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Empathetic Senses of Transferred Epithet in English & Other Literary Forms

Dr. Bind Kumar[1]
[1]Assistant Professor Sanskrit Department, Govt. Degree College, Jahangirabad, Bulandshahr, U.P.

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Abstract

This Research paper analyzes transferred epithet which is recognized as a figure of speech that is frequently used, in literary works. Though transferred epithet seems to deviate from logic and displays a meaning of poetic sense that it can polish expressions if known and used efficiently. In this paper the characteristics and translation strategies of epithet are studied. Which are based on the related theories of semantics and translatology and phonology.

Keywords: transferred epithet; structural characteristics; semantic characteristics translation strategies, deviation and poetic sense.

Introduction

In the introduction of various figures of speech which are usually employed both in literary works and in daily practices in life. Every figure of speech has its typical and technical forms and characteristics. The empathetic and transferred epithet is not an exception of this and many more and researches have been done on them. With help of the knowledge of these figures of speech, we are able to appreciate and analyze many literary works as well as to improve our abilities of reading, writing, translation, and speaking for the betterment of knowledge construction. The empathy of transferred epithet, also called hypallage, is an unconventional most expected collocation. Transferred epithet bears the features of vividness and brevity. It has been studied by rhetoricians, linguists, and psychologists and literary thinkers from many aspects. Most researches are about the pragmatic features, cognitive foundation, the function, and translation of it.

The Definition of Transferred Epithet:

As an effective figure of speech, English transferred epithet has drawn such much attention from rhetoricians, linguists, psychologists, and other literary scholars that they devoted themselves to make research on it, so a considerable number of scholars have had a different definition of transferred epithet.

Epithet is an adjective which modifies to such a noun which does not actually exists at that time in any sentence. As an instance it can be seen: Her beauty's face it another forms her face's beauty. Other sleepless night it another form Man's night is sleepless. Here one can analyzes her face is beautifies neither beauty in the same way man is sleepless not night. So, these are the best examples of transferred epithets which is also recognized as empathetic form of thinking.

In Manual of English Grammar and Composition (1964) Nesfield and Wood defines transferred epithet in this way, "when two impressions are associated together in the mind, an epithet that properly belongs to one only is transferred to the other. One of the commonest, though not the only, application of this figure is when some personal quality is transferred to something inanimate". In A Dictionary of Literary Terms, hypallage, also named transferred epithet, is defined as "a figure of speech in which the epithet is transferred from the appropriate noun to modify another which it doesn't really belong to" (Cuddon, 1979). Lanham (1991) explains in A Handbook of Rhetorical Terms that "transferred epithet is a change in the relation of words by which a word, instead of agreeing with the case it logically qualifies, is made grammatically with another case". Huang (1996) defined transferred epithet that an adjective is used to modify a noun grammatically

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but not logically. However, the relationship between the adjective and the noun is close in a certain context so that it can be understood by people. It was also defined as "a figure of speech in which the transferred epithet is transferred from the appropriate noun to modify another to which it does not really belong" (Li, 2001). Halliday, a system-functional linguist, defines epithet: "The epithet indicates some quality of the subject, eg. old, long, blue, fast. This may be an objective property of the thing itself; or it may be an expression of the speaker's attitude toward it, such as splendid, silly, fantastic."

Though the definitions and uses of transferred epithet are different, kinds but the nature of them is remain the same. First of all, the transferred epithet is a figure of speech. Secondly, this language phenomenon must consist of two parts: the transferred part and the center part. Finally, one can say the modifying part and the modified part are in accordance with grammar principles, but it seems to violate logicality.

Pragmatic Research on Transferred Epithet:

Many traditional rhetorical researches which mainly focused on the expressive effects of rhetorical devices were that is deviant also not profound. Linguists consider that traditional rhetorical studies are just attempting to collect all kinds of real entities, namely, examples. Since the beginning of the 20th century, rhetorical research has been developing in different aspects and great results have been achieved. Meanwhile, many scholars have paid a lot of attention to it. One of the most significant purposes of the pragmatic study of it is to research the application of specific expressions in a certain context to find out how people produce and express utterances in various circumstances. Some oral expression featured by transferred epithet in daily life is conventional and automatic so that its aesthetic value can seldom be sensed. With the guidance of pragmatic theories, expression developed to automatization from deviation, and the transferred epithet is not an exception. The transferred epithet is usually generated in a certain context rather than at random. It is wildly acknowledged that the usage of most rhetoric aims to achieve an expressive effect, such as vividness, novelty, humor and so on. Only with a certain context, all these can be judged properly. The main cause of generating and understanding transferred epithet is that it conforms to the context. For instance, "as if to emphasize the difficulties that any prevention program has to face, you had had only to walk through any exit to find little groups enjoying a quiet cigarette".In this sentence, a quiet cigarette is transferred epithet. According to the source text (ST), smoking is banned and there is a prevention program of smoking, so smokers furtively smoke. Quiet is transferred to modify a cigarette. Readers can understand how smokers smoked in the context. This expression fits the maxims of the cooperative principle and the context.

