Synonymic Row as a Device for Conveying Expressiveness of Prose Rhythm (Based on the Material of Georgian and English Rhythmic Prose)

Nunu GELDIASHVILI*
Manana GARIBASHVILI**
Nino DZAMUKASHVILI***

“Only in dictionaries do words stand alone”
David L. Brown

Abstract
Among other lexical devices, synonyms possess a remarkably big potential as expressive means of rhythmic prose. With the help of synonyms one and the same notion may be expressed in two or more ways. In the article, we tried to show that in the research material in both Georgian and English there is almost complete coincidence in terms of meaning and function of synonyms as a rhythm forming device.

The target readers of the article will be linguists and the researchers who study rhythm of prose.

Keywords: Expressive means, lexical devices, rhythm of prose, synonyms, synonymic row

Introduction
The aim of the article is to outline the common linguistic features of synonyms and synonymic rows that are employed for conveying rhythmic prose expressiveness based on contrastive study of prose writings that are markedly rhythmic in the Georgian and English languages. Our research will be all the more interesting and rewarding as the languages in question belong to different language families.

Repetition of the similar linguistic units is the cornerstone the rhythm of prose is based on. And on the lexical level, employment of synonyms is one of the major devices. To a great extent, it proceeds from their most essential function: “Synonyms lend more expressiveness and sparkle to a language” (Ghlonti, 1988, p. 59).

The paradigmatic row of synonyms is united and linked through the same denotation, or the same denotative component, but differing in connotations, or in connotative components (Tevdoradze, 2010). The same author stresses the dualistic nature of synonyms that enhances the expressiveness conveyed by them: through the context the more different may appear to be more similar and the more similar ones may appear to be more different in meaning (Tevdoradze, 2010).

Contrastive Study of the Research Material of Rhythmic Prose
From the point of prose rhythm, we are most interested in stylistic synonyms as they convey more connotation since “a huge expressive-emotive aspect of semantic side of the language is left beyond denotative meaning (…) Connotation implies different kind of subjective layers, i.e. expressiveness and intensification of certain content, grammatical imagery (using metaphors), emotional effect and so on (Nizharadze, 2005, p.191).

Contrastive study of the research material of rhythmic prose yielded the following:

a) Nouns, adjectives, verbs and participles are most frequently presented in synonymic pairs or rows. The expressiveness of rhythmicality further increases if synonyms are linked without a conjunction:

* Prof. Dr., Faculty of Humanities, Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Telavi, Georgia
E-mail: nunu.geldiashvili@tesau.edu.ge

** Prof. Dr., Faculty of Humanities, Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Telavi, Georgia
E-mail: manana.garibashvili@tesau.edu.ge

*** Professor’s Assistant, Faculty of Humanities, Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University, Telavi, Georgia
E-mail: ndzamukashvili@yahoo.com
areulia, amrezili, easting, singing, having fun - utvalavi ყველაფერი ცხელია - გადახვეწილთა mitovebul. (Robaqidze, და trim (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 120); gadakhvetsilta sasvenebeli itol viita da gadakhvetsilta da mudam mavalta)

The ship stood trim and decorated colourfully (Barnovi, 1943, p. 265); 

There was a great stir and bustle at the new palace. All were there: heads of the armies, leaders of communities, stargazers, fortunetellers, vicars, priests (Barnovi, 1943, p. 265). We think that here there are three synonym pairs: heads=leaders, stargazers=fortunetellers, vicars=priests.

He would cast about in his mind for some words that might console her, and would find only lame and useless ones (Joyce, 1982, p. 218).

The threadbare phrases, the inane expressions of sympathy, the cautious words of a reporter won over to conceal the details of a commonplace vulgar death attacked his stomach (Joyce, 1982, p. 128).

b) Sometimes the whole sentences consist of nothing else but synonyms or consecutive sentences are synonymous sets themselves.

Abandoned. Outcast. Deserted (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 153);

We could not find the similar cases in our English research material.

c) Rhythmicality of the synonymic pair is more stressed and heightened when they have a common modifier which makes the synonyms semantically more identical:

He would cast about in his mind for some words that might console her, and would find only lame and useless ones (Joyce, 1982, p. 218).

The threadbare phrases, the inane expressions of sympathy, the cautious words of a reporter won over to conceal the details of a commonplace vulgar death attacked his stomach (Joyce, 1982, p. 128).

b) Sometimes the whole sentences consist of nothing else but synonyms or consecutive sentences are synonymous sets themselves.

