

The Role of Litotes in The Russian Language and Literature

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Annotation:

This article explores an artistic trope which is called litotes. The author wants to talk about the correct usage and application of this trope in literature and in daily life of Russian people, like, how litotes are used in fairy tales, in allegories and in poetry.

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To make speech expressive and figurative, word artists resort to the use of tropes of turns of speech that rethink a word or phrase, fill them with an unusual, unusual meaning based on the rethinking of words. Tropes can be called a form of poetic thinking. One of the tropes is the litotes.

Litotes are an artistic trope that contain a deliberate, excessive understatement of the meaning, signs of an object or phenomenon. This is a figurative expression, a figure of speech, which contains an artistic understatement of various parameters, the meaning of the depicted object or phenomenon.

One of the means of creating imagery and expressiveness of speech is litotes, which in Greek literally means "simplicity" and "restraint".

Litotes is an understatement of some object or phenomenon. For example, each of us knows the fairy tale "A boy with a finger", in the title of which this technique is used. In fact, litotes is the reverse of hyperbole.

Litotes plays an important role in Russian language. It gives emotional coloring to the expression, makes speech more expressive and enhances the image.

We encounter litotes every day. After all, these speech stylistic devices of the Russian language are used both in literature and in daily speech.

Hundreds of years ago, and today, not only poets and writers, but also ordinary people express their thoughts with the help of litotes. Many stylistic expressions have already firmly entered our lives.

Litotes in literature is an artistic technique that is used both in poetry and in works of art by various authors. It is used both for a detailed description of the character of the hero, and for an ironic attitude to the situation, and for the beauty of expressing feelings.

Almost any writer or poet uses all possible techniques of the Russian language in his works. Including litotes, first of all, I would like to recall the fairy tales "BOY-FINGER" (The Brothers Grimm) and "THUMBLE" (Hans Christian Andersen).

Here, immediately by the names of the main characters, it is clear that they are very small in stature. And interestingly, these names have long become common nouns (these are already phraseological units), that is, in ordinary life we can call a child and even an adult "Thumbelina" or "Boy-with-a-finger", if they are not tall.

Litotes is also often found in works of art. Examples from the literature are very diverse. Gogol is one of the lovers of this stylistic device. Basically, the litotes is used

by the author in an ironic context. So, in the story "Nevsky Prospekt" the writer uses the litotes as follows:

"...waist, no thicker than the neck of a bottle...."

The most striking examples of litotes that are used in everyday life:

CAT CRYING
IN TWO STEPS
GIVE YOUR HAND
ONE LEFT
SKY WITH SHEEPSKIN
STEP STEP
TOM THUMB
A DROP IN THE SEA
FROM THE POT TWO TOP
IT IS NOT WORTH A EATED EGG
ASPEN WAIST
NOT SEEING FROM THE GROUND
RECKLESS

These are fixed expressions that underestimate the true meaning and are used in a figurative sense. After all, everyone knows that "the cat cried" means "very little", and no real cat actually exists, and even more so no one measures how much he cries. And the phrases "two steps away" and "at hand" are synonyms for the word "close", although, of course, this is not the distance that is equal to two steps or the length of an outstretched arm. And finally, "with one left" means "easy and fast", but the person will work with both hands, and not just the left.

This technique is widely used in allegories, fairy tales and parables, for example: a man with a fingernail;
from the pot two inches;
a hut on chicken legs;
the little man himself with a finger, a mustache for seven miles.

Examples of litotes in Russian are varied. All these techniques are achieved in one of the following ways:

1. Creation of diminutive forms of words. For example, "pokemon", "kolobok" and instead of "cat" we often say "cat" and this immediately creates the image of a cute, affectionate animal.
2. Double negation or addition of negation to words that already have a "negative" color.

For example, the phrase "not without intent" means that there was intent and something was done consciously. An example from Nekrasov's work: Believe me: I listened NOT WITHOUT PARTICIPATION, I greedily caught every sound. Adding negation to words with a negative score.

For example, the well-known words "not bad", "not poor", "not weak", which mean completely opposite meanings "good", "rich" and "strong", respectively, but in a milder form. Pushkin's example: CHEAP I appreciate high-profile rights, from which not one dizzy.

3. Shifting the negation into the modal part of the sentence. For example, "I don't think this is the right choice."

4. Special understatement or "reverse hyperbole". For example, "a few steps away."

In many set expressions, this artistic technique of underestimating the size of something can be traced, for example:

- strength like a mosquito;
- a drop in the sea;
- two steps from here;
- one second!

Litotes is often used in poetry. Almost no poet has bypassed this stylistic device. After all, litotes are a means of expressiveness. For example, litotes are found in Mayakovsky's poems:

"Where does the body have such a big one from:
it must be a small, meek darling."

Litotes is also found in Pushkin's poems:

"I don't value high-profile rights,
From which more than one head is spinning."

In the famous "Eugene Onegin", this stylistic device was also not without:

"Here is a yard boy running,
Planting a bug in a sled,
Transform yourself into a horse.
The scoundrel already froze his finger.
It hurts and it's funny.... "

And in the most famous work of Alexander Sergeevich, which even children know, there are litotes:

"There on unknown paths
Traces of unseen beasts".

Litotes in Yesenin's poetry is rare. Increasingly, the poet uses luxurious metaphors. However, for greater expressiveness, Yesenin uses litotes in the following of his famous works:

"I do not regret, do not call, do not cry..."
"Yes, now it's decided. No return..."

Lermontov, a lover of personifications and likenings of nature and man, also sometimes resorted to litotes:

"No, my Moscow did not go to him with a guilty head"

There is a litotes in Blok's poem "Russia":

"And the impossible is possible, the road is long and easy>>

Nekrasov's litotes are especially popular:

"Believe me: I listened not without participation, I greedily caught every sound" "You have to bow your head below a thin blade of grass."

In poetry, this stylistic figure occurs as:

1. Denial of the opposite.

An example from a poem by Nikolai Zabolotsky sounds like this: Oh, I didn't live badly in this world!

2. As an understatement of the subject.

Nekrasov's litotes. Example: "In big boots, in a sheepskin coat, In big mittens ... and he's about a fingernail!"

All these litotes in the Russian language and in our everyday speech serve the same purpose to give the expression a specific emotional coloring and make the image more expressive.

I was convinced that the litotes allows you to emphasize a certain idea, focus on the image, reveal its unexpected sides as a whole, all in order to enhance the emotional impression on the reader or listener. In simple terms, this is a beautiful expression, a

turn of phrase, which at the same time softens the words and helps to simply decorate your own speech.

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