

The Analysis of The Literary Devices: Metaphor Through Some Examples of Literary Works

Shamsiyeva Sevara Ruslanovna (BuxDU basic doctoral student) Email:s.r.shamsiyeva@buxdu.uz

Annotation: A language is made up of in a special way, that special way creates literature. In addition to Dash 's definition, in Oxford Dictionary, language is defined as — the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country or areal. Therefore, it is understood that while people communicate with one another, they use language and, in their language, they also use the elements of literature. As the term literature is very broad and quite subjective it is possible to suggest numerous definitions for it. The important thing here is that language and literature cannot be assumed as something totally independent from each other. Thus, in this language-literature combination, there are several literary devices or elements such as metaphor, simile, irony, personification and so on. Thanks to these devices, people can easily convey their messages to the others. Literary devices not only make the message meaningful but also decode the hidden feelings. Metaphor and simile are commonly used literary devices in communication and literature. Hence, they are quite useful and favorable in delivering the desired feeling or meaning. In this study, metaphors and similes as commonly used literary devices are going to be analyzed and taught through John Steinbeck 's selected novels of "Mice and Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath".

Keywords: *Metaphor, simile, John Steinbeck, "Mice and Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath"*

Introduction

More than eighty years after its publication, Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* still resonates. Therefore, this feeling and the abundance of literary devices are worth working on. Metaphorical text analysis is included in this work. The book is analyzed in detail to reveal the metaphors used in the text. This study can also be recognized as a stylistic assessment because it reflects Steinbeck's unique style. Metaphor as a literary device not only creates an implicit comparison, but also creates an image in the reader's mind. This image plays a very important role in revealing meaning beyond words. As Schuell (1990) states: "Metaphors are more effective than pictures: "If a picture is worth 1000 words, a metaphor is worth 1000 pictures! Because a picture provides only a static image, whereas a metaphor provides a conceptual framework for thinking about something" (p. 101). In *Of Mice and Men*, Steinbeck frequently uses metaphor and many other literary devices to enrich his story and bring the reader to life with the characters and situations. In particular, characters such as Lenny, George and Curly, his wife Slim and Candy are mostly portrayed through metaphors. In addition, it turned out that these metaphors have a negative meaning towards people and the environment in general, because the novel is dominated by a turbulent atmosphere and, accordingly, the story ends tragically. One point about the negative setting in the novel is that it is known that the novel was written during the Great Depression and it depicts the hardships people face. So this is very meaningful in terms of Steinbeck's use of negative sentimental elements. Examples of traditional and extended metaphors are used by Steinbeck throughout the novel. However, the analyzes presented here are not categorical, as a detailed analysis of metaphor types is not a major concern. In chronological order of the page, all passages consisting of examples of metaphors are described. In addition, each excerpt is followed by a brief explanation of the metaphor used in the excerpt. By the way, there is no right or wrong interpretation in the method of text analysis. And as these brief explanations suggest interpretations of metaphors, each reader must derive their own meaning. Thus, the following excerpts from the novels are given: Lenny put his big paw in the water and shook his fingers so that the water rippled a little; the rings extended across the pond to the other side and returned again (Steinbeck, 1994, p. 3). It is known that the "paw" is the foot of an animal, but the characteristic of the animal belongs to man, and an implicit comparison is made. So the reader gets the impression of a bear trying to catch fish in the water here. The room fell silent again. He came out of the night and burst into the room (Steinbeck, 1994, p. 48). Direct invasion means occupying a place by force. However, the silence that exists in the room is compared to armed forces or enemy troops taking control of the room. This is literally impossible. However, here the power of metaphor plays an active role in describing the silence over the room. George said, "He makes a mess. They make a bad mess about him. He's a prison booty" (Steinbeck, 1994, p.