Abandoned. Outcast. Deserted (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 153);

We could not find the similar cases in our English research material.

c) Rhythmicality of the synonymic pair is more stressed and heightened when they have a common modifier which makes the synonyms semantically more identical:
among them, is the most expressive in relation to an animal. 

Nunu GELDIASHVILI, Manana GARIBASHVILI, Nino DZAMUKASHVILI
Journal in Humanities; ISSN 2298-0245; e-ISSN: 2346-8289; Volume 5, Issue 2, 2016

The flow of the rejoicing people, boundless and limitless (Kotetishvili, 2012, p. 11);

The girl is following him: aflame and afire (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 243).

The analogical examples from the English part are the following:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p. 128);

... the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling (Joyce, 1982, p. 219);

I spent my Saturday nights in New York because those gleaming, dazzling parties of his were with me so vividly (Fitzgerald, 1964, p. 129);

e) Rhythm of prose is conveyed not only through seemingly complete synonyms but also through partial synonyms. They enable to make the utterance rhythmically stressed and accentuated since „synonyms always possess non-identical components either in material-logical meaning or in connotations. Thus, synonymic repetition makes it possible to study, examine, inspect and describe an object“ (Arnold, 1973, p. 129).

Examples:

The river is rushing, splashing and leaping in the crevice... (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 243).

The flow of the rejoicing people, boundless and limitless (Kotetishvili, 2012, p. 11);

The girl is following him: aflame and afire (Robaqidze, 1989, p. 243).

The analogical examples from the English part are the following:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p. 128);

... the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling (Joyce, 1982, p. 219);

I spent my Saturday nights in New York because those gleaming, dazzling parties of his were with me so vividly (Fitzgerald, 1964, p. 129);

e) Rhythm of prose is conveyed not only through seemingly complete synonyms but also through partial synonyms. They enable to make the utterance rhythmically stressed and accentuated since „synonyms always possess non-identical components either in material-logical meaning or in connotations. Thus, synonymic repetition makes it possible to study, examine, inspect and describe an object“ (Arnold, 1973, p. 129).

Examples:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p. 128);

... the solid world itself, which these dead had one time reared and lived in, was dissolving and dwindling (Joyce, 1982, p. 219);

I spent my Saturday nights in New York because those gleaming, dazzling parties of his were with me so vividly (Fitzgerald, 1964, p. 129);

e) Rhythm of prose is conveyed not only through seemingly complete synonyms but also through partial synonyms. They enable to make the utterance rhythmically stressed and accentuated since „synonyms always possess non-identical components either in material-logical meaning or in connotations. Thus, synonymic repetition makes it possible to study, examine, inspect and describe an object“ (Arnold, 1973, p. 129).
Synonymic Row as a Device for Conveying Expressiveness of Prose Rhythm (Based on the Material of Georgian and English Rhythmic Prose)

Examples from the English sources:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p.128);

The blinds would be drawn down and Aunt Kate would be sitting beside him, crying and blowing her nose and telling him how Julia had died (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

He would cast about in his mind for some words that might console her, and would find only iame and useless ones (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

They have been put in barrels and shipped to the cities where they will be eaten in apartments that are filled with books, magazines, furniture, and people (Anderson,1981, p. 34);

...Gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors’ eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 129);

...later I realized that behind much of the entertainment that the city poured into the nation there were only a lot of rather lost and lonely people (Fitzgerald,1965, p. 25);

I see it as a night scene by El Greco: a hundred houses, at once conventional and grotesque, crouching under a sullen, overhanging sky and a lustreless moon (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 126);

My own happiness in the past often approached such an ecstasy that I could not share it even with the person dearest to me but had to walk it away in quiet streets and lanes (Fitzgerald, 1965, p. 55);

He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night (Fitzgerald,1984, p.129);

Even when the East excited me most, even when I was most keenly aware of its superiority to the bored, sprawling, swollen towns beyond the Ohio (Fitzgerald,1984, p. 126).

f ) It is noteworthy to mention that "a writer, in order to produce an impressive narrative, often presents combined synonyms that are formed through composing” (Geldiashvili, 2010). Such occasions bring remarkably great expressiveness of rhythmicality into the text since often these synonyms are rhymed and it also works favorably for expressing rhythm.

