



SEMANTIC INCONGRUITY IN THE INTERPRETATION OF VERBAL IRONY IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: *The article is devoted to the pragmatic and cognitive stylistic analysis of semantic deviations in the short story "Fault Lines" written by Barbara Kingsolver. It goes without saying that in literary works a language tends to have immense meaning since the author has unlimited freedom to communicate his/her ideas in his literary works. This allows a writer to make full use of his creativity to convey his/her message towards the readers by applying his individual style. Semantic deviation is one of the linguistic deviations which is implemented when a combination of incompatible and illogical words violates literary norms of a language in an attempt to evoke a reader's surprise, grab a reader's attention, exert emotional effect and bring aesthetic beauty to a literary text. On top of that, very few investigations have been carried out to research cognitivestylistic characteristics along with pragmatic characteristics of semantic deviations as key mechanisms of foregrounding and thus this can be an attempt to fill this gap. The language in use will be analyzed in an attempt to study "the meaning of language in relation to a context and of use and users". Therefore, it becomes apparent that cognitive aspects and pragmatic aspects go hand in hand and in order to conduct effective research both aspects have to be and will be taken into account.*

Keywords: *linguistic deviations, stylistic devices, defamiliarization, Grice's matrix, pragmatics.*

Introduction

No need to say that a language serves the purpose for conveying thoughts, emotions orally and in a written form. In a literary text writers deliberately decide not to conform with language norms so as to exert an aesthetic beauty to a literary work, to communicate their ideas in a creative and outstanding manner, to display their conceptual world picture and implement their individual style of writing. According to Leech, it is possible to distinguish the following types of linguistic deviations: lexical, grammatical, phonological, graphological, semantic, dialectal deviations, deviation of register and deviation of historical period. When it comes to semantic deviations, they are implemented by means of stylistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, pun, wordplay and convergence of the aforementioned stylistic devices.

Linguistic deviations are considered to be an integral part of a literary work since a literary text is predominantly expressed in a figurative way. Thus, words which are abnormal, incompatible and odd tend to capture a reader's attention and the words of this sort are perceived to be salient against the background of the words which comply





with language norms. Peter Stockwell claims that a writer can maintain a reader's attention by placing "salient" words to the forefront and renewing them so that they do not remain the same. Unless a writer alters the language means on a regular basis, it is quite likely that a reader's interest will be diminished and it will be difficult for a writer to retain a reader's concentration on a read. This phenomenon is known as the inhibition of return. The main reason is that words which do not breach language norms do not tend to drag and retain a reader's attention.

Pragmatics and Cognitive Linguistics are interconnected because Cognitive Linguistics is concerned with cognitive structures and processes and the way a reader perceives information during a reading process. Pragmatics is primarily concerned with what actions and intentions are implied beyond articulation of language means. Pragmatics primarily investigates what individuals imply behind the articulate message, the way they converse and comprehend one another. According to Ninio, Pragmatics studies the words or phrases which are deliberately utilized in an attempt to trigger certain attitude and thoughts.

Odeunmi holds the view that metaphor functions as a tool which enables a reader to link his/her impressions with his/her convictions and actions by means of a language. According to Kovecses, metaphor that a writer makes use of in a literary text in an attempt to exert an aesthetic effect on a reader has a tendency to be more ambiguous and more insightful in terms of meaning and function as opposed to a regular metaphor that is utilized on a daily basis. Fafiyebi asserts that the usage of metaphor reveals a writer's emotions, the way he/she relates to different aspects of life, the way he/she conceptualizes real-life situations. The findings of the researcher's investigation revealed that metaphors fall into the following categories such as historical metaphor, evaluative metaphor and descriptive metaphor. As for historical metaphor, it draws on historical facts to maintain the course of an argument, evaluative metaphor deals with a particular contextual situation in an attempt to make a certain inference. Descriptive metaphors allow a writer to depict a situation providing a reader some room for thoughts so as to draw a particular conclusion.

In the above-mentioned extract the usage of container metaphor can be displayed. According to George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, we tend to perceive our surrounding world or field of vision in the form of a container and conceptualize what we perceive as though it is in it. We are containers as human beings, who tend to be bordered by surface and an inner and outer orientation. Not only do we establish boundaries around our own bodies, but also we tend to conceptualize inner and outer orientation of other tangible objects. In the aforementioned extract "love" can be seen as a container inside which the main character, Grace, is scared of finding herself in and end up falling in love. The provided example functions as a condition that can be conceptualized in the form of a container to allow the reader to get a better understanding of the condition being depicted in the short story by the writer.

Conceptual Metaphor





“They had preteen baby faces, no jawbones, no real noses yet just stamped-out cookie dough faces like all kids have till they’ve lived long enough to reveal their family secrets.” The above-mentioned extract is expressed with the help of a conceptual metaphor. At first glance, “face” and “cookie dough” are completely incompatible words. However, the used metaphor draws on the comparison or resemblance of these two objects in terms of their shapes.

This conceptual metaphor allows to interpret the entity of one kind through another one. To be more certain, the entity of “face” is comprehended through the entity of “cookie dough”. Thus, “face” is a target domain, while “cookie dough” is a source domain. Orientational Metaphor “I used to know he was back there visiting his mother and went swimming at the Country

Club pool. After he’d left, the city council found out he was HIV positive. They revoked his mother’s membership and drained the swimming pool. They don’t have any idea of how big a disaster it is. I guess they figure they had a near miss, but it’s all under control now.”

From pragmatic perspectives, the aforementioned metaphors violate the maxim of quality. Once the reader comes to realize that the sentence is false, the writer induces him/her to decode the genuine meaning of the hidden message. The metaphors violate the maxim of manner as well since the interpretation of the metaphors calls for the reader’s brain work and efforts to unravel the implicit meaning. The usage of these metaphors is unnecessary according to the maxim of manner.

If the writer had avoided using the metaphors, this would have made the literary text more clear and it would be easier for the reader to comprehend the content. As for irony, the writer communicates the message indirectly or implicitly thus irony breaches the maxim of quality. Consequently, the reader is obliged to seek out an appropriate proposition that will restore the application of the maxim. As far as understatement goes, the writer communicates something that is more than it is literally uttered, which requires the reader to intensify what has been articulated in order to restore the application of the maxim of quality to something that is considered to be true.

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