

Metaphors and similes in Literature

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ABSTRACT : *One of the aims of literary text is to say as much as possible as briefly as possible, means to say more in few words to achieve a maximum effectiveness. In this case figures of speech, metaphor and similes have an important role, as they include figurative meanings. In this article metaphors and similes were studied to find out the effect of using figures of speech on the writer's style and the addresses understanding.*

I. INTRODUCTIONS:

The word metaphor is derived from the Greek word *Metaphoria*, which meant 'to carry'. Metaphor is a comparison of two different phenomena which share some common points. It is a kind of condensed simile that some parts of it, like topic or similarities markers are deleted to convey the meaning connotatively. The first definition of metaphor is expressed by Aristotle as "a shift carrying over a word from its normal use to the new one" For instance in the sentence the customer is king many qualities a king has ,like influence ,importance ,power and so on are attributed to a customer. In the condensed metaphor 'a ship of state'. The captain of a ship represents the government. The sea represents the flow of time, bad weather indicates a crises and lack of wind signifies economic stagnation. In literary translation, metaphor is primilirily considered a figurative expression by which a word of phrase is altered from its literal references to a new and often wide field of reference.

In the case, Shaw (1972) defined metaphor as follow:

" A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to a person , idea or object to which it is not literally applicable .A metaphor is an implied analogy which imaginatively identifies one thing which another .A metaphor is one of the topes, a device by which an author turns, or twists, the meaning of a word".

Newmark (1988b) defined metaphor as:

"Any figurative expression: The transferred sense of a physical word; the personification of an abstraction; the application of a word and collocation to what it doesn't literally denote. Metaphors may be 'single' (one word) or extended (a collocation, an idiom, a sentence, a proverb, an allegory, a complete imaginative text").

Newmark (1988a) stated that the main purpose of metaphor is to describe an entity,event or quality more comprehensively and concisely and in a more complex way than to possible by using literal language. Metaphor is more imaginative and artistic than simile, as it makes language more powerful and takes the reader towards the emotional thoughts. On the one hand, it is like simile. With one of the parts (topic, image or sense) being implicit; on the other hand, it is like metonymy, as it takes away the reader from the reality and makes him closer to the figurative world. Metaphors have been categorized in different ways by different linguistics. Aristotle differentiated between simple or double metaphor, current or strange metaphors and common and unused metaphors. Broeck (1981) presented "two categories of methopor as lexicalized and conventional". The first one refers to the lexical entities that have lost their individual word semantic specifications and have become a certain languages lexical entity chunks .The second one refers to fixed and common metaphors in any language that can be easily recognized.

Black (1962) asserted that the only classification is between dead and live metaphors and he offers the following classification as, dormant metaphor, when the meaning of a metaphor becomes unclear because the sentence has been shortened; active metaphor, new born and fresh metaphor; strong metaphor, which has high emphasis; and weak metaphor which has low emphasis.Considering different categories of metaphor in English, it is observed that Newmark's classification is more comprehensive than others. So it is selected as the basic of analysis in the study. On the basis of the two main categories of metaphor suggested by Black (1962) as dead and live metaphor, Newmark (1988b) offered five kinds of metaphors: As dead,cliché,stock,recent and original metaphor by which the first three he considers dead and the last two live metaphors.

Simile: The word simile is derived from the Latin word “Simile” meaning ‘resemblance and likenesses’, technically it means the comparison of two objects with some similarities. Shamisa (1383) has said simile is the claim of likeness of two things in one or two attributes. “Simile is fundamentally a figure of speech requires overt reference to source and target entities, and an explicit construction connected them”.

In English, for this comparison some similarity markers such as, “like”, “as”. Mr. Smith is as changeable as a weathercock. He eats like a horse. In literary texts, simile is used with metaphors to enhance the effect and beauty of the text. As metaphor is a covert comparison, simile is an overt one which explicitly and precisely explains the object and it the first and simplest method for conveying the beauty of message which is used in poetry, prose and also usual conversations. Even children talking about their desires, use simile as a means of comparison. Simile is much less investigated the metaphor, although it occurs in frequently in discourse. “Like metaphor, it is semantic figure, a mental process playing a central role in the way we think and talk about the world, which often associates different spheres”. It can may have an affirmative or a negative form: the affirmative form asserts likeness between the entities compared, as “the sun is like an orange” and the negative one denies likeness, as “the sun is not like an orange”.

According to Fromilhague (1995), a simile has various functions: First, they serve to communicate concisely and efficiently. They are one of the set of linguistic devices which extends the linguistic resources available. Secondly they can function as cognitive tools for thought in that they enable us to think of the world in novel, alternative ways. In discourse, they can also fulfill more specific functions depending on the textual genre in which they occur. In scientific texts, comparison and analogical reasoning play an important role. Simile also differs from analogy, intended in its narrower sense, as former involves four. Unlike metaphors, similes require individuation of both source and target concepts, and an evaluation of what they have in common, but unlike literal comparisons, they are figurative, comparing things normally felt to incomparable, typically using vivid or startling images to suggest unexpected connection between source and target. Similes have different types and classifications, too. Bredin (1998) remarked about a scale going from the most stereotyped to the most creative similes. At one extreme are situated the conventionalized and fixed similes, and at the other extreme are the creative similes. Between the two extremes, standard (ordinary) and original (fresh, but not totally unexpected) similes can be settled.

II. CONCLUSION:

As it is said in the abstract, the aim of this article was to find out the effect of using figures of speech on the writer’s style and the addresses understanding. Figures of speech are imaginative tools in both literature and ordinary communications used for explaining speech beyond its usual usage. The acquired result shows that the writers want to convey his message of this novel in an implicit and indirect way.

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