



Types of metaphors and the usage of them in literary texts

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with metaphor in terms of its types and usage in literature. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of use of metaphors in the literary texts. It also provides several examples of metaphors in different writers' works with classifications.

Keywords:

metaphor, language device, comparison, to describe, a figure of speech, speaker's vision, narrativeness.

A metaphor is a figurative language device that compares two unrelated things. Using metaphor as a literary tool, comparisons are made without the explicit usage of "like" or "as". When two objects are compared, metaphor might be used to claim that they are identical rather than just similar. This is helpful in writing when expressing abstract facts with specific imagery or notions. In literature, metaphors are like drops of water: they are both necessary and commonplace. Literary metaphors are tools that writers use to elicit a feeling or create a compelling picture. Sometimes a metaphor can be used to describe a phenomenon. A metaphor example in a text might occasionally merit the same amount of interpretation as the text itself given the amount of detail that goes into it.

There are several metaphor types and they are discussed properly below:

Standard metaphors merely draw a straightforward analogy between two dissimilar objects.

Sheila is a night owl.

This metaphor makes it clear to the reader why Sheila enjoys staying up late (like owls).

A comparison is made using **an implied metaphor**, which is less clear than a standard metaphor.

When he got yelled at by his boss, Sam tucked his tail and walked away.

It draws comparison between Sam and a fearful, obedient dog. You may visualize Sam leaving in a defeated manner using this metaphor.

Two distinct (and frequently used) metaphors combine to form **a mixed metaphor**. Here's an illustration from Austin Powers:

"But unfortunately for yours truly, that train has sailed."

This mixed metaphor is made up of two distinct metaphors:

1. *That train has left the station.*
2. *That ship has sailed.*

These two metaphors are used to convey the idea that a chance or an opportunity is no longer present. Mixed metaphors have a particular, humorous aim. They are only appropriate in comedic contexts since they reveal a character's naivety.

Typically, a metaphor is one line long. An **extended metaphor** is one that appears again in the text, whether it is in a verse, a poem as a whole, a paragraph, or a story.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" ¹speech is a wonderful illustration of an extended metaphor. In it, he likens the liberties and rights that many African Americans fought for to cashing a check, but America failed to pay the check because there weren't enough dollars.

When two conceptual or abstract ideas are contrasted with one another, this is known as a **conceptual metaphor**. *Time is money* is a common mental metaphor.

In the sense that they are founded on concepts, ideas, principles, or other human creations, time and money are both conceptual in nature. Time is money, which means that it is as precious to money and that, in order to generate money, you must manage your time well.

Metaphors have been used in literature for centuries, and their usage has evolved over time. For example, in the Elizabethan era, metaphors were often used to convey religious or moral concepts, while in the Romantic period, they were used to express the intense emotions associated with love and nature.

One famous example of metaphor in literature is the extended metaphor used in Shakespeare's play "As You Like It." In Act II, Scene 7, the character Jacques compares the world to a stage, saying:

"All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players; They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts."² This metaphor creates a vivid image of the world as a theatrical production, with human beings playing the roles of actors. It also suggests that life is

fleeting and temporary, like a performance that will eventually come to an end.

In the Romantic period, poets such as William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge used metaphors to express the intense emotions associated with love and nature. For example, in Wordsworth's poem "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,"³ the speaker compares himself to a cloud, saying:

"I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills," this metaphor creates a sense of detachment and isolation, while also suggesting the speaker's connection to the natural world.

In Coleridge's poem "Kubla Khan," the speaker uses metaphors to describe a dreamlike vision of a mystical palace. For example, he describes the palace as "a stately pleasure-dome" and "a miracle of rare device." These metaphors create a sense of awe and wonder, while also suggesting the elusive and fleeting nature of the speaker's vision.

Metaphors are a literary device that uses comparison to describe something in a figurative way. Here are some other examples of metaphors used in literary texts:

"All the world's a stage,

And all the men and women merely players;

They have their exits and their entrances,

And one man in his time plays many parts." - William Shakespeare, "As You Like It". In this famous metaphor, Shakespeare compares life to a theatrical performance, suggesting that people play different roles throughout their lives.

"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul." - Emily Dickinson, "Hope is the thing with feathers." Dickinson uses the metaphor of a bird to describe the abstract

¹ Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. It was a public speech delivered on August 28, 1963, during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

² William Shakespeare's play "As You Like It". The line appears in Act II, Scene VII of the play.

³ "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is a poem written by William Wordsworth, which was originally published in 1807 as part of his collection "Poems in Two Volumes".

concept of hope, suggesting that it is delicate and can fly away at any moment.

"Love is a rose, but you better not pick it." - Neil Young, "Love is a Rose."⁴ In this song lyric, Young compares love to a rose, suggesting that it is beautiful but also dangerous and can hurt you if you're not careful.

"Life is a journey, and if you fall in love with the journey, you will be in love forever." - Peter Hagerty. This metaphor suggests that life is a path or a road that we travel down, and that we should enjoy the journey itself rather than just focusing on the destination.

"The sea was a hungry dog, always looking for something to devour." - Ray Bradbury, "The Fog Horn"⁵. In this metaphor, Bradbury compares the sea to a hungry dog, suggesting that it is powerful and constantly searching for something to consume.

Overall, metaphors have played an important role in literature throughout history, and their usage has evolved and changed over time. They continue to be a powerful tool for writers to convey complex ideas and emotions in a way that is both memorable and impactful. Metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable, in order to suggest a resemblance or comparison. They can also add depth and richness to descriptions and narratives.

References:

1. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. It was a public speech delivered on August 28, 1963, during

⁴ Neil Young and appears in his song "Love is a Rose." The song was originally released on his album "Decade" in 1977. The quote "Love is a rose, but you better not pick it" is a song lyric

⁵ The short story "The Fog Horn" by Ray Bradbury. I originally published in the Saturday Evening Post in 1951

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3. The short story "The Fog Horn" by Ray Bradbury. I originally published in the Saturday Evening Post in 1951
4. William Shakespeare's play "As You Like It". The line appears in Act II, Scene VII of the play.
5. "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" is a poem written by William Wordsworth, which was originally published in 1807 as part of his collection "Poems in Two Volumes".