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**GENDER SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE ENGLISH COMPARATIVE WORLD VIEW**

**(ON THE BASIS OF THE 21ST CENTURY FICTIONAL DISCOURSE)**

One of the aims of literary text is to say as much as possible as briefly as possible, means to say more in few words to achieve a maximum effectiveness. In this case, figures of speech, specifically metaphor and simile have an important role, as they include figurative meaning of words besides their literary meaning. Figures of speech are imaginative tools in both literature and ordinary communications used for explaining speech beyond its usual usage. The Collins English Dictionary (2006) defined figure of speech as "an expression such as a simile, in which words do not have their literal meaning, but are categorized as multi-word expressions that act in the text as units" [1, p. 3].

The language that uses figures of speech is called 'figurative language' and "its purpose is to serve three elements of clarity, forth and beauty in the language" [6, p. 100]. However, as any figure of speech has a figurative meaning, it may cause ambiguity which influences the clarity.

The word simile is derived from the Latin word ‘Simile’, meaning ‘resemblance and likenesses’, technically it means the comparison of two objects with some similarities. Shamisa (1383) has said simile is the claim of likeness of two things in one or two attributes "Simile is fundamentally a figure of speech requiring overt reference to source and target entities, and an explicit construction connecting them" [4, p. 40].

In English, for this comparison some similarity markers such as, "like", "as".

Here are some examples from research corpuses of ‘male’ and ‘female’ texts.

Female texts contain such comparisons with markers "like" and "as":

*Under my restraining hand Emerson's arm was hard as granite.*

*"Get me a horse," said Emerson, as single-minded as Richard III.*

*Her eyes were open, blue as cornflowers and limpid with relief.*

*Fortunately there was another scapegoat close at hand. Sethos was still on his knees, motionless as a statue.*

*"If anything—anything at all!—happens to Ramses tonight," she said in a voice as sweet as a chime of golden bells.*

*Week after Clyde left you, I heard that Cocoa wake up to her cootchie spoilt like a rotten oyster.*

*I didn't raise you to talk like a mule.*

*I'm not working four months like an escaped criminal.*

*Lights get cut off, stick a wick in it and burn it like a candle.*

*The day your child says she hates you, and every child will go through the phase, it kicks like a foot in the stomach.*

Meanwhile male texts contain such comparisons with markers "like" and "as":

*The atmosphere was Like a Turkish bath without the heat.*

*Egyptian sheets smelled Like hedges, the pillows Like water fowl.*

*Gus’s tracheotomy made his voice sound even more Like the voice of death.*

*Each night, the sinking sun, like a ring on a window shade, pulled night down over the neighborhood.*

*Carrying my mask, I climbed out of the green bowl of the hockey field, which was like an outdoor theater.*

*To tamper with something as mysterious and miraculous as the birth of a child was an act of hubris.*

*Eyes as big and sad as the eyes in a Keane painting.*

*An eye as big as the Christ Pantocrator’s at church, it was better than any mosaic.*

*We were as close as dancing.*

*His lips are as white as his frozen skin.*

But it should be noted that although very common, similes are not always formed by “like” or “as”. This is because, there are some similes which are made with “as though” and “as if”. For instance:

*As she put it on, Desdemona felt as though she were spinning her own cocoon, awaiting metamorphosis. (J. E.)*

*Desdemona lay smiling, as though tickled by her first week’s pay hidden under the mattress. (J. E.)*

*He took off his boots to feel the sand against his feet, as if the world were a place he was only beginning to live in instead of somewhere he would soon be leaving. (J. E.)*

*Slowly, as if lifted on a magic carpet, the four of us rose to the upper reaches of the car’s interior. (J. E.)*

There are some similes which have another structure. Here are a few of the possibilities:

X is more/less than у; X is similar to у; X is the same as у; X resembles у; X is y-like/looking; X is not like у; as if X were у; as though X were у; X is у like z; X has a quality of у; X is as y as z; X is less у than z; X does y: so does z; X is more у than z.

According to Fromilhague (1995), Similes has various functions: First, they serve to communicate concisely and efficiently: They are one of a set of linguistic devices which extend the linguistic resources available. Secondly, they can function as cognitive tools for thought in that they enable us to think of the world in novel, alternative ways. In discourse, they can also fulfill more specific functions depending on the textual genre in which they occur. In scientific texts, comparison and analogical reasoning play an important role [3, p. 88-94). Simile also differs from analogy, intended in its narrower sense, as former involves two entities, while the latter involves four. Unlike metaphors, similes require individuation of both source and target concepts, and an evaluation of what they have in common, but unlike literal comparisons, they are figurative, comparing things normally felt to be incomparable, typically using vivid or startling images to suggest unexpected connections between source and target.

In similes an object in one class is said to be like an object in another class. This juxtaposed comparison is explicitly indicated by the conjunctions such as “like” or “as”, which establishes the direct relation between the objects. The literal object which evokes the comparison is called the **tenor** and the object which describes it is called the **vehicle**.

Similes have different types and classifications, too. Bredin (1998) remarked about a scale going from the most stereotyped to the most creative similes. At one extreme are situated the conventionalized and fixed similes, and at the other extreme are the creative similes. Between the two extremes, standard (ordinary) and original (fresh, but not totally unexpected) similes can be settled.[2, p. 68] Ortony (1993) offered a semantic distinction between literal and non-literal similes. In non-literal similes, topic and vehicle are not symmetrical and the similarity markers can be dropped, but in literal similes, the terms can be reversed and the similarity markers can not be dropped. [5] Another classification by Fromilhague (1995) has offered a distinction between objective similes, originating from concrete physical experience, and subjective similes, stemming from individual association mechanisms. He also explains explicit and implicit similes which are the basis of this article. In explicit simile, sense or point of similarity is stated directly. [3] Most of the sentences with 'as…as' structures are of this kind:

*as gunless as a newborn babe, As delicate as a raven’s feather, as striking and humble as the war hero, as rough as a holystone, as dark as a working Welsh mine, as large as the locomotive engine, as large as a hansom cab, as inaccessible as the Mountains of the Moon.*

Implicit simile, however, is the one whose sense is not stated directly and leave the onus of interpretation to the reader. Most words with 'like' are of this types:

*to roar like a lion, to wriggle nose like a rabbit, to whirl like a propeller, burn like a candle.*

The importance of the research on comparative world view in English language can not be underestimated. Theoretical value of the research lies in the presented definitions of similes, determined types of similes and their functions.

In addition to the theoretical importance, this work is of a significant practical value. It will improve greatly the quality of stylisticanalysis for Ukrainian language.

**References:**

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