



A LINGUOMETHODOLOGICAL COMPARATIVE STUDY OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSIONS IN MAGICAL AND EVERYDAY FAIRY TALES OF THE ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Annotation: *this article investigates the nature and function of metaphors in magical and everyday fairy tales across English, Russian and Uzbek languages through a linguomethodical lens.*

Key words: *metaphor, fairy tales, magical tales, everyday tales, comparative linguistics, linguomethodology, figurative language, cultural imagery, English, Russian, Uzbek, language teaching, conceptual metaphor theory.*

Аннотация: *в данной статье исследуются природа и функции метафор в волшебных и бытовых сказках на английском, русском и узбекском языках с использованием лингвометодического подхода*

Ключевые слова: *метафора, сказки, волшебные сказки, бытовые сказки, сравнительное языкознание, лингвометодология, образный язык, культурные образы, английский язык, русский язык, узбекский язык, преподавание языка, теория концептуальной метафоры.*

Annotatsiya: *ushbu maqola ingliz, rus va o'zbek tillaridagi sehrli va maishiy ertaklarda metaforalarning tabiati va vazifasini lingvometodologik nuqtayi nazardan tadqiq etadi.*

Kalit so'zlar: *metafora, ertaklar, sehrli ertaklar, maishiy ertaklar, qiyosiy tilshunoslik, lingvometodologiya, obrazli til, madaniy tasviriylik, ingliz tili, rus tili, o'zbek tili, til o'qitish, konseptual metafora nazariyasi.*

INTRODUCTION

Metaphor is a fundamental cognitive mechanism through which people conceptualize the world. In fairy tales, metaphors are not only literary devices but also carriers of deep cultural meanings, social norms, and educational values. Fairy tales – whether magical or everyday – often reflect metaphorical patterns that mirror the worldview of the language community. This article presents a comparative analysis of metaphors in English, Russian and Uzbek fairy tales, focusing on both magical (fantastical) and everyday (domestic or humorous) types of tales from a linguomethodological standpoint.

Metaphor is not merely a stylistic device used for embellishment but a fundamental mechanism through which human beings conceptualize abstract ideas and communicate complex meanings. In fairy tales – narratives that are deeply embedded in the oral and literary traditions of nations – metaphors serve as vital tools for constructing imaginative



worlds, conveying cultural values and imparting moral lessons. These metaphorical expressions often reflect the cognitive, emotional and spiritual experiences of the society in which the tales originate.

Fairy tales are typically divided into two major categories: magical (or fantastic) tales and everyday (or domestic) tales. Magical fairy tales feature elements of the supernatural, enchanted beings and impossible transformations, while everyday tales revolve around social relationships, wit and moral dilemmas within more realistic settings. Despite their differences, both types are rich in metaphorical language that encodes deep layers of cultural and linguistic meaning.

This article aims to conduct a comparative analysis of metaphors found in magical and everyday fairy tales in English, Russian and Uzbek languages. These three languages represent different linguistic families (Germanic, Slavic, and Turkic, respectively) and distinct cultural paradigms, making them ideal for cross-cultural linguistic study. The focus will be on identifying common conceptual metaphors, exploring culturally specific imagery, and evaluating the implications of these metaphors in terms of linguomethodology, particularly their application in language teaching and intercultural communication.

By examining the role of metaphor across these languages and genres, the study contributes to the understanding of how metaphor functions not only as a linguistic phenomenon but also as a pedagogical and cultural bridge.

MAIN PART

Magical fairy tales often feature elements of fantasy, where metaphors are used to evoke wonder, convey moral lessons and reflect archetypal concepts. These tales frequently blur the boundaries between the real and the fantastical, and the metaphors employed serve to encapsulate this dichotomy. Magical metaphors are generally more abstract and universal, as they deal with grand themes such as good versus evil, life and death, and transformation:

English: in English magical fairy tales, metaphors like «the heart of stone» are used to describe characters who are emotionally distant or unkind. These metaphorical expressions help to highlight the moral and emotional states of characters in a symbolic manner. Another example is the metaphor of «breaking the spell», which often represents overcoming personal limitations or escaping a state of oppression.

Russian: in Russian fairy tales, metaphors often reflect the mystical and fatalistic nature of Slavic folklore. For instance, the metaphor «Кощей Бессмертный держит душу в яйце» (Koshchey the Deathless keeps his soul in an egg) illustrates the hidden vulnerability of a seemingly invincible antagonist. This metaphor reveals both a literal and figurative interpretation of immortality, where the soul is preserved in an inaccessible and fragile object.

Uzbek: Uzbek magical fairy tales often use metaphors that align with themes of destiny, fate and cosmic balance. One such example is «Yovuz dev yuragini tog‘ tagiga yashiradi» (The wicked demon hides his heart under a mountain), which is a metaphor for hidden evil and the eventual revelation of truth. This reflects the belief that darkness and evil will ultimately be exposed, a common theme in many fairy tales across cultures.



