LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL FEATURES OF METAPHORS

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Abstract

This article discusses the specific lexical and grammatical features of metaphors, the peculiarities of grammatical transposition in Uzbek and English, and a number of regularities reflecting these features. It also highlights the presence of similar constructions in English and Uzbek, as well as their structural and functional characteristics.

Keywords: Metaphor, metaphorization, lexical and grammatical features, grammatical transposition, complex system, grammatical category, grammatical role.

Introduction

The grammatical nature of metaphor is a complex system of linguistic forms functioning at various levels of language structure. By analyzing this phenomenon from morphological and lexical perspectives, it is possible to identify a number of regularities that reflect the specific features of grammatical transposition in Uzbek and English.

At the morphological level, metaphor is realized through grammatical transposition, that is, the shift of a linguistic form to a function not inherently its own. This term was first introduced by E.I. Shendels (Shendels, 1993). Grammatical metaphor refers to the change in the conventional grammatical

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category of a word form, as a result of which it acquires a new functional meaning.

One manifestation of grammatical metaphor is the use of the present tense form to describe past events. In English, this phenomenon is known as the **historical present**, and similar constructions can be observed in Uzbek as well. In such cases, the present tense is used to intensify the immediacy of the narration, which is particularly characteristic of spoken discourse, as well as artistic and journalistic texts.

For example, in English, such a construction might appear as: So, yesterday I'm walking down the street, and suddenly I see this huge dog running towards me. In this case, the forms I'm walking and I see belong to the present tense, but the context indicates a past event. A similar phenomenon is observed in Uzbek: Kecha men bozorga boraman, hamma joyda qiy-chuv, shunda eski do'stimni ko'rib qoldim ("Yesterday I go to the market, it's crowded everywhere, and suddenly I see my old friend"). Here, the verb boraman ("I go") typically denotes a present or future action in standard grammar, but in this context, it refers to a past action, creating a dynamic and emotionally expressive effect.

Another type of grammatical metaphor is the use of the present tense form to describe a future event, known as the future present. In English, this construction frequently appears in schedules and official announcements, such as: The train leaves at 8 p.m. tomorrow. Although the event is in the future, the present tense form leaves is used. A similar usage is observed in Uzbek: Ertaga men Londonga uchaman ("Tomorrow I fly to London"). Here, the verb uchaman ("I fly") is in the present tense, but it emphasizes the certainty and definiteness of the future event.

Grammatical metaphor also manifests in the mismatch between the grammatical and lexical meanings of verb forms. In English, there are constructions where the active voice is used with a passive meaning, breaking conventional grammatical rules: This book reads easily. In this context, the verb reads should conventionally be in the passive form (is read), but its active usage adds emphasis to the qualities of the object. A similar phenomenon is found in Uzbek: Bu kitob oson o'qiydi (translation:"This book reads easily"). Although the action is directed at the

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object, the construction is built in such a way that the book itself appears to be the subject of the process.

Another common form of grammatical metaphor is the use of personal pronouns in roles not typically assigned to them. In English, medical staff might say to a patient: We need to take our medicine now, don't we? Here, the pronoun we replaces you, creating a softer, more trusting communicative environment. The same type of construction can be found in Uzbek: Hozir biz ukol qilamiz ("Now we'll get the injection"). The speaker (e.g., a doctor) uses biz ("we") instead of sen or siz ("you"), softening the tone and making the address more friendly.

Grammatical metaphor is also manifested in the use of voice constructions in addition to personal pronouns. In English, the phrase The floor needs cleaning is an example of the verb needs being used with the -ing form, although in standard grammar, it should be expressed as The floor needs to be cleaned. A similar expression can be found in Uzbek: Deraza artish kerak ("The window needs cleaning"). While this literally means Derazani artish kerak ("The window needs to be cleaned"), the verb form creates the impression that the window itself is performing the action.

Grammatical metaphor performs an important cognitive function by allowing shifts in emphasis, softening expressions, and adding expressiveness to thoughts. The structures of different languages demonstrate the universality of this phenomenon, confirming its significance not only in artistic language but also in everyday communication.

Grammatical metaphor is a complex linguistic phenomenon that includes elements of morphological and syntactic transposition. In Uzbek and English, grammatical metaphor is expressed through the reassignment of grammatical forms to functions that are not originally characteristic of them, which allows for the identification of their structural and functional properties.

