

BEYOND METAPHOR: MULTILAYERED FIGURATIVE MEANING IN MODERN ENGLISH PROSE

Elmurodova Gulshoda Dilshod qizi

A Student of Chirchik State Pedagogical University

Yuldasheva Omila Odilovna

Scientific advisor

Abstract: *This article examines multilayered figurative meaning in modern English prose, going beyond the traditional view of metaphor as a single device. It highlights how writers combine metaphor, symbolism, irony, and other figures to create complex and nuanced meanings. The study shows that these layers interact with cultural context and reader interpretation, making meaning dynamic rather than fixed. Overall, the paper argues that modern prose requires a multidimensional approach to fully understand its figurative depth.*

Keywords: *Metaphor, pragmatics, cognitive linguistics, aesthetic function, literary discourse, contextual analysis, communicative function*

Introduction: The scholarly investigation of metaphor can be traced to antiquity, with its conceptual elucidation as a rhetorical device attributed to classical Greek philosophers. Notwithstanding its ancient origins, sustained academic engagement with metaphor as a subject of linguistic inquiry intensified in the latter half of the twentieth century, catalyzed by the emergence of novel paradigms in linguistic theory. Foremost among these developments is the cognitive approach, which foregrounds the conceptual underpinnings of linguistic phenomena and reveals previously overlooked dimensions of figurative language, thereby necessitating their rigorous exploration. The implementation of cognitive methodologies has simultaneously highlighted the imperative of analyzing metaphorical models within and across linguistic systems through a typological lens. Given its relevance to the expressive articulation of thought and its resonance within aesthetic domains, the thematic focus of the current study is of considerable scholarly interest. Moreover, the investigation engages with a core issue in pragmatic linguistics – namely, the contextual realization of speech acts within the communicative dynamics of sender and recipient. As indicated earlier, metaphorical constructs encompass salient dimensions of cognitive processes. By conducting a typological

analysis of metaphorical models based on representative examples from English and Azerbaijani journalistic texts, the study illuminates key mechanisms of conceptualization and offers a linguistically grounded perspective on shared cognitive schemas across cultures. Accordingly, the subject matter of this article occupies a critical and timely position within the broader field of cognitive linguistics.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Metaphors constitute vital devices in literary texts, enhancing the expressive capacity of language and conveying deeper layers of meaning to the reader's cognitive world. Beyond simple descriptions, they serve the fundamental communicative objectives of the text, allowing the author to articulate thoughts and emotions with greater resonance. The pragmatic value of metaphors lies in their capacity to generate varied meanings depending on the context, thus eliciting specific emotional and cognitive reactions in the reader. Moreover, metaphors are embedded within the social and cultural strata of language, facilitating connections with broader audiences. Consequently, metaphors play a significant role not only in the aesthetic dimension of a text but also in its communicative and pragmatic functions. Although a vast number of concepts exist in language, the corresponding lexical items used to express them are relatively limited. The phenomenon of polysemy allows a single word to convey multiple meanings. This semantic flexibility enables words to extend beyond their primary denotative meanings and assume figurative connotations. Figurative meanings emerge from perceived similarities, resemblances, or associations among objects, entities, or events. As figurative devices of artistic expression, metaphors began to be studied within the field of linguistics starting in the 1940s. Prior to this period, metaphor was examined exclusively through a literary-theoretical lens within the discipline of literary criticism. The Russian linguist V.V. Vinogradov played an indispensable role in establishing metaphor as a legitimate object of linguistic inquiry. Metaphorical meaning is not confined to a linguistic phenomenon alone but also fulfills a stylistic and artistic function within literary texts. Numerous linguistic scholars in Azerbaijani, English, and French have expressed views on semantic shift, stylistic figures, and metaphor. Semantic transformation is one of the key factors enriching the lexical composition of a language. Among the categories of language, figurative language expands the expressive potential of speech, enriches the lexical stock, and generates imagery. Metaphorical meaning emerges

