

## FRAME ANALYSIS OF METAPHORIZATION OF NATURE IN ENGLISH

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### ABSTRACT

The current article aims to explore main concept of the term nature, its use in metaphorical meaning. There are also conducted some investigation about frame analysis about the interpretation on natural phenomenon. The author claimed figurative use of metaphORIZATION and concept of nature clearly in this article.

**Keywords:** nature, metaphORIZATION, frame, figurative meaning, concept.

### INTRODUCTION

Metaphor is one of the most common ways to enrich a language, which has long attracted the attention of philosophers, logicians and linguists [1]. For a long time, it was considered a figurative means based on the figurative use of words and designed to enrich the artistic text and ensure the success of its impact on a recipient.

Metaphor has been traditionally studied and analyzed within the framework of rhetorics, literary works, and literary studies. It has been related to figurative language. Also, it has been regarded as "just a kind of artistic embellishment" or something that is "divorced and isolated from everyday language" [5].

Similarly, metaphor is defined in Longman Dictionary (1995) as "a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is literally denoting one kind of object or idea that is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them". It can be concluded that metaphor is regarded as a means of "meaning transfer". Alternatively, Charteris-Black describes it as a medium through which "meanings are transferred" [2].

Literature review. Lakoff & Johnson (1980) present a cognitive assumption which revolves round the existence of a set of metaphorical concepts. Around this, we can conceptualize the world or our worldviews. They asserted that metaphor is rather a matter of experience or everyday life than merely a matter of language. "Metaphor is a tool so ordinary that we use it unconsciously and automatically... it is irreplaceable; metaphor allows us to understand ourselves and our world in ways that no other modes of thought can." [4]

Conceptual metaphors are grounded in our everyday experience of interacting with the world. From interaction, understanding emerges. However, metaphors are incomplete representations: they privilege one way of seeing and obscure others, so there is always some other aspect of the experience that is being downplayed or hidden. This is important to be aware of because we live our lives on the basis of inferences we derive via metaphor.

The schematic structure of in out orientation that comes from the experience of containment implies:

- Protection from or resistance to external forces
- Forces within the container are limited or restricted

- The contained object gets relatively fixed in its location, which can be accessible or inaccessible
- Transitivity of containment: if B is in A, then whatever is in B is also in A

The perception of separation from nature is so deep in our conceptual system, according to Lakoff (2010), that we cannot simply wipe it from our brains.

**Methodology.** It is also worth noting that when people use the term “nature”, they may be referring to:

- Rural places, the countryside, wilderness areas
- Phenomena of the physical world: wildlife, habitats (e.g. mountain, sea, forest), weather, wind, sun, moon, stars, planets, day and night, the seasons etc.
- Underlying cosmic force bringing these phenomena into being (Nature; the laws of Nature)
- Basic or inherent features, innate or essential qualities of something

### NATURE IS A CONTAINER / OBJECT

K2C: I think I could recall my sensibilities of me being a part of nature

K2D: Much of the time I don't feel in direct contact with nature. I'm looking out of a window at 'it'

NC2A: Arriving in Glen Prosen I was looking forward to being in the outdoors

NC2A: Sitting here in this amazing scenery

NC2C: And so to the day out in the hills - alone

### NATURE IS A PLACE

K2B: I would spend hours outside in the garden, mountains or wherever

K2A: I feel I need to spend more time out there to experience myself and reflect more

K1D: I still wonder where I fit in.

NC2C: After a day's reflections, Friday saw the weather decline still further but it didn't hinder a glorious trek into the hills and glen.

NC2C: The afternoon saw us venture out on the hillside

We pay particular attention at the metaphorical expression “Mother Earth/ Nature” in press articles produced in a variety of languages. Our aim is therefore not to compare different genres but languages and cultures in order to bring further insight to such a metaphorical adaptation. The focus on a single metaphorical expression, “Mother Earth/Nature”, is justified by its mythological and spiritual origin which raises interrogations regarding the significance of ancient myths in nowadays discussions about climate change. Furthermore, the personification suggested by the metaphor allows us to investigate the fluctuating conceptualization of the figure of the “MOTHER”.

According to Lakoff and Johnson's researchers, nature conservation in protected areas is a complex, multi-functional field of special activity; within its terminology seven semantic blocks were differentiated that reflect various aspects of this professional sphere – biodiversity conservation, research and monitoring, ecotourism and recreation, environmental education, sustainable development, legal support of nature conservation, management of PAs.

Metaphoric terms were found in four of these blocks - biodiversity conservation, research and monitoring, environmental education, sustainable development.

Noteworthy that the greatest share of metaphors is found in the blocks nominating the notions of environmental education (8%), biodiversity conservation (5.8%), and sustainable development (5.6%). The block “Research and monitoring” holds a much less proportion of all the metaphoric terms - 2.2%. This proportional differentiation is exactly opposite to the quantitative composition of these blocks – the blocks with the least numbers of terms have the highest percentage of metaphoric units, while the largest in number block has the least amount of metaphors. The block of research and monitoring is based on the biological scientific terminology and presents the terminological foundation of the domain of nature conservation. The biological terminology is one of the oldest LSPs. This fact seems to prove the opinion that in old terminologies metaphorization as a means of term-formation is scarce, while in younger LSPs it is productive [4].

Likely, the ideas and principles of environmental education, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development are widely discussed nowadays in all layers of modern society. Being extremely significant for the humanity, they permeate almost all spheres of contemporary life. That is why the terms of these fields should be easy to understand, lucid for the public. Terms-metaphors meet these requirements well enough. They reveal the contents of a special word, as well as a concept standing behind it, in simpler and more tangible images. E.g. the phrase “standstill” principle is in the block “Sustainable development”. It consists of a general scientific word principle and a word taken from common English that is used metaphorically because the original meaning of this word denotes the upright motionless position of a human body; then the meaning of the word has expanded to the motionless state of any object or situation, thus “Longman Active Study Dictionary of English” gives the following definition: ‘a condition of no movement or activity’. On the basis of this common meaning, a person who comes across this phrase for the first time can deduce at least the general meaning of it as some rule for keeping the state of things without any actions or changes. In the special language of nature conservation, the phrase means the principle according to which degradation of the environment should be especially avoided in zones with little pollution [3].

Several source domains of metaphorical terms in the language of nature conservation have been distinguished. The most productive of them appears to be the domain of constructions and their parts. Here are metaphorical terminological units formed with the help of this source: **greenhouse** gas, **threshold** effect (+**threshold** instruments, **threshold** character), animal **corridor** (+ green **corridor**, habitat **corridor**), natural **monument**, ecological / environmental **niche** (+ feeding / food **niche**, trophic **niche**, spatial **niche**), species **barrier**, **buffer** zone. The predominance of this source domain is quite logical: the main conceptual category of the special field under discussion is the category of space, as all the activity is bound to establishing, functioning and managing protected nature areas. So the lexical units corresponding to the category of space, such as area, zone, site, spot are numerous in the terminology. And the image of building and organizing a living space is very close to the activities in nature areas.

**Conclusion.** To my mind, this is also connected with the degree of common usage of the terminologies: if a terminological system is strictly scientific, used only by specialists of the

corresponding scientific field, there are few metaphoric terms in it; and vice versa – if a terminology is used broadly in society and strongly oriented to most of the people, then the share of metaphors among its terms is larger.

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