

Metaphors: The Word of the Art

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ABSTRACT

In this article, I want to look at a little brief explanation of the metaphor in literature. Most writers use this stylistic device as a mean of showing off him or her in terms of number of words they know in the literal cases. So far, lots of scientist learnt metaphors literally in fictions, poems, novels and theory too. I am going to give a lot more attention to metaphors in literature in this article.

KEYWORDS: *metaphor, stylistic device, simile, literature, novels, poems, scientists, theorists.*

Introduction

On the behalf of the work “Poetics” by Aristotle, the term “metaphor” is given in the part of the types of nouns. Writers get used to use this stylistic device as a source of getting attention of readers. Metaphors are learnt by lots of scientists after Aristotle.

Materials and Methods

American philosopher Max Black studied metaphors in the form of device in philosophy. M. Black¹ would like to answer a number of questions related to metaphors. For example: “Is metaphor regarded as a decoration upon plain sense?”, “What are the relations between metaphor and simile?”, “What is the point of using metaphors?” and so on. He found out answers to those mentioned question by stating seven examples from different sources. According to the final result, he claimed the following seven things:

- 1) There are two various subjects in the metaphorical statements: “principal” and “subsidiary”.
- 2) These mentioned subjects are often thought as “systems of the things”, but not the thing itself.
- 3) The metaphor usually works by association of the core meaning of principal and subsidiary subjects.
- 4) Literally, the core meaning is simple
- 5) The metaphor has different facilities to select, emphasize, suppress, and organize some forms of subsidiary subject of it.
- 6) The subordinate metaphor is seen as less emphatically
- 7) There is no exact proof why metaphors give some vicarious meaning.

He exemplified the statement “Man is a wolf” to prove all above mentioned claims. Here, “man” is a principal subject and “wolf” is subsidiary subject. So as to know the exact meaning of this, readers should know the correct meaning of the “wolf”. Literally, wolves are seen as a symbol of braveness. If they are used as a subsidiary subject of the sentence, they are associated with principal subject and

¹ Max Black. (1954). Metaphor. Source: Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society, New Series, Vol. 55 (1954 - 1955), pp. 273-294.

are seen to lose the straight definition. M. Black wanted to give the system of the thing by giving the word “wolf”, because the majority people usually know what the wolves are. He called this as “the systems of the commonplaces”. Why is this called as the system of the commonplace? Because it is easy to understand the core meaning of the statement of “Man is a wolf”.

George Lakoff wrote the book named “Metaphors We Live By²” in 1979. He stated that the metaphor can give the neural revolution to the human’s brain and mind radically. In terms of his views, the metaphors usually bring readers to the literal ocean and broaden their horizon. He did survey first humans’ brain shapes. He wrote about brain connections by a number of neurons, approximately from 1000 to 10000. He and his colleagues claimed that most of them die out until the age of 5, leaving only used ones.

In his book, the first chapter will look at the root of the metaphors where it comes from and how it serves to convey human’s mind. He also gave information about neural computation which is relevant to metaphors. He thought that connections between brain and body are the core to understand the meaning of the thought. He paid attention the phrase “the neural theory of metaphor”. G. Lakoff offered this term to analyze fundamental issues upon the metaphors.

There is an example from a great writer, Yusuf Has Hajib to prove all abovementioned materials.

Translation of Q.Karimov:

Qora (avom) xulqi mutloqa qora bo‘ladi,

O‘zingni qora qilma, saqlanib turgin.

Qora (avom) xulqi bebosh qing‘ir bo‘ladi,

Ishi, kuchi barchasi qilig‘iga teng bo‘ladi.

Translation of R.Denkoff:

The manners of commoners are black,

So take care that you do not blacken yourself.

By nature they are insubordinate and wild,

And all their actions accord with these qualities.

Meaning:

Commoners have bad manners,

So, keep away yourself from them.

They are naturally insubordinate and wild,

All their actions are applicable to their qualities.

If we pay attention to the word “Қара” we can see that writer used beautifully the stylistic devices. In other words, the word “Қара” is not used in its own meaning. Its meaning does not depend on the meaning of the color, but means the public. Translator compared the whole lifestyle of people living in that period to the color of black, so that he used that type of word so as to describe them. This word created the metaphor. But, Denkoff translated “Қара” into “Commoners” and he was directly going to mean the public. This decreases the literal effect to some extent. However, it created the stylistic devices named simile, because there is a comparing word: “The manners of commoners are black”. Translator compared the manners of the public to black.

² Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. L. (1980). “Metaphors we live by”. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Translation of W.May:

Of the manners of ordinary people I'd say —

Their minds are quite simple, and likewise are they.

They know no decorum no style in their ways,

And no pride of place any one e'er betrays.. [3, 322]

Meaning:

If I said the manner of the public –

Their thoughts are quite simple as they are.

They know neither how to behave nor how to be gentle,

Their work is indefinite.

Now, we give attention to the translation of Walter May. He did not also give the word “Қапа” like Robert Denkoff, instead of it he used the phrase “ordinary people”. He exchanged the word “Қапа” with the word “simple”, “ordinary”. We did not face the metaphoric style in the translation of May too.

Conclusion

Literature is the subject of giving people bright characters of the work and can make them to feel like them while reading through. When reading these literal works, writers need to some types of stylistic devices to give readers more pleasure from the work. Among these devices, metaphors are played different role which is not substituted by others.

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