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### The Reflection of Satire in Political Cartoons

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<b>Keywords:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Satire</li><li>- Figurative device</li><li>- Political cartoons</li><li>- Hidden meanings</li></ul>	<b>Abstract</b> <p>Satire is a figurative device that is employed in different fields and different types of texts, especially politics. It is used for purposes of entertainment and hiding real meanings. However, most studies done on satire are related text analysis. Accordingly, this study aims at determining how satire is reflected in political cartoons. The data of this study is represented by American political cartoons on Donald Trump, to be analyzed critically in relation to reality. The study found that satire in cartoons on Trump reflect his egoism, ignorance and carelessness as clarified in the expressions used in American cartoons.</p>
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انعكاس السخرية في الرسوم الكاريكاتورية السياسية

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<p><b>الخلاصة :</b> الهجاء هو وسيلة مجازية يستخدم في مجالات مختلفة وأنواع مختلفة من النصوص، وخاصة السياسة. يتم استخدامه لأغراض الترفيه وإخفاء المعاني الحقيقية. ومع ذلك، فإن معظم الدراسات التي أجريت على الهجاء تتعلق بتحليل النص. وبناءً على ذلك، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد كيفية انعكاس الهجاء في الرسوم الكاريكاتورية السياسية. تتمثل بيانات هذه الدراسة في الرسوم السياسية الأمريكية عن دونالد ترامب، ليتم تحليلها بشكل نقدي وربطها بالواقع. ووجدت الدراسة أن الهجاء في الرسوم الكاريكاتورية عن ترامب يعكس أنانيته وجهله وإهماله كما هو موضح في التعبيرات المستخدمة في الرسوم الكاريكاتورية الأمريكية.</p>	<p><b>الكلمات الدالة: -</b></p> <p>- الهجاء - وسيلة بلاغية - الرسوم الكاريكاتورية السياسية - المعاني المخفية</p> <p><b>معلومات البحث</b> <b>تاريخ البحث:</b> الاستلام: 2021_9_20 القبول: 2021_11_10 التوفر على النت</p>
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## 1 Introduction

Randall (1974: 13) defines satire as a criticism topically made with intention that there will be an improvement. In relation to humor boundaries, satire is a deliberate exercising/ utilization of comic humor for the purpose of attack (Berger, 1997: 167). Ashworth (1967: 101) opines that satire is a joke within a moral framework that simultaneously criticizes serious issues by means of provoking humorous effects. In its social focus, satire is a technique for deflating egos and denoting social criticism (Gring-pemble & Watson, 2003: 132,153). In its cultural context, satire is an attack whereby a manifested event is idealized upon discernible particulars (Rosenheim, 1971: 323). Therefore, satire is a type of humor typically employed for mocking and criticizing a satirical target. Satire is a pervasive form and subtle method of social and political critique that purposively materialized in various phenomena (Hoey, 2005).

As a regular term, satire is an effective form of communicating wit, irony, or sarcasm verbally, encapsulating the conveyance and discrediting vice or folly. In pragmatics, satire is an act of critically communicating human behavior whereby the propositions of the text/ utterance are intentionally intended by virtue of certain employed contextual aspects to ridiculously criticize certain human behaviors. In its practical sense, satire is a way of criticizing a person, an idea, or an institution

humorously for irreproachably upbraiding their faults and weakness (Oxford Dictionary, 2000: 223).

### **1.2 Characteristics of Satire**

Satire has several characteristics as follows:

1. **Elusiveness:** satire is such rather curious elusive term (Simpson, 2003: 4) and somewhat ambiguous to be identified (Opitz, 2007: 74).

2. **Dependency:** satire is conceptually not a genre in itself nor has a distinctive form, but it is reliantly bounded upon other forms to express its ideas. Thereof, its meaning is typically not invented, but it is dependently derived/ quoted from the relation of the expression with context, satirical subject, and public culture together (Knight, 2004).

3. **Decontextualization:** satirical utterances are inextricably contextual mapped; besides, it is conceptually synthesized within discourse participation, knowledge framework, and territory beliefs (Ziv, 1988: 225).

