

**Study and Analysis of the Elements and Features of the  
Popular Genre of Comic Strip**

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**Introduction**

Comic strip or illustrated story is a narrative that is expressed using consecutive images. In these stories, while people are acting or reacting, a bubble or balloon appears above their heads, which includes their conversations or behavior. In illustrated stories or comic strips, most of the characterization is done by the images. In addition to the images, the dialogues and actions of the characters in the story are effective in creating personality and characterization. One of the most important features of an illustrated story or comic strip is the audience's feeling of oneness with the protagonist. Comic strip is one of the most used literary types in children's and young adults' literature; therefore, the language in these works should be simple and fluent and the author should avoid using complex and ambiguous sentences. The words in such stories should be expressed in a sweet and uncomplicated language, taking into account the vocabulary of the audience; in other

words, the language of the story should be in accordance with the language abilities and skills of the audience and their level of knowledge.

### **Research Method, Review of Literature and Purpose**

The present research focuses on children's comic books such as Ehsan Mandegari's comic, Masalabad comic, and Nabat comic by Saeed Razaghi to whom most of the comics in this genre belong. This research is based on library studies and content analysis and investigation of the elements and characteristics of the folk comic strip genre. The main goal of the article is to investigate the characteristics of the popular genre of comic strip stories.

Sofia Mahmoudi (1392) in "Literature for Children and Adolescents", Soraya Qezel Iyaq (1383) in "Literature for Children and Adolescents and Promoting Reading", Banafsheh Hijazi (1385) in "Literature for Children and Adolescents" and Mahmoud Fazila (1386) in his book *Children's language and literature* briefly discuss comic strips in children's books. Mehdi Torabi Mehrabani (1388) in his book *Analytical history of comic strip to the history of comics in the world and Iran and its types* and Scott McCloud in *Comic Art* (1394) have investigated the characteristics of comics. Parviz Iqbali (1389) in the article "Sequential visual stories" examines the use of visual and written text in fictional-scientific-fiction fields. Morteza Ismaili Sohi (1375) in "Technical Features of Comic Strips" examines the viewing angles and composition of comic images and Shiva Biranvand (1389) in the article "The Role of Comic Strips in Children's Growth and Creativity"

examines the existing potentials of comic strips and turning them into educational tools to improve children's creativity.

### **Discussion**

The design of comic books is usually simple and short, the story has a clear course, and usually, for the child audience, the number of characters is not large; however, the number of characters may be more for young and teenage audiences. In general, there are few characters. In the stories written for children's audiences, the story must have a correct and definite ending; however, in illustrated stories whose audience is teenagers and young people, due to the high understanding of the audience and open mindedness, they can guess the end of the story and sometimes even finish it themselves.

During an action or a reaction, a balloon appears above the head of a character or characters of the comic strip during the story with dialogues written inside them. In general, it can be said that two types of conversations or dialogues are written in these balloons: the first type is the dialogue between the characters of the story; the second type includes the mental speech of the character to her/himself, in the form of a soliloquy.

The use of happy colors helps to make a beautiful atmosphere, and the story space looks better. The use of color harmony shows unity and continuity throughout the images. In stories or comic strips, often images and colors show the atmosphere. The atmosphere can be happy or sad. The atmosphere of the story can be cold and soulless, hopeful or anxious, depending on the story's content. Warm colors show a happy atmosphere and cold colors show a cold and soulless atmosphere.

In comic strip stories, the smallest words play a role in moving the story forward. For this reason, the sounds and punctuation marks are very important. Sometimes, only an exclamation mark or a question can be seen in the bubbles above the characters' heads, which play a role in better understanding the story. Speech bubbles show the inside of characters and their thoughts well. The dialogues of the characters are inside the dialogue balloons in the form of a circle or oval, and the unspoken thoughts of the characters are visible inside the small circle. The point of view or narrator in comic strip stories is usually the same. There is no point of view and the story is formed based on dialogue in two ways, monologue and dialogue. The comic text starts with a realistic background and then distorts and deviates from the natural form for effect. The subject of the comic strip story should be interesting, catchy and attractive and should be appropriate to the experiences, needs, interests and understanding of the audience.

### **Conclusion**

That the stories are accompanied by images in popular comic strips helps the simplicity, fluency and sweetness of the conversational language and teaches correct social behaviors to children. The sounds that are used to show the states of anger, surprise, screaming and different character states make children and teenagers communicate better with the audience. The plots of comic strip stories are simple and understandable for all audiences, and make the story to have a clear flow and children and teenagers can guess the end of the story. The pictures of the story reveal the content of the story to the reader, and the reader implicitly understands the content of the stories by seeing the

pictures next to the text. Images also help make conversations interesting. Characterization is also formed by dialogue and images help to understand the actions and behavior of the characters. The happy, attractive and exciting atmosphere of the story conveys happiness to the audience.

These characteristics of the popular comic genre can be considered to improve the structure of children's stories and give an artistic aspect to children's literature. Also, teaching based on images is an easy way to transfer information faster and better.

**Keywords:** comic strips, visual education, children's literature, popular genre

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