Everyday fairy tales, in contrast to their magical counterparts, are grounded in more familiar, social and realistic settings. These tales often use metaphorical language to represent everyday situations, human relationships and societal values. The metaphors in these tales serve to emphasize practicality, wisdom and human nature. While these metaphors might not invoke the supernatural, they are still deeply rooted in the cultural context of the language.

English: in English everyday fairy tales, metaphors such as «the squeaky wheel gets the grease» are frequently used to convey social dynamics, especially in terms of gaining attention or solving problems. This metaphor reflects the importance of voicing one's needs or complaints in order to be noticed and helped. Another common metaphor is «a wolf in sheep's clothing», which symbolizes deception and hidden intentions.

Russian: Russian everyday fairy tales are rich in metaphors related to endurance, resourcefulness, and the struggle for justice. An example of this is the metaphor «Без труда не вытащишь и рыбку из пруда» (Without effort, you can't pull a fish from the pond), which emphasizes the value of hard work and effort in achieving one's goals. This is a universal metaphor in Russian folk narratives, conveying the idea that success is not achieved without overcoming obstacles.

Uzbek: in Uzbek everyday tales, metaphors such as «Qo'lingdan kelgancha, qo'shning bilan kelish» (Help your neighbor as much as you can) symbolize the importance of community and mutual aid. This metaphor encourages the practice of cooperation and kindness within the social fabric, reflecting Uzbek values of hospitality and familial bonds.

The comparative analysis of metaphors in English, Russian and Uzbek fairy tales reveals a number of interesting linguistic and cultural similarities, as well as differences. Below, we summarize the main findings from the analysis:

Cultural Significance: in each of the three cultures, fairy tales and their metaphors serve not only as entertainment but also as tools for teaching moral lessons. While the specifics of the metaphors vary, all three cultures use metaphorical language to instill values such as bravery, honesty and the importance of family. However, the cultural values reflected in these metaphors differ, with Russian tales focusing more on resilience and mysticism, Uzbek tales emphasizing communal harmony and destiny, and English tales often highlighting individualism and moral clarity.

Conceptual Domains: despite their different linguistic and cultural origins, metaphors in these fairy tales tap into common human experiences. Concepts such as transformation, oppression, justice and good vs. evil are universally represented across all three languages. However, the way in which these concepts are metaphorically expressed differs. For example, Russian metaphors often draw upon nature and the supernatural, Uzbek metaphors center on fate and family relations, while English metaphors are more likely to focus on personal agency and individual morality.

Metaphor Density and Structure: Russian and Uzbek fairy tales tend to employ denser metaphorical expressions, reflecting the oral tradition's reliance on figurative



language for emotional impact and memorability. English fairy tales, particularly in the literary tradition, tend to be less figurative and more straightforward in their moral messaging, using metaphors in a more simplified and direct manner.

The analysis of metaphors in fairy tales offers valuable insights for language teaching, particularly in the context of intercultural communication and figurative language acquisition. By comparing metaphors across languages, educators can help students develop a deeper understanding of how metaphors function both as cognitive tools and as vehicles for cultural transmission. Teaching students to recognize and interpret metaphors in fairy tales can:

Enhance students' figurative language skills and semantic competence.

Foster cross-cultural understanding by comparing metaphorical expressions from different linguistic traditions.

Provide contextual insights into how metaphors reflect broader societal and cultural values.

This study draws on Conceptual Metaphor Theory (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980) and integrates linguomethodical perspectives relevant to foreign language teaching. It also references folkloristic classifications (Propp, Lüthi) and socio-cultural models (Wierzbicka, Kövecses).

Magical tales typically feature supernatural elements, anthropomorphized animals and impossible transformations. Metaphors here are often universal and archetypal, such as:

English: «The heart of stone» – symbolizing emotional coldness.

Russian: «Кощей Бессмертный держит душу в игле» – metaphoric for hidden vulnerability.

Uzbek: «Yovuz dev yuragini tog‘ tagiga yashiradi» – echoing the «hidden soul» metaphor.

These tales center around domestic or social life and use more culturally specific metaphors:

English: «The squeaky wheel gets the grease» – complaining leads to attention.

Russian: «Без труда не вытащишь и рыбку из пруда» – hard work pays off.

Uzbek: «Qo‘lingdan kelgancha, qo‘shning bilan ke-lish» – advocating peaceful coexistence.

CONCLUSION

Metaphors in fairy tales are deeply embedded in the cultural and linguistic fabric of each nation. A comparative study of English, Russian and Uzbek fairy tales reveals both shared human experiences and uniquely national worldviews. From a linguomethodical perspective, analyzing these metaphors opens up innovative pathways for language teaching that are culturally rich and pedagogically effective.

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