4. **Hostility:** satire is formally a type of entertainment, which is covertly directed with implicated intent of hostile humor with pleasant to please the more knowledgeable receptors.

5. **Incongruity:** satire is a pragmatic device of incongruous appending of an execution for events and turning the pretenses and propositions into opposite (Lapp, 1992: 12). Thusly, what is said is relatively referred to something is different and what is actuated is abusively situated (Muecke, 1980: 4).

6. **Insincerity:** satire is an insincere simulation, transparently based on changeable imitation by a means of changing in style or exaggerated diction with naturally verbally polemical intention.

7. **Implicitness:** satire is not overtly vindicated as an explicit act, but it is a covert statement subjectively deconstructed with verbal framework by being oppositely culled or exaggeratedly gauged out of its normal context (Leboeuf, 2007: 13).

8. **Ambivalence:** satire is an expression that can be read, said and interpreted differently.

### **1.3 Purposes and Functions of Satire**

Satire is employed in different types of texts for certain purposes and to perform different functions, as clarified in these points:

1. **Critique:** satire is preponderantly assumed as a way of criticizing a person, some forms of social behavior, or the whole institution with vice and folly or for commenting an idea purposively with a target of persuading and encouraging some degrees of social improvement on the part of the receptors. Thence, satire additively serves as soft tool for admittedly revealing and exposing faults and weaknesses.

2. **Reformative:** satire is mainly an attempt to compare the actual with ideal lifts. It strictly holds as a misuse of words by means of censuring of ridicule ideally with an intent to bring about improvement and influence shaming into reform. Such satirical function may respectively be foregrounded upon a person or a group of people, an idea or attitude, an institution or the social practice as a whole (Paulson, 1971:53).

3. **Humorous:** satire is a discursive practice within centrally preeminent verbal humorous sense manifestly lexicalized for effecting laughing, provoking astonishment, and aligning pictorial higher-order humorous interactive framework of actions and beliefs.

4. **Mocking:** satire is a mockery used for expressing contempt in situational depiction where the speaker attitudinally wants to hurt the hearer.

5. **Assertion:** satire is definitely intended to assert what is being stated to achieve assertive performance (Currie, 1996: 9). It is not necessarily designed to get the hearer to believe on what is being satirically stated, but just to grasp his attention attentively.

#### **1.4 Categorization of Satire**

1. **Aggressive:** it is built around/ designed from echoic elements and signals out an object of attack (Basu, 1999: 391). Actually, such satirical category ironically derived from distortion (Swift, 1986: 2175). It is virtually related to continuum aggression and ridicules behaviors of mocking and humiliating, which can only be intentionally materialized (Haiman, 1998: 180, 205).

2. **Comic:** it is a contemptuous behavior of making fun of a victim for allowing non victim a feeling of superiority (Ziv, 1988: 225). It is a joke within moral framework about serious things provoked timely with comic effects (Ashworth, 1967: 101).

3. **Incisive:** it is an amenable concept with an interpretative compass topically.

4. **Invective:** it is this type of satire that is formally labeled as versatile and fascinating form of human expression. It is ultimately based on the conceptions of imprecation, vituperation, innuendo, etc... It is eminently sub-served as attacking technique purposively for reprimanded and condemning otherness.

5. **Ironic:** satire is taxonomically submitted under the rubric of irony which is conceptually utilized for enacting ironic comments that are idealized for proving or disapproving mistakable persons, patterns, notions, with an argumentative ironic mode (Muecke, 1980: 5).

6. **Censoring / offensive:** it is a satire type that markedly signified by proving self-defeating and encouragement. It is increasingly debated offensive elements and coded forms of racist expressions (Blake, 2007: 180).

#### **1.5 Satire Strategic Processes**

1. **Word Playful:** satire is relatively an absolute mechanism of playful effects of words convoluted with eclectic humorous delimitations along with argumentative values substantially objectifies a realistic intent (Hobbs, 2007: 50- 68).

