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ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ СРЕДСТВА МЕТАФОРИЗАЦИИ КОНЦЕПТОСФЕРЫ КАК СПОСОБ РЕПРЕЗЕНТАЦИИ КАТЕГОРИИ ОЦЕНОЧНОСТИ

В статье предпринимается попытка рассмотреть концептосферу как совокупность мыслительных образов. Под концептосферой понимается ряд концептов, объединенных одним коммуникативным пространством. В данной работе концептосфера выделяется на основе четырех произведений известного американского писателя афганского происхождения Халеда Хоссейни. Концептосфера представлена как структурированное знание людей и способ организации когнитивного пространства, идентифицирующий культуру нации в целом и демонстрирующий ее богатство путем использования средств языка. Многообразие языковых средств в том числе включает лингвистические средства метафоризации обозначенной концептосферы. В исследовании демонстрируется связь концептосферы и авторской оценочности в рамках анализируемых произведений. Категория оценочности как универсальное средство выражения авторского отношения к описываемому феномену манифестируется различными средствами языка, анализ которых представлен в статье. Методологическую основу исследования составляет комбинация методов, позволяющих выделить языковые средства репрезентации основных тем и концептов. В работе также проводится анализ метафор, которые служат для усиления эмоционального и оценочного компонентов. Выявленные темы и концепты сопоставляются с отобранными метафорами,

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для того чтобы определить языковое окружение используемого автором концепта.

В результате исследования было выявлено, что несмотря на разнообразие описываемых в произведениях событий, используемые автором концепты почти полностью повторяются во всех четырех романах. Выявленные концепты актуализируются в тексте чаще всего посредством метафоризации. Результаты анализа убедительно показывают, что лингвистические средства метафоризации концептосферы являются способом репрезентации категории оценочности, характерным для авторского стиля Хоссейни.

Ключевые слова: концептосфера, метафоризация, категория оценочности, языковая репрезентация, концепт

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LINGUISTIC MEANS OF METAPHORIZATION OF THE CONCEPTOSPHERE AS A WAY OF REPRESENTING THE CATEGORY OF EVALUATIVENESS

The article aims to identify the conceptosphere as a set of mental images united by one communicative space – four works by the famous American writer of Afghan origin Khaled Hosseini. The conceptosphere is presented as a structured knowledge and a way of organizing cognitive space, identifying the culture of the nation, and demonstrating its richness through language. The variety of linguistic means also includes metaphorization. The study demonstrates the relationship between the conceptosphere and the author's evaluativeness. The category of evaluativeness as a universal means of expressing the author's values is manifested by various means of language. The methodology of the research makes it possible to identify linguistic means of representing the main concepts. The paper also analyzes metaphors that serve to enhance the evaluative components. The concepts are compared with the

metaphors to determine the linguistic surroundings of the concept used by the author.

The results revealed that the concepts used by the author are often repeated in all four novels. The identified concepts are actualized in the text most often through metaphorization. Thus, the analysis convincingly shows that linguistic means of metaphorizing the conceptsphere are a way of representing the category of evaluativeness, characteristic of Hosseini's author's style.

Keywords: conceptsphere, metaphorization, category of evaluativeness, linguistic representation, concept

Introduction

Among other things, concepts play a significant role in shaping the reader's experience, as they contribute to the depth and meaning of the text. In linguistics, a concept is a cognitive unit that represents an abstract idea associated with a particular object, event, phenomenon, or category. Concepts provide the basis for organizing and structuring our knowledge and understanding of the world. In linguistics, several scholars and theorists have provided definitions for the concept. One of the most prominent and influential figures associated with the conceptualization and understanding of concepts is George Lakoff. According to Lakoff's perspective, concepts represent fundamental structures of thought that underpin our perception of the world and the organization of knowledge (Lakoff, 2003). These concepts are cognitive models we create to classify, categorize, and comprehend the world around us.

Furthermore, Lakoff has developed the theory of conceptual metaphors, which suggests that we utilize concepts from one domain of experience to comprehend and describe other domains (Lakoff, 2003). Concepts are also studied within other branches of linguistics, such as semantics and pragmatics, as well as cognitive psychology. Researchers from various fields contribute to the comprehension and definition of these concepts, and various approaches and theories offer their perspectives and additions to the conceptualization process.

Eleanor Rosch examines the semantics of prototypes and the categorization of concepts. She contends that concepts are not static and definite, but rather evolve with gradations and variations. Rosch proposes focusing on prototypes, which represent the most typical and significant examples of a particular category. These ideal or most

representative examples have the highest level of similarity to other members of the category, however, the author acknowledges that there can be blurred boundaries between concepts that may not perfectly fit the prototype but still belong to the concept. Rosch also explores the relationship between prototypical representations and cognitive processing and perception. She finds that more typical representations of concepts are easier to recognize and classify (Rosch, 1975).

