

## Figurative Language Devices and their Classification in English. the Difference Between Metaphor and Other Figurative Language Devices

**Abdulkhay Kosimov**

*Ferghana State University, Faculty of English Language and Literature Lecturer at the  
Department of Applied English*

### Abstract

Figurative language devices are an excellent means of communication, which is always used not only in English, but in all languages of the world. Figurative language devices help us quickly and efficiently convey complex definitions or feelings that we want to express in speech. In English, figurative language devices are also called "figures of speech". In oral speech, we can use figurative language tools to convince the audience of our thoughts or information, attract them and strengthen a psychological connection with them.

**Keywords:** Metaphor, simile, irony, conceptual metaphor, conceptualizing, figures of speech.

### Introduction

Studies conducted by literary scholars at the University of Arkansas have shown that in English-language literature; mainly 3 artistic language images are more often used. It is a metaphor, comparison, diagnosis or personification. In addition, figurativeness, symbolism, hyperbole, juxtaposition, paradox and other linguistic means have their place in English literature. However, it should be emphasized that the 3 means of figurative language mentioned above play an important role not only in fiction, but also in the everyday life of the English. [1]

One of these figurative language devices is usually used to express creativity in writing or speaking, or to explain complex ideas. For example, if the British feel something unpleasant in their body, they try to express the extent of their condition with the words "butterflies in the stomach." When expressing the difficulty of doing something, they use comparisons like "like a moving mountain." Research has shown that people are more likely to understand scientific discoveries, scientific concepts, and other scientific concepts using metaphors than when they are expressed in simple

terms. In general, figurative language means are one of the main "figures" of oral and written speech both in fiction and in everyday life.

### **The use of figurative language devices in English fiction**

In English, simile [similarity] is used when comparing two objects or situations with each other and is often expressed with words such as [like], [as]. The word "similarity" comes from the Latin word "similis" and means "similar". The use of simile in English literature began in the 15th century, and Shakespeare also used this figurative language in his works. There are many examples of comparisons in English literature. For example:

"Her secret piqued his interest like a door without a lock or key." [*"The very mystery of him excited her curiosity like a door that had neither lock nor key."*] (Margaret Mitchell)

Through this sentence, the writer used someone else's secret to express his interest in the hero of the work.

Rafael Sabatini skillfully used figurative language in his work *The Sea Eagle*. An example is the following analogy:

*"He swung a great scimitar, before which Spaniards went down like wheat to the reaper's sickle."*

In this comparison, the writer compares the number of Spanish soldiers to the countless wheat in the field in order to express them beautifully. Here the farmer is embodied as the hero of the work, that is, he must mow the "wheat" with his "scythe".

The easiest way to distinguish similes from metaphors in English is to pay attention to the words or adverbs used in the simile or simile. As mentioned above, comparison can be defined with several words and adverbs. For example, in comparison, in comparison with, the same, sort of, similar, like, like others. Metaphors, on the other hand, try to express an idea through events that occur in our daily lives. They do not use comparisons of "elements" or adverbs. For example,

*"All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree". Albert Einstein. Out of My little years.*

In the example above, the scientist uses a metaphor and expresses through one metaphor all scientific truth, that is, all religions (Islam, Christianity, Judaism, etc.), arts and sciences (natural and social sciences), and all secular and religious knowledge have one and the same base. Using metaphors, you can see that understanding the exact meaning of thoughts is not that difficult.

Personification or personification is the giving of human characteristics to non-human or abstract things. These can be physical attributes ("the eye of a needle"), emotional attributes ("one shoe"), or human actions ("a leaf dancing in the wind"). For example,

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*“Because I could not stop for Death – He kindly stopped for me “*

*—Emily Dickinson, “Because I could not stop for Death”*

Through these lines, Emily Dickinson personifies death as a person and expresses the fact that a person cannot get rid of death.

Or another example.

*“Life moves pretty fast. If you don’t stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” —John Hughes, Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*

Through the words above, John Hughes expresses how quickly time passes, its value, and the importance of appreciating it so that you will not be late through "personalization".

The quality of a work or story can be improved through the effective use of the above images of artistic language, or vice versa. Excessive use of figurative language can prevent students from understanding the full meaning of a work or story. This, in turn, is clear evidence that the writer's scientific potential is low. Writers look at how people behave in real life and use that as a guide. Sometimes figurative language can simplify a complex idea, but sometimes it can complicate a simple idea. If a poet wants to add figurative poignancy to a sentence or paragraph, the most important thing is not to confuse the meaning.

### **Metaphor and simile in English**

Since the time of Aristotle, many linguists have considered metaphor and comparison as figurative language tools that perform the same function: any metaphor can be expressed as a comparison, or, conversely, a comparison can be expressed as a metaphor. This feature of metaphor underlies psycholinguistic theories of comparison of the understanding of metaphor. However, metaphors, of course, cannot always be expressed as comparisons. Different forms of metaphor: comparative and categorization forms - have different referents. In the form of comparison, metaphor means a general concept, i.e. "My lawyer is like a shark." In this sentence, the term "shark" usually refers to a type of fish. In the categorization form "My lawyer is a shark", "shark" refers to the abstract (metaphorical) category of predatory creatures.

It should be noted that the place of word stress in this sentence is also of particular importance, that is, word stress indicates the context in which the word is used. This difference in reference makes it possible to distinguish between a metaphor and its corresponding comparison by: a) interpretation, b) meaning. Since a metaphor cannot always be understood in terms of an appropriate comparison, we conclude that theories of metaphorical comparison are fundamentally flawed.

Modern psycholinguistic approaches to the creation and understanding of metaphors are divided into two large classes: comparison and categorization. In the philosophical literature, supporters of the

comparative view see the difference between metaphors and their corresponding similes as an "undifferentiated difference", that is: "Comparison is also a metaphor. The difference is very small" (Aristotle and Barnes, 1984). Voegelin (1988) also puts forward two approaches, comparing the inherent similarities of metaphor and simile:

- A. The literal meaning of a metaphor is the same as the direct meaning of comparison by analogy.
- B. The figurative meaning of a metaphor is the same as the figurative meaning of the opposite comparison. For example, the phrase "my job is a prison" is functionally equivalent to the phrase "my job is like a prison."

It should be noted that when translating metaphors used in English fiction into Uzbek, comparison can become a figurative language tool while maintaining its meaning. In this case comparisons and adverbs such as [-dek] (such as in English) can be used in the translation.

## Conclusion

In short, when translating metaphors used in English fiction, it is very difficult to find and apply semantically appropriate metaphors from the Uzbek language. One of the reasons for this is two different languages and different cultures belonging to different families. Consideration of intercultural differences and similarities is one of the most important factors in translation studies. Today, an in-depth study of English literature, an analysis of its shortcomings and achievements, the study of knowledge gained as a result of research on Uzbek literature, will make it possible to achieve further development in this area. From this point of view, it is necessary to increase the amount of scientific research conducted in the field of linguistics.

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