



The implicit political satire in Ramadan television programs, exemplified by the show "Red cat."

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Abstract :

Comedy is a purposeful art that possesses numerous fundamental elements in structuring events and discussing human issues, being considered a noble art with its own characteristics. The way it presents topics that carry a meaningful message revolves around provoking laughter and constructive criticism of various social issues, introducing new perspectives on subjects through satire in critique. This approach has a profound impact on both individuals and society, starting from specific objectives but extending its influence broadly, whether on political or social events. Therefore, the current research addresses the following topics:

Research Problem:

The research problem is formulated as follows: How can satire be effectively employed in television programs?

The study also delves into the importance of the research and its necessity. The research objective is to uncover the structural and formal elements of utilizing satire in television programs.

The study outlines the research scope, including defining terms such as satire and implicit politics, among others. The theoretical framework is represented in the following sections:

First Section: The concept of implicit political satire.

Second Section: Employing structural and formal elements in television programs.

The researcher concludes with several theoretical framework indicators.

Chapter Three:

This chapter includes the research methodology, research community, sample selection, research tools, and analysis of the sample, which is the series *Red cat*.

Chapter Four:

It presents the research findings, conclusions, recommendations, suggestions, and the list of references.

Keywords: Satire – Politics – Implicit.

Chapter One

Methodological Framework

First - Research Problem:

Political satire stands as a prominent phenomenon in Arab Ramadan television programs, where various satirical techniques are employed to discuss urgent political issues. The show *Red cat* serves as one of the most notable examples of this type of program, successfully evoking laughter



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from the audience while prompting them to reflect on various political matters. This study aims to analyze the use of implicit political satire in Ramadan television programs by conducting a comparative study between the series *Imad is Silent* and *This Family*. The focus will be on analyzing how satire is used to criticize political situations, its impact on the audience, and the ongoing debate surrounding the use of such satire.

It is essential to note that political satire can be utilized for malicious purposes, potentially leading to the distortion of facts or the promotion of extremist ideas. Therefore, viewers must be aware of the potential risks of political satire and approach it with caution and critical thinking.

The research problem can be formulated in the following question: How can satire be effectively employed in television programs?

Second - Importance of the Research and its Necessity

The importance of the research is manifested in the following points:

- It aids in understanding the nature of political satire in Ramadan television programs.
- It sheds light on the motivations behind the use of political satire and its impact on the audience.
- It contributes to evaluating the effectiveness of political satire as a tool for change.

As for its necessity: it benefits researchers, critics, and specialized institutions in understanding the mechanisms of constructing satire in television programs.

Third - Research Objective

The current research aims to:

- Uncover the structural and formal elements of employing satire in television programs.

Research Boundaries

- Subject Boundaries: Implicit political satire in Ramadan television programs, with *Red cat* as a case study.
- Spatial Boundaries: Satirical political programs produced by Iraqi channels.
- Temporal Boundaries: The research covers the period from 2023 to 2024.

Term Definitions

- Satire:

Linguistic Definition: The root of the word (سخر) indicates contempt and humiliation. It is said "سخر منه" (mocked him), and the term has various derivatives, including "سخرية" (satire), meaning to ridicule or mock.

Terminological Definition: Satire is the act of demeaning and highlighting flaws and deficiencies in a humorous way.

Operational Definition: Satirical expressions by the program's host that involve mockery, laughter, and criticism.



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- Politics:

Linguistic Definition: The word "politics" (سياسة) originates from the Arabic term for leadership (The Arabs say, "سأس القوم سياسة") He governed the people politically), meaning he led or governed them. Politics refers to managing affairs for the public good.

Terminological Definition: Harold Lasswell defines it as the activities conducted by a group of powerful elites to achieve their own interests using authority.

Operational Definition: A scientific media message that carries social and political information to the recipient (audience) through a medium of communication.

- Implicit Political Satire:

Operational Definition: A critical method used in television programs to indirectly criticize political systems and current events. (Researcher's definition)

Theoretical Definition: Implicit political satire is a complex phenomenon with deep roots in human history. (Researcher's definition)

- Implicit (مضمرة):

Linguistic Definition: The word "مضمرة" means concealed or hidden.

- Television:

Linguistic Definition: In English, the word "television" is composed of two parts: "Tele," meaning "from afar," and "vision," meaning "sight." Thus, television means "seeing from afar."

