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Issues In The Study Of Semantic Fields Of Metaphorical Comparisons And Gender Stereotypes In The Uzbek Language

Shirin Sharasulova

Associate Professor, PhD, Oriental University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the semantic and syntactic features of wordplay and metaphors in the Uzbek language. It explores the linguistic and cultural layers of wordplay, the logical-semiotic essence of metaphors, and their functional role in sentence structure. Based on examples from literary texts and public speech, the article reveals the interaction between semantic coherence and syntactic constructions.

Keywords: Metaphor, wordplay, semantics, gender stereotip syntax, lexical unit, context, means of expression.

Introduction

Metaphorical Comparisons and Gender-Related Social Stereotypes in Linguistics

Despite the fact that metaphorical comparisons and the reflection of social stereotypes regarding gender have been widely studied in world linguistics, the internal capacities of language and the inexhaustible forms of meaning in speech still require new research and semantic analyses.

Metaphorical comparisons (metaphors) are creative or literary forms of analogy used to vividly and meaningfully compare one thing to another. These metaphors help create concepts or images through words. Metaphors are not only a way of expressing thoughts but also of giving them emotional, aesthetic, and practical meaning, as well as guiding the reader or listener toward the intended ideas.

Gender-related metaphors, in turn, represent the social roles, abilities, needs, and even the values assigned to men and women by society, along with stereotypes and imitations associated with these values, in a literary form.

Such metaphors are shaped under the influence of social order, ideology, and culture, while also helping to convey the unique feelings, emotions, and roles of both genders. These metaphors often penetrate a person's emotions and inner world in a visible form, which is why they are usually considered literary, psychological, or artistic.

Metaphors associated with men are shaped by their physical, psychological, and moral peculiarities, habits, and stereotypes. In such comparisons, the semantic field embodies the qualities attributed to the male gender. In reflecting social stereotypes related to gender, the following factors are crucial. Masculine metaphors, on the one hand, reveal the connection between a man's outward appearance and inner world, and on the other hand, show his attitude toward life and work. Such metaphors are typically used to express strength, diligence, responsibility, and a sense of protection.

Similarly, metaphors associated with women combine natural, physical, and psychological traits that clarify information manifested in human consciousness through

lexical units and semantic fields. Feminine metaphors are often based on their speech, emotions, physical and psychological characteristics, as well as their social role and nature. Women are frequently depicted as playing not only auxiliary roles within society but also as beings with sensitivity, life needs, and strong willpower. These metaphors are used to portray women through visible images of racial, inner, and social qualities. They reflect women's spiritual needs and their roles oriented toward sensitivity, such as flowers, cleanliness, dreams, and aesthetics, while men are linked to stereotypes of "greatness" and "labor." Women are more often compared to delicate and fragile things, both animate and inanimate, whereas men are compared to concepts denoting strength, hardness, aggression, and struggle. These gendered metaphors influence the theoretical study of language and its metaphorical expressions.

Metaphors depicting women highlight their emotional and intimate roles of affection, while metaphors describing men emphasize power, initiative, independence, and wealth. Women's social roles and their unspoken "responsibilities" in these metaphors often portray them as active participants in social life and creative thinkers. Men, however, are more often shown in hidden or "alternative" roles, offering a different perspective on social processes.

To better explain theoretical insights into gender-related metaphors, it is necessary to first define the concepts of gender and metaphor. Gender and social roles, as well as the impact of metaphors on the distribution of social relations and power, are closely connected with literary, psychological, and philosophical ideas. Gender is not limited to biological differences but is shaped by social, cultural, and historical contexts. Social definitions of gender imply that people's embodied social roles are determined according to their sex. Gender roles define various activities and aspirations and are shaped within society through rules and stereotypes.

