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ARGUMENTATIVE STRATEGIES OF THE LAWYER'S IMAGE IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERARY WORKS

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ABSTRACT:

This article comparatively examines the argumentative strategies employed by lawyer characters in English and Uzbek literary works, focusing on methods of reasoning and mechanisms for refuting opposing viewpoints. In literary texts, the argumentative activity of a lawyer contributes to character development, the progression of conflict, and the formation of readers' attitudes towards events. The theoretical framework of the study is based on Toulmin's model of argumentation and the concept of the New Rhetoric developed by Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca. Drawing on the characters of Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's novel To Kill a Mockingbird and Sir Wilfrid Robarts in Agatha Christie's stage play Witness for the Prosecution, the article analyses strategies used by lawyers to select evidence, interpret facts, examine witness testimonies, construct alternative interpretations, and persuade audiences. Argumentative strategies are interpreted not merely as means of logical reasoning but also as instruments of literary characterization and the revelation of the ideological content of a literary work.

The distinctive nature of the lawyer's image in literary works is closely associated with their speech and cognitive activities. Unlike other characters, a lawyer does not simply narrate events but organizes existing facts according to a particular purpose, interprets them, and seeks to guide the audience towards a specific conclusion. For this reason, argumentative strategies play a particularly important role in lawyers' speech. Argumentation is the process of substantiating an opinion, presenting evidence in a particular sequence, evaluating an opposing position, and

convincing listeners of the validity of a conclusion. Toulmin (1958) proposes analyzing arguments through such structural components as claim, grounds, warrant, backing, qualifier, and rebuttal. This model provides a useful theoretical framework for identifying the logical structure of lawyers' speech.

Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca (1969), in turn, associate the primary purpose of argumentation with gaining the audience's agreement and confidence. According to their approach, the strength of an argument depends not only on its logical structure but also on the audience to whom it is presented, the circumstances in which it is delivered, and the purpose it is intended to achieve. In literary works, the argumentative strategies employed by lawyers perform two major functions. First, they reveal the character's professional competence and way of thinking. Second, they intensify the conflict within the plot and encourage readers to consider different interpretations of events.

One of the major sources in argumentation theory is Toulmin's The Uses of Argument. Toulmin (1958) examines argumentation not only in terms of the laws of formal logic but also through forms of reasoning used in everyday and practical discussions. In his model, a claim represents the principal position being defended; grounds refer to the information supporting the claim; and a warrant establishes the logical connection between the grounds and the claim. Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca (1969) interpret argumentation as a process closely associated with the audience. According to their perspective, the effectiveness of persuasion depends on taking into consideration the listeners' values, knowledge, and existing beliefs. This approach is particularly important for analyzing lawyers' speech in literary works because lawyers direct their arguments towards judges, juries, witnesses, and other participants in judicial proceedings.

In Aristotle's views on rhetoric, ethos, logos, and pathos are identified as the principal means of persuasion. Logos refers to logical reasoning, ethos concerns the speaker's credibility and moral character, while pathos involves influencing the emotional state of the audience. These three elements may be manifested in different proportions in the argumentative strategies of lawyer characters.

In this article, argumentative strategies are classified into the following working categories:

- selection and systematization of evidence;
- alternative interpretation of facts;
- anticipation of counterarguments;
- identification of contradictions in witness testimonies;
- logical reasoning and conclusion-drawing;
- appeals to moral values;
- establishment of audience trust.

Argumentative analysis is used to identify claims, evidence, warrants, and conclusions in lawyers' speech. The comparative-typological method examines the common and distinctive features of argumentative strategies found in English and Uzbek literary texts. Discourse

analysis reveals the relationship between lawyers' speech, courtroom proceedings, interpersonal relationships between characters, and plot development. The primary English-language literary materials selected for this study are Harper Lee's novel To Kill a Mockingbird and Agatha Christie's stage play Witness for the Prosecution. Uzbek-language literary materials should be selected according to the same criteria and limited to episodes containing lawyers' direct speech or argumentative activities. One of the most important argumentative strategies employed by lawyers is the selection of existing facts and their presentation in a particular logical sequence. Not all available information is equally significant. In order to substantiate their position, lawyers identify relevant facts, demonstrate the relationships between them, and construct a system of evidence that supports their final conclusion.