2. **Rhetorical incarnation:** satire is extremely a coherent rhetorical strategy constitutionally employs the use of artistic forms of expression, attribution, exaggeration, and comparison for holding up human or individual vices, follies, abuses, or shortcomings by means of irony, sarcasm, parody ...etc.

3. **Double entendre:** it is an undercurrent frequently used as a satirical device that works for mocking, professing, disapproval, approving certain values, etc. along with the emotional elements of anger that are diametrically opposite to what the satirist actually intends to promote; while the satirist's corrective intent is deliberately blended with satirical methods of execution.

4. **Combination:** as its name suggests, combination is a satirical procedural device typically involves combining two or more different conceptual entities for establishing a relationship between these unrelated entities. Hence, two or more entities are shown to be equivalent with a satirical

materialization/ target for devaluing one of them. Actually, combination is exemplified by means of conferring the quality of concreteness upon abstract things or likening animals and their behaviors to human (Jianguo, 2011: 96).

5. **Grouping incongruous:** it is institutionally revolved around perceiving incongruities and delineating discrepancy between entities or extent for nominating satirical intention accordingly (Blake, 2007: 16).

6. **Substitution:** it is definitely embodied replacing/ substituting semantic meaning of utterance for its figurative meaning. Therefore, what is uttered / said would actually mismatch what is meant. However, such substitution process would resultantly attribute the co-influence of some pragmatic phenomena and pragmatic acts whereby some actions would be motivated oppositely along with uttering satirical expression. In turn, both of the semantic meaning and its opposite figurative meaning would be considerably consulted for true designation determinacy (Hutcheon, 1995: 65).

### 1.6 Contextual Conditions of Satire

As the matter with other figurative devices, satire has the following contextual conditions:

- **Flouting of pragmatic principles:** satire is intrinsically includes flouting of pragmatic felicity condition of speech act, maxim of cooperation principle, etc. The speaker sets satire intentional expression into trigger related to true implicature in oppositeness of its obvious superficial meaning (Ziv, 1988: 69).

- **Hearer's recognition:** satire is basically built around hearers' recognition. It is decidedly interlaced / modeled when only if the hearer's is satisfactorily conveyed that the opposite of the explicit meaning is being intently meant (Hutcheon, 1995: 65).

### 1.7 Satire Data Analysis

Satire is often used to achieve political or social changes, or to prevent them. Satire can be part of a given work; it can be the purpose of an entire text. Satire is of different types. Direct satire is serious, acting as a protest. Comical satire is used to get fun at something or someone. The data of this study is represented by political satirical cartoons on Donald Trump collected from websites. These cartoons contain satirical expressions, which are analyzed critically to highlight the purpose of satire denoted by them.



Figure 1: Crisis Creator

Satire is most used in the field of political criticism, especially in relation to Trump's policy. Though majority of Americans has elected him president of USA, people criticize Trump and his policy due to causing many crises as well as reflecting racism, egoism and inconsistency. In figure (1), the satirical expression (he's right, MANUFACTURING IS BACK) clarifies the economic crisis witnessed in America and caused by Trump. Here, Trump represents the manufacture which produces political and economic problems. It is noteworthy that the satirical expression is capitalized to highlight its importance. Here, "BACK" is used satirically to denote the deterioration of manufacturing sector, but not its return to production. This is realized through other expressions used in the figure like border emergency and Govt. shutdown, as well as the mark on Trump's suit, which says: "Crisis Creator Inc." portraying Trump as a factory responsible for the creation of crises happening in the world.

