

O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI
OLIY TA'LIM, FAN VA INNOVATSIYALAR VAZIRLIGI
FARG'ONA DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI

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**НАУЧНЫЙ
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TOLKIEN ROMANLARIDAGI METAFORALARNING LINGVISTIK TAHLILI

ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ МЕТАФОР В РОМАНАХ ТОЛКИНА

LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF METAPHORS IN TOLKIEN'S NOVELS

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Annotatsiya

J.R.R. Tolkienning asarlari, xususan, *Uzklar hukmdori* va *Silmarillion*, dunyoning mifopoeik xususiyatlarini belgilovchi metaforik nutqga boy. Ushbu tadqiqot Tolkienning romanlarida metaforalarning lingvistik tahlil asosida tavsiflaydi. Tadqiqot davomida "YORUG'LIK – YAXSHILIK", "QORONG'ULIK – YOMONLIK" va "TABIAT TIRIK MAVJUDOT SIFATIDA" kabi qayta-qayta uchraydigan konseptual metaforalar aniqlanib, ular asarlardagi mavzular va falsafiy tuzilmani shakllantirishdagi o'zni ko'rsatib berilgan. Natijalar ushbu metaforalarning o'ziga xosligi, turlari va mavzuli ahamiyatini ochib beradi, hamda buni diagramma va grafiklar kabi vizual ma'lumotlar bilan tasdiqlaydi. Xulosalar Tolkien asarlarida murakkab metaforalar orqali o'quvchini asarga chuqurroq jalb qilish va murakkab madaniy-falsafiy tushunchalarni aks ettirish uchun foydalanishini ko'rsatdi.

Аннотация

Произведения Дж. Р. Р. Толкина, особенно *Властелин колец* и *Сильмариллион*, богаты метафорическим языком, определяющим мифопоэтические характеристики мира. Данное исследование описывает метафоры в романах Толкина на основе лингвистического анализа. В ходе исследования были выявлены повторяющиеся концептуальные метафоры, такие как "СВЕТ – ДОБРО," "ТЬМА – ЗЛО," и "ПРИРОДА КАК ЖИВОЕ СУЩЕСТВО," подчеркивающие их роль в формировании тем и философской структуры произведений. Результаты показывают уникальность, типы и тематическую значимость этих метафор, подтвержденные визуальными данными, такими как диаграммы и графики. Выводы демонстрируют, что Толкин использует сложные метафоры для глубокого вовлечения читателя в повествование и отражения сложных культурно-философских понятий.

Abstract

J.R.R. Tolkien's works, particularly *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*, are rich in metaphorical language that defines the mythopoeic characteristics of the world. This study describes metaphors in Tolkien's novels based on linguistic analysis. The research identifies recurring conceptual metaphors such as "LIGHT – GOODNESS," "DARKNESS – EVIL," and "NATURE AS A LIVING BEING," highlighting their role in shaping the themes and philosophical framework of the works. The findings reveal the uniqueness, types, and thematic significance of these metaphors, supported by visual data such as diagrams and graphs. The conclusions demonstrate that Tolkien employs complex metaphors to deeply engage the reader with the narrative and reflect intricate cultural-philosophical concepts.

Kalit so'zlar: metafora tahlili, kognitiv tilshunoslik, mifopoeik tafakkur, konseptual metaforalar

Ключевые слова: анализ метафор, когнитивная лингвистика, мифопоэтика, концептуальные метафоры.

Key words: metaphor analysis, cognitive linguistics, mythopoeia, conceptual metaphors.

INTRODUCTION

Metaphor plays a fundamental role in language, serving as a bridge between thought and expression. In literature, metaphor not only decorates text but also constructs complex conceptual systems, particularly in the fantasy genre. J.R.R. Tolkien, often regarded as the father of modern high fantasy, employed metaphors extensively to create the intricate and immersive world of Middle-earth. His mythopoeic narratives, as seen in *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Silmarillion*, are layered with symbolic language that reflects themes of morality, power, and humanity's relationship with nature.

Cognitive linguistics, particularly Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) introduced by Lakoff and Johnson [1], provides a useful framework for analyzing Tolkien's metaphors. This approach

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sees metaphor as a means of understanding one domain of experience in terms of another, often mapping abstract concepts onto concrete imagery [2, p.34]. Given Tolkien's background in philology and mythology, his metaphors likely draw on a rich interplay of cultural and linguistic traditions. This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative textual analysis with quantitative data visualization, to identify, categorize, and interpret the metaphors that underpin Tolkien's narratives.

