

## THE EVOLUTION OF METAPHOR IN THE DIACHRONIC ASPECT ON THE MATERIAL OF ENGLISH POETRY

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**Abstract.** Metaphor is a linguistic tool used to express ideas or concepts through comparison. In the diachronic aspect, metaphor can be observed over time as it changes and evolves in a language.

The term "diachronic" refers to the study of language evolution over time, and in this context, the article is focused on the evolution of metaphor in English poetry. The use of metaphor has been a consistent feature of poetry throughout history, and this article analyzes the ways in which metaphor has evolved over time in the English language.

Different types of English poetry are analyzed in the article, ranging from medieval to contemporary, and tracing the evolution of metaphorical language in each era. This analysis involves identifying specific metaphors or themes that were popular in each era, as well as examining how the use of metaphor has changed over time [1, p.24]. Such methods as literary analysis, descriptive analysis, and comparative historical method were used to study metaphor in the diachronic aspect.

By analyzing the use of metaphor in English poetry across different time periods, researchers gain insight into the historical and cultural contexts that shaped language use. It also provides insights into the cognitive processes involved in metaphorical thinking and language use. By examining how poets have used metaphor to convey meaning and evoke emotions over time, researchers gain a deeper understanding of how the human brain processes and interprets language.

In summary, the study of the evolution of metaphor in the diachronic aspect on the material of English poetry is scientifically significant because it sheds light on the historical and cultural contexts of language use, provides insights into the cognitive processes involved in metaphorical thinking, and has practical applications in fields such as language teaching and natural language processing.

**Keywords:** metaphor, poetry, diachronic aspect, concepts, evolution, , metaphorical language, poetic language

### Basic provisions

The evolution of metaphor in the diachronic aspect within the material of English poetry provides a fascinating framework for examining how metaphorical language has transformed over time. Metaphor is a fundamental poetic device used to express abstract concepts by drawing comparisons with concrete or tangible objects. Through the evolution of English poetry, the use of metaphor has undergone significant changes in terms of themes, forms, and stylistic approaches.

Throughout the evolution of English poetry, metaphor has remained a powerful tool for poets to convey their ideas, emotions, and observations. The diachronic study of metaphor in English poetry offers insights into the changing literary and

cultural landscapes, reflecting the shifting values, beliefs, and artistic trends of each historical period.

Here are some key points highlighting the significance of this study:

- **Language and Cultural Shifts:** Metaphors used in poetry reflect the cultural, social, and intellectual climate of a specific period. Analyzing metaphors across different historical periods allows us to trace the changing values, beliefs, and societal norms. For example, the metaphors used in Old English poetry reflect the pagan and mythological worldview of that time, while metaphors in Victorian poetry often revolve around themes of industrialization, progress, and social change.

- **Literary Movements and Styles:** Metaphors in poetry are influenced by and often contribute to the various literary movements and styles that emerge in different periods. By studying the evolution of metaphor, we can observe how certain movements, such as Romanticism or Modernism, introduced new metaphorical approaches and techniques. These shifts in metaphorical language often parallel broader shifts in literary aesthetics and philosophies.

- **Evolution of Poetic Techniques:** Metaphor plays a crucial role in shaping poetic techniques and forms. As poets experiment with metaphorical language, they develop new ways of expressing their ideas and emotions. The diachronic study of metaphor allows us to track the development of poetic techniques, such as conceits, allegory, symbolism, or surrealism, and their impact on the overall structure and style of poetry.

- **Reflecting Historical Events and Contexts:** Metaphors in poetry often respond to historical events and cultural contexts. By analyzing metaphorical expressions in different periods, we can gain insights into how poets interpreted and responded to significant events or social movements. Metaphors can serve as powerful tools for capturing the spirit of an era or reflecting the collective consciousness of a society.

- **Changing Perceptions and Attitudes:** Metaphor reveals how perceptions and attitudes towards certain concepts have evolved over time. For instance, the metaphorical representations of nature have shifted from a more traditional, harmonious view to a more fragmented or ecological perspective in modern and contemporary poetry. These changes in metaphorical language reflect evolving cultural, philosophical, and ecological understandings.