Terminological Definition: It is a method of transmitting and receiving images and sound from one place to another via electromagnetic waves and satellites. It involves the transmission and reception of both image and sound over long distances using electromagnetic waves, copper wires, fiber optics, and satellite stations.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Framework

First Section: The Concept of Implicit Political Satire

Media plays a vital and increasingly important role in our lives, driven by ongoing technological advancements. It provides us with news and information, and as societies grow more complex, mass media has become one of the primary sources of information about various events and issues. It equips the audience with different aspects of communication that provide facts, news, and information on various matters, helping to raise awareness and understanding among individuals and the public. This leads to a deeper knowledge and awareness, enabling individuals to form sound opinions on the issues at hand. Television programs, with their multiple mediums, serve as agents of change, promoting ideas of freedom and justice. The more advanced the media in any country, the more it accelerates change within that country. Communication revolutions often lead to multiple changes that affect society, fostering ongoing interactions between individuals, institutions, and nations, making the world feel like a small global village.



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Implicit political satire is a type of satirical expression used to criticize political situations without explicitly stating so. This form of satire is often employed in Ramadan television programs through characters, dialogues, and comedic situations.

Objectives of Using Implicit Political Satire:

Ramadan television programs aim to achieve several goals through implicit political satire, including:

1. Critiquing Political Situations: Satire is an effective tool for criticizing political situations without facing censorship or repercussions from authorities.
2. Raising Political Awareness: Satire can help increase awareness of important political issues, especially among younger audiences.
3. Encouraging Dialogue: Satire can stimulate discussion and dialogue on political matters, potentially leading to positive change.
4. Alleviating Tension: Satire can help relieve tension and anxiety over political situations.
5. Multiple Examples of Satire: There are numerous examples of implicit political satire in Ramadan television programs.
6. Controversy Around Satire: The use of implicit political satire in Ramadan television programs often sparks considerable debate.

Impact of Satire in the Program *Red cat*

- Stimulating Political Discussion: The program fosters discussions on political issues, enhancing public awareness and encouraging critical thinking about these matters.
- Reducing Political Tension: Through its satirical approach, the program helps to reduce political tension by presenting political issues in a lighthearted manner.
- Promoting Freedom of Expression: The program acts as a platform for freedom of expression, allowing viewers to express their political opinions through satire without fear of censorship.

Second Section: Structural and Formal Elements of Satire

Implicit political satire is a powerful tool used in television programs to critique political systems and current events indirectly. Analyzing the structural and formal elements of this satire helps to understand its depth and influence on viewers.

Satire employs a variety of structural and formal elements, including themes, goals, mediums, language, images, music, and editing, to convey its message.

First - Structural Elements:

1. Theme: Implicit political satire focuses on specific political issues such as corruption, wars, or government policies.
2. Goal: The satire aims to critique these issues or the individuals associated with them.
3. Medium: Various techniques are used to achieve this goal, including:
 - Exaggeration: Making the issue seem more absurd or ridiculous.



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- Symbolism: Using symbols or images that indirectly reference the issue.
- Mockery: Employing satire or ridicule to criticize the issue or the individuals involved.
- Irony: Highlighting contradictions or incongruities to expose the flaws of the issue or individuals in question.

Second - Formal Elements:

1. Language: Language is carefully chosen to convey the intended satirical meaning.
2. Imagery: Images, including both stills and video clips, are used to enhance the satirical message.
3. Music: Music is employed to create a specific atmosphere or evoke particular emotions in the viewers.
4. Editing: The editing of the program ties together the structural and formal elements to create a cohesive narrative.

Examples of Structural and Formal Elements in Implicit Political Satire:

- *The Colbert Report:* This comedic series uses exaggeration and satire to criticize current political events. For instance, host Stephen Colbert may exaggerate the actions of a politician to make them appear absurd.
- *South Park:* The show uses symbolism and irony to critique a variety of political issues such as war, racism, and environmental policies. In one episode, animals may be used as symbols to represent different political groups.
- *Saturday Night Live:* This program employs a wide range of techniques, including satirical skits and animated sequences, to criticize ongoing political events. For example, one skit may parody a specific politician in a humorous manner.