There is another theory that postulates that concepts and conceptual frameworks form the foundation for semantic representation in language, and that language reflects our conceptual organization (Jackendoff, 2010). Concepts serve as fundamental building blocks for meaning and thought, combining to form structured representations that define connections and meanings. These conceptual structures can be modified through cognitive processes such as classification, attribution, and causality. This theory of conceptual semantics identifies a parallel architecture in which various aspects of semantic processing take place and interact concurrently.

The interaction between concepts, language, and literature centers on how concepts influence our perception and understanding of written texts, as well as how they are manifested and reflected in linguistic structures. Special attention is given to metaphors in E. Semino's research where she examines how metaphorical language represents our conceptual worldview and affects the comprehension of written materials through stylistic and rhetorical aspects of texts, as well as their conceptual structure (Semino, 2016). Cognitive analysis of literary texts employed by Semino explores the transmission of ideas and conceptual frameworks within literature, their significance in shaping meaning and influence, and their interplay with other linguistic and stylistic components of the text. The significance of concepts in literary analysis is emphasized, along with their influence on understanding written material and their interaction with other linguistic and cultural elements in creating meaning (Turner, 2006).

Metaphors and symbols have been studied in various branches of linguistics and literary analysis. Semiotics explores the significance of symbols as systems of communication (Eco, 1976; Barthes, 1977), while structuralism investigates the functions of these symbolic systems within literary texts (Levi-Strauss, 1963; Saussure, 2011). Psycholinguistic research examines the cognitive and emotional dimensions of

metaphorical expression in literature (Gibbs, 2006), while literary criticism analyzes the symbolic elements and metaphorical devices employed in specific literary works (Miller, 1978; Bloom, 1973).

Linguists explore techniques for metaphorical word formation, which play a crucial role in conveying evaluativeness and conceptualizations of ideas. Through these linguistic processes, writers can convey emotional and evaluative nuances by transferring meaning between different concepts. Symbols and metaphors contribute to the creation of deeper meanings and enhance the emotional impact of literary texts on readers.

Linguistic devices of metaphORIZATION play a significant role in conveying evaluative meaning and conceptualizing ideas. They enable us to express emotional and evaluative dimensions by transferring meaning from one concept to another. Common linguistic devices of metaphor include the following analogies when metaphorical expressions based on analogies between two distinct entities or ideas enable us to impart evaluative significance. For instance, «*life is a journey*» as a conceptual metaphor implies that life contains both positive and negative aspects, analogous to the experience of traveling. The use of words with specific connotations or phrases associated with emotions can help express evaluativeness. For example, «*a sea of fury*» can convey a concept of anger, or «*an impenetrable wall of obstacles*» or «*a barrier of mistrust*».

Certain symbols can represent evaluative concepts. For instance, the «*white dove*» is a symbol of peace and goodness. In certain situations, words and phrases can take on an evaluative interpretation. An example is «*bitter truth*» which can indicate a negative evaluation.

Concepts are important for creating depth and complexity in a text. Authors use concepts to convey their ideas, express emotions, and create symbols and themes. Concepts can be presented through narrative, character descriptions, dialogue, and other literary devices.

The ideas can be explored through the events, actions, and thoughts of the characters. Concepts can also be represented through symbols, metaphors, and imagery to enhance the emotional impact on readers. They may evoke emotional responses and contribute to discussions and analyses of the thematic and symbolic elements of a work

Materials and Methods

Four works by Khaled Hosseini have been chosen for this study. «*The Kite Runner*» (Hosseini, 2003), explores various aspects of human

experience. The narrative focuses on the intricate relationship between Amir and Hassan. Amir is faced with a challenging situation where his actions will have long-lasting consequences for his friend, Hassan. The novel emphasizes the significance of friendship and its impact on the lives of its characters.

The novel «A Thousand Splendid Suns» (Hosseini, 2007) explores various aspects of life in Afghanistan, primarily focusing on the experiences of Afghan women. The narrative follows the journeys of the two main characters, Mariam and Leila, as they navigate through a society that imposes restrictions and violence on women. Despite these obstacles, they exhibit resilience and determination in their pursuit of independence and autonomy. The novel explores the complexities of family relationships, illustrating the sacrifices that characters make for the benefit of their loved ones.