Examples from the Georgian sources:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p.128);

The blinds would be drawn down and Aunt Kate would be sitting beside him, crying and blowing her nose and telling him how Julia had died (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

He would cast about in his mind for some words that might console her, and would find only iame and useless ones (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

They have been put in barrels and shipped to the cities where they will be eaten in apartments that are filled with books, magazines, furniture, and people (Anderson,1981, p. 34);

...Gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors’ eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 129);

...later I realized that behind much of the entertainment that the city poured into the nation there were only a lot of rather lost and lonely people (Fitzgerald,1965, p. 25);

I see it as a night scene by El Greco: a hundred houses, at once conventional and grotesque, crouching under a sullen, overhanging sky and a lustreless moon (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 126);

My own happiness in the past often approached such an ecstasy that I could not share it even with the person dearest to me but had to walk it away in quiet streets and lanes (Fitzgerald, 1965, p. 55);

He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night (Fitzgerald,1984, p.129);

Even when the East excited me most, even when I was most keenly aware of its superiority to the bored, sprawling, swollen towns beyond the Ohio (Fitzgerald,1984, p. 126).

f ) It is noteworthy to mention that "a writer, in order to produce an impressive narrative, often presents combined synonyms that are formed through composing” (Geldiashvili, 2010). Such occasions bring remarkably great expressiveness of rhythmicality into the text since often these synonyms are rhymed and it also works favorably for expressing rhythm.

Examples from the Georgian sources:

...he halted and looked along the river towards Dublin, the lights of which burned redly and hospitably in the cold night (Joyce, 1982, p.128);

The blinds would be drawn down and Aunt Kate would be sitting beside him, crying and blowing her nose and telling him how Julia had died (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

He would cast about in his mind for some words that might console her, and would find only iame and useless ones (Joyce, 1982, p. 218);

They have been put in barrels and shipped to the cities where they will be eaten in apartments that are filled with books, magazines, furniture, and people (Anderson,1981, p. 34);

...Gradually I became aware of the old island here that flowered once for Dutch sailors’ eyes—a fresh, green breast of the new world (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 129);

...later I realized that behind much of the entertainment that the city poured into the nation there were only a lot of rather lost and lonely people (Fitzgerald,1965, p. 25);

I see it as a night scene by El Greco: a hundred houses, at once conventional and grotesque, crouching under a sullen, overhanging sky and a lustreless moon (Fitzgerald, 1984, p. 126);

My own happiness in the past often approached such an ecstasy that I could not share it even with the person dearest to me but had to walk it away in quiet streets and lanes (Fitzgerald, 1965, p. 55);

He did not know that it was already behind him, somewhere back in that vast obscurity beyond the city, where the dark fields of the republic rolled on under the night (Fitzgerald,1984, p.129);

Even when the East excited me most, even when I was most keenly aware of its superiority to the bored, sprawling, swollen towns beyond the Ohio (Fitzgerald,1984, p. 126).

f ) It is noteworthy to mention that "a writer, in order to produce an impressive narrative, often presents combined synonyms that are formed through composing” (Geldiashvili, 2010). Such occasions bring remarkably great expressiveness of rhythmicality into the text since often these synonyms are rhymed and it also works favorably for expressing rhythm.
Ancient papyruses: writings and paintings on the plates (Barnovi, 1943, p. 340);

The duduks, mountains were singing softly, emitting sorrowful clattering and rattling of drums (Barnovi, 1943, p. 347); Clattering and rattling of drums (Barnovi, 1943, p. 347); Clattering and rattling of drums (Barnovi, 1943, p. 347); Clattering and rattling of drums (Barnovi, 1943, p. 347);

... and just a little bit more life-just a handful of life (Robaqidze, 1989, p.132); The duduks were singing softly, emitting sorrowful sounds they were moaning, groaning, complaining (Kotetishvili, 2012, p. 8); Now that she was gone he understood how lonely her life must have been, sitting night after night alone in that room (Joyce, 1982, p.128);

She realised that she was dead, that she had ceased to exist, that she had become a memory (Joyce, 1982, p.129).

Conclusion

The above study allows us to conclude that on the level of lexis the prose rhythm is created by repeating the words with identical or near meaning. As for the expressiveness of rhythmicality it is intensified by means of synonyms as one and the same notion can be conveyed in two or more different ways semantically. As it has been proved, synonyms can be considered as a very effective device for conveying expressiveness of prose rhythm in both Georgian and English. We may say that there is almost complete coincidence both meaning- and function-wise of synonyms in these languages.

References


