

LITERARY APHORISMS AS MEANS OF FOREGROUNDING

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Annotation: This thesis investigates literary aphorisms as stylistic devices for foregrounding in texts. Foregrounding, a key concept in stylistics, involves the deliberate deviation from linguistic norms to create emphasis, draw attention, or enhance aesthetic effect. Literary aphorisms, with their concise, striking, and often paradoxical nature, serve as effective tools for foregrounding key ideas, themes, and conceptual insights. The study analyzes the structural and semantic strategies that contribute to the prominence of aphoristic expressions, exploring how authors employ them to highlight philosophical, moral, and cognitive content. The research demonstrates that aphorisms not only enrich literary style but also guide readers' attention and interpretation, thereby playing a significant role in textual meaning-making.

Keywords: literary aphorisms; foregrounding; stylistics; deviation; conceptual emphasis; textual attention

Foregrounding is a central concept in literary stylistics, referring to the deliberate deviation from linguistic norms to draw attention to specific elements of a text. This technique enhances the aesthetic and cognitive impact of language, guiding readers' perception and interpretation. Literary aphorisms, characterized by brevity, wit, and often paradoxical construction, serve as potent means of foregrounding, allowing authors to emphasize key ideas, themes, or moral insights within a concise form. Aphorisms function at the intersection of style, cognition, and meaning. Their unique structure—often involving parallelism, antithesis, or metaphor—creates deviation from ordinary discourse, which captures the reader's attention and foregrounds the conceptual or emotional significance of the statement. As a result, aphorisms operate not merely as decorative literary devices but as cognitive instruments that shape understanding and reflection. Despite the acknowledged stylistic value of aphorisms, their role in foregrounding has received limited systematic investigation. Therefore, this study aims to analyze how literary aphorisms employ structural, semantic, and rhetorical strategies to achieve foregrounding. By examining selected examples from classical and modern literature, the research explores the ways

in which aphorisms direct readers' focus, enhance textual prominence, and enrich interpretive depth. This study employs a qualitative, text-centered approach to investigate how literary aphorisms function as means of foregrounding in written discourse. The research integrates principles from stylistics, cognitive linguistics, and literary analysis to examine the structural, semantic, and rhetorical strategies that contribute to the prominence of aphoristic expressions. A corpus of literary aphorisms was compiled from classical and contemporary authors known for their philosophical, moral, and reflective style. Each aphorism was analyzed according to its structural features (such as parallelism, antithesis, and brevity), semantic characteristics (including metaphor, paradox, and ambiguity), and pragmatic function in foregrounding key ideas. Comparative analysis was employed to identify common patterns and variations in how aphorisms achieve textual emphasis. Additionally, contextual analysis was applied to interpret aphorisms within their literary and cultural settings, ensuring that the foregrounding effect was examined not only linguistically but also cognitively and aesthetically. This methodological framework provides a comprehensive basis for understanding the interplay between linguistic form, stylistic deviation, and textual prominence in literary aphorisms. The analysis of selected literary aphorisms revealed several key mechanisms through which they achieve foregrounding. First, structural deviation emerged as a prominent strategy. Aphorisms often employ parallelism, antithesis, and syntactic compression, creating patterns that stand out from ordinary discourse and capture readers' attention. For example, contrasting clauses or inverted sentence structures highlight conceptual oppositions, emphasizing the core message. Second, semantic deviation plays a significant role in foregrounding. The use of paradox, metaphor, and ambiguity allows aphorisms to convey complex ideas in a compact form while drawing focus to the conceptual content. Such figurative devices create cognitive tension, prompting readers to reflect on the underlying meaning, thereby enhancing the prominence of the aphoristic statement.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that literary aphorisms serve as highly effective means of foregrounding within texts. By employing structural deviation, semantic innovation, and conciseness, aphorisms draw attention to key ideas, themes, and conceptual insights, enhancing both the aesthetic and cognitive impact of literary works. Paradox, metaphor, antithesis, and syntactic compression were identified as the primary strategies that contribute to the prominence of aphoristic expressions. Furthermore, the research highlights that the foregrounding effect of aphorisms is not limited to stylistic embellishment; it also guides readers' perception and interpretation, shaping their

understanding of the text's conceptual and philosophical dimensions. Contextual and cultural factors play a crucial role in reinforcing the effect, ensuring that aphorisms resonate with readers on multiple cognitive and emotional levels. Overall, the findings underscore the dual function of aphorisms as both stylistic and cognitive tools, demonstrating their significance in literary discourse and textual meaning-making.

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