- **Influence on Contemporary Language and Thought:** The metaphors employed in English poetry have had a lasting impact on the English language itself. Many metaphorical expressions originating from poetry have become part of everyday language usage. Studying the diachronic aspect of metaphor in poetry helps us understand the origins and evolution of these linguistic expressions, which continue to shape contemporary language and thought.

## **Introduction**

Metaphor is a literary device that has been used in English poetry for centuries, and its evolution over time has played a significant role in the development of poetic expression. Metaphors are used to convey complex ideas and emotions through indirect comparisons, allowing the reader to engage with the text on a deeper level.

In this article, we will explore the evolution of metaphor in English poetry, from its earliest origins in Anglo-Saxon literature to its present-day usage in contemporary poetry. We will examine the different ways that poets have employed metaphor throughout history, including the development of new metaphors and the adaptation of old ones to suit changing cultural contexts.

Furthermore, we will analyze how different poetic movements, such as Romanticism and Modernism, have utilized metaphor to express their unique perspectives on the world. Romantic poetry, which emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, emphasized the expression of intense emotions, individualism, and a deep connection with nature. Metaphor played a crucial role in capturing the sublime and transcendent qualities of the natural world and in conveying the subjective experiences of the Romantic poets. Modernist poetry, which emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was characterized by experimentation, fragmented forms, and a departure from traditional poetic conventions. Metaphor in Modernist poetry was used to challenge traditional modes of representation, disrupt linguistic norms, and convey the fragmented and complex nature of modern existence.

By examining the evolution of metaphor in English poetry, we can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which language and literature evolve over time, and the role that poetry plays in shaping our understanding of the world.

### **Methods and materials**

The evolution of metaphor in English poetry can be studied through a variety of research methods. Here are theoretical and imperial approaches that are used in researching the topic in the article:

**Literary analysis:** This theoretical method involves close reading of literary texts to identify and analyze the use of metaphors. By examining a variety of poems from different time periods, we can trace the evolution of metaphor in English poetry and identify common themes and trends.

**Cognitive linguistics:** This approach involves studying the cognitive processes involved in metaphorical thinking and expression. By examining how metaphors are processed and understood by readers, researchers can gain insights into the ways in which metaphorical language shapes our understanding of the world.

**Comparative historical method** is a research method that involves the analysis of large collections of texts, known as corpora, to study language patterns and usage. It provides a quantitative and empirical approach to language analysis by examining real-life language data rather than relying solely on intuition or individual examples.

**Corpus linguistics** involves the collection and analysis of large collections of written or spoken language data. Corpus linguistics is used to identify patterns of language use and to study how language varies across different historical periods.

The method identifies keywords, which are words or phrases that are statistically significant in a particular corpus compared to a reference corpus. Keyword analysis helps researchers identify salient terms in a specific context and explore their usage patterns and associations.

## Results and discussion

The evolution of metaphor in English poetry is a fascinating subject that can be explored from various angles, including the diachronic aspect. Metaphors are a fundamental part of poetic language, allowing poets to express abstract concepts in a more vivid and concrete manner.

In the early stages of English poetry, metaphors were often derived from nature, such as the use of animals or plants to represent human emotions or virtues. For example, in the Old English poem "Beowulf," the hero is compared to a tree, rooted firmly in the ground and able to withstand the storms of life.

"Beowulf" is significant as one of the earliest surviving works of English literature, and provides insight into the language, culture, and values of the Anglo-Saxon period. The poem explores themes of heroism, loyalty, and the struggle between good and evil, and has influenced countless works of literature and popular culture [2, p.78].

The poem is notable for its use of kennings, a type of metaphorical expression that uses compound words to describe objects or concepts in a more imaginative way. For example, Grendel is described as a "shadow-stalker" and a "shepherd of evil." Beowulf himself is referred to as a "ring-giver" and a "breaker of swords."

