

Abstract

Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper (Bachelor's degree)

Title: Semantic and Syntactic Features of Comparison (on the Basis of the English Phraseology)

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Topical Importance: studying semantic and syntactic features of occasional similes is insufficient in the part of knowledge of all the specifics of comparative constructions, as well as in their systematic analysis.

Goals: firstly, analysis and systematic representation of all possible structural models of both comparisons and similes, and secondly, demonstration of semantic peculiarities and stylistic potential of similes.

Tasks:

- to define the concept 'the category of comparison' and to reveal its role in the language;
- to study all the possible ways of expressing the category of comparison in the English language;
- to view the category of comparison as a cognitive mechanism;
- to structurally analyze and reveal similarities and differences between comparisons and similes;
- to describe stylistic potential of similes.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: linguistic ways of expressing the category of comparison, as well as cognitive, semantic and metaphorical bases of comparison are exhaustively described. The obtained data can be used in translation

and interpretation practice.

Results: The analysis of comparisons and similes showed that the linking elements in both of them are foremost conjunctions “as” and “like” rather than such words as “remind”, “suggest”, “as if”, etc., because the latter point out the incomplete nature of likeness of two comparable objects. To make the comparison more convincing and easily understandable most writers prefer to express object and subject that it is compared to, explicitly. So that such explicit similes with “as” or “like” not diminish the vivid picture the writer is trying to paint in the reader’s mind, some additional stylistic devices, such as irony, sarcasm, litotes, hyperbole, etc. are often used.

Implementation advice: the results of the research can be used in educational activities, such as courses of lectures and seminars in linguistics, stylistics, translation theory and cultural studies. The material can also be useful for students of philology department, as well as for those who study Russian as a foreign language.