Indicators from the Theoretical Framework

Political Satire Indicators in *Red cat*:

- Use of Cartoon Characters: The show employs cartoon characters to represent real political figures, allowing the audience to engage with political issues in a lighthearted and humorous manner.
- Exaggeration and Amplification: The program exaggerates and amplifies certain political situations, adding a satirical tone that highlights their contradictions.
- Mockery of Language: The show mocks political discourse by using colloquial language or wordplay, turning serious political speeches into humorous dialogues.
- Music and Songs: Music and songs are satirically integrated into the program, reinforcing the light-hearted mockery of political issues.
- Indirect References: By using indirect references instead of direct statements, the show avoids censorship while maintaining its satirical edge.

Chapter Three

Research Procedures

Research Methodology

This research will adopt a descriptive-analytical approach. Information will be gathered through:



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- a) Reviewing scholarly sources related to the research topic.
- b) Analyzing examples from television programs that embody political satire.

Research Population

The research population encompasses all elements related to the subject of the study, represented by satirical Ramadan television programs.

Research Sample

The researcher has selected samples from the programs in the research population. The sample consists of the television show *Red cat*, which exemplifies implicit political satire.

Research Tool

The objective behind the research tool is to achieve a high level of scientific accuracy. The researcher will use a set of indicators derived from the theoretical framework to analyze the selected sample.

Sample Analysis

The *Red cat* program stands out as a prominent example of political satire in Ramadan television programming. It presents a light and humorous way of discussing pressing political issues, contributing to discussions and easing political tensions.

Additionally, *Red cat* is one of the most well-known satirical shows in Iraq, offering sharp criticism of the political and social circumstances in the country. It is an Iraqi comedy series directed by Mustafa Hikmat and written by Ahmed Wahid, featuring a cast that includes Ahmed Wahid, Zahour Alaa, Hassan Hantoush, Noor Mohammed, Rasha Raad, Fawzia Hassan, Talal Hadi, Asma Safaa, Bidaa Rashid, Rafal Nashmi, Mustafa Bahjat, and others. The series revolves around an Iraqi family living in Baghdad, encountering many comedic situations in their daily lives.

Strengths:

- Comedy: The show features light-hearted comedy suitable for the entire family.
- Performance The actors, especially Ahmed Wahid who plays the father, deliver outstanding performances.
- Direction The direction is simple yet clever, effectively delivering the intended message.
- Music The music is charming and fits the atmosphere of the series.
- Social Issues The show addresses important social issues like corruption, unemployment, and poverty in a comedic way.

Weaknesses

- Stereotypes Some characters, particularly the father, are somewhat stereotypical.
- Script Certain episodes suffer from weak scripts.
- Production Quality The production is moderate, which is evident in some scenes.

Audience



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The series targets families, especially young adults. Overall, *Red cat* is an enjoyable comedy series that is well worth watching.

The show has achieved significant success in Iraq and has garnered high viewership. It is aired on UTV Iraq and has produced four seasons to date.

1- Indicator of Using Cartoon Characters to Depict Real Political Figures in "Red cat"

1. Creating a Safe Distance: The use of cartoon characters allows the creators of *Red cat* to create a safe distance from sensitive topics, enabling them to criticize political figures without fear of censorship or repression. These characters help alleviate the tension for viewers, allowing them to engage with the show without feeling threatened.

2. Simplifying Complex Issues: Cartoon characters can simplify complex political issues, making them more understandable to the general audience. These characters help convey political messages in a lighthearted and engaging way, making them more impactful for viewers.

3. Evoking Emotions: Cartoon characters can stir emotions in the audience, which may increase their interest in political matters. For example, a sad cartoon character might represent victims of political corruption, eliciting sympathy from viewers.

4. Adding a Comedic Touch to Current Events:

- Cartoon characters can add humor to ongoing events, helping to reduce tension for viewers.
- These characters contribute to making the show more entertaining and appealing, which may encourage more people to follow it.

Examples of Using Cartoon Characters to Depict Real Political Figures in "Red cat":

- A cartoon character representing a corrupt head of state.
- A cartoon character representing a notorious minister.
- A cartoon character representing an ordinary citizen suffering from the injustice of the political system.
- A cartoon character representing a political or historical symbol.

Impact of Using Cartoon Characters to Depict Real Political Figures in "Red cat":

The use of cartoon characters to represent real political figures in *Red cat* can have a significant effect on viewers. These characters can raise awareness about important political and social issues, encouraging critical thinking about the political system and current events. Moreover, these characters provide viewers with a way to express their political views without fear of censorship or repression.