The Basic and Structural Characteristics of Transferred Epithet:

As all know, it is easy to understand regular collections of words, at least for the native speakers. The regular collection means that the relationships between the words which are formed together as collections are in line with the disciplines of grammatical structure and logic. For the example, in a sentence, every word plays a role or part, and while it collects in other words, it would be restricted by its part of speech. Nevertheless, poetic language is different. It is language of emotional feeling In many cases, people would violate the regularities to form irregular collocations. In this way, the irregular collocations would create the magic effect of aesthetics. The transferred epithet is a typical example of irregular collocations as well as of the preference of poetic language, which is usually used from Francis Bacon to T. S. Eliot. Why is it preferred by the masters of literature? As far as I am concerned, it's undoubted that the transferred epithet makes works attractive because of its characteristics.

In the history of living language, means the language which intact to the people must conform to certain order and structure, and so does transferred epithet, whose structures can be found in line with some principles.

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There are certain structures of transferred epithet after plenty of related materials are read and analyzed. 1)"adjective + central word (a noun)" For example, "he behaved with guilty caution and rather enjoyed stealing a march on Doctor Ed".2)"present participle + central word (a noun)" For instance, "all the time the creeping fear that he would never come back to her grew strong within her". 3)"past participle + central word (a noun)" For example, "his recent kindness was winning a surprised gratitude from the lonely girl". 4)"central word (a noun) + of + modifier (a noun)" For instance, "grapes of wrath".5)"central word (a noun) + adjective (compliment)" For example, "Bells made the trembling air Catholic".

The Semantic Characteristics of Transferred Epithet:

In the format of normative language expression, sentence structures are certain. All readers usually can read through text easily and understand the information that the text contains quickly. But transferred epithet, as a figure of speech, is not normative language expression, which can bring a feeling of novelty and beauty. Actually, this effect of language is decided by the semantic characteristics of transferred epithet. Compared with regular language forms, transferred epithet— "a language error"—has its own unique characteristics.

The Beauty of Color in Transferred Epithet:

The color words are often employed in the transferred epithet, and they bring special feelings of beauty because the modified part is permeated with powerful emotion that colors contribute to enhance. Sometimes being imaginative and sensitive is necessary for the process of understanding the collocations featured by transferred epithet as color words, the transferred part, usually does not have a direct connection with the central part of emotional expression. For instance, "gray peace pervaded the wilderness-ringed Argentia Bay in Newfound-land, where the American ships anchored to await the arrival of Winston Churchill" (Hernan Wouk: The Winds of War). As we know, peace cannot be modified by color words under a general condition because it is an abstract word without the feature of color. But it can be accepted that gray is used to modify

The Beauty and Importance of Novelty in Transferred Epithet:

Transferred epithet brings the beauty and importance of novelty to text, which bases on non- continuity of time and space. The famous modern Western linguist Roman Jakobson holds the idea that poetic language is the product of the counterforce exerted by people to the regular language. It is counterforce from portrait and deliberation, reversal, and distortion of language that makes it "unfamiliar". Here is an example, "I enjoy the clean voluptuousness of the warm breeze on my skin and the cool support of the water" (V. Sackville, West: No Signposts in the Sea). At first sight, this sentence presents the beauty of novelty before people. "Clean" and "cool" should modify "breeze" and "water" respectively, but they are employed to modify "voluptuousness" which the elegant and cursive expression of the charming people, that engages to enlighten and "support" respectively, which breaks the regulation of grammar. This sentence conveys the information of comfort and brings the beauty of novelty to readers and Sahṛday.

Conclusion:

Finally, after the discussion of above analysis, it is concluded that the transferred epithet is a figure of speech in which the epithet is transferred from the appropriate noun to modify another to which it doesn't really belong. It seems superficially illogical but grammatical. Indeed, there exist underlying logical relationships between transferred modifiers and central words. It is the premise and foundation to tell apart transferred epithet from other figures of speech and to comprehend it clearly. Peace here because the solemnity of gray is transferred to peace. Here, we can say the poetic beauty benefits from the beauty of color. It the discussion of poetic expression through the color that here imported gray is a form transferred epithet that convey the message of intelligence which are connected the heart vessels.

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