

PECULIARITIES OF METAPHORS IN NOVELS

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ABSTRACT

This article considers meaning and the characters of metaphor in writing like novels and stories. Its specific features are given. It also discusses the purpose of metaphors and its important role in writing.

Key words: characters, effect, literally device, allegory.

Metaphor is a common literary device that allows a writer to create a comparison between two unlike objects, ideas or situations by activating preexisting knowledge and describing one as actually being the other. Metaphors are used in poetry, fiction and nonfiction alike. They can be used to make a simple point -- "My father was boiling mad,"-- or drawn out into an extended form, also known as allegory.

Metaphor, which allows writers to convey vivid imagery that transcends literal meanings, creates images that are easier to understand and respond to than literal language. Metaphorical language activates the imagination, and the writer is more able to convey emotions and impressions through metaphor.

We can see the characters of metaphors below.

Here are the basics:

A metaphor states that one thing is another thing.

It equates those two things not because they actually are the same, but for the sake of comparison or symbolism.

If you take a metaphor literally, it will probably sound very strange.

Furthermore, metaphors effect readers in writing like novels, stories and fairy tales. One effect of metaphors on the reader is that it creates connection and empathy because they deliver more than literal significance and let understand something at a deeper level than any literal description.

They provide new insight and can even change the way we think. Metaphors are more than devices; they're central to how we understand the world. They don't belong solely to language, but help us to reason and understand what's around us.

We can also discuss the effect of a metaphor. The Metaphor Effect is the way in which we tend to understand and remember more easily such metaphorical language as it activates our imagination. Metaphors engage the right hemisphere of the brain, which controls our mental imagery.

While the most common metaphors use the structure “X is Y,” the term “metaphor” itself is broad and can sometimes be used to include other literary terms, like similes.

One of the most famous examples of metaphor in the English language comes from William Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*. In it, the playwright writes:

All the world’s a stage, And all the men and women merely players.

Shakespeare is comparing the world to a stage by saying one is the other. However, he doesn’t believe the world is a literal stage; the comparison is rhetorical. By comparing the world to a stage, and the people in the world as players on it, he is inviting us to think about the similarities between the two, and by extension, the meaning of human nature and our place in the world.

Purposes of Metaphor in Writing

At their most basic, metaphors are used to make a direct comparison between two different things, in order to ascribe a particular quality to the first. But beyond simple comparison, metaphors have two clear purposes that will strengthen your writing:

1. To paint a picture—fast. Sometimes, what you need the reader to understand can't be described in a few sentences—you just need to show them what you mean. In such instances, a metaphor works best. For example, you might want to show why your main character is frustrated with his wife. Instead of spending time describing her tedious behavior, you can have your character compare her to the lights in their apartment—easily switched on and off.

2. To infuse some uncertainty into a situation. As much as a metaphor can help illuminate a thought or scene, it can also help to give it a touch of mystery. For example, if you'd like to hint to the reader that there's something ominous about a location, you could use a metaphor: “The forest at night was beautiful. The trees were black knife-slices, the moon a bone rising in the sky.”

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