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***CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR "LIFE IS A JOURNEY" IN A WORK OF  
FICTION***

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**Abstract**

This article is devoted to the study of the role of metaphor in the English language. The purpose of the work is to determine the structure of metaphors and determine the function of metaphor “Life is a Journey” in Child’s Story written by Charles Dickens. The relevance of this work is due to the ambiguity of the representation of metaphor as a linguistic unit. When used in speech, it carries a certain linguistic meaning. It is used in works of fiction to give the statement an emotional and expressive connotation. According to conceptual metaphors theory “Life is a Journey” is a classic example of a structural conceptual metaphor, where the structure of one phenomenon is conveyed through the structure of another.

**Keywords:** conceptual metaphor, target domain, source domain, sustained metaphor.

***КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНАЯ МЕТАФОРА «ЖИЗНЬ – ЭТО ПУТЕШЕСТВИЕ»  
В ХУДОЖЕСТВЕННОМ ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИИ***

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### **Аннотация.**

Данная статья посвящена исследованию роли метафоры в английском языке. Целью данной работы является определение структуры метафор и выявление функции метафоры «Life is a Journey» в «Рассказе ребенка» Чарльза Диккенса. Актуальность данной работы обусловлена неоднозначностью представления метафоры как языковой единицы. Используясь в речи, она несет в себе определенное языковое значение. В художественных произведениях она используется для придания высказыванию эмоционально-экспрессивного оттенка. Согласно теории концептуальных метафор, «Life is a Journey» это классический пример структурной концептуальной метафоры, в которой структура одного явления передается через структуру другого.

**Ключевые слова:** концептуальная метафора, сфера-цель, сфера-источник, устойчивая метафора.

Relevance. The study of the theory of conceptual metaphor, the classification and description of the functioning of metaphorical models actualized in different styles is one of the most promising trends in modern linguistics, as evidenced by the works of domestic and foreign researchers such as N. D. Arutyunova, A. N. Baranov, A. Vezhbitskaya, J. Lakoff, J. Johnson, V. P. Moskvina, A. P. Chudinov, V. N. Teliya. “We reason in terms of metaphor, the metaphors we use determine a great deal about how we live our lives” [3].

Methods of studying. According to N.A. Arutyunova, "metaphor serves as a tool of thinking, through which we manage to reach the most remote parts of our conceptual field" [1, 124].

A. N. Baranov and Y. A. Karaulov point out the difficulties both in determining the boundaries of the conceptual areas corresponding to the models, and in differentiating specific models [2, 15]. Studying the typical properties of metaphorical models, A. N. Baranov and Y. A. Karaulov note that such models can interact with each other [2, 5].

Cognitive linguistics analyzes metaphors from the point of view of special structure. Its purpose is to identify similar meanings that will complement the explicit meaning of metaphorical statements [1, 2].

The text under analysis is a short Christmas story written by Charles Dickens (1812 –1870), who is one of the greatest novelists and he is also known as one of the most authoritative writers of the 19th century. He became famous after the publication of his first novel “Pickwick Papers”, which made him a belter. His style of writing is unique, because it combines specific word choice, figurative language and particular sentence structure, which makes his style of speech distinctive from all others. Many of his works relate to his private life, especially to his family and friends, that is why almost all his novels and stories are semiautobiographical. Therefore, Child’s Story is not an exception. This story was devoted to his grandfather.

Child’s Story is about our life and what path we must go through. The main character travels through various phases of life, starting with childhood, adolescence, adulthood and then finishing with the sunset of life. On his journey, he meets a child, a young man, then middle-aged and finally an old man and the traveler asks them all the same question: What do you do here? Everyone who the character meets encourage him to do what they do daily. But suddenly the strangers disappear. It's a sign for the main character to move on.

The main message of the story, which Charles Dickens implies, is that life is a journey. It is a trite metaphor, but, nevertheless, it is still very accurate. Consequently, we can say that the whole story is a sustained metaphor.