«And the Mountains Echoed» (Hosseini, 2013) spans several decades and features numerous characters and settings. The narrative begins in 1952 in the Afghan village of Sabra, where siblings Abdullah and Parveen confront a challenging choice when their father sells their younger sister to support the family. This occurrence leaves an indelible impression on their lives and relationships. The book then takes readers through various years and locations, tracing the lives of those associated with Abdullah and Parveen.

«The Sea Prayer» (Hosseini, 2018) is a short poem. Although it is not a novel, it explores themes that are typical of the author's work, such as family, love, and the human spirit. The poem follows the story of a father's prayer for his son's safety as they embark on a journey to find a better future in a new country.

The research is based on several methodological approaches, including textual, linguistic, comparative, and conceptual analyses. Textual analysis allows for the examination of linguistic features such as word selection, phrases, sentences, and dialogue. Particular emphasis is placed on metaphors, stylistic devices, and structural, and compositional elements of the work.

Linguistic analysis of expression contributes to the understanding of the role of specific linguistic features in creating emotional shades, atmosphere, imagery, and the influence on reader interpretation.

Comparative analysis facilitates the comparison of all texts by the same author, identifying shared concepts and stylistic elements.

The conceptual analysis uncovers key concepts and their relation to the central ideas in the text, with metaphors, associations, and symbols playing a significant role in revealing deeper meanings.

A comprehensive analysis of metaphors has allowed us to explore their context, semantic significance, emotional nuances, and underlying implications.

The application of these methods has provided a systematic comprehension of literary works and their distinctive features.

Results and Discussion

The study's findings indicate that Khaled Hosseini utilizes a variety of techniques to establish a conceptosphere in his novels. By providing detailed descriptions of Afghan landscapes, urban environments, architectural features, and domestic items, he enables readers to visualize the surroundings in which his protagonists reside. In his writings, Afghanistan is frequently portrayed through conceptual metaphors that allow readers to become immersed in the emotional and cultural background. For example, in «The Kite Runner» (Hosseini, 2003), Afghanistan is actualized by the metaphor «snake», which represents danger, beauty, and grace. In «A Thousand Splendid Suns» (Hosseini, 2007), the «red roses» become a metaphor for feminine beauty and strength. The metaphors for «sand» and «desert» evoke feelings of despair and loss, while the «book» in «And the Mountains Echoed» (Hosseini, 2013) symbolizes the connection between the past and the present. The «wind» in «The Sea Prayer» (Hosseini, 2018) represents freedom and absence.

These metaphors help to create a rich atmosphere that captures the complexity of Afghan culture and society. Hosseini's use of narrative technique allows him to transport the reader through different periods of history and locations, exploring complex human relationships and emotions.

Table 1

| Theme | «The Kite Runner» | «A Thousand Splendid Suns» | «And the Mountains Echoed» | «Sea Prayer» |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Friendship and Betrayal | + | + | + | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Family | + | + | + | + |
| Guilt and Redemption | + | | + | |
| The Impact of Political Upheaval | + | + | | |
| The Search for Identity | + | + | + | + |
| The Search for The Meaning of Life | | + | | |
| Compassion and Human Connection | | + | | + |
| Refugee and migration | | | | + |
| Fate and loss | | | | + |

The analysis identified several key concepts that recur in all of Khaled Hosseini's writings (Table 1). These concepts include family, friendship, loss, trauma, historical and political background, identity, and justice. Hosseini often portrays the lives of ordinary individuals who are impacted by historical events and political upheaval. This allows him to demonstrate how external factors and unforeseen circumstances shape and transform the lives of his protagonists. Additionally, the author adeptly incorporates elements of Afghan culture and heritage, emphasizing the distinctiveness of that culture and history.

Metaphors are a significant aspect of Hosseini's literary style. He employs symbolism and metaphor to effectively convey the core concepts of his works. For example, the physical journeys of his characters represent their internal journeys and quests. The «*journey*» symbolizes the pursuit of freedom, the search for meaning or healing, as well as the challenges and obstacles encountered by the protagonists.

Hosseini frequently incorporates «*gardens*» and «*floral imagery*» into his stories, which serve as symbols of beauty, hope, and renewal, even in adversity. The gardens can also represent a lost paradise or childhood.

Additionally, Hosseini conceptualizes significant objects such as «*letters*» and «*photographs*» to represent memory, connection with the past, and important moments in the lives of his characters. These items hold emotional and symbolic importance, assisting in conveying the story and personalities of the characters.

«*Weather*» and «*natural elements*» play a crucial role in Hosseini's writings, reflecting the emotional state of his characters and establishing a unique atmosphere. For instance, «*storms*» and «*scorching heat*» can represent danger and tension, whereas «*blooming fields*» and «*tranquil seas*» can represent hope and peace.