An analysis of the lexical definitions of the pronoun it in English shows that it is most often interpreted as a formal subject in impersonal constructions, replacing an indefinite object, or as a grammatical subject in constructions where the main meaning is expressed by the predicate. However, in literary discourse, this pronoun may acquire additional shades of meaning. In Uzbek, the pronoun u

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serves a similar function, although its grammatical role differs from that of its English counterpart.

In literary texts, grammatical metaphor can serve as a means of creating an effect of alienation or emotional distance. In English, this effect is achieved through the use of the pronoun it in a way that strips individuality from a character. For example, literary texts may contain constructions like: It knocked on the door, waiting for someone to answer. Here, the pronoun it is used in reference to a person, generating a sense of impersonality and highlighting the loss of individual identity.

In Uzbek, a similar phenomenon can be observed in constructions where the pronoun u is replaced with an impersonal form, which reduces the personalization of the referent: U kelib ketdi, hech kim unga e'tibor bermadi ("He/she came and left, no one paid attention to him/her"). This usage enhances the sense of the subject's irrelevance and isolation, which serves as a characteristic stylistic method in literary discourse.

Grammatical metaphor can also be expressed through the alteration of traditional case constructions. In English, this effect is achieved by replacing the direct object with an indirect object, such as: I got told off instead of the normative I was told off. A similar construction exists in Uzbek: Men aytildi instead of Menga aytishdi ("I was told off"). The change in grammatical structure shifts the focus from the subject to the action.

Another form of grammatical metaphor is the use of verb tense forms that extend beyond the typical grammatical meaning. In English, the historical present is widely used, where the present tense is applied to describe past events. For example: So yesterday I walk into the store, and guess what? They were all gone! Here, the use of the present tense instead of the past tense creates a sense of immediacy and dynamic participation.

A similar construction can be found in Uzbek: Kecha do'konga boraman, qarasam, hamma narsa tugagan! ("Yesterday I go to the store, and guess what? Everything was gone!"). In this case, the verb boraman ("I go") instead of bordim ("I went") emphasizes the immediacy and emotional involvement of the speaker.

Another common form of grammatical metaphor is the use of the future tense to express actions that are either currently happening or have already happened. In

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English, this can be seen in constructions like I need your help tomorrow instead of I'll be needing your help tomorrow, which makes the request sound more polite. In Uzbek, a similar effect is achieved through the use of constructions like Men ertaga kelaman bo'ladi ("I will come tomorrow") instead of Ertaga kelaman ("I will come tomorrow"), which emphasizes the speaker's intention (V.V.Gurevich).

In addition, grammatical metaphor can also involve changes in voice constructions. In English, the active voice may be used instead of the passive voice, for example: This book reads well instead of This book is read easily. A similar phenomenon can be illustrated in Uzbek with the phrase: Bu kitob oson o'qiladi ("This book is read easily") versus Bu kitob oson o'qiydi ("This book reads easily"), where the active form emphasizes the distinct quality of the object. Thus, grammatical metaphor serves an important cognitive and stylistic function in both Uzbek and English. It facilitates shifts in focus within speech, enhances expressiveness, and conveys additional semantic nuances. The effect of grammatical metaphor on the perception of a text is particularly evident in literary works, where it is used to create stylistic impacts that reflect the psychological states of characters or the communicative strategy of the author.

The lexical-grammatical parameters of metaphor represent a crucial aspect of its linguistic function, involving complex mechanisms of semantic reinterpretation and syntactic reorganization. Within linguistic tradition, metaphor is viewed not only as a stylistic device, but also as a systematic cognitive phenomenon that contributes to the formation of new semantic relationships in the language, expands the boundaries of nomination, and helps to develop the secondary semantics of lexical units.

The core feature of metaphorization is the process of semantic shift, which occurs when a lexical item is used in an atypical context, resulting in a change of meaning. This process is accompanied by the interaction of various parts of speech, producing new semantic paradigms. In language, metaphorical structures may manifest at the levels of noun, verb, adjective, and adverb, with each category demonstrating distinct features of metaphorical reinterpretation (Ye.V.Yakovleva).

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The semantic nature of metaphor is closely linked to the polysemy of words and their derivational potential. In this regard, polysemy is one of the factors determining the productivity of metaphor. For example, in English, the word bridge in a metaphorical context means a "connecting means," which enhances its functional-semantic capacity and generates new conceptual content. Similarly, in Uzbek, the word ko'prik refers not only to a physical structure, but also symbolically represents a means of connecting ideas or people.

