

## BASIC METAPHORICAL MODELS OF THE SOURCE DOMAIN LAW IN THE AMERICAN PAROEMIC DISCOURSE

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### Abstract

The present paper deals with the description of basic metaphorical models in American paroemic discourse. The metaphor creates a specific national paroemic picture of the world which can be presented as an "integrated communicative and cognitive space". Ontological, orientational and structural metaphors of different types have been observed in the research. The objective of the article is to analyze the verbalization of the conceptual sphere *law* in the American paroemic view of the world. The verbalization of the conceptual sphere *law* is analyzed with the help of a systemic approach. In the research, both linguistic and cognitive methods were used. The analysis of the frame structure of metaphorical models allows revealing characteristic frames and slots typical of each model in order to find out specific features of the world conceptualization by the American people and its system of values.

**Keywords:** American paroemic discourse, metaphorical model, conceptual sphere *law*, frame, slot.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The description of specific metaphorical models is one of the perspective trends in modern cognitive linguistics. The man prefigures the model of situation and specific fragment of the world in his consciousness with the help of the language and the metaphor. The metaphor, being a phenomenon both linguistic and cognitive, helps him to create a new way of representing an object. Paroemic discourse reflects a national linguistic picture of the world accumulating the way each people cognizes the world, recognizes, understands it and fixes it in its individuals' consciousness. This is how a specific national paroemic picture of the world is formed and which can be interpreted as an integrated communicative and cognitive space possessing specific features (Mishankina, 2009, p. 41).

The analysis of metaphorical models frame structure allows observing characteristic frames and slots typical of each model and comparing them with the purpose of finding out universal and specific features of the world conceptualization by peoples, their system of values in such fragment of reality as conceptual domain *law*.

To recognize and understand a language picture of the world and build its conceptual system, to study the source domain *law* a thorough review is essential. Today, Russian society is facing a complex of political, economic, social and cultural events affecting Russian mentality. A conceptual sphere *law* is one of the central source domains since it is a part of many aspects of human being: from the development of value system to building a civil society.

The relevance of research is determined by several factors. Firstly, to represent a conceptual sphere *law* it is necessary to investigate metaphorical models in various types of discourse, in this article – paroemic. Secondly, metaphorical models have become the subject of growing scientific interest in many fields. The recent research has revealed that metaphors are frequently used in the paroemic discourse and, finally, this conceptual sphere is of great significance for the society.

The cognitive approach to the paroemic discourse connected with the sphere of law in American English has not been sufficiently advanced yet. This paper analyses paroemae to represent the frame structure of the conceptual sphere *law* and find out unique, specific features of the American world conceptualization. It has been observed that the number of proverbs containing metaphors is not equally presented in the language.

## **2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH**

The objective of the research is to select, analyse and classify metaphorical models (ontological, orientational and structural) in the American paroemic discourse. To achieve this goal it is necessary to consider the metaphor and the metaphorical model as an inseparable part of the paroemic discourse, determine the degree of metaphorisation, describe the types of metaphorical models in the American paroemic discourse and find out basic frames and slots realizing the source domain.

## **3. METHODS OF STUDY**

The paroemic discourse is created by a specific social medium; it is characterized by its peculiar features and possesses marks of its national character.

The study of a figurative nature of paroemae as a culturally significant component leads to finding culturally significant information by the idiomatic base of their inner form and their associative perception. The anthropocentric approach views paroemiology as a semantic system basic characteristics of which are in correlation with an individual. In the framework of the anthropocentric approach the study of paroemiological units may be viewed as a valuable source to study consciousness, national identity, cultural authenticity and as the process of specification and conceptualization people's experience. The principles of objectivity, systemic and complex approaches to study basic metaphorical models and correlation between them are the main methodological principles of the research. Descriptive method and method of conceptual analysis have been used in the investigation of metaphorical models.

## **4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Modern cognitive linguistics reviews the conceptual metaphor as one of the means of cognition, the way we perceive the reality.