51). Kerley's wife is likened to an arrow. the trigger of the gun because it could endanger the men who work on the ranch, because no man wants to get in trouble with Curley because they try to get away from his wife: "I'm not good with me on the one hand. I'm out of my hands on this ranch lost" (Steinbeck, 1994, p. 59). Losing a hand is not literally possible, because losing something happens unconsciously. On the other hand, the hand is a part of the human body, and it is material as can't be lost. Supposedly, Candy's hand was injured and cut in an accident at work. Thus, her hand is literally like a creature that can be lost. He stood quietly at the door, smiling slightly at them, rubbing the nails of one hand with the thumb and forefinger of the other hand, and his eyes traveled from one face to the other (Steinbeck, 1994, p. 77). When Curly's wife enters the house to look for Curly, she sees Crooks, Candy, and Lennie and looks at their faces one by one. But when describing it, the word "travel" is used. The eyes literally cannot travel. Looking into the eyes is like something that can literally travel. As such, it functions as a metaphor. She turned to him reproachfully. "Listen, Nigger," he said. "Do you know what I'm going to do to you if you open your door?" (Steinbeck, 1994, p. 80).

The Grapes of Wrath is undoubtedly Steinbeck's best novel. There are several reasons for this. One reason is that he lived, not wrote. Therefore, the readers will witness life situations that they have already experienced in their real life. Demot (2000) paraphrases Steinbeck's words to Pascal Covici (1939) as follows: I have done my best to tear the reader's nerves to shreds, I do not want to satisfy him... I have tried to write this book. the way of life is not as the books are written... I have tried to force the reader to participate in reality, what he gets from it is measured entirely by its depth or emptiness. There are five layers in this book, the reader finds as much as he can and cannot find more than he has (p. XIV). The success of "The Grapes of Wrath" is so great that today it is studied all over the world. It affects the lives of people between the ages of 7 and 70. As the quote above says, there is something for everyone. Thus, the metaphorical analysis of "The Grapes of Wrath" indicates the success of the book. Compared to the metaphor analysis of mice and men, it can be said that Steinbeck uses metaphor more to describe the conditions and events experienced by the Joad family and other migrant workers than to describe the characters. So while Of Mice and Men focuses on the characters, The Grapes of Wrath focuses more on the human condition. Traditional and extended metaphors are the leading metaphor types throughout the novel. As in F. Scott Fitzgerald's extended "valley of ashes" metaphor in The Great Gatsby, some concepts or images repeat throughout paragraphs or even throughout the book, such as the dust, the beach-monster, the turtle, the grapes. examples of extended metaphors. If you analyze it in more detail, you can also find other types of metaphors throughout the novel.

Day after day the sun shone on the growing corn until a brown streak spread along the edge of each green ear (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 3). Considering the shape of the corn, growing corn is directly comparable to green bayonets. However, bayonet literally means a type of combat weapon or charge. This description reminds the reader of some kind of battlefield with thousands of soldiers holding spears in their hands. The dust from the sky was sifted all day, and the next day it was sifted. An even blanket covered the earth (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 5). Here the dust is likened to a blanket covering the earth. Literally, a blanket is a household material used to keep people warm while sleeping or when they feel cold. However, the blanket is understood to mean the dust that covers the earth. The shell slowly slid down the embankment until it finally found its way directly to the parapet, the shoulder of the road, a four-inch-high concrete wall. (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 17). Although this depicts the turtle crossing a highway, the part of the road that the turtle is trying to cross is indirectly likened to a part of the human body, namely the shoulder. When read, the phrase "shoulder of the road" seems to have no simile because it lost its literal meaning in time. She smiled and her full lips showed off her wonderful horse teeth (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 17). Reverend Jim Casey's (previously preached) teeth are likened to a horse's teeth, referring directly to the horse. A horse is a strong animal and has strong teeth. In this context, these characteristics of the horse can be indirectly attributed to Kesi's strong personality. In the open doorways, the women stood looking out, and behind them children - children with heads, wide eyes, one foot on top of the other bare foot, toes working (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 33). Children are indirectly compared to heads of corn. Corn has a sharp appearance like a knife, and this sharpness may reflect the physical appearance of children, which is a difficult life situation.