It is well known that the formation of gender stereotypes is strongly influenced by society and culture. These influences also affect the formation of language and the artistic coloring of speech. Gender roles may change depending on historical, cultural, and social contexts. Today, under globalization and development, the social roles of men and women are changing. Women are expanding their positions in society and actively engaging in all spheres, creating new stereotypes while rendering many old ones obsolete. Gender stereotypes, therefore, are

ideological guidelines about men and women, dictating what emotions, abilities, and activities they should perform or what roles they should fit into. These stereotypes are reflected in literature, film, media, and social interaction both in the past and today.

Traditionally, women's roles have been associated with household duties, family responsibilities, and caregiving stereotypes, while men's roles have been oriented toward intellect, labor, material wealth, and protection rather than aggression or danger. Men are more often linked with leadership, strength, and productivity.

Although metaphors and gender have become an integral part of language, the issue of gender equality is also influencing the development of metaphors and analogies. A metaphor is a way of interpreting one thing through another. Metaphors are family, social, and cultural constructs that influence people's daily lives. Gender-related metaphors often reflect the social roles of men and women and the concepts associated with them.

Metaphors reflect gender roles in four main ways:

Natural and organic metaphors: Women are often described with metaphors such as "flowers," "spring," "milk," and "water," which connect them to nurturing and loving roles. Men are depicted with metaphors such as "sky," "friends," "animals," and "fire," which emphasize independence and leadership.

Mechanical and physical metaphors: Men are often portrayed as "machines," "exercise," or "hands," highlighting physical strength and work ability. Women, on the other hand, are described through metaphors such as "flood," "breath," or "holding," emphasizing aspiration and social resilience.

Psychological and inner metaphors: Women are depicted with expressions like "the power of the sky," "talents," and "flowering," showing their emotions, needs, and will. Men are represented with metaphors such as "fortress" and "iron wall," emphasizing inner strength and defense.

Animal and anthropomorphic metaphors: Women are portrayed as "birds," "flight," and "art," emphasizing creativity and sensitivity. Men are depicted as "chief," "leader," or "sheriff," stressing practicality and complex social roles.

Feminist theory seeks to reconsider stereotypes about gender and women's social roles, working toward equality between men and women. Postfeminism, in turn, provides opportunities to view feminist ideas in new contexts or paradigms, re-examining social and psychological issues with new tools.

In feminist-oriented metaphors, women are often depicted as "sky," "freedom," and "strong figures," which highlight their struggle for rights and inspiration. Postfeminist metaphors describe women as "close," "owner," or "innovator." Through metamorphosis and gender transformation, gendered metaphors change and help shape new paradigms, reflecting new social, cultural, and philosophical initiatives that alter views on gender.

Metaphors associated with men often emphasize physical, psychological, and social traits such as strength, resilience, leadership, and productivity, while also reflecting individual personality and life circumstances. For example:

Metaphors of strength and resilience: "Strength like a fortress flowing in his veins" describes a man's inner power and endurance. "An iron heart" conveys his industriousness, success, and ability to withstand stress. "A blockbuster body" symbolizes physical stability and fitness.

Metaphors of leadership and responsibility: "A groom sitting like a king" emphasizes authority and decision-making. "A man who built a world in his heart" highlights diligence and ambition. "A small boat striving for the sea" depicts persistence despite life's hardships.

Personal and psychological metaphors: "A broad heart" indicates kindness and honesty. "A man with a locked heart" conveys secrecy or a striving for new experiences.

Metaphors of nature and emotion (about women): "Tears like a river" highlight sensitivity and submission to higher goals. "A sun shining in the soul" depicts harmony and joy. "A heart filled with light" conveys goodness and a desire to help others. "Healing beside pain" symbolizes patience in facing challenges. "A flame burning in the heart" portrays a woman's love and affection.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, gender-related metaphors are not merely

literary devices but are directly tied to social relations, rights, and lifestyles. They highlight stereotypes, roles, and gaps between individuals within society. Metaphors are therefore an important conceptual tool for understanding gender issues.

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