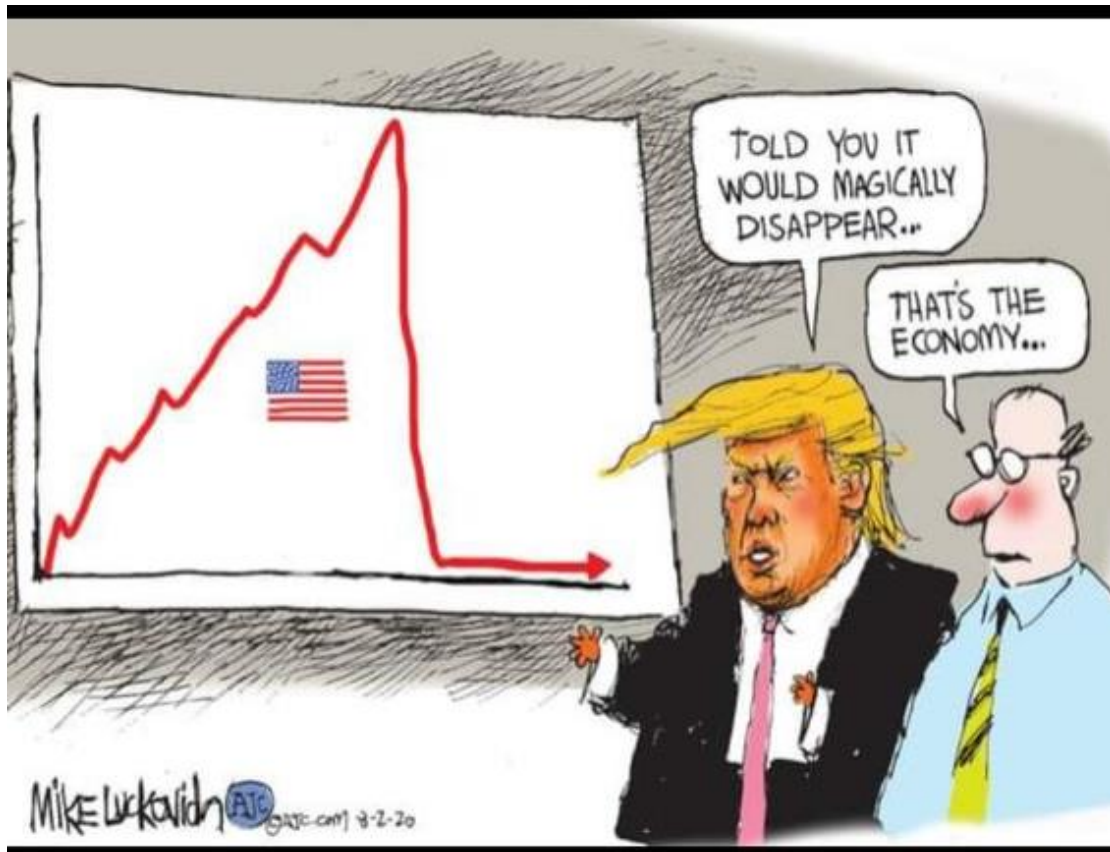


Figure 2: That Is the Economy

In this figure, satire depends on the context of the current situation in world. Since the emergence and spread of Corona Virus, Trump promises that he will find solution and he is working on with a group of doctors, experts and specialists to develop a vaccine to it. Yet, nothing is achieved. He then promises to end the economic crisis witnessed in the world in general and America in particular, but his promises are in vain. As shown in this figure, the satirical expression (that is the economy) shows that the America's economy is what has been magically declined, but not corona virus as thought by Trump who said (told you it would magically disappear). For clarification, "disappear" denotes the absence or non-existence of something; therefore, one can say: the virus is disappeared, but not: the economy is disappeared. Thus, it is more reflecting the end of virus, but not the economy.



Figure 3: Racial Unrest

Among socio-political issues witnessed in America is racism. People think that Trump's policy has awakened racism in America. This issue has emerged after two police officers killed a black man called George Floyd in public. This has caused political and security instability. The situation becomes worse due to Trump's ignorance. This situation is clarified in the figure above, which shows Trump sitting on fire hose while the building behind him is burning. The expression "racial unrest" is written on the building behind Trump to indicate his carelessness to the issue of racism emerged in America after the killing of George Floyd.