According to Toulmin's (1958) model, a claim must be supported by evidence, while the relationship between the evidence and the claim should be explained through a specific warrant. In literary texts, this process reveals the character's way of thinking. When a character presents evidence in a consistent and logical order, their professional competence becomes apparent. Conversely, inconsistencies or logical gaps between pieces of evidence may indicate the character's weaknesses or the complexity of the situation. In judicial proceedings, the same fact may be interpreted differently by opposing parties. One of the lawyer's responsibilities is to develop an interpretation of the available facts that supports their own position. In this process, the fact itself remains unchanged; however, its meaning and significance are explained from a different perspective.

In Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird, Atticus Finch seeks to evaluate the testimonies and evidence in the case of Tom Robinson without being influenced by racial stereotypes. During the trial, he demonstrates the necessity of interpreting the available information according to logical and evidential criteria rather than merely relying on prevailing social attitudes. This strategy is also associated with the moral position of the lawyer character. For Atticus, the interpretation of evidence is not simply a means of defending his client but also an effort to establish a fair approach to judicial proceedings. Kundmueller (2019) emphasizes that Atticus's straightforward and clear rhetorical style reflects his professional and social responsibilities.

An essential component of a lawyer's argumentation involves analyzing the arguments presented by the opposing party. The strategy of refuting counterarguments may involve the following stages:

- identifying the opposing party's principal claim;
- examining the evidence supporting that claim;
- evaluating whether the evidence is sufficient or insufficient;
- demonstrating logical contradictions;
- advancing an alternative conclusion.

In Agatha Christie's stage play Witness for the Prosecution, conflicting testimonies and unexpected information during the trial lead to changes in the defense strategy. Through the

character of Sir Wilfrid Robarts, the play demonstrates the necessity of reassessing evidence, examining the credibility of witnesses, and developing a strategy appropriate to the changing circumstances. Here, the dramatic effect is manifested not only in the unexpected development of events but also in the audience's need to reconsider its previous conclusions. In this respect, argumentation in Christie's work functions as a literary mechanism that drives the plot forward.

Three rhetorical elements identified by Aristotle play an important role in a lawyer's persuasive activity. **Ethos** is associated with the lawyer's personal credibility, professional experience, and moral character. In literary works, a lawyer's composure, consistency, and respectful attitude towards evidence contribute to the construction of their ethos. **Logos** is based on evidence, logical conclusions, and cause-and-effect relationships. A lawyer's consistent analysis of facts, identification of contradictions, and substantiation of conclusions represent examples of the logos-based strategy. **Pathos** involves influencing the emotional state of the audience. By describing the human circumstances of a victim, defendant, or witness, a lawyer may evoke sympathy among listeners. However, the presence of pathos in a literary text does not necessarily imply manipulation; it may also serve to reveal the human dimension of a moral issue.

The character of Atticus Finch clearly demonstrates the combination of logos and ethos. His rhetorical strategy is based on the logical analysis of evidence and the maintenance of personal credibility (Kundmueller, 2019). Argumentation in lawyers' speech is not merely a means of depicting judicial proceedings. It also contributes to the development of a literary work's composition, conflict, and ideological content. First, argumentative speech reveals the character's personality. The difference between a lawyer who relies on evidence and one who depends on emotional pressure demonstrates their respective worldviews and professional approaches. Second, argumentation increases dramatic tension within the plot. New evidence presented by the opposing party or contradictions in witness testimonies may change the course of events. Third, argumentation encourages readers to engage in active interpretation. Rather than simply accepting the lawyer's conclusions, readers attempt to evaluate the reliability of the evidence independently.

The analysis demonstrates that the argumentative strategies of lawyer characters constitute an important means of revealing both their professional and literary characteristics. The selection of evidence, alternative interpretation of facts, refutation of counterarguments, and persuasion of the audience represent the principal strategic directions of lawyers' speech. Toulmin's model makes it possible to identify the logical structure of lawyers' speech, while the theory developed by Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca explains the audience-oriented characteristics of argumentation. In the character of Atticus Finch, moral credibility is combined with logical reasoning, whereas in the character of Sir Wilfrid Robarts, strategic thinking and the reassessment of evidence occupy a significant position. These two characters demonstrate different literary models of lawyers' argumentative activity. A comparative study of lawyer

characters in English and Uzbek literature requires an analysis of argumentative strategies in relation to national and cultural contexts, characterisation, and literary conflict.

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