«*Mountains*» are a prominent concept in Hosseini's writing, representing both literal and metaphorical elements. They can symbolize the obstacles and challenges that characters must face, as well as their inner strength, resilience, and protective nature. In Hosseini's narratives, characters frequently ascend mountains, both physically and metaphorically, to achieve their objectives.

«*Wings*» and bird imagery represent freedom and liberation from constraints. They symbolize a character's desire for independence and soaring above limitations. Wings and birds also represent hope and aspirations.

«*Fire*» and «*candlelight*» symbolize overcoming darkness and uncertainty. These elements represent the power of optimism and light, which enable characters to overcome fears and difficulties. Fire may also symbolize transformation and renewal.

In Khaled Hosseini's novels, concepts and conceptual metaphors are closely intertwined. A concept refers to an abstract idea or theme that permeates the narrative and carries a specific message. A conceptual metaphor, on the other hand, is a way of visually and symbolically representing these concepts and related aspects.

Table 2

| Concept | Conceptual Metaphor | Meaning |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Family and Kinship | The chest and the keys that open it | The past and the family history heroes share, and their connection through letters |

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Guilt and Loss | Stones | burden of the past, sins and hard times, <u>guilt</u> , trauma |
| Identity and Searching | Paths and Roads | The path of life, choices, and destiny, the movement of the characters through life, their search and desire for something new or better |
| Justice and Freedom | Swallows | Freedom, hope, and homecoming |

Conceptual metaphors play a significant role in Hosseini's writing, serving to both convey and reinforce important concepts. These figurative devices transform abstract ideas into more concrete and tangible images, rendering them more comprehensible and appealing to the reader. They may incorporate symbols, imagery, and recurrent themes that serve to represent key concepts and ideas within the novels.

Not only do these metaphors help convey the deeper meanings and emotional resonance of the narratives, but they also elicit powerful emotional responses from readers. By reinforcing central themes, these metaphors create a unique linguistic framework that lingers with readers long after completing the reading experience, inspiring introspection and discussion.

A set of interrelated concepts that exist within a specific context forms a conceptosphere. Verbal representation of the conceptosphere is established through the use of various linguistic and stylistic techniques. By using metaphors, similes, symbols, and other devices the author helps create depth and emotion in the text and navigate readers through his conceptosphere. Readers interact with this conceptual domain, creating their interpretations and understandings that are also influenced by personal experiences, knowledge, and emotional responses.

The selection of concepts by the author serves as a way of expressing the attitude and evaluation towards the plot, the actions of characters, or the theme of the piece. Authors employ concepts that carry emotional, aesthetic, or moral significance to articulate their viewpoint or emphasize specific elements of the work.

For example, in some cases, Hosseini describes a protagonist as «*brave*» and «*strong*» to convey a positive assessment of this character and his actions. This enables the author to express support for and

approval of the protagonist's conduct throughout the narrative. Alternatively, Hosseini employs negative concepts or associations to express disapproval or criticism of certain aspects. He describes some environments as «*gloomy*» or «*depressing*» to create a negative mood or convey a sense of oppression within the story.

The linguistic expression of evaluation is manifested through the contextual use of specific language units within the conceptsphere established by the author. The author can choose specific words, phrases, grammatical constructions, or stylistic techniques to convey their opinion, assessment, or emotional tone.

For example, the use of emotionally loaded adjectives and metaphors to express evaluativeness. Also, the use of rhetorical questions can emphasize an author's stance or evoke an emotional reaction from readers. In «*The Kite Runner*» Hosseini writes: «*Can a person make such a mistake that will leave him in the shadow forever?*» or «*What is the price of betrayal? How far are we willing to go to atone for our sins?*». From the novel «*A Thousand Splendid Suns*» we read: «*What happens to the world when women lose their dreams?*» and «*Who are we to judge others? Who gave us the right to take away someone's happiness and freedom?*». In the novel «*And the Mountains Echoed*» the author asks: «*What will you do if your life ceases to be yours? What choices are we willing to make to save others?*» and «*When we get lost in the dark corridors of time, what will remain of our memory?*»