In doing so, the research aims to contribute to the growing body of literature on Tolkien's linguistic artistry and its implications for understanding the interplay between language, myth, and culture. The results of this study are not only of interest to literary scholars but also provide insights for linguists, cognitive scientists, and enthusiasts of fantasy literature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study of metaphor in literature has a long and evolving history, with seminal contributions from scholars such as Lakoff and Johnson [2], who introduced the concept of conceptual metaphors as fundamental to human cognition. According to their framework, metaphors are not merely rhetorical devices but cognitive tools that shape how people think and communicate. This theoretical perspective provides the foundation for examining metaphors in Tolkien's novels, where language is a medium for constructing a rich and immersive fictional universe.

Tolkien's use of metaphor has been explored in previous studies, though often tangentially. Shippey [3] discusses Tolkien's philological background and its influence on his linguistic creativity, including metaphorical expressions. Flieger [4] delves into the symbolic interplay of light and darkness in Tolkien's works, identifying these motifs as central to the narrative's moral and philosophical framework. Similarly, Dickerson and Evans [5] analyze Tolkien's environmental ethos, emphasizing metaphors that portray nature as a living, sacred entity.

Recent scholarship has begun to employ cognitive linguistic approaches to Tolkien's texts, revealing how conceptual metaphors structure the narratives and resonate with readers on a cognitive level. Smith [6] highlights the metaphorical construction of power and corruption in *The Lord of the Rings*, while Brown [7] examines the interplay of metaphors and myth in *The Silmarillion*. Despite these contributions, there remains a gap in systematically quantifying and visualizing metaphor usage across Tolkien's novels, which this study seeks to address.

The relevance of Tolkien's metaphorical language extends beyond literary studies. Scholars such as Eco [8, p.45] have noted its influence on cultural perceptions of heroism and morality, while cognitive scientists have drawn parallels between Tolkien's metaphors and universal patterns of human thought [9]. This interdisciplinary interest underscores the need for further research into the linguistic dimensions of Tolkien's works.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to analyze metaphors in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*. Textual excerpts were selected using purposive sampling, focusing on passages that exemplify key themes of light and darkness, nature, and power. The analysis combined qualitative methods—close reading and interpretative analysis—with quantitative techniques, including frequency counts and visual data representations. Conceptual metaphor theory [2] provided the analytical framework, allowing for the identification and categorization of recurring metaphorical patterns.

RESULTS

Light is consistently associated with purity, divinity, and hope in Tolkien's works. For example, *"But even as hope died in Sam, or seemed to die, it was turned to a new strength. Sam's plain hobbit-face grew stern, almost grim, as the will hardened in him, and he felt through all his limbs a thrill, as if he was turning into some creature of stone and steel that neither despair nor weariness nor endless barren miles could subdue"*. (*The Return of the King*, Book VI, Chapter 3) Light here is represented through a shift in emotional strength. Sam's metaphorical transformation into "stone and steel" aligns with his inner resolve to act as a beacon of hope in the darkness.

Darkness is often used as a metaphor for Sauron's malevolence and the oppressive presence of evil. *"And as the captains gazed south to the Land of Mordor, it seemed to them that, black against the pall of cloud, there rose a huge shape of shadow, impenetrable, lightning-*

crowned, filling all the sky. Enormous it reared above the world, and stretched out towards them a vast threatening hand, terrible but impotent: for even as it leaned over them, a great wind took it, and it was all blown away, and passed; and then a hush fell." (The Fellowship of the Ring, Book II, Chapter 2) The shadow and darkness serve as metaphors for the growing power of Sauron, symbolizing his ability to dominate and corrupt the world around him.

Tolkien uses LIFE IS A JOURNEY metaphor and this metaphor underpins the entire structure of The Lord of the Rings. *"Still round the corner there may wait / A new road or a secret gate."* (The Fellowship of the Ring, Book I, Chapter 1) Life is metaphorically likened to a journey, highlighting its unpredictability and the potential for new discoveries.

Power is metaphorically depicted as something heavy and corrupting. *"As Sam stood there, even though the Ring was not on him but hanging by its chain about his neck, he felt himself enlarged, as if he were robed in a huge distorted shadow of himself, a vast and ominous threat halted upon the walls of Mordor. He felt that he had from now on only two choices: to forbear the Ring, though it would torment him; or to claim it, and challenge the Power that sat in its dark hold beyond the valley of shadows. Already the Ring tempted him, gnawing at his will and reason. Wild fantasies arose in his mind; and he saw Samwise the Strong, Hero of the Age, striding with a flaming sword across the darkened land, and armies flocking to his call as he marched to the overthrow of Barad-dur. And then all the clouds rolled away, and the white sun shone, and at his command the vale of Gorgoroth became a garden of flowers and trees and brought forth fruit. He had only to put on the Ring and claim it for his own, and all this could be."* The Ring's literal weight serves as a metaphor for the psychological and moral toll of wielding power.

