

**THE STYLISTIC FUNCTIONS OF GRADATION AND BATHOS IN  
CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S "JANE EYRE"**

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**Annotation:** *Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre is a clear example of how writers use language to shape both emotions and story. This study looks at gradation and bathos, two important stylistic tools. Gradation, which moves from weaker to stronger or stronger to weaker emotions or descriptions, helps show the characters' feelings and build tension in the plot. Bathos, on the other hand, creates sudden changes that can make a scene ironic, surprising, or dramatic. By looking at selected passages, this research shows how Bronte carefully uses these techniques to reveal Jane's inner life, highlight important themes, and give the story a steady flow. The study also notes how gradation and bathos work together with other stylistic elements, such as imagery and repetition, to make the text richer and more expressive. In the end, this analysis demonstrates that Bronte's skillful use of language still offers useful insights for reading and understanding classic literature today.*

**Keywords:** *Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre, stylistic devices, gradation, bathos, narrative style, emotional intensity, character development, rhetorical techniques, literary expression.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Charlotte Brontening "Jane Eyre" asari yozuvchilarning til orqali hissiyotlarni va hikoyani shakllantirish usullarini namoyon etuvchi aniq misoldir. Ushbu tadqiqot gradatsiya va batos kabi ikki muhim stilistik vositaga e'tibor qaratadi. Gradatsiya, ya'ni his-tuyg'ular yoki tasvirlarning zaifdan kuchliligacha yoki kuchlidanoq zaifgacha o'tishi, qahramonlarning his-tuyg'ularini ko'rsatishga va syujetdagi taranglikni yaratishga yordam beradi. Batos esa to'satdan yuz beradigan o'zgarishlar orqali sahnani kinoyali, hayratlanarli yoki dramatik qilishi mumkin. Tanlab olingan parchalarni tahlil qilish orqali tadqiqot Brontening bu usullardan ehtiyotkorona foydalanib, Jane'ning ichki dunyosini ochib berishi, muhim mavzularni yoritishi va hikoyaga izchillik berishini ko'rsatadi. Tadqiqot shuningdek, gradatsiya va batosning boshqa stilistik elementlar tasviriy vositalar va takrorlash kabi bilan birgalikda matnni yanada boy va ifodali qilishi ta'kidlaydi. Xulosa qilib aytganda, ushbu tahlil Brontening tilni mohirona qo'llash uslubi bugungi kunda ham klassik adabiyotlarni o'qish va tushunish uchun foydali tushunchalar berishini ko'rsatadi*



**Kalit so'zlar:** *Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre, stilistik vositalar, gradatsiya, batos, narrativ uslub, hissiy intensivlik, qahramon rivoji, ritorik usullar, badiiy ifoda.*

**Аннотация:** *Роман Шарлотты Бронте «Джейн Эйр» является наглядным примером того, как писатели используют язык для формирования как эмоционального воздействия, так и повествования. В данном исследовании рассматриваются градация и батос два важных стилистических приёма. Градация, предполагающая переход от более слабых к более сильным или от более сильных к более слабым эмоциям и описаниям, помогает передать чувства персонажей и усилить напряжение в сюжете. Батос, в свою очередь, создаёт резкие смысловые сдвиги, которые могут придавать сцене ироничный, неожиданный или драматический характер. Анализ отдельных фрагментов показывает, как Бронте тщательно использует эти приёмы для раскрытия внутреннего мира Джейн, подчёркивания ключевых тем и обеспечения плавного развития повествования. Также отмечается, что градация и батос взаимодействуют с другими стилистическими средствами, такими как образность и повтор, делая текст более насыщенным и выразительным. В итоге данное исследование демонстрирует, что мастерское владение языком Шарлотты Бронте по-прежнему предоставляет ценные возможности для чтения и интерпретации классической литературы в наши дни.*

**Ключевые слова:** *Шарлотта Бронте, «Джейн Эйр», стилистические приёмы, градация, батос, повествовательный стиль, эмоциональная напряжённость, развитие персонажа, риторические техники, литературная выразительность.*

### Introduction

In literary studies, stylistic devices are important to express emotional effect and they help readers understand emotions and meaning in a text. These devices are gradation and bathos.