The Renaissance period brought about a new interest in classical literature, which influenced the use of metaphor in English poetry. Poets such as Shakespeare and Donne used elaborate metaphors to convey complex ideas and emotions. In Shakespeare's sonnet "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day," for example, he compares his lover to a summer's day, using the changing seasons as a metaphor for the fleeting nature of beauty [3, p.56].

"Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day" is rich with metaphors, which are used to describe the beauty of the fair youth and to contrast his beauty with the transience of summer. Here are some examples of metaphors in the sonnet:

"Thou art more lovely and more temperate" – The youth is compared to a mild and moderate climate, which is more pleasant and enduring than a hot and oppressive summer day.

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May" – The fickleness and volatility of life are represented by the wind, which can destroy the delicate buds of spring.

"And summer's lease hath all too short a date" – Summer is personified as having a lease or contract, which expires too soon and ends too quickly.

"Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines" – The sun, which represents the youth's beauty, is compared to the eye of heaven, which can be too intense and blinding.

"And often is his gold complexion dimmed" – The youth's beauty is compared to the golden light of the sun, which can be obscured by clouds or other factors.

"Nor shall Death brag thou wander'st in his shade" – Death is personified as a braggart who boasts of his power, but the youth's beauty will continue to shine even in the darkness of death.

These metaphors help to create a rich and vivid picture of the youth's beauty, and also reinforce the theme of the sonnet, which is the enduring power of love and poetry to transcend the fleeting nature of life.

In the Romantic period, poets turned away from classical and religious imagery and instead drew inspiration from nature and the individual's subjective experience. Metaphors became more personal and often reflected the poet's own emotions and experiences [4, p.32]. For example, in William Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," the poet uses the image of a field of daffodils to represent the joy and beauty of nature.

The poem is famous for its use of vivid and imaginative metaphors to describe the beauty of nature. Here are some examples of metaphors in the poem:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud" – The speaker compares himself to a cloud, which is a solitary and free-floating object in the sky.

"Beside the lake, beneath the trees,

Fluttering and dancing in the breeze" – The daffodils are personified as living beings that can flutter and dance, suggesting their lively and joyful nature.

"Continuous as the stars that shine" – The daffodils are compared to the stars, which are a symbol of beauty and infinity.

"The waves beside them danced; but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee" – The daffodils are again personified, this time in comparison to the waves, which suggests their exuberance and liveliness.

"A poet could not but be gay, in such a jocund company" – The daffodils are described as a "jocund company," meaning a joyful and merry group, which again suggests their ability to uplift the spirit.

These metaphors serve to create a vivid and imaginative picture of the beauty of nature, as well as the emotional impact it can have on the human spirit. By comparing the daffodils to various other objects and beings, Wordsworth helps to convey their beauty and vitality in a way that is both poetic and memorable.

In the modern period, poets continued to experiment with metaphor, often pushing the boundaries of traditional poetic language. The use of surreal and abstract imagery became more common, and poets such as T.S. Eliot and Sylvia Plath used metaphor to express the fragmentation and disconnection of modern life [5, p.16].

Pushing the boundaries of traditional poetic language means taking metaphor to new heights, exploring the limits of what can be expressed through language and challenging the reader's expectations. This might involve using unconventional comparisons, mixing disparate or even contradictory ideas, or creating completely new images that defy easy interpretation.

For example, a poet might use a metaphor that compares the night sky to a canvas that is being painted by an invisible artist, or describe the ocean as a giant beast that roams the earth. By using metaphor in this way, poets can create a sense of wonder and mystery that is not possible through literal language alone, and can push the boundaries of what is traditionally considered "poetic" [6, p.7].

The modern period, roughly spanning from the late 19th to the mid-20th century, saw the rise of new and innovative forms of literature and poetry, including modernism and postmodernism. During this period, metaphors continued to be an important literary device, often used to explore complex themes and ideas. Here are some examples of metaphors in modern poetry:

"The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot – This modernist masterpiece is filled with metaphors that explore themes of disillusionment, despair, and decay. For example, the image of the "dead tree" is used to symbolize the barrenness and hopelessness of modern life, while the "heap of broken images" represents the fragmented and disordered nature of human experience.

