

THE USE OF METAPHORS IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LITERATURE

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Abstract

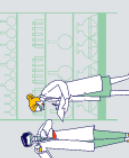
Metaphor is one of the most productive means of verbalizing reality. It is also a universal way of knowing and comprehending the real world. Metaphor successfully plays the role of a prism through which a person carries out the act of worldview, and is one of the most expressive speech means, distinguished by high information content and semantic capacity. Metaphor as a linguistic phenomenon is found not only in oral speech, but also in writing. The great significance of metaphor lies in its use in works of art. There is not a single author who would not use metaphorical translation in order to describe heroes, various phenomena and actions in bright colors. The current article is devoted to the study of the use of metaphor in English-language and Uzbek stories of the 21st century.

Keywords: Metaphor, literary device, stylistics, poetry, prose, comparison, metaphor is very useful, Western culture phrase, metaphorical comparison, metaphorical comparison.

Introduction

A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two different things. As a literary device, a metaphor creates an implicit comparison without the explicit use of the words “like” or “as.” A metaphor is a way of saying that the two things being compared are not simply similar, but are the same. This is useful in literature for using specific images or concepts to express abstract truths [5].

Metaphor is a fundamental part of all forms of literature, including poetry, prose, and drama. This is not only because metaphor is a very useful literary device, but because it is an important part of all language and communication. Many cognitive theorists have studied and written about the importance of metaphor in our understanding of the world around us. For example, the phrase “time is money” is very common in Western culture [2]. However, this is not just a cliché; We talk about wasting time, wasting money, saving time, and so on. The metaphorical comparison of these two concepts ultimately influences how people in different cultures perceive time. Therefore, it is not surprising that there are examples of metaphor in the literature of every culture. The use of metaphor allows writers to present unfamiliar ideas or situations in a way that the reader can understand by comparing unfamiliar things to familiar things. This can be a good way for fantasy or science fiction writers to make the worlds they create more familiar to the reader. However, metaphor can also be used to compare very



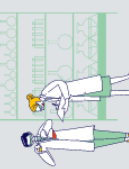
common things [3]. This type of use creates cognitive connections between previously unrelated objects and forces students to evaluate them in a new way.

For example, one of the most famous metaphors in literature occurs in this line from William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*: *What light shines from that window? It is the East, and Juliet, the sun!* (Act 2, Scene 2) [8]. In this metaphor, Juliet is compared to the sun. In effect, this figure of speech emphasizes that Juliet is the sun. Of course, the reader understands that Romeo does not believe that Juliet is the sun in the literal sense. Instead, the comparison demonstrates the idea that Romeo equates Juliet with the beauty, wonder, and life-giving power of the sun. For Romeo, Juliet and the sun are symbolically one and the same.

Here are some examples of metaphors found in prose in English literature. In William Shakespeare's "As You Like It" the metaphor "*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players*" compares life to a stage, and people are portrayed as actors playing their roles. In John Donne's "No Man is an Island" the metaphor "*No man is an island, entire of itself*" means that man is not alone, but must live in connection with society. In Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" Gregor Samsa's transformation into an insect has a completely metaphorical meaning. It symbolically represents the process of human isolation and alienation in society. In Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea", the sea is seen as a metaphor for life itself, and the fish is seen as a metaphor for human dreams and hopes.

The hero's struggle in the work is connected with the trials of man in life. In George Orwell's "Animal Farm", the farm life is actually a metaphor for the political system. The animals in the work represent real-life political figures, which is a symbolic representation of society and power. Dante Alighieri's "The Divine Comedy" the metaphor "Midway upon the journey of our life, I found myself within a forest dark" represents a person's loss on the path of life, his search for identity, and his spiritual crisis. In Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" Raskolnikov's punishment is a metaphor not only for legal but also for spiritual suffering.

This is a symbolic expression of human conscience and inner struggle. The metaphor in Shakespeare's "Macbeth" - "Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage" represents the transience of life and the weakness of man. In William Blake's "The Tyger", the statement "What immortal hand or eye, could frame thy fearful symmetry?" the man tries to understand the power of the creator and the secrets of nature. In Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" the whale Moby Dick itself acquires a metaphorical meaning - it is a symbol of man's obsession and destiny leading to destruction. Captain Ahab's pursuit of the fish reflects man's struggle with his passions and obsessions. In Thomas Eliot's "The Waste Land", the metaphor "April is the cruellest month" shows how renewal and hope can cause pain and suffering. In Ray Bradbury's - "Fahrenheit 451" - "Fire" as a metaphor, represents the dual meaning of knowledge and destruction. The burning of books represents ignorance, while fire represents renewal and change. Gabriel Garcia Marquez - "One Hundred Years of Solitude" - The city of Macondo is a metaphor for human civilization. This city refers to the repetition of human history and the theme of loneliness. John Keats - "Ode to a Nightingale". "Thou wast not born for death, immortal Bird!" the nightingale is a metaphor for eternal art and inspiration.



