Comparative study of the use of metaphor in Karakalpak and English literary speech

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Annotation

This article highlights the understanding and appreciation of how metaphors are used in Karakalpak, English languages, It delves into questions such as how metaphors can be used in both languages or , how metaphors are demonstrated in comparative languages.

Keywords: a rollercoaster of emotions, myths and religious texts, Medieval and Renaissance periods.

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. It describes something by saying it is something else, creating a direct comparison between two unrelated things. This comparison helps to illustrate a concept or idea by linking it to something familiar. For example, saying "Time is a thief" is a metaphor. It does not mean that time literally steals things, but it suggests that time can take away moments or opportunities, much like a thief would.

Metaphors are widely used in the English language across various contexts, including literature, everyday conversation, and even in professional or academic settings. There are followings showing how metaphors are typically used:

-Literature and Poetry: Metaphors are often used in literature to create vivid imagery, convey complex ideas, and evoke emotions for the reader. **"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." (William Shakespeare)** Metaphors are not limited to poetry and literature; they are common in everyday

language, such as in phrases like "a rollercoaster of emotions," "the heart of the matter," or "the root of the problem

- In daily language, metaphors simplify communication by making abstract or complicated ideas more relatable and understandable.

Example: "He's the black sheep of the family."

-Advertising and Marketing Advertisers use metaphors to create memorable and impactful messages that resonate with consumers, often associating products with positive qualities or experiences.

Example: *"This car is a beast."*

-Education and Explanations: Teachers and educators use metaphors to explain new or difficult concepts by relating them to something familiar to the students.

Example: *"The brain is a computer."*

-Cultural and Social Commentary: Metaphors can be used to comment on or critique societal issues, capturing the essence of a complex social reality in a simple phrase.

Example: *"The melting pot of America."*

-Psychology and Self-Help: In psychology and self-help contexts, metaphors are often employed to help individuals visualize and understand their emotional and mental states.

Example: *"You need to let go of the baggage you're carrying."*

Business and Leadership: In business, metaphors are used to inspire, motivate, and communicate goals or challenges in a way that encourages action and understanding.

"We need to break through the glass ceiling.

In each of these above-mentioned contexts, metaphors serve to enrich language, making it more colorful, expressive, and meaningful. They help convey ideas more effectively by linking the known to the unknown.

The history of metaphor is deeply intertwined with the development of language and human cognition. Metaphors have been used in various forms of communication for thousands of years, serving as a fundamental way humans understand and describe the world around them. There is a brief overview of the history of metaphor in English speaking world:

*Ancient Origins:

- Early Language Development: Metaphors likely emerged as early as the development of language itself. Early humans used metaphors to describe unfamiliar or abstract concepts by comparing them to familiar objects or experiences. This cognitive process helped in making sense of the world.

- Mythology and Religion: In ancient cultures, metaphors were commonly used in myths and religious texts to explain natural phenomena, moral lessons, and spiritual beliefs. For example, in many mythologies, gods and natural forces were often described using metaphorical language.

*Classical Antiquity:

- Aristotle's *Rhetoric*: The first formal study of metaphor can be traced back to ancient Greece, particularly in Aristotle's work *Rhetoric* (4th century BCE). Aristotle defined metaphor as a rhetorical device that involves transferring a word from its literal meaning to another context. He believed that metaphors were not just ornamental but were essential to the art of persuasion.

- Poetry and Philosophy: In addition to Aristotle, other Greek and Roman philosophers and poets extensively used metaphors. Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* are filled with vivid metaphors that bring the stories to life. Plato and other philosophers also explored the use of metaphor in philosophical discourse.

* Medieval and Renaissance Periods:

- Biblical and Religious Texts: During the medieval period, metaphors played a crucial role in religious texts, including the Bible. Allegorical interpretations of scripture were common, where metaphors were used to convey deeper spiritual meanings.

- Literary Expansion: The Renaissance saw a flourishing of literature and poetry, with metaphors being used more creatively and extensively. Writers like William Shakespeare and Dante Alighieri employed metaphor to explore human emotions, societal issues, and philosophical ideas.

* Enlightenment to the 19th Century:

- Philosophical Shifts: The Enlightenment brought a shift in thinking about metaphor, with some philosophers viewing it as a less precise form of expression compared to literal language. However, the Romantic poets, such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, revived the use of metaphor, emphasizing its power to express the sublime and the ineffable aspects of human experience.

- Metaphor in Science: The 19th century also saw the use of metaphor in scientific discourse. Scientists used metaphorical language to describe complex theories and discoveries, such as Darwin's "tree of life" to represent evolution.

*20th Century and Modern Developments:

- Cognitive Linguistics: In the late 20th century, the study of metaphor experienced a resurgence with the development of cognitive linguistics. Scholars like George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, in their seminal work *Metaphors We Live By* (1980), argued that metaphors are not just literary devices but are fundamental to human thought and communication. They introduced the concept of "conceptual metaphors," where abstract concepts are understood through more concrete experiences (e.g., "time is money").