Russian researchers N.D. Arutyunova, A.N. Baranov, Yu.N. Karaulov, E.S. Kubryakova and V.A. Maslova developed the discursive approach to study language material. Different aspects of the discursive analysis were covered in the works by N.V. Gorokhova, V.Z. Demyankov, V.I. Karasik and E.V. Chernyavskaya. Various types of metaphors and metaphorical models were investigated in great depth by A.N. Baranov, T.N. Vershinina, E.B. Kagan, Yu.N. Karaulov, O.N. Kondrashova, N.A. Mishankina, E.K. Mokhova, A.D. Plisetskaya, Z.I. Rezanova, N.M. Chudakova, A.P. Chudinov and E.I. Sheigal.

G. Lakoff and M. Jonson, E. Cassirer made an important contribution to metaphor study, developing the theory of metaphor and metaphoric modeling. Some aspects of cognitive linguistics are embodied in the research done by W. Croft, D.A. Krauss, Ch. Fillmore and other scholars.

As for Mari linguistics, L.A. Abukaeva, N.N. Glukhova and R.A. Kudryavtseva paid attention to the study of Finno-Ugric paroemiological fund. A comparative analysis of metaphorical models in Mari and Finnish paroemae was performed by S.L. Yakovleva and G.N. Kazyro (Yakovleva and Kazyro, 2014, pp. 649-652), Mari and Finnish proverbs – by S.L. Yakovleva, T.A. Soldatkina et al (Yakovleva and Soldatkina et al, 2015, pp. 21-23), Mari and American paroemae – by S.L. Yakovleva and G.N. Kazyro (Yakovleva and Kazyro, 2017, pp. 63-71). But the research on the conceptual sphere *law* in the American paroemic picture of the world has not been done yet.

## 5. DISCUSSION

To build a holistic system of any phenomenon we should describe a definite model of the world which will answer different aspects of cognition. The word *model* is of Latin origin (*modulus*) and has the meaning of abstract representation of the reality in one of its forms. It serves to present definite aspects of this reality and reflects a set of characteristics of real objects. The term *model* appeared at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in mathematics and later came into use in the Humanities. In cognitive linguistics, a model is connected with a mental sphere of human activity, his psychic and cognitive activity.

The man lives in the world of concepts created by him to realize his intellectual, spiritual and social needs. Some situations and fragments of the world are mainly modeled by the means of language both in the consciousness of an individual and of the ethnos which is caused by people's communicative needs.

To create a new way of representation metaphors can be used. Metaphor study is one of the important trends in cognitive linguistics as it is of great significance for understanding human nature. The metaphor as a phenomenon which reflects the process of the world cognition is the basis of the theory of conceptual metaphor. The metaphor in cognitive linguistics is understood as a cognitive and psychic phenomenon. It helps, by analogy, to reconsider objects and features on the basis of our knowledge about other objects and features and so that it represents a basic mental model.

The study of law governing metaphorical models structure gives an opportunity to find the correlation between the original concepts previously reflected in human consciousness and classify previous experience. With the help of metaphorical models we can reveal peculiarities in human cognition of the world and specific features of the national picture of the world. Hence it follows that metaphorical models kept in human consciousness represent schemes with the help of which people think and act.

The metaphor combines two cognitive domains: source (original) and target (new) which can be also known as mental source domain/area, original area and magnet domain. The metaphorical model is represented as a scheme A is B. For example, metaphorical model WEALTH IS THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT is represented in the American proverb *The rich ride in chaises...* It should be noted that in metaphorical models all the components are built on analogy but not on a direct identity.

According to A. P. Chudinov, 'metaphorical modeling is the means of national, social and personal identity reflecting reality fragments categorization, presentation, and evaluation by means of scripts, frames and slots relevant to a completely different conceptual domain' [Chudinov, 2001, p. 48].

Typical for this model scenarios are singled out in case of metaphorical modeling in addition to source and target conceptual domains. Scripts represent a sequence of actions inherent to a 'source sphere' and frames suitable for this model.

Ch. Fillmore was the first to introduce the term 'frame' in linguistics that was regarded as "the cognitive structures (or "frames") knowledge of which is presupposed for the concepts encoded by the words' (Fillmore, 1988, p. 75). According to E. S. Kubryakova, frames are basic elements of metaphorical model construction; they consist of slots, perform certain functions and 'organize our perception of the world as a whole'. Model slots that compose every frame are 'the situation elements, which include some part of the frame and some aspect of its specification (Kubryakova, 1997, p. 188). The source area is structured using the source domain. Thus, the cognitive metaphor resource is revealed.

