

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN MAGICAL AND EVERYDAY FAIRY TALES OF THE ENGLISH, RUSSIAN AND UZBEK LANGUAGES (A LINGUOMETHODICAL APPROACH)

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Abstract: This paper explores the peculiarities of metaphorical thinking in two major folklore genres—magical and everyday fairy tales—of three languages: English, Russian, and Uzbek. The study applies a cognitive-linguistic and linguomethodical approach to identify both universal and culture-specific features of metaphorization. It argues that metaphors in magical tales tend to be mythopoetic and symbolic, while in everyday tales they are more social, moral, and evaluative in nature.

Keywords: metaphor, fairy tale, cognitive linguistics, folklore, linguomethodics, cross-cultural analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Metaphor is a fundamental mechanism of human cognition and linguistic creativity. According to Lakoff and Johnson¹, metaphors shape not only language but also the very way we perceive and interpret the world.

Fairy tales, as verbal expressions of collective imagination, provide a unique medium for analyzing how different cultures conceptualize moral, spiritual, and social experiences through metaphorical imagery.

The relevance of this research lies in its integrative character: it combines comparative linguistics, cognitive semantics, and linguomethodics to uncover how metaphorical models reflect the cultural mentality of the English, Russian, and Uzbek peoples.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Metaphor and Its Cognitive Function

Within the framework of cognitive linguistics, metaphor is defined as a cross-domain mapping that transfers conceptual structures from a source to a target domain (Lakoff & Johnson²). In folklore, this transfer often assumes mythological or symbolic value, merging the real and the fantastic in a unified worldview.

The main functions of metaphors in fairy tales include:

- Cognitive:** representing the folk worldview;
- Evaluative:** transmitting moral values and judgments;
- Aesthetic:** creating poetic imagery;
- Didactic:** educating through symbolic expression.

2. Types of Metaphors

The study distinguishes between several dominant metaphor types:

¹ Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. *Metaphors We Live By*.

² Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. *Metaphors We Live By*.



- Anthropomorphic** (attributing human traits to nature or objects),
- Zoomorphic**,
- Cosmological** (linked to natural and cosmic phenomena),
- Moral-social**, and
- Artifact-related** metaphors.

METHODS AND MATERIAL

The corpus consists of classical fairy tales from three traditions:
 English: “Cinderella”, “Jack and the Beanstalk”, “The Three Little Pigs”;
 Russian: “The Frog Princess”, “Morozko”, “Sivka-Burka”, “The Peasant and the Bear”;
 Uzbek: “Zumrad va Qimmat”, “Oltin Baliqcha”, “Boy va Kambag‘al”.
 Methods applied: cognitive analysis of metaphorical expressions, comparative typology, and cultural interpretation.

ANALYSIS

Metaphors in Magical Fairy Tales

Magical tales are dominated by metaphors of **transformation**, **light**, and **journey**, symbolizing moral purification and spiritual ascent.
 In Jack and the Beanstalk, the metaphor “climbing to the sky” represents the overcoming of fate and social barriers.
 In Russian The Frog Princess, transformation embodies inner rebirth and self-realization.
 In Uzbek Zumrad va Qimmat, “emerald” symbolizes purity of heart, while “mud” represents moral corruption.
 Thus, magical tales in all three traditions use metaphors that elevate human experience beyond the material world.

Metaphors in Everyday Fairy Tales

Everyday tales reflect pragmatic and ethical aspects of human life.
 -In English tales, metaphors often illustrate practicality and diligence (“Make hay while the sun shines”).
 -Russian tales emphasize moral endurance and cleverness (“Work saves a man”).
 -Uzbek tales employ metaphors of **light** and **darkness** to represent generosity and greed.

Language	Dominant Metaphor Type	Central Values	Example
English	Vertical, dynamic	Individual success	“Climb to heaven”
Russian	Ritual, emotional	Endurance, purification	“Through fire and water”
Uzbek	Ethical, luminous	Honesty, inner purity	“Zumrad — heart as bright as emerald”

LINGUOMETHODICAL ASPECT

The comparative analysis of metaphors in fairy tales has strong methodological potential for teaching foreign languages. It enables:
 -development of **intercultural competence**;
 -deeper **lexical retention** through imagery;
 -enhancement of **translation and analytical skills**.



Pedagogically, teachers can use fairy-tale metaphors as tools for exploring cultural values and symbolic meaning systems in language classes.

CONCLUSION

The study shows that metaphorical imagery in English, Russian, and Uzbek fairy tales reveals both **universal cognitive patterns** (journey, light/darkness, struggle) and **culture-specific worldviews**. English metaphors reflect pragmatic rationalism, Russian metaphors express emotional and spiritual endurance, while Uzbek metaphors emphasize moral integrity and purity. Integrating the linguomethodical approach into the study of metaphors helps bridge linguistic, cultural, and pedagogical dimensions, making folklore a valuable resource for modern language education.

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