony is often used for critical or humorous effect in literature, music, art, and film (or a lesson). Dialog in the literary text may involve various irony types to express different feelings. Here, the writer feels that it is useful or may be necessary to add a sense of surprise inside the receiver. Such impress on emotions may create the creativity of literary text to have a convincing message and accepted idea.

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Irony is extremely useful as a plot device. Readers, beholders, and all audiences are actually attracted to movies, novels, plays, and all literary work because of the nice plot that is basically built on the plot. When examining irony as a literary device, you see how irony has a crucial effect in building a gorgeous plot. Readers and all audiences understand and feel the effect of irony. Audiences of TV, theatre, and all drama shows expect a taste of irony when watching such a show.

In *The Wizard of Oz* (L. Frank Baum), the characters already have what they are asking for from the wizard; there is obvious irony when asking for what you already have. Another example is in *Oedipus Rex* (Sophocles); here, Oedipus is searching for a murderer who, it turns out, is himself. Another example in *The Cask of Amontillado* (Edgar Allan Poe): the character "Fortunato" meets with a very unfortunate fate. The irony here is unexpected.

We all time see examples of irony in real life. Funny example of irony to know that Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the official name for fear of long words. Many people claimed and/or believed that the Titanic was an "unsinkable" ship. George H.W. Bush reportedly stated, "I have opinions of my own, strong opinions, but I don't always agree with them.". We see such kind of conflicting ideas in the short: *The Story of an Hour*", as Louise Mallard has such ideas about herself.

Overall, as a literary device, irony functions as a means of portraying a contrast or discrepancy between appearance and reality. This is effective for readers in that irony can create humor and suspense, as well as showcase character flaws or highlight central themes in a literary work.

It's essential that writers bear in mind that their audience must have an understanding of the discrepancy between appearance and reality in their work. Otherwise, the sense of irony is lost and ineffective. Therefore, it's best to be aware of the reader or viewer's expectations of reality in order to create an entirely different and unexpected outcome.

Irony in various forms is a powerful plot device. Unexpected events or character behaviors can create suspense for readers, heighten the humor in a literary work, or leave a larger impression on an audience. As a plot device, irony allows readers to re-evaluate their knowledge, expectations, and understanding. Therefore, writers can call attention to themes in their work while simultaneously catching their readers off-guard.

As a literary device, irony does not only reveal unexpected events or plot twists. It serves to showcase disparity in the behavior of characters, making them far more complex and realistic. Irony can also reveal preconceptions on the part of an audience by challenging their assumptions and expectations. In this sense, it is an effective device for writers.

Although irony encapsulates several things including situations, expressions, and actions, sarcasm only involves the use of language that is in the shape of comments. Whereas irony could be non-insulting for people, sarcasm essentially means ridiculing somebody or even insulting somebody. Therefore, it is fair to state that although sarcasm could be a part of an element of irony, irony is a broad term encompassing several items or ingredients of other devices.

The irony is a literary device that can add a sense of humor, absurdity, weirdness or excitement to the reader's perception. A reader usually feels that he is attracted to literary work while enjoying the incidents of the story. The incidents may create something beyond expectations. They add a feeling of excitement for something beyond expecting, or when the reader knows something the character doesn't know, which are the types of irony.

This study will examine the three types of irony in the two short stories *Rip Van Winkle* and *The Story of an Hour*. The three types of irony are Verbal, situational, and dramatic. Verbal irony occurs when a character says one thing but means the opposite. Verbal irony is also called sarcasm or being sarcastic. For example, middle school students smell especially good on days when they have conditioning. Situational Irony takes place when an outcome is completely unexpected. Example: just before he was shot, General Sedgwick proclaimed, "They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance.". Dramatic irony occurs when the reader understands more about the events of the story than a character. Dramatic irony is, therefore, when you know something that a character doesn't. Example: Timothy cheats on his history test. His parents are proud of his vastly improved grade.

