

**The Analysis of Colloquial Language Elements in
*Majid's Tales***

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Introduction

Majid's Tales [*Ghesseha-ye-Majid*] is the most important work of Houshang Moradi Kermani. This book contains 39 stories written in colloquial language and full of everyday expressions and idioms. In addition to its interesting stories, the language and style of the book also pleases children and young adults. The beauty of the book's realistic and popular tales fully corresponds with its simple text that is use of idioms. The text is also in harmony with the character of the narrator, Majid. He is a romantic and talkative poet and the author uses these characteristics so that we hear a lot of idioms from his mouth. The text of *Majid's Tales* is natural and full of idioms and similes that are taken from everyday colloquial language.

Majid's Tales is one of the most important works in the field of children's literature in Iran. This book has both fascinating stories and

melodic prose; it does not have long and complex sentences, and even the story melody is ear-catching during reading or storytelling due to repetitions at the level of "phonemes" and "words". In this article, the melodic prose of *Majid's Tales* as well as the role of colloquial language in creating proper prose for children's and adolescents' literature are examined.

Methodology, Review of Literature and Purpose

This study is conducted by a descriptive-analytic method. To do this research, first the sentences and words that seemed to be melodic while reading were extracted to explore the cause of their melodiousness by the use of rhetoric. The idioms and similes of the stories which are derived from colloquial language and folk culture were also extracted and their characteristics were analyzed.

Literary and linguistic research about Houshang Moradi Kermani is limited to "A look at the components and patterns of humor in the works of Houshang Moradi Kermani" (Safaei & Adhami, 2015), "Literary highlighting and analysis of the process of abnormality in the works of Houshang Moradi Kermani" (Alipour & Kamkar, 2011),"Imagination in the stories of Houshang Moradi Kermani" (Dabbagh et al., 2012),"The style of Moradi Kermani from *Majid's Tales* to *The Pomegranate Smile*" (Haji Nasrollah, 2003) and "The interjections in the works of Houshang Moradi Kermani" (Moghimi Zadeh, 2010). The review of literature reveals that, so far, no research has been done on the elements of popular culture in *Majid's Tales*.

The purpose of this research is to clarify, 1) What factors are influential in the melody of the prose of *Majid's Tales*? and 2) to what extent do

popular language and culture play a role in the prose style and imagery techniques in *Majid's Tales*?

Discussion

Houshang Moradi Kermani writes simply and organizes the words and phrases of the colloquial language in such a way in the text that the accuracy of his speech rhythm makes the reader admire him. The text is very close to colloquialism but more thoughtful and artistic. The sound harmony and proportional repetition of consonants and vowels, as a musical factor, are also seen in his prose.

Some types of words are formed by consonant repetition including "onomatopoeia" and some adverbs. In *Majid's Tales* such words have many uses, and the author has used the repetition of these elements to make the words melodious because children's and young adults' stories are often read aloud and the presence of "onomatopoeias" doubles the resonance of word music in reading the stories.

The consonant and vowel repetition in onomatopoeia is of the most important types of repetition; since playing with language sounds is exactly what Houshang Moradi-Kermani has done in writing the stories. This is the stylistic feature of *Majid's Tales* that creates a tonic and musical prose. "Reduplication" is one of the techniques that has been used to make the story melodic; meanwhile, these words are also effective in creating a humorous tone because one meaningless component of "reduplication" makes it seem humorous.

In addition to the "onomatopoeias" and "reduplications", some adverbs, compound words, the repetition of the noun component in compound verbs, the repetition of words in popular idioms and expressions are the

musical-creating factors at the word level. Moreover, the use of short sentences and the preposing of the verb have made *Majid's Tales* musical at the sentence level.

There are many idioms and similes in *Majid's Tales*; some descriptions have the capacity to be turned into irony without being recorded and introduced in dictionary of literary terms; therefore, they were addressed in this article as "ironic descriptions".

In *Majid's Tales*, the author uses many repeated similes that are mostly taken from popular language and culture. Referring to old social life is one of the benefits of these repeated similes. The similes are often repetitive and their use has no rhetorical reason, but they are linguistically justified: the author uses colloquial language to give intimacy to his words and to create the right tone for the story.

Conclusion

The study of *Majid's Tales* showed that Houshang Moradi Kermani has used the characteristics of colloquial language to strengthen the rhythm of the words and to make the text suitable for children and young adults. The use of consonant and vowel repetitions in interjections and reduplications and the employment of word repetition in colloquial expressions, as well as verb and adverb reiterations are examples of the musical capacity of colloquial words, the musical value of which was better realized while reading loudly for children. The structure of the sentences are also very melodious and fluent and the sentences are not too long for children and young people to make them feel trapped.

There are so many colloquial sentences and expressions in his prose that have alliterations. Very short sentences are also frequently seen with

the verbs at the beginning of them. In these cases, both the choice of the verb and its topicalisation are taken from the colloquial language and is effective in producing the appropriate rhythm of the sentence. *Majid's Tales* is full of idioms that are common in popular language. Similes are also widely used in this book. They are often repetitious. These repeated similes have no rhetorical values but they make the text simple, melodious, and humorous. Moreover, they add a sincere tone to the story.

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