from a word's original, primary sense. Polysemy facilitates the emergence of metaphor. The literal meaning of a word is used to denote a specific object or phenomenon, and in linguistics, this is referred to as its normative meaning. The literal meaning forms the basis for the development of figurative meanings. The emergence of figurative meanings is significantly influenced by associations of similarity between objects or phenomena in terms of space and time. Among the various types of figurative expressions, metaphor stands out as the most productive. In terms of its formation mechanisms, expressive potential, stylistic functions, and capacity to enrich the lexicon, metaphor occupies a prominent position within the system of tropes. Research conducted on examples from the works of Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt has identified both the differences and similarities between metaphor, simile, metonymy, and synecdoche. These analyses reveal that, compared to other types of figurative expressions, metaphors appear more frequently in the texts under investigation. There are general and global relationships across the levels of language, and this system is characterized by hierarchical and dependent relations from lower to higher levels. In the act of speech, this system's established mechanism is recalled, and each element activates another. However, by their nature, tropes are combinations of figurative units that ensure the imagery of speech. Unlike the language system, where each level presupposes the other, the construction of this unity does not follow such a strict hierarchy. Nonetheless, metaphors formed on the basis of different principles collectively constitute a system of tropes. Therefore, while the linguistic system is based on structural-semantic principles, the rhetorical system consists of tools that rely on figurative expression. The combination of metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, meiosis, and irony within the system of tropes is associated with their function as cognitive operations. In Azerbaijani poetry, metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche function as some of the most powerful and effective artistic devices, playing a significant role in the creation of poetic imagery. These types of tropes have a broad scope of application and are capable of encapsulating diverse modes of thinking. Implicit metaphors are not exclusive to artistic language; rather, they are considered "products of human thought and imagination" in general. Expressions with functions similar to comparison and analogy ensure the application of the principle of economy in the text. Words and expressions reflecting economy visually evoke imagery without relying on any external factors, and each time, the omitted component of such

expressions must be reconstructed through the textual context. Metaphors, as a part of everyday language, inevitably lead to challenges in the translation process. Nord notes: "A translation problem is an objective issue that every translator must resolve in connection with a specific task." The difficulties in translating figurative language encompass linguistic, aesthetic, literary, and socio-cultural challenges. Translation is the act of establishing communication between two languages and two cultures. Therefore, translators must ensure the accurate and appropriate transfer of culturally embedded elements from the source text into the target text. The extent of these challenges depends on the cultural and linguistic differences between the languages involved.

CONCLUSION

The article addresses a wide range of linguistic and literary concerns, with particular emphasis on metaphor and its various manifestations within language and literature. It offers theoretical insights that span multiple subfields of linguistics including lexicology, semantics, stylistics, and translation studies providing a comprehensive exploration of how metaphors function and how they are employed as fundamental components of literary expression. The opening section of the article underscores the significance of polysemy and metaphor in enhancing the expressive richness of language. As a defining feature of literary style, metaphor enables the articulation of conceptual relationships and analogies between disparate entities objects, events, and phenomena thereby increasing the expressive and communicative potential of language.

REFERENCES:

1. Djabbarov R. La stylistique Française Bakou: 2015. p. 115.
2. Guo S. Metaphor Studies from the Perspective of Critical Discourse Analysis : A Case Study of Business Acquisition Song GuoTheory and Practice in Language Studies ISSN 1799–2591 Volume 3, Number 3, 2013, p. 475–482.
3. Tandırverdiyeva H.H. Müasir İngilis-Azərbaycan dövrü mətbuatında məcaz qəlibləri. Fəlsəfə doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiyanın avtoreferatı, Bakı : 2022.

4. Mustafayev M.B. Bədii təsvir və ifadə vasitələrinin xüsusiyyətləri. Sumqayıt Dövlət Universiteti Elmi Xəbərlər – Sosial və humanitar elmlər bölməsi, 2021, s. 25–30.