Components of irony are sarcasm, ambiguity, subtlety, and contradiction. Sarcasm is saying the opposite of what is meant for humorous or cruel intent. Some people are characterized as having a sense of humor. Ambiguity is having the property of being able to be understood in more than one way. You say what you mean in a way that could be explained in many ways. So, some people may misunderstand you, and others may expand what you say. Subtlety is the quality of being difficult to understand or

perceive. When you have a coated way of saying what you mean, some people find it difficult to guess what you exactly mean. Contradiction happens when a situation occurs while circumstances are inconsistent or contrary to each other. Such an unexpected situation creates excitement and makes the reader eager to know more. Writing a story, even when it is a short one, is a creative art that requires special technique. The author's mindset grants him an appreciation of the audience when narrating in a special way, using the device of irony to gain appreciation and recognition. Storytelling is the art of telling a story. Storytelling should create a state of excitement that makes the reader eager to finish the story as fast as possible because of that excitement. This study examined the two original scripts of the two stories. Irony is widely known as a literary device; this paper examined how far it is used in the two stories Rip Van Winkle and The Story of an Hour, and how this participated in building the plot in the two stories, and how fun a surprise was added in the two stories through this device.

3. Methodology

The methodology that was used in this research paper is descriptive analysis. The researcher basically followed the content analysis method by making a full scan of the text of the two stories, Rip Van Winkle and The Story of an Hour. The researcher examined all sentences and phrases in the two texts to find positions of using Irony. After that, define the positions of using irony and what type of irony is in each phrase in the scripts of the two stories. Then, rewrote these phrases and sentences in full content analysis and explained why they involved irony and what type of irony was in each position. The researcher then used these results to decide to what extent irony was used in the two stories, Rip Van Winkle and The Story of an Hour.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Irony in Storytelling of "The Story of an Hour"

The first story that was discussed in this paper is the short story titled "The Story of an Hour", which is a short story written by Kate Chopin on April 19, 1894. It was originally published in Vogue on December 6, 1894, as "The Dream of an Hour". It was later reprinted in St. Louis Life on January 5, 1895, as "The Story of an Hour". "The Story of an Hour" tells about the period of time when Louise heard about her husband Brently, till she found out that he was still alive. This short period of time is about an hour. The irony stems from the contradicted, complicated feeling of Louise as a wife who has lived under the control of her husband. The irony is used in the general idea of this story, but the dialog doesn't involve the types of verbal irony that we usually see in novels and scenarios of the movie. But this short story involves other types of irony as a literary device. Louise's complicated emotions appeared in her viewpoint of her life with her husband.

The story is based on the idea that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart disease. Her sister was trying to inform her of the bad news that her husband died. Louise thought that it was the beginning of a period of relief, while her sister Josephine was worried because she thought that her sisters loved her husband so deeply to the degree that the news of his death could cause her heart failure.

Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, to tell them the news. Mallard's name leads the list of "killed. Louise was not that shocked when she heard the news. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When she came downstairs, she was shocked by the sudden return of her husband; then, she died later because of heart failure.

The irony at the end of the story is when Louise Mallard dies when she knows that her husband has appeared before her, and she knows that her dreams of liberty have vanished away. She died minutes later because of heart failure, not because of the joy of the coming back of her husband.

Irony in the storytelling of the short story "The Story of an Hour" exists and is present in depicting the contracted, complicated emotions of Louise Mallard after hearing the news of her husband's death. As the story was very short, the author wasted no time telling the reader about the problem of the story of how to tell Mrs Mallard about her husband's death.

While reading the short story "The Story of an Hour", you feel the irony in the way that the main character, Louise Mallard think, and how her contradicted complicated emotions make her have different ideas about herself.

The American author Kate Chopin, who wrote this short story, is considered a feminist. The main topic of the story, which was published in 1894, is the Irony in Louise Mallard's feelings when she learnt about her husband's death.

The creative building of "The Story of an Hour" appeared in the short distance between the room and downstairs, where she died just after making a few steps. The whole setting space is between Louise's room and downstairs. She died of heart failure, but not because of surprise joy. The reader would be surprised by her sudden death while descending the stairs .

This situational irony is also evident in her death because her dreams of freedom vanished away, not because of the safe return of her husband. While the truth is that she died as a result of heart failure because of sadness, not joy, opposite to the doctor's expectation. The irony here is dramatic because the reader knows what the character doesn't know.

Here, we find situational and dramatic Irony. The death of Louise Mallard is because of sadness, where she is supposed to die of sudden joy, but the reader knows the truth. The message about the moment of death is really genius. It is that when the moment of death comes, the reason may be different than what you expect.

4.2 Irony in Storytelling of the Short Story Rip Van Winkle

The second story that was examined in this paper was published in 1819. It is the short story "Rip Van Winkle" was written by the author Washington Irving. The protagonist of the story, Rip Van Winkle, is a lazy, angry man. He suffered the dominance of his shrew wife. He left his home one day to near the mountain; he suddenly went into deep sleep after taking a drink. He slept for 20 years to find out that life changed far after this long period of time.

