

TRANSLATIONS OF ENGLISH METAPHORS DESCRIBING HUMAN BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the translation of English metaphors describing human behavior, as well as the analysis of their meaning. English metaphors serve as a powerful means of expressing complex emotions and social interactions, which makes their translation a difficult but important task. Special attention is paid to the context, since the literal translation of such expressions often does not convey their true meaning. which contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural and lexical features of the English language. The analysis helps to expand the understanding of intercultural communication and identify analogies with metaphors in other languages.

Keywords: Metaphor, human behavior, similarity, transference, emotions.

Introduction

Metaphors in English are a powerful tool for conveying complex emotions and social interactions. The word "metaphor" comes from the Greek language, which means "transference" when translated. Indeed, like the meaning itself, a metaphor serves to describe the similarity of two objects or phenomena, using words in a figurative meaning. The ancient Greek philosopher defines metaphor as follows: "Metaphor is the hallmark of genius, for the ability to create a good metaphor is the ability to recognize similarities." ¹

Linguist B.N. Golovin also believes that metaphor is the use of a word in a figurative meaning to describe the similarity between two objects.² Kodukhov V.I. notes that metaphorical features are determined by the speaker and can take a variety of forms, reflecting both external and internal similarities of objects.³

A metaphor is an implicit comparison in which the words "as", "as if" or "as if" are absent. It consists in the fact that one name is applied to another object, due to which some significant characteristic of the second becomes obvious.⁴

Metaphor is an implied simile. Unlike simile, metaphor does not assert that one thing is like another or acts like another, but takes it for granted and acts as if the two things were one. So when we say, "He fought as fiercely as lion," it is a simile. But when we say: "He was a lion in the fight⁵" is a metaphor.

¹ Literary and artistic edition "Encyclopedia of Wisdom" // Publishing house "ROOSSA" - P. 83.

² Golovin B.N. Vvedenie v jazykoznanie [Introduction to linguistics]. Moscow, Vysshaya shkola Publ., 1973, p. 82.

³ Kodukhov V.I. Vvedenie v jazykoznanie [Introduction to linguistics]. Moscow, Prosveshchenie Publ., 1987, p. 192.

⁴ Arnold I.V. Stylistics of the Modern English Language. Moscow, Prosveshchenie Publ., 1981, p. 82.

⁵ <https://academicseasy.com/2015/08/stylistic-devices-figure-of-speech.html>



In English, lexical animalisms are also common, with the help of these words we can see how they compare or even compare

For example: "He's a sly fox"⁶ is a literal translation of "he is a cunning fox", everyone knows that the fox is famous for his cunning among animals, and in this case this expression means that a person is smart, but a liar. Consider the following example: "He's a wolf in sheep's clothing"⁷, a literal translation of "he is a wolf in sheep's wool" This phrase is used to describe a person who looks harmless on the outside, but in fact he is very dangerous and evil. Also among the people there is the following phrase "He's the black sheep in the family"⁸ - "Black sheep in the family". This phrase is used if a person has spoiled the reputation of the family or has shown disrespect for the family. This phrase can be the equivalent of the expression that is very often used in Russian "White crow in the family".

Cultural traditions and literature also play an important role. Shakespeare and other classical writers used metaphors, which became part of language. Metaphors help to describe behavior and emotional states more vividly and expressively. Since ancient times, people have used metaphor to simplify understanding. Metaphors help to present complex ideas or emotions in a more understandable and accessible form. They turn abstract concepts into concrete images. For example: "She is an early bird"⁹ is used to describe a person who gets up very early and likes to do things early in the morning. A similar phrase "He is a night owl"¹⁰ is used in comparison to a person who is awake and active at night. This phrase has been used since ancient times and is associated with the behavior of owls, as owls are nocturnal birds and are known for their ability to hunt at night.

Metaphors enliven speech and make it more expressive. They allow readers or listeners to visualize events, which enhances emotional perception. For example: "*To let the cat out of the bag*"¹¹ this expression means to accidentally reveal a secret.

As mentioned above, metaphors help to express feelings, states or situations in a more figurative form. These expressions are used in everyday speech to: 1) Convey emotions, for example: the expression "*He's an ogre*"¹² - "*he is a cannibal*" indicates a person who causes fear and is cruel and scary to the people around him. The origin of this word goes back to 1713, where the word "ogre" is used as a giant - a cannibal from fairy tales and folk legends, (translated from the French version of the fairy tale "A Thousand and One Nights"), and the French word "ogre" was first used in Perrault's fairy tales in 1697. In English, this word is more literary than colloquial.¹³ The phrase "*He is a hog at the table*"¹⁴ is used to describe the behavior of a person at the table who behaves inappropriately in front of others. 2) To describe complex

⁶ <https://translate.academic.ru/he%27s%20a%20sly%20fox/en/xx/>

⁷ <https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/wolves+in+sheeps%27+clothing>

⁸ <https://translate.academic.ru/a%20black%20sheep%20in.%20the%20family/en/ru/>

⁹ <https://translate.academic.ru/to%20be%20an%20early%20bird/en/xx/>

¹⁰ <https://translate.academic.ru/night%20owl/en/ru/>

¹¹ <https://translate.academic.ru/let%20the%20cat%20out%20of%20the%20bag/en/ru/>

¹² <https://classes.ru/context-english-russian-term-1670580.htm?ysclid=m6yqn5lrx2831592941>

¹³ <https://www.etymonline.com/word/ogre>

¹⁴ <https://translate.academic.ru/he%20is%20a%20hog%20at%20the%20table/en/>

situations as "He's a puppet on a string"¹⁵ - he is a puppet on strings; This expression describes a situation where a person is under the influence of another person, And without knowing it, he already obeys all orders and acts as he is told, that is, he is already a controlled person. Or "*I wish you weren't such a chicken*"¹⁶ - "I wouldn't want you to be so cowardly" the phrase indicates that the term "chicken" is used to describe a cowardly and weak person. 3) For the exchange of general views: "*She's a walking dictionary*"¹⁷ the meaning of this phrase is, that people consider her a "*walking encyclopedia*", and for her ability to know many words or facts related to a particular subject or area. These phrases enrich the language, making communication more vivid and understandable, especially in conversational situations.

Thus, the use of metaphors allows you to convey a person's feelings more deeply, reflecting his inner experiences and emotional state. Metaphors not only facilitate communication, but also act as cultural markers based on generally accepted images, which helps interlocutors to understand the essence of the message faster. As noted by Ajay Mathur, public speaking trainer, in his article "Why to use Metaphors in your speech": "Using metaphors in public speaking is like adding color to a painting, adding color to a painting, helping your audience connect with your message on a deeper level while ensuring they remember what you've shared."¹⁸ They help the audience to get deeper into the meaning of the message and provide one hundred percent memorability"). Indeed, sentences with metaphors remain in the memory better than ordinary ones. In addition, metaphors can be used to persuade or create a certain mood, forming an impression of a situation or behavior. Thus, metaphors in English not only embellish speech, but also reflect cultural, historical, and social aspects, enriching the understanding of human behavior and emotions.

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¹⁵ <https://translate.academic.ru/puppet%20on%20a%20string/en/xx/>

¹⁶ <https://sweetishhill.com/why-do-we-use-chicken-as-an-insult/>

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