

ANALOGY AND ITS ROLE IN THE TEXT

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Annotation. *The word analogy comes from the Greek and means a comparison between two things or ideas that are alike in some way. Analogy is mostly used and written by educators, researchers, writers to aid them to explain complex ideas to help their readers to understand them easily.*

Key words:*What is analogy?, general audience, Analogy is our best guide in all philosophical investigations,*

Unfamiliar information is often introduced to readers through analogy. Please note that complicated imagery and excessively complicated analogies will not let you explain the notions. Instead, you will cause confusion and misunderstandings. Think about your targeted audience as you can compare and contrast only the things they know about. Make your analogies as simple and universally familiar as possible if you are addressing a general audience. You have to aim at immediate understanding and obvious connections between the things. You will fail if your audience wonders about how the two things are related. It would be helpful to readers, if you mention some connections like similarities and differences between two ideas. For example, “Raising children requires the same dedication you would give to a garden. Nurture them, feed them, introduce them to both light and dark, and have patience. And soon you will see them grow into blooming wonders.” In this example, it is clear how complicated to have children and raise them up as even a garden needs attention and effort by people. People who have never looked up children can also understand the care and complexity of having a child with the help of analogy. This example above can be put in one of the analogy parts called shared abstraction which is commonly used in writing and conversation.

Another analogy types are persuasive and literal. Persuasive analogy is need for emphasizing a particular viewpoint to support it. Its aim is making an argument more reliable and understandable with familiar situations for everyone. This type of analogy is often used in giving speeches, in debates, writing, and even in advertising to show the ideas more desirable. We should

also keep in mind that to improve the accuracy of an analogy, it is recommended to explain it with real-life situations as all readers should be able to comprehend and imagine it that will stick long after they have finished reading. To example, “Your body is like a car – if you do not fuel it with the right things, it will not run well.” This analogy represents by saying the importance of making true and healthy choices in life. As if there is not enough fuel in your car, it cannot be driven. So you should also try to find what is in your mind and make plans to make your wishes come true. In this way, it would be easier for you to achieve your goals and succeed in life.

American high school students attempted to learn about the game of cricket from prose materials which were variously augmented with analogies drawn from the game of baseball. The students subsequently read and recalled newspaper accounts of cricket matches and made predictions and discriminations about open-ended cricket match situations. Across seven different dependent measures subjected to regression analysis, the consistent finding was that two factors-student prior knowledge about sports and baseball, and the provision of instructional texts about either baseball or cricket-explained more variance than any other factor or combinations of factors. In some instances, the more specific provision of analogies proved beneficial, especially for groups with differing levels of prior knowledge, or in conjunction with an informational text about baseball. These data were interpreted providing strong support for a general knowledge activation hypothesis and modest support for a specific knowledge activation hypothesis, both of which were interpreted as consistent with recently emerging schema theoretic notions.

There are some thoughts about analogy and analogical reasoning by Priestly who is a pioneer in chemistry and electricity which is “Analogy is our best guide in all philosophical investigations; and all discoveries, which were not made by mere accident, have been made by the help of it.” According to Priestly’s idea, analogies have suggested fruitful lines of inquiry in many fields. Because of their heuristic value, analogies and analogical reasoning have been a particular focus of AI research, for example. There is variation in the terms used to describe the entities that are compared in a metaphor or analogy. According to some (Gentner, 1983), both entities are analogy as an analogy is made up of two analogs of Earth and Earth is an analog of spaceship. The familiar analog that provides source information or features of interpret the unfamiliar entity is often called the target (Gentner, 1983). Others also call the analog ‘the source’ rather than base (e.g., Holyoak and Thagard, 1995) and still others refer to the base only as the analog. There is a reasoning analogy to learn. In questions related to Analogy in reasoning, options are given, which

may r may not be associated with each other and candidates need to find the odd option out. The analogy questions may be asked in various forms. Given below are the type of questions asked for analogies:

Numerical Analogy (Odd One Out) – A set of options may be given based on a certain pattern, and one of them may be unlikely to follow the pattern and candidates need to choose the odd one out.

Numerical Analogy (Choose a similar pair) – An analogy may be given in the question and candidates may have to find a similar analogy, based on the same pattern from the given options.

Alphabetical/Word analogy (Odd One Out) – Options for different word analogy may be given, in which one may not be following the set pattern, candidates need to find that odd one out from the given options.

Alphabetical/Word Analogy (Chose a similar pair) – An analogy may be given based on a set pattern and candidates may have to find the word analogy pair from the given options, which follows the exact same pattern.

Tips and tricks to solve reasoning analogy

- The first thing to solve ana analogy question is to judge the pattern that is being followed in the given analogy.

- If a candidate is unable to analyze the pattern followed, he/she must refer to the options given. It shall help in analyzing the pattern.

- For numerical questions, squares, cubes, multiplication, addition, etc. based patterns may be followed. So, ensure that you recheck these patterns as well.

- It is easy to score marks in questions based on analogy as they are direct and not very complicated.

To conclude, Analogy in writing can play a crucially important role when the author wants to help the readers understand a new or complicated topic. Its key aim is to explain, but this should not be a boring way to repeat the same ideas. What you do is taking effort to make an impression and create understanding. The reader, surprised with your comparison, will remember your idea and reflect on it again and again. This is what I have aimed at!

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