Irony was used in this story as a literary device to depict how the people of the village were looking at Rip and how he was received by his family. They also cast a glance at the changes that happened after the Revolution.

The story of Rip Van Winkle begins with a description of the story setting; the author depicts Rip as a simple, good-natured fellow. He was angry with his shrew wife. Rip lived in a village near Catskill Mountain. One day, he went hunting till he reached the uphill mountain; he met a man who gave him a drink, and he became so intoxicated that he fell asleep for 20 years.

He woke up after the American Revolution. He returned to his home to find that his wife died, and no one recognized him at first. The people of the village gathered around him, and he then began to ask them questions. They finally knew that he was their grandfather Rip, who left the village one day and didn't come back. He found his daughter and grandson and began to narrate his story to the new generation.

Storytelling in the short story Rip Van Winkle makes you eager to keep reading this story. The description of the story setting in the beginning was fascinating. Telling of a lazy man facing the anger of his wife encourages the reader to keep reading.

Dramatic Irony is evident here as the reader knows that Rip slept for a long time while Rip himself didn't know. Situational irony in storytelling is also obvious when the author describes Rip as a fellow who was descended from the Van Winkles family but did not have the characteristics of his ancestors. He was a lazy, disappointed man.

Situational Irony was shown in sympathy he found from men, not disdain because he was under the suppression of his shrew wife. Some readers may find this strange as they may think he deserves disdain. Here, we find a gap between expectations and reality as a situational Irony. Here situational Irony when the author described Rip's termagant, shrew wife, as another reason which gave him compassion and popularity among men.

Situational Irony in Storytelling was also obvious when Rip acquainted by chance when a woman remembered Rip Van Winkle as a man who disappeared twenty years ago when he "went away from home with his gun and never has been heard of since". Then he knew that his wife was dead.

Situational Irony in the Storytelling of Rip Van Winkle was obviously told when Rip finally knew that the woman he was talking to was his daughter, so he told her that he was her father. An old woman acquainted with Rip Van Winkle finally made him known by his family.

Situational Irony is expressed frankly when the author says, in discord between expectations and reality, that Rip became famous again after being forgotten for years when his story became widely known and told because now, he spent twenty years sleeping.

Irony is a contradiction between appearance or expectation and reality when a writer's meaning is different from what is actually stated. This may be manifested in a variety of ways.

A discrepancy may exist between what someone says and what he or she actually means, between what someone expects to happen and what really happens, or between what appears to be true and what actually is true. The term may be applied to events, situations, and structural elements of a work, not just to statements. Three major forms are verbal, situational, and dramatic.

Types of irony are defined from different perspectives, but the literature review stressed three types of Irony. The two short stories show this irony in limited appearance as the two stories focus on telling the story in just a few pages in the case of the Story "Rip Van Winkle" and fewer pages in the shorter story "The Story of an Hour".

Verbal Irony is characterized by a discrepancy between what a character or writer says and what he or she means or believes to be true. In fact, the speaker often says exactly the opposite of what he or she actually means. Situational Irony Involves a discrepancy between expectation and reality and derives primarily from events or situations themselves, whether or not the characters understand the situation as ironic. Dramatic irony involves a discrepancy between a character's perception and what the reader or audience knows to be true. Lacking material information that the audience possesses, the character creates discord by his or her responses to plot events. Thus, dramatic irony can be revealed by inappropriate statements, expectations, or actions.

This study focuses on the idea of Irony. Irony is like salt that you add to food when you cook. Contradiction is necessary to create a kind of excitement and make the reader wonder why one thing is happening while not the other. The role of irony in building any plot can't be ignored. When you expect an incident, to find what happened is different.

5. Conclusion

Irony is one of the most effective literary devices of storytelling that are used in literary works. The two short stories, The Story of an Hour and Rip Van Winkle, contain a lot of Irony in Storytelling. The two authors in the two stories used a few Irony lines as they focused on telling the stories in a few pages. But irony, as an indispensable literary tool, was used in limited amounts in many positions in the two stories, and these irony positions were explained in the discussion section of this paper. The researcher noticed that verbal irony does not exist in the stories as there is not much dialogue in the two short stories. Dramatic and situational irony were used in limited amounts to create a sense of humor and surprise and make the story interesting.

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