

**A CORPUS-BASED THEORETICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE EMOTIONAL-
EXPRESSIVE, NATIONAL-CULTURAL AND COMMUNICATIVE-PRAGMATIC
DIMENSIONS OF METAPHOR**

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Abstract

Metaphor helps us make sense of our experiences. It also helps us pass on knowledge and interact with others. Many studies have looked at metaphor as a way of mapping concepts. They use tools to analyze language.. Few studies look at how metaphor affects our emotions, culture and communication all at once. This article tries to fill that gap. It uses a model that combines theory and data analysis. We look at metaphor using ideas from conceptual metaphor theory, cultural linguistics and discourse pragmatics. We study patterns in English and Uzbek data. We find that metaphor does things. It can intensify feelings. It can carry meanings.. It can shape how we interpret discourse. Our findings show that metaphor is more than a way of speaking. It connects our thoughts, culture and communication. Metaphor plays a role, in how we think and communicate. Metaphor helps us understand ideas. Metaphor is used in different ways. The study of metaphor is important. It helps us understand cognition. It helps us understand knowledge.. It helps us understand communicative interaction. Metaphor is a tool. It can be used in different contexts.. It can have many different effects. By studying metaphor we can learn more about how we think. We can learn more about how we communicate.. We can learn more about how culture affects our interactions.

Keywords

metaphor theory, corpus linguistics, cognitive linguistics, cultural models, discourse pragmatics

Introduction

The study of metaphor has changed a lot over the four decades. Earlier people thought metaphor was a fancy way of speaking different from normal language. Now many linguists think metaphor is actually important for how we organize our thoughts. This big change happened with the Conceptual Metaphor Theory, which said that metaphor is not for poetry but is used in everyday thinking. As Lakoff and Johnson said, "our everyday way of thinking... is mostly metaphorical" (1980, p. 3). Even though there has been a lot of work on metaphor researchers have often worked on aspects without talking to each other much. Cognitive linguistics looks at how metaphors work in our minds corpus linguistics looks at how they are used and discourse studies look at how they are used in conversation. Metaphor, in real life involves all these things at the same time. A metaphor can express how we feel show our background and help us communicate in a conversation. If we study these things separately we miss how metaphor really works. This study wants to bring all these ideas using evidence from real language use. Of just looking at metaphor as a single word this article looks at metaphor as a complex process that involves thinking, culture and conversation. Metaphor is not one thing; it is

many things that come together. The study of metaphor needs to consider all these things to understand it fully.

Metaphor as Conceptual Structuring: Cognitive Foundations

Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) changed the way we think about metaphors. It says metaphors are about connecting areas of experience. Our bodily experiences help us understand things like emotions, morality and social relationships. Lakoff and Johnson think that metaphorical connections are systematic. This is because they come from how we interact with the world around us. Later developments emphasized how our bodies and experiences shape our understanding. Johnson (1987) talked about image schemas. These are patterns like CONTAINER, PATH and BALANCE that we experience through our senses and movements. These patterns help shape our thoughts before we even express them in language. From this viewpoint metaphors do not start with language. Instead language shows how our minds are already organized. There's evidence from language data to support this. Many metaphorical expressions are grouped around experiences related to our bodies. We often think of emotions in terms of temperature (an attitude, a heated debate) physical pressure (being under stress) or where we are in space (feeling down). These patterns show how our common human experiences and specific contexts work together. Our bodily experiences provide the foundation and different linguistic communities develop metaphors in various ways. It's crucial to note that metaphorical meaning isn't fixed. It's more, about how we use certain expressions. The same conceptual metaphor can appear based on the conversation the words we use alongside it and the type of text. So we should understand metaphor as something that emerges from how we use language. Its not just determined by cognitive patterns.

Corpus Linguistics and the Empirical Turn in Metaphor Studies

The study of metaphor has changed a lot with the help of corpus linguistics. Corpus linguistics helps researchers look at how people use language instead of just relying on their own thoughts. Stubbs (2001) says that the meaning of words comes from how they're used together not just what they mean on their own. By analyzing amounts of text researchers can find patterns and preferences in how metaphors are used that wouldn't be noticeable otherwise. When we speak we often use phrases that're already well-known instead of making up new words. This is what Sinclair (1991) calls the principle. Metaphors often work at the level of these phrases, not individual words. For example expressions like " growth" "political climate" and "information flow" show how metaphors become common in certain groups. Looking at amounts of text also challenges the idea that language is either literal or figurative. Many metaphors become so common that we don't even notice they're metaphors. Cameron and Deignan (2006) say that metaphors often work below our awareness guiding how we understand things without us realizing it. This way of looking at metaphor lets us see it as a part of language not something exceptional.