In this case, people mean a conceptual metaphor. According to cognitive theory, a metaphor is a way of representing an abstract concept through another, which is more familiar to the recipient's perception. Thereby the metaphorical transfer of meaning from one object to another is carried out. Therefore, the analysis of a conceptual metaphor is based on clarifying the relationship between two comparable concepts. Different researchers have defined the components of this analysis in their own way, but they all distinguish the target domain and the source domain [4].

Several important concepts for humans are based on journey as a source area. Researchers unanimously present the metaphorical concept of journey as a conceptual metaphor or some form of expression of feelings. The reason is the spatial nature of the metaphor, movement along a certain path, along a certain road, which serves as the basis for ruminating over other metaphorical concepts [4].

This type of metaphor is the basis of the entire Christmas story written by Charles Dickens. Child's Story is a conceptual metaphor, which we can describe like life is a journey, which was to seem very long when he began it, and very short when he got halfway through. It consists of other metaphorical statements, which describe the author's idea to the reader.

Life's journey is presented as a path which a person follows throughout his existence. This road is never simple because it has many challenges and changes. The author tells the reader about it at the very beginning of his story in order to show that great ordeals await us even at the start of our life: He travelled along a rather dark path for some little time, without meeting anything.

The traveler lost everyone whom he met, but he always went back to his journey, because that is life and he must walk it through: So, he went upon his road; ... after calling to him in vain, went on upon his journey; ... which they never did, went on upon his journey.

But the path changes throughout the traveler's journey due to the different stages of life. It happened when he met the middle-aged gentleman, who symbolizes the period of adulthood, where we face various obstacles and must take responsibility for our own actions and statements. All these features are shown with the help of description of the road: The whole journey was through a wood, and now began to be thick and dark...

Finally, the thorny road leads the reader to the old man sitting on a fallen tree, who is looking at the setting sun. This old man and the sunset symbolize the end of our life path. At the end of our existence, we analyze everything that happened to us, including our good and bad decisions, thoughts and wishes. The person evaluates what he was able to do and what he did not have time to do.

The conceptual metaphor "life is a journey" is also conveyed through descriptions of nature that surround the life path during a certain period of our existence. When the traveler meets the beautiful child, who embodies a person's childhood, the nature around them is magical like in a fairy tale: The sky was so blue, the sun was so bright, the water was so sparkling, the leaves were so green, the flowers were so lovely, and they heard such singing-birds and saw so many butterflies, that everything was beautiful. With the help of these descriptions, the author explains to the reader that during the period of childhood we live without worries, see only the good in everything and rejoice in the little things that are around us. Childhood helps us to forget bad things quickly, forgive grievances and live happily, enjoying every moment of our life.

After some time, the traveler meets the middle-aged man, who is the embodiment of the adulthood. They started to walk through the wood: So, he began to be very busy with that gentleman, and they went on through the wood together. The whole journey was through a wood, only it had been open and green at first, like a wood in spring; and now began to be thick and dark, like a wood in summer; some of the little trees that had come out earliest, were even turning brown. Perhaps the forest represents one of the most difficult stages in our lives. During the period of adulthood, [www.dnevniknauki.ru](http://www.dnevniknauki.ru) | СМИ Эл № ФС 77-68405 ISSN 2541-8327

we start a family, make plans and try to improve ourselves. The person analyzes his actions and tries to understand what the meaning of life is. Everything is given to a person with great difficulty, because nothing in our life is given for free. People make great efforts to achieve something, and the author conveys this idea through the work of the family of the middle-aged man with whom the traveler shares his hard work: So, they all went on together through the wood, cutting down the trees, and making a path through the branches and the fallen leaves, and carrying burdens...

Conclusion. Child's Story is Charles Dickens's parting words to all people. He conveys our whole life through imagery and personifications, which together constitute a conceptual metaphor "life is a journey". This sustained metaphor is a parable that teaches us to love life, accept it for what it is and appreciate every moment that happens to us. In terms of the typology of conceptual metaphors, Life is a Journey is a classic example of a structural conceptual metaphor (when the structure of one phenomenon is conveyed through the structure of another). This metaphor breaks down into a number of smaller figurative representations, corresponding to certain aspects of understanding life that exist in the culture and are reflected in the naive picture of the world.

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