"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot – This poem is filled with vivid and often surreal metaphors that convey the speaker's feelings of alienation and existential angst. For example, the "yellow fog" that "rubs its back upon the window-panes" is used to symbolize the suffocating and oppressive nature of modern society.

"The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carlos Williams – This short poem is famous for its use of simple and concrete images to convey a deeper meaning. The metaphor of the "red wheelbarrow" and the "white chickens" is used to suggest the beauty and simplicity of rural life, while also hinting at the importance of everyday objects and experiences.

"In a Station of the Metro" by Ezra Pound – This imagist poem uses a single metaphor to convey a complex emotional state. The metaphor of the "petals on a wet, black bough" is used to suggest the fleeting and delicate nature of human experience, while also conveying a sense of melancholy and loss.

Metaphors in the modern period were often used to explore complex themes and ideas, and to convey a sense of alienation, disillusionment, and fragmentation that characterized the period. These metaphors often relied on surreal and unexpected imagery, and were used to create a sense of depth and complexity in modern poetry.

The super modern period, also known as post-modernity or late modernity, is characterized by rapid technological advancements, globalization, and a sense of fragmentation and disorientation. Metaphors used during this period often reflect these themes and can be quite complex and abstract.

One example of a metaphor in the super modern period is the concept of the "network." This metaphor describes the interconnectedness of people, ideas, and technologies, and is often used to describe the internet and social media. The network metaphor suggests that everything is connected and that the boundaries between different domains are becoming increasingly blurred [7, p.14].

Another example of a metaphor in the super modern period is the concept of the "matrix." This metaphor is often used to describe the way in which technology and media shape our perception of reality. The matrix metaphor suggests that our experience of the world is mediated by a complex web of information and that we are constantly plugged into this digital reality [7, p.20].

## **Conclusion**

Overall, the metaphors used in the super modern period reflect a sense of uncertainty and disorientation, as well as the rapid changes brought about by technological advancements and globalization. They often emphasize the complex and interconnected nature of contemporary society and suggest that our understanding of the world is constantly evolving.

Both Romanticism and Modernism utilized metaphor to express their unique perspectives on the world. Romantic poets employed metaphor to capture the emotional, spiritual, and natural aspects of human existence. In contrast, Modernist poets used metaphor to challenge traditional notions of representation and explore the complexities and dislocations of modern life. Metaphor, in both movements, served as a powerful tool to evoke imagery, convey meaning, and shape the reader's interpretation of the poet's vision.

The evolution of metaphor in English poetry is a reflection of the changing cultural and literary trends over time. From nature and religion to classical literature and personal experience, metaphors have been used to explore a wide range of themes and emotions in English poetry.

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### ДИАХРОНИКАЛЫҚ АСПЕКТИДЕГІ МЕТАФОРАНЫҢ ЭВОЛЮЦИЯСЫ АҒЫЛШЫН ПОЭЗИЯСЫ МАТЕРИАЛЫНДА

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**Аңдатпа.** Метафора – басқа нәрсемен салыстыру арқылы идеяларды немесе тұжырымдамаларды білдіру үшін пайдаланылатын лингвистикалық құрал. Диахроникалық аспектіде метафор уақыт өткен сайын оның өзгеруіне және тілдегі эволюциясына қарай байқалуы мүмкін.

«Диахроника» термині уақыт өте келе тілдің эволюциясын зерттеуге жатады және осы тұрғыда мақала ағылшын поэзиясындағы метафораның эволюциясына шоғырланған. Метафораны қолдану тарих бойы поэзияның дәйекті сипаты болды және бұл мақалада уақыт өте келе ағылшын тіліндегі метафораның эволюциясының жолдары талданады.