Risks of Using Cartoon Characters to Depict Real Political Figures in "Red cat":



There are also risks associated with the use of cartoon characters in this context. Authorities may misinterpret these characters, which could lead to censorship or repression. Additionally, these characters might offend some viewers, especially if they touch on sensitive or painful subjects.

2- Indicator of Using Exaggeration and Amplification in "Red cat":

1. ****Exaggeration in Portraying Political Situations:**** The creators of *Red cat* often exaggerate political situations to make them more comedic and satirical. For example, controversial political statements may be amplified, or complex political scenarios may be portrayed in a humorous way.
2. **Use of Exaggerated Comedic Characters:** The show may feature exaggerated comedic characters to represent real political figures or government officials. These characters' traits, such as greed, corruption, or foolishness, are amplified to make political situations appear more absurd.
3. **Use of Exaggerated Scenarios:** Exaggerated scenarios may be used to depict real political events, with situations being blown out of proportion to create humor and highlight the contradictions of the political system.
4. **Exaggerated Dialogue:** Exaggerated dialogue may be used to portray real political statements, making them appear more ridiculous and satirical. This method is effective in highlighting the incompetence or corruption of political figures.

Examples of Using Exaggeration and Amplification in "Red cat":

2- Indicator of Using Exaggeration and Amplification in "Red cat":

- **Amplifying Controversial Political Statements to Make Them More Satirical:** The show exaggerates statements made by politicians, enhancing their absurdity and comedic value.
- **Using an Exaggerated Comedic Character to Represent a Corrupt Head of State:** A character representing a corrupt leader is portrayed with exaggerated traits, such as extreme greed or foolishness, making the situation more absurd and laughable.
- **Depicting Complex Political Situations in a Humorous Manner:** The show simplifies and exaggerates complicated political scenarios, presenting them in a humorous way that highlights their contradictions.
- **Using Exaggerated Dialogue to Make Political Statements Seem More Ridiculous:** Political statements are intentionally inflated to showcase the absurdity of the statements themselves, often mocking the speaker.

Impact of Using Exaggeration and Amplification in "Red cat":

This approach can significantly influence viewers by raising awareness of important political and social issues, encouraging them to think critically about the political system and current events.



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Additionally, it provides an outlet for viewers to express their frustrations and anger about the political and social conditions.

Risks of Using Exaggeration and Amplification in "Red cat":

Exaggeration and amplification can be misinterpreted by authorities, potentially leading to censorship or repression. Furthermore, these exaggerated portrayals might offend some viewers, especially if they involve sensitive or painful topics.

3- Indicator of Using Satire in Language in "Red cat":

1. Use of Colloquial Language: The show often employs colloquial language to make political discourse more accessible to the general public. This language also creates a humorous or satirical atmosphere, making politicians' statements appear more ridiculous.

2. Wordplay: The creators of *Red cat* use wordplay to alter the meaning of politicians' statements or make them more satirical. Puns or dark humor are often used to enhance the comedic effect of political discourse.

3. Intentional Grammatical Errors: Deliberate grammatical mistakes may be included in political speeches to make the speakers seem foolish or incompetent. These errors highlight politicians' lack of knowledge or education.

4. Use of Local Dialects: Local dialects are employed to make the political discourse more relatable to the local audience, increasing the impact of the satire on specific political figures or events.

Examples of Satirical Use of Language in "Red cat":

- Using colloquial language in a formal political context.
- Playing with words to change the meaning of a political statement.
- Adding intentional grammatical errors to a political speech.
- Using local dialects to mock a local politician.

Impact of Using Satirical Language in "Red cat":

This approach can significantly affect viewers by raising awareness of important political and social issues. It can also encourage critical thinking about political speeches and provide an outlet for viewers to express their frustrations and anger.

Risks of Using Satirical Language in "Red cat":

Satire in language could be misinterpreted by authorities, leading to censorship or repression. It could also offend some viewers, particularly if it touches on sensitive or controversial issues.



4- Indicator of Using Satirical Music and Songs in "Red cat":

1. Use of Comedic Music: Comedic music is often used in *Red cat* to create a lighthearted or satirical atmosphere during the discussion of political issues. This helps to alleviate tension and make serious issues more palatable for the audience.

2. Use of Satirical Song Lyrics: The show may feature satirical songs to criticize political systems or figures. These songs are used to expose the contradictions of the political system and highlight its absurdity in a humorous manner.