The masters continued their point: You know, the earth is getting poorer and poorer. You know what cotton does to the earth; robs him, demands all his blood (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 34). In this sentence, while describing the impoverishment of the earth, the existing water on the earth is compared to the blood in the human body. When cotton is planted, the land becomes poorer as it consumes the water in the ground. We

cannot depend on it. A bank is a beast that must always have a profit. It can't wait. Will die. No, taxes continue. When the monster stops growing, it dies. It cannot remain one size fits all (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 34). Here, the "bank" is likened to a monster. Because the "bank" works for profit and profit, it consumes and grabs everything it can. When people take loans and fail to pay, the bank-monster seizes all people's property. The tractors crossed the roads and into the fields came great reptiles with incredible movement like insects and amazing strength like insects. They crawled over the ground, laid the track, and rolled over it to pick it up (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 37). Tractors are first indirectly likened to great reptiles, and then they are likened to insects. Although insects are small animals, here they are recognized as huge and powerful animals that give a sense of power. Similarly, tractors give a sense of strength and power. The man sitting in the iron chair was not human; with gloves, glasses, and a rubber dust mask over his nose and mouth, he was part monster, a robot in a chair (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 37). The man driving the tractor is made to look like part monster and a robot with glasses and a mask. To visualize the intensity of the situation and create a vivid image of the scene, Steinbeck uses this metaphor to refer to the "driver" as part monster and part robot. Behind the rakes, long seeds - twelve curved iron penises set in the foundry, orgasms set with gears, methodical rape, passionless rape (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 38). In this sentence, Tractor plowing can be eerily likened to bad sex. For example, long seeds - twelve curved iron pliers are compared to a sewn male genital organ, and the gears of a tractor are compared to an orgasm that accelerates the speed of sexual intercourse. In the evening, the truck crashed into the dust and roared back, the bed had a layer of dust, the hood was covered in dust, and the headlights were covered in red flour (Steinbeck,2000,p.99). Here the headlights of the truck are covered in dust, but when the scene is depicted, the dust covering the headlights is likened to red flour, as it gives the feeling of red flour as the light shines behind the dust. a very vivid image in the minds of readers. Ma placed bricks of meat in a barrel and poured salt around and over them and covered the layer with salt and patted it down (Steinbeck,2000,p.112). Meat slabs are indirectly like bricks. As a material, brick is used for construction and other structures. However, the way meat slabs are constructed is similar to bricks. The woman dropped the box of apples on the ground. "There's a live tumor," he said, clucking like a happy chicken. - What did you say? he demanded (Steinbeck,2000,p.322). As Rose of Sharon and the woman in the camp talk, the woman, who Rose of Sharon has already guessed is pregnant, likens the unborn baby or fetus to a living tumor. The stars were amazingly close and the sky was soft. Death was a friend, and sleep was death's brother (Steinbeck, 2000, p. 342). Here death is indirectly likened to a friend. Due to poverty, many people die continuously in the novel and death becomes a common occurrence and even becomes a friend of people. Sleep is also recognized as half-death and therefore it is called the brother of death.

Conclusion

Metaphors and similes in selected works of John Steinbeck were analyzed and information about the life and times of the author was given. In this regard, it was noted that in order to properly evaluate and analyze the works of "Of Mice and Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath", it is necessary to cover some aspects of Steinbeck's period very well. First of all, why were these novels chosen? John Steinbeck's pen and style are the most important factors in the emergence of this selection. As mentioned above, Steinbeck himself experienced many of the events he wrote about. Therefore, readers will have no difficulty in finding something about themselves in Steinbeck's works. With sales figures in the millions, The Grapes of Wrath explains why perfectly. He is considered an experimental writer because he wrote a lot through his own experiences. What makes Steinbeck so important and unique is not just his style. Certain events that happened during his time also play a very important role in the formation of his creativity and pen. The first and perhaps most important is the economic crisis, the Great Depression. Tens of thousands of people lost their jobs, homes, and even lands during this period. People were forced to migrate and live in very poor conditions to survive the famine. Obviously, this Great Depression affected the author. Especially in Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath, with his fluent style and great observation, he does not narrate the story, but enlivens the readers. Similarly, in "Of Mice and Men" he portrays the story of two people struggling against life's difficulties with profound and striking images. From all these aspects, these two works are purposefully selected.

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