



METAPHOR AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING EMOTIONS AND STATEMENTS OF PERSONAGES IN THE NOVEL “A WALK TO REMEMBER” BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

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Abstract: *This article deals with the features of metaphors and their role in linguistics, stylistics and literature. Moreover, it is devoted to the discussion of the metaphors and their role in expressing inner feelings and statements personages in the novel “A walk to remember” by Nicholas Sparks. In the article, a series of extracts taken from the novel were investigated and analysed. In each case, a special attention was paid to the manifestation of the inner feelings and statements of the personages to readers.*

Keywords: *metaphors, emotiveness, emotion, stylistics, literature, personage.*

INTRODUCTION.

A metaphor can be found in oral or written communication, ancient and modern literature, narratives, novels, fiction and elsewhere. Everyone expresses their character, statement anger, love, hatred, fear and others in different ways by using various words and phrases. Metaphor is soundly connected with emotiveness which is studied in various fields such as linguistics, literature. In written, oral communications and literal statements metaphor is used to express inner feelings and characters' statements through likening or comparing personages or items. While, in literature writers use various stylistic devices and techniques to reveal inner feelings, statements and characters of the personages. One of the common ways to reveal the inner feelings of characters are done through metaphors, which have been one of the most widely discussed topics in literature as well as linguistics in the last decades. Usually metaphor expresses our feelings such as regret, despair, sadness, grief, surprise, amazement so on and so forth. In Stylistics, metaphors are defined as expressive means of the language. Metaphors can be used variously by narrators or writers. As the meaning and usage of metaphors have already become a controversial point of discussion in the literature, this article is aimed at analysing emotionally coloured features of metaphors in a famous novel “A walk to remember” by Nicholas Sparks.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many writers and scholars define metaphors according to some criteria. Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things. As a literary device, metaphor creates implicit comparisons without the express use of “like” or “as.” Metaphor is a means of asserting that two things are identical in comparison rather than just similar. This is useful in literature for using specific images or concepts to state abstract truths.

A metaphor (from the Greek *metaphorá*) is a figure of speech that directly compares one thing to another for rhetorical effect. While the most common metaphors use the structure “X is Y,” the term “metaphor” itself is broad and can sometimes be used to include other literary terms, like similes. One of the most famous examples of metaphor in the English language comes from William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, in which the playwright writes: “All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players.” Shakespeare is comparing the world to a stage by saying one is the other. However, he doesn't believe the world is a literal



stage; the comparison is rhetorical. By comparing the world to a stage, he is inviting us to think about the similarities between the two—and by extension, the meaning of human nature and our place in the world.

William Shakespeare uses lots of metaphors in his poetry, contributing a lot to world literature. Metaphor has a really long history, dating back to Aristotle, which has dominated the metaphor studies Over 2000 years. According to Aristotle, metaphor is treated only as a rhetorical device, but also a Cognitive way of looking at the world.

“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?” by William Shakespeare: Shakespeare uses an extended metaphor through the entirety of this sonnet, comparing an unseen lover to a summer’s day.

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare: When Romeo sees Juliet at the beginning of the famous balcony scene, he speaks the iconic line, “But soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!” Upon seeing Juliet alight upon her balcony, Romeo uses metaphor to compare her visage to that of the sun.

Observing above mentioned definitions provided by linguists and writers it can be noticed that metaphors have not been studied much in the past but the main function of them expressing emotional condition of the speaker or personage in a definite situation has been identified since long.

In general, each metaphors used in the novel has its own place. They were applied in dialogues, monologues as well as when personages spoke to themselves. They are very important in keeping the story readable as well as interesting. Below we will look through the extracts taken from the novel to analyse the usages and roles of metaphors to convey emotions of the personages to readers in the novel “A walk to remember” by Nicholas Sparks.

1)—Instead of answering right away, though, Jamie glanced away for a long moment. I got a sinking feeling in my stomach because I assumed she was going to say no. [18]

Nicholas Sparks used this metaphor to express that the character has deep feeling in her inside. We know that feelings emanate from the heart but the writer was intended to exaggerate the whole statement of the personage, and this feeling is—sinking—making him feel as sinking.

2)—But with her looking so pretty, with her hair down and all, and everything that had happened tonight, I didn’t want to miss the opportunity if it came up. I could feel the little butterflies already starting to form in my stomach when Hegbert opened the door. [63]

Inner feelings of this personage were likened to the little butterflies by the author to represent that his feelings are soft, pure and light as butterflies. Butterflies are beautiful and their cascading impact, like the influence of all seemingly inconsequential things, can be awesome

3)—I may be older and wiser, I may have lived another life since then, but I know that when my time eventually comes, the memories of that day will be the final images that float through my mind.[94]

This metaphor was used in a emotive sense so when something for example is burdening you and you can't stop thinking about it. Literally it sounds more emotive but you can really use it in any way.

4) —“So what? You’ll take a few days . . .”

A sad smile crossed her face, and I knew right then what she was trying

to tell me. Her eyes never left mine as she finally said the words that numbed my soul.

“I’m dying, Landon.” [75]

Nicholas Sparks masterly used this metaphor— a sad smile crossed her face— to draw whole picture of the personage, and a reader easily notice the sad circumstance of the character. At the same time, the writer described her character by using the metaphor, some people can hide feeling behind their smile and some people can not do it— she is the kind of person who can not hide her feelings and any emotions are easily noticeable on her face.

5— I thought about the homecoming dance and what she’d done for me that night. I thought about the play and how angelic she’d looked. I thought about the times I’d walked her home and how I’d helped collect jars. And cans filled with pennies for the orphans.[64]



In this metaphor, the personage's action compared to an Angel's. Nicholas Sparks described her look as angels do since angels are usually described as being very helpful. So it could be a complement and mean that she is very helpful. Angels are also sometimes described as being perfect. So it could mean that he think she is perfect, in whatever she does.

6)— She had leukemia; she'd known it since last summer. The moment she told me, the blood drained from my face and a sheaf of dizzying images fluttered through my mind. It was as though in that brief moment, time had suddenly stopped and I understood everything that had happened between us. [76]

The author expressed the whole statement of the personage by using this metaphor as well as to describe that the personage's face became very pale, because he is so frightened and shocked when he was told about it that even “ blood drained from his face”.

After the discussion and analysis of the metaphors of the above given extracts, it becomes clear that when we read novels or stories we usually enjoy it penetrating into the world the author has created. However, we rarely speculate how this all happen and accept it as typical things in our lives. Obviously, the structure, plot, organization, themes of any literal work are rather complicated then it appears to be. Besides, every stylistic devices such metaphors or similes has its literal meaning in a certain context. Therefore, it is worth investigating every aspect of the literal texts.

Conclusion

When a reader faces metaphors, it is much easier for a reader to convey personages' emotions, statements and characters by the help of metaphors. Obviously, it is a hard job to express inner feelings of personages solely through words with their direct meaning in literal texts. Yet, writers use various metaphors and stylistic means effectively to help readers visualize the whole picture and feel emotions of personages and to shape personages colourfully. The performed analysis reveals that metaphors are important factor in learning and analyzing how personages express their feelings in a literal text.

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