STYLISTIC DEVICE: METAPHOR

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Annotation

This article highlights the intricacies of stylistic device, particulary focusing on metaphors , their classifications, applications, and expressive functions.

Key words: stylistics, device, metaphor, association, poetry, function, cliches.

Metaphor is not merely an artificial device making discourse; more vivid and poetical. It is also necessary for the apprehension and communication of new ideas. It is the way in which creative minds perceive things. Metaphors must be classified according to three aspects: 1) the degree of expressiveness, 2) the structure i.e. in what linguistic form it is presented or by what part of speech it is expressed, 3) the function, i.e. the role often stylistic device in making up an image [1].

The expressiveness of a stylistic device depends on various aspects. Different authors and literary trends or movements have different sources where they borrow the material for images. Favourite images in oriental poetry are: nightingale, a rose, and moon. Nature, art, war, fairy tales and myths, science etc. May also serve as sources for metaphorical image. We distinguish genuine and trite metaphors. Metaphors which are absolutely unexpected, i.e. quite unpredictable, are called genuine metaphors. Trite metaphors are generally used in newspaper articles or scientific language (clichés).Those which are commonly used — are called trite (language) or dead metaphors.

Genuine metaphors are also called speech metaphors. Genuine metaphors can easily become trite if they are frequently repeated. There is an opinion that a metaphor is a productive way of building up new meanings and new words. Language can be called the "dictionary of faded metaphors".Examples of genuine metaphors:

1. 'The leaves fell sorrowfully.'

2. A puppet government

3. He is a mule.

4. 'The Tooth of Time, which has already dried many a tear, will let the grass grow over this painful wound.' The expression tooth of time implies that time, like a greedy tooth devours everything, makes everything disappear or be forgotten.

5. He is not a man, he is just a machine!

6. a treacherous calm

Genuine metaphors are mostly to be found in poetry and emotive prose. Metaphors, commonly used in speech are called trite /dead (stereotyped, hackneyed), they are fixed in dictionaries.

A ray of hope, a flight of fancy, seeds of evil, roots of evil, to fish for compliments, to bark up the wrong tree, to apple one's eye, to burn with desire. Examples of trite metaphor: The salt of life; a flight of imagination; the ladder of fame; to burn with passion (anger). The following metaphors enriched English phraseology: foot of a bed, leg of a chair, and head of a nail, to be in the same boat, blind window, to fish for compliments. Very often trite metaphors are given new force (intensity) and their primary dead meaning is created a new. It is achieved by introducing new additional images. Such metaphors are called sustained or prolonged: "Our family rivulet joined other streams and the stream was a river pouring into St. Thomas Church" (J. Steinbeck).

Thus, trite metaphors regain freshness due to the prolongation. Metaphors may have a sustained form in cases with genuine metaphors as well. Usually a metaphor may be expressed by any part of speech. See the above examples. The main function of the metaphor is to create images. Genuine metaphors create bright images in poetry and emotive prose. Trite metaphors are widely used in newspaper and scientific style. Here it is not a shortcoming of style. They help the author make the meaning more concrete and brighten his writings as it is an indispensable quality of human thought and perception. There is an opinion according to which metaphor is defined as a compressed simile. Prof. I. R. Galperin considers this approach as misleading because

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metaphor identifies objects while simile finds some points of resemblance and by this keeps the objects apart. He says their linguistic nature is different. When likeness (affinity) is observed between inanimate objects and human qualities, we have the cases of personification:

Slowly, silently, now the moon

Walks the night in her silvery soon,

This way and that she peers and sees

Silver fruit upon silver trees

(De La Mare).

In conclusion, we learnt that metaphor is not merely a decorative literary device; it is a fundamental aspect of human thought and communication. Genuine metaphors enrich language with creativity and imagination, while trite metaphors serve practical purposes in various styles. Sustained metaphors often bridge the gap between the two, bringing new life to old expressions. Ultimately, metaphor is indispensable in shaping ideas, enhancing expression, and creating memorable imagery.

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