

## СЕКЦИЯ 2. КОРПУСНЫЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ ЯЗЫКА И РЕЧИ

### 811.11 Germanic languages

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### ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ГЕНДЕРНЫХ МЕТАФОР НА ОСНОВЕ КОРПУСНОГО МАТЕРИАЛА

В данной статье представлен комплексный корпусный анализ гендерных метафор в американском литературном дискурсе. Опираясь на широкий спектр литературных текстов, исследование направлено на изучение изображения и построения гендера посредством метафорического языка. Используя методы корпусной лингвистики, включая анализ конкорданса и исследования коллокаций, изучается распространенность, модели использования и семантические нюансы гендерных метафор в литературных текстах. Таким образом раскрываются общественные установки, культурные нормы и идеологические конструкции относительно гендерной репрезентации в литературе.

*Ключевые слова: корпусный анализ; изображение и построение рода; изучение коллокаций; лингвистические методы; семантические нюансы.*

### CORPUS-BASED STUDY OF GENDER METAPHORS

This article presents a comprehensive corpus analysis of gender metaphors in American literary discourse. Drawing on a wide range of literary texts, this study aims to examine the depiction and construction of gender through metaphorical language. Using corpus linguistics methods, including concordance analysis and collocation studies, this study examines the prevalence, usage patterns, and semantic nuances of gender metaphors in literary texts. Through this study, social attitudes, cultural norms, and ideological constructions regarding gender representation in literature are revealed.

*Key words: corpus analysis; depiction and construction of gender; collocation studies; linguistics methods; semantic nuances.*

**Introduction:** Literary discourse serves as a repository of cultural values, beliefs and ideologies, capturing the essence of a certain time period as a multifaceted mirror of society. One of the most profound and complex aspects within the broad picture of literary discourse is the depiction of gender roles and

identities. These representations not only reflect social norms, but also actively participate in their construction and perpetuation. Central to this depiction is the extensive use of metaphorical language, which adds layers of complexity and depth to the portrayal of gender dynamics.

The most important claim we have made so far is that metaphor is not simply a matter of language, that is, of mere words. We will argue that, on the contrary, human thought processes are largely metaphorical. This is what we mean when we say that the human conceptual system is metaphorically structured and defined. Metaphors as linguistic expressions are possible precisely because there are metaphors in the human conceptual system. So when we talk about metaphors in this book, such as ARGUMENT IS WAR, we must understand that metaphor means a metaphorical concept.

Metaphor has the power to convey abstract concepts and nuanced perceptions by using symbolic images as language devices. In the field of literature, gender metaphors serve as a means of expressing and discussing complex ideas about masculinity, femininity, and gender relations. Using familiar symbols and associations, the authors imbue their narratives with rich layers of meaning, inviting readers to explore and question the intricacies of gender identity and representation.

This article takes a journey into the subtle world of gender metaphors in American literary discourse. Delving deeper into the tangled web of language, the author attempts to unravel the ways in which gender is formed, discussed and reflected in literature. Through the exploration of metaphorical language, this study aims to shed light on the underlying cultural and ideological currents that shape and influence gender representations in literary texts. In doing so, it offers insight into the complexities of gender dynamics and invites readers to think critically about the narratives that shape our understanding of identity and society.

**Methodology:** The methodology adopted for this study is corpus linguistics, a systematic and quantitative approach to language analysis that harnesses the power of large collections of texts, known as corpora, to identify patterns of language use. This methodological framework provides a structured means of exploring linguistic phenomena in a vast and diverse landscape of textual data.

Central to the methodology of corpus linguistics is the creation and use of corpora—carefully curated collections of texts representing a wide range of linguistic uses. For this study, the corpus includes a diverse selection of American literary works, spanning different genres, time periods, and authors. Covering a wide range of texts, the corpus reflects the richness and diversity of American literary discourse, allowing for a comprehensive examination of gender metaphors in this cultural context.

Corpus analysis is carried out using various linguistic tools and methods, with special emphasis on concordance analysis and collocation studies. Correspondence analysis involves the systematic examination of lines of correspondence that map instances of a particular word or phrase into the surrounding context. This method allows researchers to identify and extract examples of gender metaphors from a corpus, providing a basis for further analysis.

In addition to coherence analysis, collocation studies are used to examine patterns of co-occurrence of words or phrases in a corpus. By identifying collocates—words that often appear next to gender metaphors—researchers gain insight into the linguistic and semantic characteristics of these metaphors. This approach contributes to a deeper understanding of how gender is conceptualized and articulated through metaphorical language in American literary discourse.

Through the systematic application of corpus linguistics methods, this study seeks to unravel the complex interrelationships between language, gender, and literature. By examining a variety of texts and using rigorous analytical methods, the author seeks to explore how gender metaphors shape and reflect cultural attitudes, beliefs, and ideologies in the field of American literature. Finally, the methodology outlined in this study provides a solid foundation for the study of gender dynamics and representation in literary discourse.