Metaphorical models of the conceptual source domain *law* in the American paroemic discourse are the object of this research. Basic models and frames of the conceptual source domain *law* refer to the subject of research.

While analyzing American paroemic discourse several basic models of the original conceptual domain *law* have been observed.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS ACTIVITY

The source domain of this metaphorical model in its frame structure is construction, creation and their opposite phenomenon – destruction, i.e. construction and deconstruction: *Laws are made to be broken*. In American paroemic discourse, the legislative process dichotomy is manifested in the contradictions between creation and destruction. The construction and destruction antagonistic unity is also presented in the proverb *Lawmakers should not be lawbreakers*.

The reader can observe gradation of the numerals that are stylistically used as intensifiers in another proverb: *There are nine ways to make a law, ten ways to break a law, and eleven ways to live within the law*.

This gradual numerals transition from one activity to another symbolizes increasing variants of solutions which gives people more opportunities to make their choice in favour of an honest life.

The naturomorphic metaphor of personification can be found in the proverb *Laws catch flies and hornets go free*. The frame structure of the metaphorical model is represented by catching insects that comprises slots wherein the words represent two species of insects. It is interesting to note that there is an equivalent saying in the Russian paroemic discourse: *The law is like a web: a bumblebee vanishes and a fly gets stuck*.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS PROCESS

Being temporal categories, the beginning and the end represent the frame structure of this metaphorical model and serve as a source for other abstract concepts of law. When something, namely, the law lasts, it has its origins, past and present but it may lose the future. Thus, a new sometimes quite opposite phenomenon appears. The confirmation to it in the American paroemic discourse is the following: *Where law ends, tyranny begins*. A legal system is replaced by the sole form of monarch governance who acts in his own interests.

The frame structure of the beginning and the end is also reflected in the proverb *Laws are silent when wars are waging*. American people's archaic consciousness treats law metaphorically, creating images connected with human body and with its senses. The ontological metaphor of personification is the basis of the frame structure containing a slot 'lack of speech'.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS SPACE

The law which regulates legal relations in society is presented in the form of a certain medial line in the frame structure of this type. This line serves as a public space diameter, where nobody can be superior or inferior which ensures equality and justice in society: *No man is above the law, no man is below it*. We see that in American paroemic discourse life as a kind of dual system is split vertically from the top to the bottom. To provide equal rights and justice in the court is the main function of the law.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS COST

In the American paroemic discourse, law has its value expressed in monetary terms. The model is represented by the frame 'price' which includes the slots 'pound' and 'pence': *A pennyweight of love is worth a pound of law*. According to the American archaic consciousness, law is opposed to love which turns out to be more valuable. This ontological metaphor represents an abstract concept *law* as a material form of money.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS a PART of TRANSPORT

The current domain is connected with the wagon that is a typical transport for the farm. It is a frame of the model and it is revealed through the use of an axle put on the wheel as its constituent parts: *The law is like an axle: you can turn it whichever way you please if you give it plenty of grease*. Like in the previous example, this proverb contains an ontological metaphor where an abstract concept is regarded through the use of a metal rod as a real object.

Metaphorical model: LAW IS THE MAN HIMSELF

Metaphorical picture of the world is anthropocentric. The sub-sphere *man* in the American paroemic discourse serves as a proof: *He who is a law to himself, no law does need*. The person appears here as a moral individual, as the creator of the internal laws under which the need for the external ones disappears.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Law is an integral part of human life and its perception and evaluation are reflected in people's speech through communication process. The metaphor is one of the strongest means of expression in the paroemic discourse. The study of conceptual metaphors as a method of cognition the reality within the framework of cognitive linguistics is typical for current trends in linguistics.

Researchers study human behaviour and modes of image transmission in the language. The metaphor allows us to explore the similarities and differences between different reality phenomena. It reflects the process of world understanding, its cognition. A metaphorical model is a kind of scheme, a proportional relationship between the source and target domains. The analysis of the metaphorical models representing the source domain *law* in the American paroemic discourse made it possible to observe the following basic models: LAW IS ACTIVITY / PROCESS / SPACE / COST / PART of TRANSPORT / the MAN HIMSELF.

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