

## Stand-up Comedy as an Interartistic Genre in Contemporary Literature

Mobina Abedi<sup>1</sup>

Ahmad Razi<sup>2</sup>

### Extended abstract

Stand-up comedy is one of the humor-oriented arts that has gained public attention in the last decade. Stand-up comedy is a term for a specific genre of comedy in which a performer, called a stand-up comedian, stands on the stage and speaks directly to the audience and performs. Stand-up comedy represents the most comprehensive genre of literature both in time and place and is the cause of making people laugh (Schwarz 2010:50). Some consider stand-up comedy to be a form of theater; But the most important difference from theater is that comedians in stand-up comedy regularly communicate with the audience. In general, the art of stand-up comedy includes humorous and humorous oral narration of events that may be accompanied by music, acting and drama techniques, improvisation, telling memories and short stories, body language and gestures. The face should be accompanied. Therefore, stand-up comedy, which is taken from oral literature, is a combination of verbal and dramatic arts, which connects it with literature through narration and rhetoric. In addition to these, executive also plays a role in its formation. In this audio-visual art, the comedian shares his narratives face-to-face with the audience; So that the audience feels it in the moment and reacts. In fact, “stand-up comedy turns the written text of a joke into a modern orality and is limited to the physical aspect of its artist” (Murray 2021: 15). Sometimes the comedian himself prepares the text or the satirist writes the performance texts according to the personality and identity of the comedian and paying attention to the issues of the society. It seems that this interdisciplinary art will become more popular and widespread in the future for various reasons; including having a happy atmosphere and a humorous tone, being popular, being interactive,

<sup>1</sup> Master's student in Persian Language and Literature, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Guilan University [m77abedi@gmail.com](mailto:m77abedi@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup> Professor, Department of Persian Language and Literature, Department of Persian Language and Literature Guilan University. (Corresponding Author) [razi@guilan.ac.ir](mailto:razi@guilan.ac.ir)

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dealing with people's daily issues and having a simple plan that can be implemented in different situations.

Scientific works published about stand-up comedy in Persian language are very few. Despite this, the book *Vaskhandish* by Amir Karbalaizadeh (2021) was written and published in Persian language for teaching stand-up comedy. Of course, before that, Hossein Kalhor and Jafar Rashidpour had published the translation of the book *Khandanandeh-shu* by Judy Carter (2016). Also, Moin Mohib-Alian has translated and published the book "Getting Started in Stand-up Comedy" written by Logan Murray (2021). Reviewing the background of the research shows that despite the importance of stand-up comedy, research about it has received less attention from academic centers and most of the related topics have been scattered in the general press.

This research reviews the history and introduction of stand-up comedy with a descriptive-analytical method and an interdisciplinary approach. Its goals are to describe the characteristics of stand-up comedy, express its functions in the contemporary era, describe the main elements, structure, themes, styles and technical methods of performing stand-up comedy. At the end, three performances of Amir Karbalaizadeh are analyzed as examples. Considering the importance of stand-up comedy in the contemporary era, this article can help to know the dimensions, types and number of concepts related to it, as well as introduce the style of stand-up comedy and provide the ground for further studies and research in this field Brought.

Westerners trace the origin of stand-up comedy to ancient Greek comedies and refer its history to the performance of Aristophanes, who wrote humorous plays. A group also believes that the first examples of stand-up comedy can be seen in vaudeville performances. "Vaudeville was a type of musical comedy that was popular from the 1890s to the 1930s and usually included several performance pieces that were not necessarily related to each other and included juggling, acrobatics, comedy, dancing and singing" (Siren 2021: 47). According to some experts, "stand-up comedy became popular from the 1960s and became one of the most prominent forms of humor performance with television channels and other broadcasting methods" (Brodie 2014: 178). . Some have considered the French as the source of the emergence of this art form. Also, some people relate the early stand-up comedies in Iran to the court clowns who gave improvised and funny monologues; But stand-up comedy in its new form has characteristics that distinguish it from pre-screen reading and clowning.

Stand-up comedy has various functions. By using humor, in addition to entertaining the audience, comedians use it to teach social rules and regulations, create culture, criticize the political, social and cultural issues of the society. The most important characteristics of stand-up comedy are: interdisciplinary, narrative, audience-oriented,

critical, using slang, improvisation and fluidity. Its structure usually has an opening section and an ending section that are short; But its basis is based on the middle part or the main body, in which one or more types of comedy styles are used; Such as character-oriented, plot-oriented, self-laughing, observational, musical, situational, one-line, improvisation, etc.

A case study of the analysis of three performances by Amir Karbalaizadeh shows that he was able to create a happy atmosphere by using various comedy styles and had relatively successful performances. He criticizes the social and cultural issues in Iran by using slang and conversational and diverse tone, using acting skills and body language, as well as using satirical techniques. It has an entertaining and at the same time informative performance. Despite all the shortcomings and complications of the communication process, the comedian tries to easily convey his meaning and message to the audience in his performances; Therefore, it has clear, orderly and unambiguous displays. The abundance of characters and variety of events are among the characteristics of his narratives that make his performances out of monotony. Of course, his performances sometimes have shortcomings and weaknesses; Like clicking and forgetting parts of the text. Sometimes, playing many roles and different characters by the comedian in the performances may confuse the audience a little.

**Keywords:** stand-up comedy, contemporary literature, interdisciplinary, humor, drama, oral literature

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