In addition, the study reveals usage patterns, frequencies, and collocational preferences in the corpus, shedding light on the cultural and ideological underpinnings of gender representation in literature. Through quantitative analysis, researchers identify trends and trends in the use of gender metaphors, providing valuable information about how language shapes and reflects social attitudes and beliefs.

Overall, the findings of this study highlight the richness and complexity of gender metaphors in American literary discourse. Traversing the diverse milieu of nature, animals, objects, and emotions, these metaphors illuminate the multifaceted nature of gender identity and relationships, inviting readers to critically engage with the narratives that shape our understanding of gender in literature and society.

**Discussion:** The findings of this study make important contributions to our understanding of gender metaphors in American literary discourse and their broader implications for society. Through a detailed examination of metaphorical language, this study illuminates the complex interplay between literature, language, and gender dynamics, highlighting how literary texts both reflect and shape gendered social norms, expectations, and power dynamics.

As a cultural work, literature acts as a mirror reflecting the prevailing ideologies, values and beliefs of a particular society. On this reflexive surface, gender metaphors become powerful tools through which society's attitudes toward gender are expressed, discussed, and contested. By critically analyzing these metaphors, readers gain insight into the underlying mechanisms by which gender is constructed and enacted in literary texts.

However, the basic insight about language as action raises another serious problem for analysis. This is the range of different functions which language can serve: promising, asserting, describing, impressing, intimidating, persuading, comforting, gossiping, arguing, complaining, reciting, swearing, protesting, betting, and so on indefinitely. [3, p. 5]

Literature not only reflects existing social norms through the lens of metaphorical language, but also actively participates in their perpetuation and strengthening. Gender metaphors included in literary discourse serve to naturalize

and normalize certain ideas about gender identity and behavior. From the exaggeration of male power to the idealization of female beauty, these metaphors encode and perpetuate societal expectations and power dynamics associated with gender.

However, the study of gender metaphors also reveals spaces of contestation and negotiation within literary texts. By exploring the complexities and contradictions inherent in these metaphors, readers gain insight into how gender roles and identities are constructed, challenged, and redefined. Through the use of provocation, resistance, and subtext, authors and characters push the boundaries of gender representation, offering alternative perspectives and possibilities for gender expression and identity.

The theoretical conceptualization of metaphor as a cross-domain mapping leads to a view of metaphor in language as based on indirectness plus similarity. This is what has been captured in the various parts of MIP. The basis of the identification of metaphor has been regarded as a matter of finding indirect meaning in lexical units by both Lakoff (1986, 1993) and Gibbs (1994). Although indirectness is a good starting point for finding metaphor in language, our own research has shown that it is not sufficient. It is both too broad and too narrow. [4, p.10]

Furthermore, a critical examination of gender metaphors opens up opportunities for dialogue and reflection on the broader implications of gender representation in literature. By critically examining these metaphors, readers are empowered to question and challenge social denials.

In modern linguistics, the transmission of culturally and socially important ideas with the help of artistic means of expression occupies an important place. In this process, the vocabulary of the language is important. Metaphors are one of the tools of artistic description that play an indispensable role in the description of various objects, including living things, in creating a linguistic picture of the world. The metaphorical description of living beings is based on the comparison of their internal and gender characteristics.

The word metaphor was first used by the Greek philosopher Aristotle. The great scientist emphasized the power and importance of metaphor in conveying information to people. Because comparison is considered one of the most effective means of expression, and metaphor creates a verbal description in this way.

The field of study of metaphors is extensive and has a history dating back to ancient Greece. During this past period, various methods and theories have been applied for the study of metaphors. Corpus linguistics, which is the most modern of them, is considered quite effective in the study of metaphors, although it is new in this field.

Corpus linguistics is characterized by the concept of “linguistic corpus”, which is provided by a search engine and consists of a set of specially selected texts marked by various linguistic parameters. This collection of texts includes metaphors and their analysis in different discourses.

When talking about the study of metaphors in corpus linguistics, it should not be forgotten that metaphors are widely encountered in this field recently. However, some obstacles appear in this area. There are several reasons for this. First of all, the history of research in this field is considered quite recent, starting in 1999. One of these reasons is the need to analyze metaphors using a traditional method, but the application of this method in Corpus Linguistics leads to a great loss of time. Various tools for metaphor search have been developed, but their lack of accessibility and sufficient functionality has prevented their application. [1, p. 469–515]