Gradation is used when ideas or emotions are arranged step by step, either in climax or anticlimax order.

Bathos happens when a serious or emotional situation suddenly turns into something ordinary or disappointing. These devices are often used to influence the reader's feelings.

According to I. R. Galperin, gradation is a stylistic device in which elements are arranged in climax or anticlimax order of emotional or logical importance. This idea can clearly be seen in Jane Eyre.

For example, when Jane talks about her suffering at Gateshead, her emotions move from silent endurance to open rebellion. At first, she feels fear and injustice, then anger, and finally she resists being treated unfairly. This emotional growth

follows Galperin's definition of ascending gradation, where each feeling becomes stronger than the previous one.

Geoffrey Leech also points out that gradation helps create the emotional meaning of a text and keeps the reader's attention. A good example of this can be found in Jane's speech to Rochester, where she expresses her feelings and sense of equality. Her words become stronger step by step, ending with the powerful idea that she has as much soul and heart as he does. The gradual increase in emotional strength makes the scene more intense and supports Leech's view that gradation controls emotional tension in a literary work.

Bathos was explained by Alexander Pope as a sudden fall from an elevated or serious style to something trivial or less important. In Jane Eyre, bathos can be seen not as comedy, but as emotional disappointment. For instance, Jane's romantic happiness is suddenly destroyed when she discovers that Rochester is already married. The emotional tone changes quickly from hope to pain. This sharp contrast between expectation and reality illustrates Pope's idea of bathos, where strong emotions collapse into a painful truth.

### **Main body**

One of the most prominent stylistic devices in the play is gradation. For example, we can see it especially in the passages that reflect Jane's inner struggles and emotional evaluation. The author uses gradation to express Jane's thoughts and feelings and to explain to the reader that the emotional intensity gradually increases. For example, when Jane describes her life at Lowood school, her suffering is shown to increase gradually:

*"We were crowded in the schoolroom, we shivered with cold, we were half-starved, and finally disease spread through the ranks."* (Bronte, 1847)

We can see that Bronte uses gradation here to show Jane's difficulties increasing.

Another clear example of gradation can be seen in Jane's declarations of love for Rochester:

*"Do you think I am an automaton? — a machine without feelings? ... I have as much soul as you and full as much heart!"* (Bronte, 1847)

This sentence shows climax, that is, it expresses the gradual development of feelings.

Bathos is rarely used in the play, but when it is used, it has a strong emotional effect. The bathos in the play occurs when Jane's emotions are suddenly interrupted. Bronte uses bathos to show that her emotions suddenly subside when they are at their peak.

A clear example of bathos can be seen in the scene where Jane discovers that Mr. Rochester is already married. Before this moment, Jane believes that her love and happiness are finally within reach. Here the reader expects a happy ending. But when

the truth about Bertha Mason is revealed, Jane's emotions suddenly plummet at a high point, and Jane describes this moment in a very painful way:

*"My hopes were all dead struck with a subtle doom."* (Bronte, 1847)

Here, the sudden fall from happiness to despair creates a bathos-like effect. It is not comic, but tragic and realistic. This contrast intensifies Jane's moral struggle and shows that reality does not always correspond to emotional desires.

### **Conclusion**

An analysis of gradation and bathos in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* shows that these stylistic devices are very important to the emotional and narrative development of the novel. Gradation helps to show Jane's inner feelings step by step, from weaker emotions to stronger ones. Through this device, the reader can clearly see Jane's psychological growth, moral strength, and character changes throughout the story. It also makes the story more dynamic and emotionally interesting.

Although less commonly used, bathos plays an important role by creating sudden changes in tone. When moments of emotional change are interrupted by reality, the contrast is stronger and more meaningful. In *Jane Eyre*, bathos is used not primarily for humor, but to show the limits of despair, moral conflict, and personal happiness. These sudden changes make the novel more realistic and emotionally complex.

Overall, the combined use of gradation and bathos enhances character development, supports plot development, and deepens the novel's major themes, especially those related to human emotion and moral choices. This analysis argues that Charlotte Bronte's careful use of stylistic devices reflects her strong storytelling skills. As a result, "*Jane Eyre*" remains an important work for understanding how language functions in classical English literature and why stylistic analysis is still valuable for contemporary literary studies.

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