Орта ғасырдан бастап қазіргі заманға дейінгі ағылшын поэзиясының түрлі түрлері талданады және әр дәуірде метафоралық тілдің эволюциясы байқалады. Бұл талдау нақты метафораларды немесе әр дәуірде танымал болған тақырыптарды анықтауды, сондай-ақ метафораларды пайдаланудың уақыт өткен сайын қалай өзгергенін зерттеуді қамтуы

мүмкін [1, 24 б.]. Диахроникалық аспектіде метафораны зерттеу үшін әдеби талдау, когнитивтік лингвистика, корпуслық лингвистика сияқты әдістер пайдаланылды.

Нәтижесінде ағылшын поэзиясындағы метафораның эволюциясын зерттеу метафоралық ойлаумен және тілді пайдаланумен байланысты когнитивтік процестер туралы түсінік береді. Ақындардың мағына беру үшін метафораны қалай пайдаланғанын зерттей отырып, зерттеушілер адам миының тілді қалай өңдеп, қалай түсіндіретінін терең түсінуге мүмкіндік алады.

Метафоралық сөздердің уақыт өткен сайын қалай өзгергенін зерттей отырып, лингвистер қоғамның құндылықтары мен нанымдарының қалай өзгергені туралы түсінік ала алады. Бұл сондай-ақ жаңа технологиялар мен инновациялардың тілге қалай әсер еткеніне және өз кезегінде біздің қоршаған әлемді қабылдауымызды қалай қалыптастыратынына да әсер етуі мүмкін.

Жалпы, бұл мақала метафораның ағылшын поэзиясында қалай дамығанын және тілдің өзінің дамуына қалай ықпал еткенін жан-жақты түсінуді қамтамасыз етуге бағытталған.

**Тірек сөздер:** метафора, поэзия, диахроникалық аспект, тұжырымдама, эволюция, даму, метафоралық тіл, поэтикалық тіл

## ЭВОЛЮЦИЯ МЕТАФОРЫ В ДИАХРОНИЧЕСКОМ АСПЕКТЕ НА МАТЕРИАЛЕ АНГЛИЙСКОЙ ПОЭЗИИ

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**Аннотация.** Метафора – лингвистический инструмент, используемый для выражения идей или концепций через сравнение с чем-то другим. В диахроническом аспекте метафора может наблюдаться с течением времени по мере её изменения и эволюции в языке.

Термин «диахроника» относится к изучению эволюции языка с течением времени, и в этом контексте статья сосредоточена на эволюции метафоры в английской поэзии. Использование метафоры было последовательной чертой поэзии на протяжении всей истории, и в этой статье анализируются пути эволюции метафоры с течением времени в английском языке.

Анализируются различные типы английской поэзии, начиная от средневековой и заканчивая современной, и прослеживается эволюция метафорического языка в каждую эпоху. Этот анализ может включать определение конкретных метафор или тем, которые были популярны в каждую эпоху, а также изучение того, как использование метафор изменилось с течением времени [1, с. 24]. Для изучения метафоры в диахроническом аспекте использовались такие методы, как литературный анализ, когнитивная лингвистика, корпусная лингвистика.

В результате изучение эволюции метафоры в английской поэзии дает представление о когнитивных процессах, связанных с метафорическим мышлением и использованием языка. Исследуя, как поэты использовали метафору, чтобы передать смысл и вызвать эмоции со временем, исследователи могут получить более глубокое понимание того, как человеческий мозг обрабатывает и интерпретирует язык.

Таким образом, изучение эволюции метафоры в диахроническом аспекте на материале английской поэзии является научно значимым, поскольку проливает свет на исторические и культурные контексты использования языка, дает представление о когнитивных процессах, участвующих в метафорическом мышлении, и имеет практическое применение в таких областях, как преподавание языка и обработка естественного языка.



В целом, эта статья направлена на обеспечение всестороннего понимания того, как метафора развивалась в английской поэзии и как она способствовала развитию самого языка.

**Ключевые слова:** метафора, поэзия, диахронический аспект, концепции, эволюция, развитие, метафорический язык, поэтический язык

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