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Satire in Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal"***

Jonathan Swift's "A Modest Proposal" is a satirical masterpiece that uses irony, hyperbole, and shocking imagery to expose the social and economic injustices of his time.

Rhetoric and Assumptions

Swift's rhetoric in "A Modest Proposal" is characterized by its use of logical arguments to support a ludicrous and horrifying solution. Paragraph 7 assumes that the poor are a burden on society and that it is acceptable to exploit them for economic gain.

Rhetorical Purpose

Swift's rhetorical purpose is to expose the hypocrisy and indifference of the ruling class towards the plight of the poor. The essay's shocking proposals are meant to shock and provoke readers into recognizing the true nature of poverty and the need for social reform.

Literary Style and Devices

Swift's prose in "A Modest Proposal" is characterized by its simplicity, clarity, and use of understatement. He employs literary devices such as hyperbole ("a young healthy child well nursed is at a year old a most delicious, nourishing, and wholesome food") to emphasize the absurdity of his proposals.

Satirical Elements

The essay abounds with satirical elements, including:

- **Irony:** Swift proposes a solution that is the opposite of what he actually believes.
- **Hyperbole:** He exaggerates the benefits of his proposal to make them seem ridiculous.
- **Pathos:** Swift uses emotional appeals to evoke pity and disgust for the poor.
- **Verbal Irony:** Swift's intended meaning is the opposite of what his words literally say (e.g., "for delivering the kingdom from the wretchedness and incumbrance of beggarly children").

Swift's Use of Satire

Swift uses satire to highlight the societal and economic problems of his time. Through his exaggeration and shock tactics, he forces readers to confront the harsh realities of poverty and the need for change.

Figure of Speech

"A Modest Proposal" can be considered an example of **understatement**, as it presents a proposal that is both shocking and horrifying, but is presented in a calm and unassuming manner.

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