3. Using Popular Music in a Satirical Manner: Popular music may be reinterpreted with a satirical twist to connect it to a particular political issue. This creates a humorous reaction from the audience, reinforcing their feelings of disdain for political matters.

4. Use of Satirical Sound Effects: Sound effects are often used in *Red cat* to add a humorous dimension to political discussions. These effects heighten the absurdity of political events and enhance the comedic atmosphere.

Examples of Using Satirical Music and Songs in "Red cat":

- Playing comedic music during the discussion of a political scandal.
- Singing a satirical song about controversial political statements.
- Reinterpreting popular music associated with political power in a humorous way.
- Adding humorous sound effects to political speeches.

Impact of Using Satirical Music and Songs in "Red cat":

This technique can have a profound effect on viewers by making serious political issues more entertaining and accessible. It encourages viewers to think critically about politics and provides a comedic outlet for frustrations related to political affairs.

Risks of Using Satirical Music and Songs in "Red cat":

As with other forms of satire, authorities may misinterpret satirical music, leading to censorship or repression. Satirical music and sound effects could also offend certain audiences, particularly when dealing with sensitive political topics.

The impact of using satirical music and songs in the program "Red cat" can be substantial on viewers. This music and these songs can raise awareness of important political and social issues, encourage critical thinking about current events, and provide an outlet for viewers to express their frustration and anger towards political and social conditions.

The risks of using satirical music and songs in "Red cat" include potential misinterpretation by authorities, which may lead to censorship or repression. Additionally, such music and songs might offend some viewers, especially if they address sensitive or painful topics.



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Indicators of Using Indirect References in "Red cat":

1. Symbolism: Creators of "Red cat" often use symbolism to critique political systems or figures without direct mention. For example, they may employ a fictional character or symbolic story to represent a specific political reality.
2. Hints: The program may use hints to refer to specific political events or controversial statements, relying on the viewer's knowledge of the political context. This approach allows the show to evade censorship while maintaining its satirical nature.
3. Black Humor: "Red cat" might utilize black humor to indirectly criticize political systems or figures, relying on exaggeration and irony to convey its message in a light and engaging manner.
4. Ambiguous Language: Ambiguous language may be employed to make the political message less direct, depending on viewer interpretation and allowing the program to bypass censorship while retaining its satirical content.

Examples of Using Indirect References in "Red cat":

- Employing a fictional character to represent a corrupt head of state.
- Referencing a political scandal with a satirical hint.
- Using black humor to criticize a repressive government policy.
- Posing an open-ended question about a sensitive political issue, allowing viewers to interpret the message in their own way.

The Impact of Using Indirect References in "Red cat": These indirect references can significantly affect viewers by raising awareness of important political and social issues, encouraging critical thinking about political systems and current events, and providing an outlet for expressing political opinions without fear of censorship or repression.

The Risks of Using Indirect References in "Red cat": Such indirect references might fail to convey their message effectively, potentially weakening the program's impact. Additionally, authorities might misinterpret some references, leading to censorship or repression.

Chapter Four: Results and Discussion

- Results:

1. The use of veiled political satire in Ramadan television programs can be fraught with risks.
2. Authorities might misinterpret this satire, leading to censorship or repression.
3. This satire can offend some viewers, particularly if it touches on sensitive or painful subjects.
4. Veiled political satire is a powerful tool for critiquing political systems and sensitive social issues in Ramadan television programs.
5. While this satire can positively impact audiences, it is also fraught with risks.

- Conclusions:

Veiled political satire is an effective tool for criticizing political conditions and raising awareness of important issues. However, it must be used responsibly and intelligently, considering its impact on both the audience and the political discourse.



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- Analyzing political satire in Ramadan television programs within its social and political context to understand the factors contributing to its emergence and interaction with current events.
- Studying the role of censorship in shaping television content and its influence on the use of political satire.
- Comparing the use of political satire in Ramadan television programs with its use in other media, such as newspapers and online platforms, to understand similarities and differences.
- Investigating the impact of political satire on the audience through surveys or analyzing viewer comments on social media to gauge their understanding and the effect on their opinions and attitudes.

- Recommendations:

- Employ new research methods to study political satire in Ramadan television programs, such as social network analysis or sentiment analysis.
- Publish research findings in academic journals or specialized books, or present them at scientific conferences.

- Proposals:

The researcher suggests conducting a follow-up study on the dialectic of employing black comedy in political programs.

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