- Postmodernism and Beyond: In the postmodern era, metaphors have been explored in various fields, including literature, philosophy, psychology, and artificial intelligence. Metaphors are now recognized as essential tools in shaping our understanding of reality, influencing how we perceive, think, and act in the world.

* Contemporary Usage:

- Cross-Cultural and Interdisciplinary Study: Today, the study of metaphor spans across disciplines, from linguistics to neuroscience, and is considered a key element in understanding cultural differences, language development, and human cognition. Metaphors continue to be a central part of everyday language, as well as in creative writing, advertising, and political discourse.

In one word, the history of metaphor is a reflection of the evolution of human language and thought. From its roots in ancient mythology and philosophy to its current role in cognitive science and everyday communication, metaphor remains a powerful tool for understanding and expressing the complexities of human experience.

As it is obvious that a metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares two unlike things by stating that one *is* the other, highlighting similarities between them without using "like" or "as," which distinguishes it from a simile. Metaphors are used to create vivid imagery or convey complex ideas in a more relatable or understandable way. To illustrate this,   **"The world is a stage."**

- Literary: In Shakespeare's "As You Like It," the metaphor "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" equates the world to a stage and life to a play.

A metaphor typically involves two components:

- Tenor: The subject of the metaphor (the thing being described).

- Vehicle: The image or concept that the subject is being compared to.

For example, in the metaphor "Time is a thief," "time" is the tenor, and "thief" is the vehicle.

There are some types of Metaphors:

- Implicit Metaphor: The comparison is not explicitly stated, e.g., "He brayed his refusal," where "brayed" implies a comparison to a donkey without directly saying it.

- Extended Metaphor: A metaphor that extends over several lines or throughout an entire work, allowing for a more detailed comparison.

- Dead Metaphor: A metaphor that has been used so often that it has lost its metaphorical impact and is taken literally, e.g., "the arm of a chair."

- Mixed Metaphor: Combines two or more incompatible metaphors, often creating a confusing or humorous effect, e.g., "We'll burn that bridge when we come to it."

Without doubt that everything has its purpose as well as Metaphors:

First of all, metaphors can simplify complex ideas by relating them to something more familiar, making abstract concepts more accessible.

Secondly, they create emotional impact which can evoke strong emotions or connections by associating an idea with a powerful image or concept.

Thirdly, Aesthetic Appeal: Metaphors add depth and richness to language, making writing and speech more engaging and memorable.

When it comes to analyze metaphors in the Karakalpak language, like in many other languages, metaphors are used to convey meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of words. These metaphors are deeply rooted in the cultural and environmental context of the Karakalpak people, who traditionally live in the Aral Sea region in Central Asia. It is better to give information about Characteristics of Metaphors in Karakalpak Language:

*Nature-Inspired: Given the nomadic and agricultural lifestyle of the Karakalpak people, many metaphors are drawn from nature, the environment, and animals. For instance, comparisons might be made between a person's traits and the characteristics of animals or natural elements like rivers, deserts, and mountains.

*Cultural Context: Metaphors in Karakalpak often reflect the culture, history, and traditions of the people. For example, the metaphor "qalbı çölde" (қалбы чөлде) literally means "his heart is in the desert," but metaphorically it could describe someone who feels lost, isolated, or emotionally barren.

*Proverbs and Idioms: Karakalpak language is rich in proverbs and idioms, many of which are metaphorical. These expressions often carry wisdom or moral lessons that are passed down through generations. For example, a Karakalpak might say, "Jigitlik jeti arman" (Жигитлик жети арман), which could be translated as "Manhood is seven desires," metaphorically referring to the various challenges and desires that define a man's life.

* Common Themes:

   - Strength and Resilience: Many metaphors relate to the harsh environment, such as comparing a strong person to a mountain or an enduring person to a river that continues to flow despite obstacles.

   - Community and Relationships: Metaphors might also reflect the importance of community and relationships, such as likening a good friend to a "sholpan," a star that guides one through the night.

   - "Qaraqtaqtı büringdey" (Қарақтақты бүрінгдей): Literally "like a wolf on the hunt," metaphorically used to describe someone who is relentless or determined in their pursuit.

   - "Aqil agin suwdaý. "Wisdom is like water," implying that wisdom, like water, is essential for life and should be sought and valued.

> **At basinday som jurek,**
> **Sarayga siymay tuwladi**
>
> (Haji-Gerey)

"Tuwlaw"- the verb is used for horse, but there is used as explicitly for human being expressing he could not tolerate for pain.

Bul shoqmarga Gerey er bel bermedi,
Alshag'irdi qatti ashiw kernedi,
<u>**Qaharlenip ash jolbaris aqirip,**</u>
<u>**Eki qolin tum-tusina sermedi**</u>

(Haji-Gerey)

<u>**Ash jolbaris –**</u> there is the word defining that man shouts as a hungry tiger.

In conclusion, Metaphors are a way to preserve the unique cultural identity of the Karakalpak people, encapsulating their experiences and worldview. In a society where oral tradition is strong, metaphors serve as powerful tools for communication, enabling people to express complex ideas and emotions succinctly and memorably.

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