4. Emotional–Expressive Dimension of Metaphor

One of the common functions of metaphor is to express emotions. Emotions are rarely described in a literal way; instead speakers use sensory and bodily experiences to convey strong feelings. Kövecses (2000) argues that emotions are inherently metaphorical because they don't have boundaries. For example corpus evidence shows that emotional language often relies on metaphors like HEAT, FORCE, BURDEN or DAMAGE. In English expressions like "boiling with anger" or "broken heart" describe emotions as changes. In Uzbek expressions like "yuragi

muzlab ketdi" (his heart froze) or "ich-eti yonmoq" (his insides are burning) use similar ideas but with different cultural emphasis. This has an implication: metaphor doesn't just describe emotions it actually helps create our emotional experiences. As Gibbs (2006) says, metaphor shapes how we understand our states, which affects how we feel. When we analyze the frequency of metaphors we see that they intensify emotions in media discourse. In discourse metaphors are used creatively to create aesthetic effects. In scientific discourse, which seems objective metaphors are used to explain complex ideas showing that metaphors are unavoidable. While our bodily experiences provide a ground for metaphors culture determines how metaphors are developed. Cultural linguistics suggests that language encodes shared models that are shaped by history, environment and social practice. Kövecses (2005) emphasizes that differences in metaphors across languages reflect preferences, not just random word choices. Comparing English and Uzbek corpora shows differences in metaphor sources. Uzbek metaphors often draw on life, family relationships and moral symbolism while English metaphors reflect industrial, technological or economic domains. These differences illustrate what Sharifian (2017) calls conceptualizations: shared ideas that are distributed across members of a speech community. Metaphor becomes a mechanism, for preserving and transmitting memory. Interestingly corpus evidence shows that both universal and culture-specific metaphors coexist. Emotional temperature metaphors appear across languages. Animal symbolism and moral imagery vary significantly. This supports a model that combines universal embodied experiences with cultural particularity.6. Communicative–Pragmatic Functions of Metaphor in Discourse

Beyond thinking and culture metaphor does work in communication. People who study how we talk say that metaphor helps shape how we understand things by focusing on some parts of reality and hiding others. Charteris-Black shows that politicians use metaphor a lot to make their ideas sound good. This is because corpus data, which is a collection of texts shows that metaphors help build arguments by framing how we think about things. When we think of problems like storms or sicknesses it makes us think of certain solutions. Like finding a way to stay safe or getting medicine. This helps guide how the audience thinks about the issue. From a point of view metaphor is like a shortcut. It helps speakers make their point without using a lot of language. When speakers use metaphor they make it easier for listeners to understand by using ideas. Sperber and Wilson's theory says that metaphor helps make communication more effective. It lets us understand a lot from a few words. Metaphor is not a simple way to decorate language; it is a powerful tool that helps people communicate.

Toward an Integrated Model of Metaphor

The analysis shows that feelings, culture and practical communication are connected and work together. Emotional metaphors are persuasive because they connect with ideas. Cultural metaphors work well in communication because they bring up feelings. Looking at a lot of texts we can see that metaphor is a system. It develops from how we think, our experiences and how we practice communication. Metaphor is a connection, between how we think, what we know about culture and what we want to communicate.

Conclusion

This study says that we cannot really understand metaphors by looking at one idea. To really get it we need to look at how our minds work with language what culture says about it how we study language examples and how we actually use language to communicate. When we look at a

lot of language examples we see that metaphors are used to express feelings they show us how different cultures think about things and they help us figure out what something means.

By looking closely at the ideas and at real life examples this article tries to bring together a way to study metaphors that can be used to compare languages and understand how we talk. Maybe someday we can use numbers and pictures to study metaphors more and see how they help us make meaning. Metaphors are really important for metaphor research. We should keep studying them to learn more, about metaphors and how they work with language.

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