

THE USE OF METAPHOR IN THE WORKS OF ANTON PAVLOVICH CHEKHOV

Here is the English translation:

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Abstract: This article examines the use of metaphor in the artistic world of A.P. Chekhov. It examines the characteristics of the writer's metaphorical language, its functions, and its influence on the revelation of the characters' psychological insights. Drawing on short stories and plays, the author demonstrates that Chekhov's metaphors are minimalist yet highly semantically dense, lending an emotional character to the work. Particular attention is paid to the role of metaphor in shaping the artistic space and revealing the characters' inner states. It is concluded that the laconic, implicit nature of Chekhov's metaphor defines the distinctiveness of his style.

Key words: Chekhov, metaphor, artistic image, poetics, style, psychologies.

The work of A.P. Chekhov occupies a special place in the history of Russian literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The writer's innovation is evident not only in his explorations of genre and unique composition, but also in the unique organization of his artistic language. One of the most significant expressive devices in Chekhov's poetics is metaphor, which, unlike traditional, expanded imagery, is distinguished by restraint, precision, and profound semantic richness. The relevance of this study stems from the enduring interest of modern philologists in the problems of imagery, subtext, and artistic detail in Chekhov's prose. In the works of A.P. Chekhov, metaphor is often hidden, dispersed within the narrative fabric. However, it is precisely this metaphor that shapes the text's polysemy and contributes to the creation of a unique psychological atmosphere. The purpose of this article is to identify the specific features of metaphor in the works of A.P. Chekhov and determine its role in revealing his artistic intent. In accordance with this goal, the following tasks are proposed: - to examine the theoretical understanding of metaphor in literary criticism; - to analyze the main types of metaphor in Chekhov's prose; - to determine the functions of metaphor within the system of his artistic world.

Chekhov's metaphors are not merely decorative, but serve as an important means of revealing the characters' inner worlds and expressing the author's position. Therefore, an analysis of the writer's metaphorical language seems essential for a deeper understanding of his artistic method. To achieve this goal, the following objectives were set: 1. to examine theoretical approaches to the study of metaphor; 2. to analyze the specific features of Chekhov's metaphor; 3. to identify the main types of metaphors in prose and drama; 4. to determine the role of metaphor in creating subtext. The theoretical foundations for studying metaphor in literature are traditionally defined as the transfer of meaning through similarity, allowing one phenomenon to be understood through another. According to Aristotle, metaphor is a crucial element of poetic language and a hallmark of artistic thinking [1]. A. A. Potebnya viewed metaphor as the basis for figurative cognition of reality, emphasizing its cognitive nature [2]. Yu. M. Lotman noted that metaphor expands the semantic space of a text and contributes to the formation of polysemy in

artistic meaning [3]. A.P. Chekhov's artistic style is characterized by laconism, precision, and a refusal to provide direct authorial commentary. The writer avoids detailed descriptions, preferring detail and allusion. Under these circumstances, metaphor becomes a key means of expressing subtext [4]. In modern literary studies, metaphor is interpreted as a universal mechanism of artistic thought, based on the transfer of meaning and the establishment of associative links between various phenomena of reality. According to researchers, metaphor not only embellishes speech but also serves as a way of conceptualizing the world, reflecting the author's individual perception of reality. Metaphor has come to encompass all human spheres, including science, culture, and everyday life. It has become a universal language tool. Its use is linked to a person's perception of the world, their understanding of the surrounding reality, and their inner world. Metaphor has emerged from key properties of various national language corpora. Metaphor is generally viewed as a means of transferring meaning, allowing for the expansion of the semantic potential of a text. In literary studies, metaphor serves several functions: figurative – creating a vivid artistic image; emotional and evaluative – conveying the feelings of the author or character; symbolic – reflecting hidden meanings and philosophical ideas; compositional – connecting individual elements of the text. In 19th-century Russian classical literature, metaphor often served an expressive and evaluative function, acquiring an expanded and vivid character. However, a different tendency is observed in Chekhov's work: the writer rejects the external effectiveness of imagery, striving for maximum simplicity and precision of expression. This determines the specificity of Chekhov's metaphor, which often approaches artistic detail and symbol. [5] Chekhov's metaphor, as a rule, is organically integrated into the fabric of the narrative and does not stand out stylistically, which enhances its impact on the reader. Metaphor in A.P. Chekhov's prose is associated with the conveyance of the psychological state of the characters. The images of a "darkened soul," a "cold heart," and "lost hopes" reflect the inner drama of the characters and emphasize the motif of loneliness and alienation [6]. Metaphors of time, presented as a destructive force: "life has passed me by," "years are gone," occupy a special place. These images shape a philosophical understanding of human existence. Metaphor in Anton Pavlovich Chekhov's drama is realized primarily through a system of images and motifs. For example, in the play "The Cherry Orchard," the image of a cherry orchard is the play's central metaphor, symbolizing a passing era and the loss of spiritual values [7]. Or, in the work "Three Sisters," the motif of Moscow serves as a metaphor for an unfulfilled dream and an unattainable ideal, defining the dramatic fate of the heroines [8]. A characteristic of Anton Pavlovich Chekhov's metaphorical thinking in his works is that metaphor is closely linked to his principle of objectively depicting reality. The author avoids direct judgment, giving the reader the opportunity to independently interpret events. In this context, metaphor becomes a means of hidden authorial commentary. A characteristic feature of Chekhov's metaphor is its everydayness and "invisibility." Images of nature, the world of objects, and everyday details acquire figurative meaning, reflecting the characters' inner states. Thus, descriptions of the weather, interior, or landscape often serve a psychological function, conveying the character's mood or the drama of the situation. In Chekhov's short stories and novellas, metaphor rarely exists in isolation. It is integrated into a system of other expressive devices—pauses, understatement, irony. The result is the effect of subtext, which is considered one of the most important features of Chekhov's poetics. Therefore, the functions of metaphor in A.P. Chekhov's works allow us to identify several main functions of metaphor: 1. Psychological function. Metaphor helps convey a character's inner state, their emotional experiences, and spiritual conflicts. 2. Compositional function. Repeating metaphorical images can unite various episodes of a work, creating the semantic integrity of the text. 3. Meaning-forming function. Metaphor forms a philosophical subtext, expressing the author's understanding of life, time, and

human existence. Through metaphorical imagery, Chekhov explores themes of loneliness, unfulfilled hopes, and spiritual emptiness, lending his works a universal resonance. Metaphor in the works of A.P. Chekhov is an important element of his artistic system. Distinguished by its laconicism and hidden expressiveness, it serves not so much a decorative function as a semantic and psychological one. Chekhov's metaphor blends seamlessly into the fabric of the narrative, forming a subtext and enhancing the philosophical depth of the works. Prospects for further study of this problem lie in a comparative analysis of Chekhov's metaphorical system and that of other writers of the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thus, metaphor occupies an important place in A.P. Chekhov's artistic world. It serves not as a textual embellishment, but as a tool for conveying complex psychological states and philosophical ideas. Chekhov's metaphors are laconic, precise, and often possess symbolic meaning, making them an integral part of Chekhov's subtle subtext. The analysis reveals that it is through metaphors that the author reveals the characters' internal conflicts and creates an atmosphere of "quiet drama" characteristic of his prose and drama. This analysis allows us to conclude that metaphor occupies an important place in A.P. Chekhov's poetics. It serves psychological, symbolic, and compositional functions, shaping the subtext and philosophical depth of his works. Metaphor is an integral element of Chekhov's artistic thinking and a crucial means of aesthetic impact on the reader.

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