THE ROLE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN A LITERARY TEXT

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Abstract *Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words. Figurative language may involve analogy to similar concepts or other contexts, and may involve exaggerations. Whenever you describe something by comparing it with something else, we are using figurative language. By using figurative language, writers can evoke emotion and imagery from their writing that literal language just cannot provide. By doing so, figurative language makes expressing meaning through writing easier and more relatable to the reader. For many people, figurative language is a mean of poets or writers, in other words, creative people. Just a few people are aware of the fact that we actually use metaphorical expressions every day. It depends on the view everybody has what someone thinks about it. %e aim of this paper is to show that figurative language is omnipresent in our every day language and that we are using it almost constantly, maybe unconsciously.*

Keywords*: figurative language, metaphors, cognitive linguistic, Conceptual Metaphor " theory.*

Human language comprehension is a highly complex cognitive process which requires the processing and integration of different types of linguistic information such as phonologic, semantic, syntactic and pragmatic information. %is process is assumed to rely on various subprocesses specified for these different types of information, and to involve interactions between these processes. Figurative language plays a major role in compelling literary works. Figurative language is a contrast to literal language. Its primary purpose is to force readers to imagine or intuit what an author means with an expression or statement. Multiple literary devices and elements are commonly used in the category of figurative language.

The use of multiple types of elements adds to the strength, depth and quality of figurative language through a literary work. Metaphors, similes, analogies, hyperbole, symbolism, personification, allusion, imagery and rhyme are all common figurative language elements. Applying the right element in making specific points in writing is necessary to make figurative language work. Regardless of the tool, figurative language strengthens or makes a point more compelling and effective.

DEFINING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Figurative language is language which departs from the straight-forward use of words. It creates a special effect, clarifies an idea, and makes writing more colourful and forceful. Figurative language adds an extra dimension to writing, giving plain writing richness and depth. Writers use figurative language for the same reason that we use it in everyday conversation: to convey ideas in a clear, colourful, and forceful manner. Figurative language encourages the

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reader to bridge gaps between ideas, fill in details, make associations, and form mental pictures. All of these uses of the imagination are highly satisfying, for there is great enjoyment in understanding what has not been spelled out for us. Figurative language is a means of clarifying unclear and unfamiliar ideas. It makes the abstract real.

What is more, figurative language is language which departs from the straight-forward use of words. It creates a special effect, clarifies an idea, and makes writing more colourful and forceful. Figurative language adds an extra dimension to writing, giving plain writing richness and depth. Figurative language encourages the reader to bridge gaps between ideas, fill in details, make associations, and form mental pictures. All of these uses of the imagination are highly satisfying, for there is great enjoyment in understanding what has not been spelled out for us. Every figure of speech is created in a different way, has its own unique appearance, and is used for special purposes. It is not important for you to recognize each figure of speech, but you should be able to understand and appreciate them in your reading.

Figurative language is language that is used for descriptive effect, not to be understood in a strict literal sense. Although expressions of figurative language are not actually true, many do express some truth beyond the literal level. Many common, everyday expressions are figurative, and when used imaginatively, this language can add a special dimension of meaning to both speech and writing. Metaphors are often used to express concepts that are inexpressible in literal language.

Understanding figurative language should be considered only one part of a larger attempt to teach reading, understanding written works. However, figures of speech are quite common in most writing that asks to be taken seriously and that is something more than a compilation of facts. Along with the functions the diferent areas of use and the numerous examples it should become obvious that figurative language cannot be ignored in our common language. Sometimes it is easier, maybe even better to use metaphorical expressions to explain di)cult terms. Sometimes it is even impossible not using them.

All in all, one can say that figurative language is so omnipresent that we sometimes do not even recognise phrase as being metaphorical. So one can say that figurative language is not only part of our every-day language but also of our mind.

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