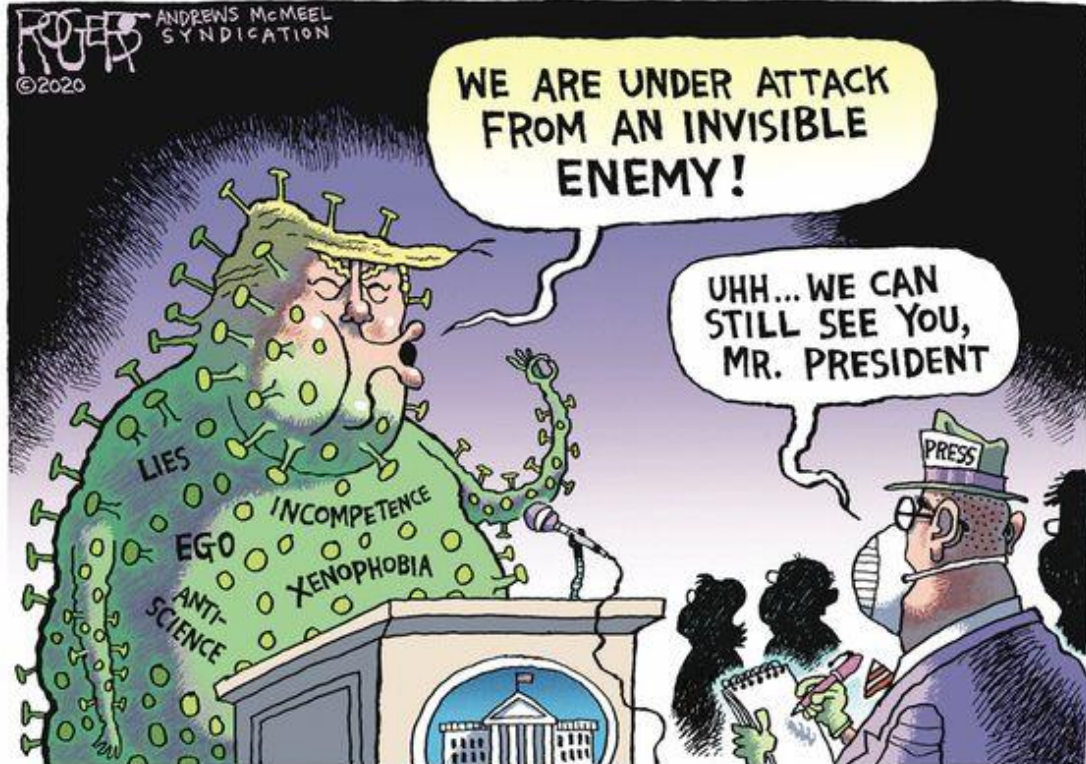


Figure 4: An Invisible Enemy

This figure represents Trump as corona virus. Hence, many expressions are written on Trump's body, such as lies, incompetence, ego, anti-science and xenophobia. All of these expressions reflect bad characteristics found in person. In this figure, Trump is

in a press meeting, speaking about the issue of corona virus. He says: "we are under attack from an invisible enemy!" The journalist says: "uhh... we can still see you, Mr. President". Here, the sentence uttered by the journalist reflects satire, referring that Trump is the invisible enemy.



Figure 5: We Are Protesters

Trump's egoism is present in his speeches directed to the public. His speeches reflect his pride. In this figure, there is a crowd of people in front of the white house where Trump is delivering a speech. Trump is thinking that people are crowding to see him and hear his speech as he says "Obama never drew crowds like this!" On the other hand, people satirically say, "we are protesters", reflecting that they are crowding to protest not to see him and hear his speech.

### **Conclusion**

This study deals with the reflection of satire in American political cartoons. It focuses on satirical expressions used in political cartoons and their relation to reality. In this concern, satire can be used for such purposes as entertainment and hiding real meanings. It can be employed in different fields and different types of texts. Politics is a rich field of satirical expressions. Hence, Donald Trump represents a controversial personality. Some think that he is stupid and crazy for talking nonsense; therefore, he represents a good example for satirists to reflect their hidden intentions. In this study, satire in cartoons on Trump reflect his egoism, ignorance and carelessness as clarified in the expressions used in American cartoons.

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