These rhetorical questions are asked in Hosseini's novels and employed as a means to express the writer's evaluativeness and to emphasize importance, evoke reflection, and focus on the deep emotional and moral aspects of life, choices, justice, and meaning. For instance, when Khaled Hosseini includes a rhetorical question that inquires whether a person may commit a mistake so significant that it would leave them in permanent obscurity. This query creates emotional tension and emphasizes the irrevocable nature of the error and its implications. This rhetorical question is a part of the conceptsphere, which includes concepts such as friendship, betrayal, and guilt. The category of evaluativeness is revealed in the linguistic context in that the author chooses to illustrate the designated concepts. Amir betrays Hassan during a hot kite contest. Amir feels intense envy and jealousy towards Hassan and resolves to win the contest to impress his father and prove his worth. Hassan, Amir's longtime friend and confidante, has always

stood by his side and assisted him. However, during the contest, a group of troublemakers began to harass Hassan when he was in the background. Faced with a choice between helping his friend and winning the contest, Amir chooses the second and fails to assist Hassan. After the event, Amir realizes his mistake and feels guilt and regret over his actions.

This incident marks a turning point in the story and has a significant impact on the relationship between the two main characters. Amir must face the consequences of his unethical actions throughout the story. The act of betrayal and its aftermath are the central concepts of the narrative, examining the personal, emotional, and cultural aspects of each character's journey.

Other examples of the contextual environment from the novels of Khaled Hosseini, describing the author's conceptsphere and conveying the author's evaluativeness, are verbalized in the following conceptual metaphors (Table 3):

Table 3

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| The Kite Runner | We cannot choose where to be born, but we can choose who we will become |
| A Thousand Splendid Suns | A kite is freedom. A kite is life There is a moment in every person's life when he realizes that the plot of his fate is just the wind, but the wind before which it is impossible to hide They were like the sun, which penetrates through the clouds and illuminates the world around it |
| And the Mountains Echoed | We were the sand washing away underfoot, but we were also the water that washed away the footprints We live in a world where nothing disappears without a trace. Everything we've ever done, everything we've ever said, stays with us forever |
| The Sea Prayer | When you look into the depths of the abyss, the abyss will also look into you |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Words can be the most powerful weapon in the world. They can destroy and heal, amaze and inspire |
|--|--|

These are just some examples of phrases from Khaled Hosseini's novels that reflect concepts and show the author's evaluativeness. In the novels of Khaled Hosseini, conceptual metaphors and their linguistic contexts play an important role in conveying the author's evaluation of events and shaping his worldview. They connect specific objects or events with abstract concepts, creating new meanings and conveying evaluativeness. As is seen from Table 3, the wind serves as a metaphor for various aspects of life, such as change, fate, and a powerful force affecting the characters' lives. This metaphor not only represents a natural phenomenon but also symbolizes different concepts of human experience, such as destiny, nature's power, freedom, and opportunity.

In the linguistic context of Khaled Hosseini's novels, the metaphor of wind is presented through descriptions of natural settings, impressions of characters, images, and comparisons. The author selects words and phrases carefully to convey his ideas and create a particular atmosphere in the text, using language that aligns with his evaluative ideas and conceptsphere.

Conclusion

In conclusion, an analysis of Khaled Hosseini's works has revealed that, despite the diversity of plots and events experienced by the characters, several overarching concepts can be identified in each work. These recurring concepts include family, the overcoming of difficulties, and the search for and maintenance of cultural identity. To convey the intricate relationships between the characters, as well as the interweaving of their fates and the impact of political events, the author employs a diverse range of metaphors. Symbolic and figurative devices in Khaled Hosseini's writings play a significant role and enable readers to delve into the depths and emotional core of the narrative, fostering a deeper comprehension of the characters' journeys toward redemption, tranquility, or liberation. At the same time, the metaphORIZATION of concepts serves as a way of representation of evaluativeness. The use of metaphors not only helps to represent and understand abstract ideas but also serves as an effective tool for expressing evaluativeness. Metaphors have strong connotations and emotional undertones, allowing authors to

indirectly convey their subjective opinions and assessments. By employing metaphorization, the writer imbues descriptions and narratives with positive or negative connotations, influencing the audience's perception and interpretation of the presented concepts. Metaphors allow the author to express his attitudes, beliefs, and values implicitly, without directly stating them. Through the selection and use of metaphors, the writer subtly shapes readers' understanding and evaluation of different aspects of the story, characters, and concepts. Furthermore, the evaluative nature of conceptual metaphors extends beyond individual instances.

The use of conceptual metaphors allows the author to convey evaluative meanings through figurative language. Metaphors provide a means for the author to express his opinions indirectly, influencing the reader's perception of the concepts and themes presented in the work. The conceptual metaphors in Khaled Hosseini's novels have similarities and differences, and their use reflects the unique themes and context of each story. The category of evaluativeness manifests itself through the linguistic surroundings in the contexts of those linguistic units that verbalize linguistic concepts, collectively forming the conceptosphere of the work.

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