

## SIGNIFICANT EFFECT OF HUMOUR TO DEVELOP CHILDREN

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**Abstract:**The study discusses how humour in children literature can play vital role to help children for their overall development. Children's literature is important to the one who is interested in reading, writing, telling, translating etc. As it is a major carrier of content and powerful medium for understanding the world, it is easier for children to assimilate new information when the content is present within the structure of a story or a poem and it also helps to answer the audience.

Humour is a significant children's need found in literature. The present paper is given more emphasis to the role of humour in children literature which plays in overcoming children's anxieties, worries and fears in making literature a beneficiary activity for children's well-being. As we know that books are the real friends of human being, we can accompany them at any time easily to relieve psycho-somatic problems.

**Keywords:** anxieties, children's literature, development, humor.

**Introduction:** Humour is one of the most essential aspects in Children Literature. It is the element which is much loved by children in reading books. It has enormous positive benefits for early literary learning. It helps children to engage with stories and the language that is used to create stories. In Children Literature, Humour can be expressed through different types of it.e.g.blackhumour, irony, satire and parody etc. Humour takes many shapes and forms. It can be as sharp as surgeon's knife or as gentle as a touch of silk. It can convey uncomfortable truths, point up life absurdities, challenge the imagination, take us by surprise, and release us from fears and anxieties. The purpose of humour is to make serious matter in a lighter vein. Some writers use huomur as a tool for exploring vulgar issues which provoke discomfort which is not found in Children literature.

Humour (in British English) or humor (in American English) is the tendency at particular cognitive experiences to provoke laughter and provide amusement. The term derives from the humoral medicine of the ancient Greeks, Which taught that the balance of fluids in the human body known as humors, controlled human health and emotion. People of all ages, cultures and natures always respond to humour. Young children are mostly in favour of slapstick (Physical comedy) such as Punch and Judy puppet shows or cartoons such as Tom and Jerry, whose physical nature makes it accessible to them. On the contrary, more sophisticated forms of humour such as satire require an understanding of its social meaning and context. Therefore it tends to appeal to the mature audience.

**Definition of humour:** Actually humour is a literary tool that makes reader/audience laugh and leads to amusement or laughter. Its purpose is to break the monotony, boredom and tediousness and make the audience's nerve relaxed. The writer uses different techniques, tools, words and even full sentences in order to bring the light on the new and funny sides of

life. Humour is often found in literature, theater, movies and advertising where the major purpose is to make the readers and the audience happy and relax.

**Types of Humour:**

**There are several types of elements which create humour;**

- 1) Hyperbole/Exaggeration
- 2) Slapstick
- 3) Sarcasm
- 4) Satire
- 5) Irony
- 6) Pun

**Function of Humour:**Humour is one of the most effective literary weapons to please the audience, develops characters and makes plots for useful and memorable entities. Humour plays in people's lives, especially children's lives. It plays much function in a literary work such as it arouses interest among readers, maintains their attention, helps them to connect with the characters, emphasizes and relates ideas and helps the readers to picture the situation. Through this tool, writers can also improve the quality of their works by pleasing the audience. Apart from that, the most dominant characteristic of humour is to provide surprise which not only improves quality, but improves memorable style of a literary piece. Literary humour depends upon incongruous characterization, situation or discourse.Humour is a human activity which is very hard to explain but finds very commonly among children. Therefore humour and children seem to go hand in hand in children literature.

**Importance of Humour:**Humour plays a very vital role in children's life through literature because it helps to overcome children's anxieties, worries and fears. That's why Humour in children's literature is very beneficiary for a child's well-being. Despite various other lifetime matters, children of all age groups suffer from anxieties, worries and fears including separation, anxiety which is closely related to loneliness and isolation, supernatural phenomena

and animals, noise and situations associated with noise, the school life ,supernatural events or beings and bodily injury. It is noted that in children's literature, humour cannot be humour for humour's sake alone but it serves many purposes that is to relieve anxiety and to meet essential children need.

Studies as the aforementioned ones emphasize the importance of the genres of literature for children and young adults placing them in the center of children and young adults' learning, behaving and development. Thus, picture books, animals stories, myths, fairy tales, fiction, poetry, creative drama etc. Become more than a cute and exiting way to amuse or teach children to read, write or behave but a challenging, provocative, inspiring, creative and effective pre-occupation in children and young adults' daily life.

In recent years, the magic of Harry Potter (Rowling, 1997) has engaged children in reading. However, when teachers, parents or publishers examine why a specific book has this power, the answer is hard to find. Children's author Gordon Korman believes the answer lies in the humour—"I believe that the true key to Harry Potter's popularity is not its fantasy but its humour". Perhaps it is the humour that engages children within a text.

**Humour plays some important role to children which are as below:**

- 1) **To develop personal identity:** Humour will not only create enjoyment and a greater sense of well-being but also enhance energy, performance and commitment in workers. Eighteenth century German author George Lichtenberg said that humour creates a positive and informal environment that triggers reader's enthusiasm and interest.
- 2) **To overcome worries, anxieties and fears:** In the childhood, many children suffer from anxieties, worries and fears. Separation anxiety which is closely related to loneliness and isolation is an important anxiety within the very young readership. Children feel alone, not only by their parents and family but also by friends. From time

to time, they also feel lonely and isolated. So through children books, children can remove their problem because books are the only medium to accompany them forever. Humour has a healing power to reduce tensions. Humour helps children to engage with stories and the language so that they will forget their loneliness and anxiety.

- 3) **To develop language speak ability and readability:** Children love fun and laughter, the surprising, the unexpected and the outrageous. But rhymes, jokes, verse and songs are more than just enjoyable, they teach about language and demonstrate the wonder of word play. This is surely one of the foundations of good writing and is a great way to encourage children to become passionate readers.
- 4) **To entertain the children with fantasy and magic:** The first and the foremost intention of humour are to make the children laugh. Through the different types of humour, writer wants to entertain the children more and children enjoy the books a lot. Humour in children's Literature is a specific literature genre and an element, tool or key for making things better.

In general humour is often used to make light of difficult or stressful situations and to brighten up social atmosphere. It is regarded by many as an enjoyable and positive experience, so it would be reasonable to assume that humour might have some positive psychological effects on the body.

**Conclusion:** Humour in literature does not function as humour for its own sake only, but especially in literature it has a lifetime purpose i.e. to relieve childhood's anxieties, worries and fears and support in this way children's well-being. Children identify with literature protagonists, who face common worries, anxieties and fears, laugh, enjoy and learn throughout reading and experience hero's problematic situations with less stress and more joy, learning in such ways to face their own worries with less stress, anxiety and fear. This is surely one of the foundations of good writing and is a great way to encourage children to become enthusiastic readers.

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