

O. Umantsiv

*Research supervisor: Ya. V. Bystrov,
Candidate of Philology, Professor,
Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University
Language tutor: Ya. V. Bystrov*

COGNITIVE FUNCTION OF THE METAPHOR IN PETER ACKROYD'S NOVEL "LONDON. THE BIOGRAPHY"

Metaphor is the subject of research of various branches of linguistics. At the end of the previous century the traditional point of view according to which metaphor was considered to be a purely linguistic phenomenon and was viewed as a matter of words rather than thought or action was reconsidered. Modern linguistic research on metaphor interprets it as a process that takes place first of all in our mind and only then is regarded as a linguistic phenomenon. G. Lakoff and M. Johnson who are the authors of the conceptual metaphor theory state that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. Our ordinary conceptual system, in terms of which we both think and act, is metaphorical in nature [3].

In the novel "London. The Biography" written by the contemporary British writer Peter Ackroyd the very title has metaphorical meaning. For the first time in the history of literature the *biography* of the *city* is written. Here the city is a living being and has its own life. In the title of the novel the author uses definite article. In such a way he wants to show that his work is not one of many researches on the history of London. From the very beginning London appears as a human body and the metaphor of organism is supported by other numerous metaphors in the story [1].

Metaphor in a literary work is not only used as a stylistic device, it is a way of cognition. Every author wants to express some new, unique idea. To achieve this goal they cannot do without using metaphor, as it can create some new sense that would be more understandable for the recipient. In the following example the author lays emphasis on the corporeality of the city: "*The byways of the city resemble thin veins and its parks are like lungs. In the mist and rain of an urban autumn, the shining stones and cobbles of the older thoroughfares look as if they are bleeding*" [2; 1]. The city is changing all the time, there is life and movement in it and it is metaphorically expressed by the concept of human body. Parallels with the body organs help the recipient understand that city is not just byways, parks and thoroughfares, it is a living matter.

"*Whether we consider London as a young man refreshed and risen from sleep, therefore, or whether we lament its condition as a deformed giant, we must regard it as a human shape with its own laws of life and growth*" [2; 2]. In such way referent "human shape" helps the recipient realize that the city is a living being. It proves metaphor cognitive function because the recipient gets to know London

through the prism of new referents. P. Ackroyd depicts the city's history as an evolution of a living being making the image of London available for perception.

The author also compares the city to the bird phoenix that is the symbol of everlasting life and renewal: *"One of the permanent, and most striking, characteristics of London lies in its capacity to rejuvenate itself. It might be compared to some organism which sloughs off its skin, or texture, in order to live again. It is a city which has the ability to dance upon its own ashes"* [2; 706]. So the motive of permanent renewal comes through the whole novel. In the image of London P. Ackroyd wants to underline its unending youth and ability to change.

Having analyzed the cognitive function of metaphor in Peter Ackroyd's novel "London. The Biography" we can conclude that metaphor in this work plays more than just aesthetic role. Metaphor is not just a stylistic device but it is a means of cognition. By means of using this cognitive phenomenon the author underlines some nuances, emphasizes important aspects, besides with the help of metaphor the writer can show some thought, idea or feeling and get it across to the recipient.

LITERATURE

1. Липчанская И. В. Образ Лондона в творчестве Питера Акройда [Электронный ресурс] / И. В. Липчанская. – Режим доступа: http://ivanovo.ac.ru/jdownloads/dissov/%20212.062.04/diss04/lipchanskaya_dis.pdf.
2. Ackroyd P. London. The Biography / P.Ackroyd. – London: Vintage, 2000.– 801 p.
3. Lakoff G. Metaphor We Live By [Electronic resource] / G. Lakoff, M. Johnson. – Mode of access: <http://shu.bg/tadmin/upload/storage/161.pdf>