Tolkien's deep connection with nature often leads him to imbue it with sentience and purpose – NATURE AS A LIVING ENTITY – the increasingly bleak mindset of the hobbits mirrors the dark and ominous ambiance of the Old Forest, where the trees deliberately steer them astray. This dynamic recurs throughout The Lord of the Rings, as the physical environments often echo the emotional and psychological states of the characters.

Time in Tolkien's work is often depicted as an unstoppable flow, mirroring natural cycles. *"Their going was slow and cautious. How many hours had passed since they had entered the Morgul Vale they could any longer guess. The night seemed endless."* (The Two Towers, Book IV, Chapter 2) The metaphor of time as a river captures its relentless and transformative quality, emphasizing the inevitability of change in the narrative arc.

DISCUSSION

The findings reveal that Tolkien's use of metaphor serves as a powerful tool to convey complex themes and emotional depth, shaping the narrative and enriching the reader's experience. Key metaphors, such as light and darkness, reflect the duality of hope and despair that permeates The Lord of the Rings. Light, often associated with purity and resilience, becomes a metaphorical beacon guiding characters through trials. For instance, Sam's transformation into "stone and steel" underscores his unwavering resolve to persevere despite the seemingly insurmountable darkness, symbolizing his role as a source of hope in bleak circumstances. Conversely, darkness embodies the oppressive force of evil, personified through Sauron's shadow. The vast, lightning-crowned figure that ultimately dissipates underlines the transient nature of malevolent power, juxtaposed against the enduring hope symbolized by light. This metaphor highlights Tolkien's thematic emphasis on the eventual triumph of good over evil, even when the outcome appears uncertain.

The LIFE IS A JOURNEY metaphor underpins the narrative structure, encapsulating the unpredictability and transformative potential of the characters' quests. The verse *"Still round the corner there may wait / A new road or a secret gate"* poetically illustrates the idea of life as an ever-evolving journey filled with hidden opportunities, resonating with the experiences of the story's protagonists. This metaphor also reinforces the interconnectedness of the characters' individual paths with the broader narrative of Middle-earth.

The depiction of power as a corrupting and burdensome force is vividly illustrated through the metaphorical weight of the Ring. Sam's internal struggle reveals the dual allure and danger of power, symbolized by his vision of himself as both a savior and a tyrant. This metaphor not only conveys the psychological toll of power but also underscores the moral complexities faced by those who wield it.

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Tolkien's portrayal of nature as a living entity further enriches the narrative. The Old Forest's deliberate hostility towards the hobbits reflects the sentience and agency Tolkien often attributes to the natural world. This recurring theme, where physical landscapes mirror the characters' emotional states, emphasizes the symbiotic relationship between the inhabitants of Middle-earth and their environment.

Finally, the TIME AS A RIVER metaphor captures the relentless and transformative nature of time. The endless night in the Morgul Vale serves as a poignant representation of the characters' perception of time during moments of despair, mirroring the inevitability of change and the continuous flow of life. Tolkien's metaphors transcend mere literary devices; they form the backbone of his storytelling, intertwining narrative, theme, and character development. These metaphors provide readers with a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between light and darkness, power and corruption, and the enduring connection between humanity and the natural world. Through these devices, Tolkien not only crafts an epic tale but also invites readers to reflect on universal truths and the human condition.

CONCLUSION

Tolkien's masterful use of metaphor is integral to the depth and resonance of *The Lord of the Rings*. By employing metaphors such as light and darkness, life as a journey, power as a burden, and time as a river, he creates a rich narrative tapestry that captures the complexities of hope, despair, transformation, and morality. These metaphors not only shape the characters' journeys but also reflect universal human experiences, making the epic relatable across cultures and generations. Furthermore, Tolkien's portrayal of nature as a living entity underscores his ecological awareness and his belief in the interconnectedness of all things. The landscapes of Middle-earth, imbued with agency and emotion, mirror the internal struggles of the characters, emphasizing the inseparability of environment and identity. Ultimately, Tolkien's metaphors transcend their narrative function, offering profound insights into the themes of resilience, the corrupting nature of power, and the inevitability of change. They serve not only as a narrative device but as a philosophical lens through which readers can explore the enduring questions of good and evil, human agency, and the passage of time. Through these metaphors, Tolkien achieves a timelessness in his work, inviting readers to engage with the story on both an emotional and intellectual level.

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