Corpus linguistics involves the analysis of electronic collections of natural language through specialized computer programs. However, corpus linguistics should be distinguished from computer linguistics, which is a branch of artificial intelligence and applied linguistics focused on the use of computer technologies by dealing with the description of natural languages using mathematical models. Despite all continuous efforts, fully automated analysis of metaphors used in natural language is still not considered a reliable method. In this case, we must rely on corpus-based research to help identify metaphors by conducting both quantitative and qualitative analysis. [2, p. 79–80]

Since corpus work is semi-automated, data, i.e. metaphors, may require annotation in a traditional way. Also, manual editing may be needed for the results that are ultimately obtained automatically. Under all these conditions, corpus-based metaphor analysis allows the researcher to learn:

1. Learning metaphors at the level of discourse;
2. To check the nature, importance, systematicity of concept metaphors;
3. To determine the textual characteristics of conceptual metaphors;
4. To determine the different functions of metaphorical expressions in different parts of the text;
5. To associate figurative expressions with grammatical examples in the text;
6. Investigate diachronic and cross-linguistic differences.

A number of corpora are used in the study of metaphors. In corpus linguistics, different corpora are used by metaphor researchers based on their research goals. Some studies have used large pre-existing corpora such as the Italian Reference Corpus of 15 million words (Deignan and Potter 2004), the UK National Corpus of 100 million words (Stefanovic 2006b), and the larger and growing Bank of England Corpus (Deignan, 2005). , uses general-purpose cases. [3, p. 2]

In contrast, a number of studies on metaphors are concerned with the forms of their use and their consequences in certain texts and text types. In the former case, corpus methods are applied to digitized versions of fully available texts such as the Holy Quran and Bible. (Charteris-Black (2004) or Sylvia Plath Smith). But when the main focus is on a certain genre, record, analysts study a certain subsection or build a new corpus. For example, Skorczinska and Deignan (2006) comparatively study the use of metaphors in specially created corpora of business research articles such as Management Science and The Economist. [3, p. 2–3]

In modern times, working with metaphors that create difficulties from the point of view of detection and analysis, in order to identify them, first of all, it is the right way to determine their figurative meanings in different dictionaries and the level of compatibility with corpus data. This makes it possible to determine the extent to which lexicographers pay attention to imagery.

Among the parameters analyzed in corpus linguistics are keywords that are over- or under-used in terms of statistical significance compared to the reference corpus. To date, most corpus-based metaphor studies have applied some kind of lexical approach. Sometimes corpus linguistics is used to find answers to relevant research questions. can have a purpose. Such corpora are then analyzed with external software packages such as Wordsmith Tools or AntConc.

The British National Corpus is one of the largest English-language corpora. This corpus was created with the participation of Oxford University and the British National Library. The dictionary includes 100 million words. 90 % of the corpus represents the written English language, including literary and document samples, newspaper and magazine materials, scientific works, school and university essays, etc. concentrates. The corpus also covers a variety of styles and is very rich in subject matter. [4, p. 17–19]

There are different ways of studying metaphors in corpus linguistics. For example, German linguist Anatol Stefanowitsch and David Gries, a computer science specialist, presented different approaches to defining metaphors in corpus linguistics. Based on this approach, Stefanovich divides search methods into the following groups:

1. Traditional search;
2. Source domain dictionary;
3. Target domain vocabulary;
4. Source and target domain vocabulary;
5. Metaphor markers;

6. Make extracts from the corpus to annotate in the field of semantics and concept mapping; [5, p. 2–6].

In modern times, the study of metaphors in Corpus Linguistics has an important character, and since it is a very broad topic, the study also requires detailed research and allows for effective results in the field of linguistics.

**Conclusion:** A comprehensive analysis of the corpus reveals a kaleidoscope of gender metaphors intricately woven into the fabric of American literary discourse. These wide-ranging metaphors provide a powerful means through which complex notions of gender identity and relationships are expressed and negotiated.

Gender metaphors abound in the natural world, using descriptions of natural phenomena to illuminate the intricacies of human gender dynamics. From the nurturing embrace of Mother Nature to the assertive power of the male wilderness, these metaphors evoke powerful associations that shape our understanding of gender roles and behavior.

Animals also act as powerful symbols in the construction of gender identity, with their metaphorical representations ranging from the gentle grace of femininity

to the fierce power of masculinity. Through these animal metaphors, the authors infuse vivid images into their narratives, inviting readers to explore the complexities of human nature and society. [2, p. 37–42]

In the depiction of gender, objects take on symbolic meaning, household items and artifacts imbued with layers of meaning and association. From the phallic symbolism of swords and spears to the nurturing connotations of domestic space, these object-oriented metaphors offer insight into how gender is constructed and enacted in literary texts.

Emotions provide another fertile ground for the study of gender metaphors, as feelings and affective states are often gendered and loaded with particular cultural meanings. From the stoic masculinity of steely determination to the nurturing femininity of tender empathy, these emotional metaphors reflect and reinforce societal expectations and norms related to gender expression and behavior.

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