In general, metaphor as a literary device works as a means of directly comparing two things that seem different. This is effective for students because a metaphor can create an association between two objects or ideas that are not similar to each other, which through the metaphor illuminates each other and deepens the meaning of both. Metaphor is a most important figure of speech for both poets and prose writers.

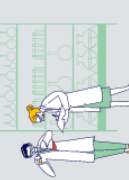
MATERIALS AND METHODS

It is important for writers to create the right metaphor so that the comparative meaning is not lost on the reader. In fact, a metaphor depends on the understandable combination of the main term and the minor term. The major term expresses the essence in its own or complete sense, while the minor term is used to add meaning in a figurative sense. For example, in the metaphor “the car was a lemon,” the main term is “car” and the minor term is “lemon.” The use of lemon gives the car a figurative meaning [11].

It can be said that the Uzbek short story is developing in two methodological directions: traditional realism and modernism. Along with master Uzbek storytellers, contemporary Uzbek writers, who have the creative experience of world storytellers, are widely using modernist forms and methods characteristic of Western literature in terms of symbolic and figurative imagery and style, and are creating new artistic and aesthetic innovations in storytelling. They include a deeper penetration into the psyche of the hero, literary hallucinations, imaginary images, new symbolic and psychological images, and even the interpretation of artistic and romantic text images created in the writer’s imagination.

Literary critic B.Sarimsokov, dwelling on the theoretical essence and characteristics of metaphor, figurative image, gives the following idea in his work “Fundamentals and Criteria of Art”: “A work of art is characterized by an increase in the intensity of experience. metaphorical image [6]. Metaphor is the creator’s negative attitude towards a certain thing, even serving to express it indirectly.” I would like to emphasize, Olim, that sometimes a writer, by giving a name to an image in a work of art, can express not only a negative, but also a neutral, open attitude. However, as Bakhodir Sarimsokov rightly emphasizes, this is mainly a metaphorical image. It expresses a negative attitude [9,10].

In addition, the stories of Sobir Onor and Abdukayum Yoldosh are primarily constructed in a traditional realistic style, and they are dominated by everyday, spiritual, and social problems. In particular, in Sobir Onor’s story “Watermelon”, the character of Khudoykul, who prefers money and wealth to the world, reveals the essence of man through the behavior and spirit of everyday life [12]. The watermelon in the story is a psychological symbol. The arrival of the watermelon at the house of Omondavlat's friend, the arrival of Khudoykul’s friends, his putting the watermelon on the table, and his throwing the watermelon in the trash - all of these are interconnected and serve to express an important artistic idea in the story. To sum up, Khudoykul, in essence, according to his meaning, restores the external state of a watermelon, which is bright in appearance, but delicate inside. We can say that a watermelon is smooth, shiny, colorful, therefore Khudoykul, according to his nature, is a symbolic image of a person



who, in society, perfectly completes any task in exchange for money. The writer's cultural vocabulary illuminates the customs and traditions of the people.

CONCLUSION

Metaphor is a fundamental literary device that plays a crucial role in shaping meaning, enhancing expression, and deepening the reader's understanding of texts. As demonstrated through numerous examples from literature, metaphors allow writers to draw implicit comparisons between seemingly unrelated concepts, making abstract ideas more accessible and emotionally resonant. Whether in poetry, prose, or drama, metaphors serve as a bridge between the familiar and the unfamiliar, enriching both language and thought.

Furthermore, metaphors are not merely decorative elements in literature; they influence cognition, shaping how individuals and cultures perceive the world. Cognitive linguistics has shown that metaphors extend beyond literary analysis, embedding themselves in everyday language and thought processes. For instance, conceptual metaphors such as "time is money" demonstrate how metaphorical thinking structures human experiences and decision-making.

The Uzbek short story, like many literary traditions, continues to evolve by integrating both traditional realism and modernist influences. Contemporary Uzbek writers employ metaphorical imagery to explore psychological depth, symbolic meaning, and artistic innovation, thus contributing to the ongoing development of Uzbek literature.

Ultimately, metaphor remains an essential tool for writers, scholars, and readers alike. It enhances literary works by fostering richer interpretations, encouraging deeper engagement with texts, and expanding the possibilities of artistic expression. Whether used to illuminate personal struggles, societal structures, or philosophical ideas, metaphor remains a powerful means of storytelling and meaning-making across all cultures and literary traditions.

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