Verbal metaphorization is an effective method of generating new meanings, as verbs possess high dynamism and the ability to express subtle semantic nuances. For instance, the English verb grasp, which literally means "to seize or hold," metaphorically signifies "to understand or comprehend," just as the Uzbek equivalent tushunmoq can also metaphorically denote cognitive understanding.

Adjectives in metaphorical usage are characterized by a high degree of figurativeness, as they serve a descriptive function and may change their semantics depending on context. For example, the English word cold, which literally refers to temperature, metaphorically conveys the meaning of "unemotional" or "indifferent," and the Uzbek word sovuq functions similarly, denoting both physical temperature and emotional detachment.

The grammatical aspects of metaphor involve changing the syntactic functions of words and transforming them into new parts of speech. In the process of grammaticalization of metaphor, some lexemes may take on auxiliary functions or appear in fixed expressions. For example, in the English phrase give a hand ("to help"), the noun hand, which originally denotes a physical body part, loses its literal meaning and becomes a symbol of support. In Uzbek, a similar process occurs in the expression qo'l berish, where qo'l (hand) functions as a symbolic sign of assistance.

The morphological flexibility of metaphor is manifested in the potential for word-forming transformations. Derivative words formed from metaphorically used bases can expand the semantic field by establishing new conceptual connections. In English, the noun storm (a violent weather event) has given rise to the verb to storm (to attack or charge), while in Uzbek, the word shamol (wind) also forms derivative expressions that convey various shades of meaning (V.V.Tomashevich).

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The lexico-grammatical features of metaphor define its structural and functional parameters and influence the development of the semantic systems of a language. The ability of metaphor to adapt to various parts of speech and syntactic models indicates its deep integration into linguistic and cognitive processes.

As a linguistic phenomenon, metaphor reveals complex lexico-grammatical patterns related to semantic reinterpretation and categorical shifts. Its operation is associated with changes in the semantic structure of lexical units, which leads to the redistribution of their syntactic and morphological properties. In the process of metaphorization, various parts of speech acquire secondary meanings, forming multilayered semantic relationships that reflect the cognitive and cultural characteristics of linguistic consciousness.

One of the key aspects of metaphorical reinterpretation is the interaction between semantic fields, wherein features of one concept are transferred to another. Nouns that fulfill a nominative function can denote not only concrete objects but also abstract phenomena in metaphorical contexts. For example, in English, the word pillar refers metaphorically to an important person or idea, while in Uzbek, the word ustun (pillar) can represent not only an architectural element but also a symbol of stability and prestige.

In the process of metaphorization, verbs alter their semantic nature and acquire additional meanings through associative connections. For instance, the English verb to ignite literally means "to set on fire," but metaphorically it can mean "to inspire" or "to motivate," indicating a broadening of its semantic scope. Similarly, the Uzbek verb yoqmoq (to light) can mean not only "to ignite" but also "to attract" or "to encourage" in a metaphorical sense.

Adjectives, with their high degree of semantic plasticity, play an active role in metaphorical reinterpretation by shaping the emotional-evaluative characteristics of objects and phenomena. For example, the English word sharp may metaphorically mean "intelligent" or "keen," while the Uzbek word o'tkir (sharp) can denote both physical sharpness and describe mental acuity or critical thinking (A.V.Fillipov).

Metaphorization is often accompanied by syntactic transformation that alters the categorical features of words. In English, the noun shadow can be used metaphorically as a verb (to shadow – "to observe, to follow"), while in Uzbek,

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the word soya (shadow) may acquire additional meanings such as influence or patronage depending on the context.

Word-formation processes also play an important role in the development of metaphorical meanings. The productivity of word-formation models contributes to the expansion of the semantic potential of metaphors. In English, derivatives like stormy (from storm) are used not only to describe weather conditions but also emotional states or social phenomena. Similarly, in Uzbek, the word shamol (wind) gives rise to derivatives like shamollamoq (to catch a cold), indicating semantic expansion through associative links.

The grammatical structure of metaphors is characterized by the uniqueness of their usage in speech. In English, fixed metaphorical constructions such as the heart of the city convey reinterpreted meanings within phrase structures. A similar pattern is seen in Uzbek with the expression shahar yuragi (the heart of the city), where the city center is metaphorically associated with the heart as a vital organ.

Conclusion

Metaphor is a complex lexico-grammatical phenomenon that influences the formation of language systems and the mechanisms of semantic transformation. Its multi-layered nature is manifested in the changes of word meanings, grammatical functions, and word-formation models, making it an integral part of both linguistic and cognitive activity.

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