

METAPHOR AS AN IMAGE-BEARING STYLISTIC DEVICE

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It is true to state that the notion of image dates back to a long history. Ancient philosophers like Aristotle or Zizeron are considered to be the first to introduce this phenomenon in their works. Vinogradov V. V. (1963) provides the initial scientific identification of the notion of image in poems. [1, p133] They investigated imagery thoroughly and regarded it as an important aspect of stylistics. In the article we'll try to investigate metaphor as one of the image-bearing stylistic device through analysis some examples taken from literary works of English writers.

The notion of linguistics – image is mainly created by lexical-semantic stylistic means which possess some general semantic meaning and as a result there is an emergence of stylistic effect. One of the purposes of this algorithm is an expressiveness. When there is an interplay, interaction or clash of dictionary and contextual meanings of words particular stylistic devices like metaphor, metonymy irony appear to create an image. Reader should be able to comprehend image resulting from the relationship of different meanings of a word: a) dictionary and b) contextual.

There are three types of image: two concrete (aural and visual) and one abstract [2, p64]

1. Concrete picture of an object which our eyes have is a visual image: For example - His words cut deeper than a knife. Here the reader visualises the knife and deepness to feel the effect of the words.

2. An aural image is formed when we listen or hear some sounds of nature and things.

3. Phenomenon of relational image occurs when one kind of relation results another relation between objects. Furthermore, there is the inner connection between objects or phenomenon due to these two types of relations. For example, "Captain Vere may have caught Billy to his heart, as Abraham may have caught young Isaac on the brink of offering him up in obedience to the exacting behest" [3, p 83]

Imagery represents paradigmatic peculiarities of the language by building interactions between words and those which have closer meaning, but exist outside the text context. Image is a particular view of the objective world, process of subjectively describing this or another person, event, occurrence, sight which figurative means and stylistic devices create. Human sight, hearing, sense of touch or taste is immediately impressed by the image created by the writer.

There are different views on the problem of imagery in the linguistic literature. According to linguistic scholars, the creation of image mainly occurs by the help of image-bearing stylistic devices - metaphor. [4, p19] Among these stylistic devices metaphor takes the chief role to bear image. Metaphor is transference of names based on similarity between two objects. For instance, «All religions, arts and sciences are *branches* of the same tree." [5, p7]

Metaphors can be categorized regarding semantic characteristics or their unexpectedness level. With genuine metaphors, the picture is visualized unexpectedly or

accidentally. Their expressive characterization is considered their major stylistic function but not a mere nominalization. Poets and writers favor metaphor is one of the best image-bearing devices. John Green, for instance, create a nice image comparing similar characteristics of toddler and the sun: “The sun was a *toddler* insistently refusing to go to bed: It was past eight thirty and still light.” [6, p 91]

Trite metaphors are expressions that have been in frequent use having less impact comparing to the previous one. However, they have been able to keep their expressive power to some extent. For example, her teeth are pearls; a flight of imagination; a burning question, a pillar of the state.

Trite metaphors are sometimes enriched with new influence by an addition of a quite unpredictable word or a phrase in the provided context. This kind of metaphors is called ‘mixed’. For example, “Mr Speaker, I *smell a rat*. I see him floating in the air. But mark me, sir, I will *nip him in the bud*.” [7, p 590-591] There is an emergence of such metaphors when imagery sense of idiomatic language means (smell a rat; nip in the bud) is fully felt by the reader.

There are simple and sustained metaphors which are both considered structural: simple metaphor bears an image with only a few words, for example, the water is praying; sustained metaphor uses additional words which possess some reference to the main word as a supplement to the central image. It can be built by a number of phrases or sentences. Let’s draw your attention to this kind of metaphor by Cronin A. J.: “From now on we are just a couple of puppets. They’ll pull the string in London” [8, p 4] Sustained metaphor is an expression in which one metaphor (They’ll pull the string in London) is logically developed based on the previous metaphor (puppets). Powerful image bears in reader’s eye when one metaphorical statement is logically linked the next one.

Famous American writer Henry O. skillfully uses metaphors in his masterpiece story “The Last Leaf”. [9] He can bear image in reader’s mind showing great capability of using metaphorical language. The story is mainly about Johnsy, little girl suffered from pneumonia. Her friend Sue and old painter Behrman try hard to care of her. The writer uses a nice metaphor to describe pale face of Johnsy: “I have something to tell you, *white mouse*,” she said.” The writer wants to show similarities of Johnsy’s appearance to white mouse. The reader can imagine that Johnsy is pale and so weak like a white mouse thanks to this metaphor. As can be known from the story, Johnsy believes that if the last leaf on the tree falls, she dies. The writer figuratively describes autumn wind and the condition of falling leaves: “The *cold breath* of autumn had stricken its leaves from the vine until its *skeleton branches* clung, almost bare, to the crumbling bricks.” The wind in autumn is compared with the ‘*cold breath*’ contributing the image of the event and the metaphor ‘*skeleton*’ is used to describe branches without leaves. Thus, the metaphor can be considered one of the essential figurative language means which creates images in fictional works.

In conclusion, notion of imagery takes place a significant role in stylistics. It has a long history and has been researched and discussed for many centuries. It is impossible to imagine to create fictional art without using imagery. One of the most common figures which writers and poems often rely on to contribute image is a metaphor.

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