



Analysis of Nominal and Verbal Metaphors in Robert Frost's Selected Poems; A Corpus-Based Study

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Abstract

The intent of this investigation was scrutiny of the Nominal and Verbal metaphors used in Robert Frost's selected poems. It emphasized on the identification and evaluation of the nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's selected poems. First of all, the researcher identified the nominal and verbal metaphors through close reading, and the AntConc tool (Anthony,2023) was employed to gather information. Following the process of identifying both nominal and verbal metaphors, then the researcher proceeded to analyse them. The researcher found out what and how the metaphors conveyed their expressive meanings. The current study was based on the qualitative method, and Conceptual Metaphors' theory was followed to analyse the nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's selected poems. Nominal metaphors include, for instance, the term "road," which denoted a choice or path. Examples of verbal metaphors was "two roads diverged," where "diverged" alluded to the paths splitting apart and the various choices that must be made throughout life.

Key Words: Nominal and Verbal Metaphors, Qualitative research, Conceptual Metaphors' theory, AntConc model, Nature and Experiences, Loneliness and Hopelessness and Optimism.

Introduction

Speech conveys emotions and sensations. Many people think that communication is the primary source to convey emotions and feelings. Which play a major role in our lives. Goodman (1976) asserts that in daily life, emotions frequently carry greater significance than other attributes. Authors who want to express their feelings and thoughts, whether they are made up or real, use literature, which is a big world that mixes creativity and truth. Unique feelings and emotions are generated through the usage of metaphoric discourse in works. Metaphors are examples of figures of speech that exaggerate or change the way something is perceived. Perrine (1977) defines metaphorical language as an unusual means of communicating ideas. Figures of speech, such as metaphors, exaggerate or alter the perception of things. Metaphorical language, as described



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by Perrine (1977), is an unconventional way of expressing thoughts. More precisely, it's described as a means of expressing one item with a distinct meaning. The use of figures of speech stimulates readers' curiosity while making the message more engaging and enjoyable. It gives us a lot of understanding and different ways to think about something. Figurative language doesn't just make poems pretty, it also has deeper meanings. And make special changes that improve the shortness of the work and make the writing stronger (Ogunsiji, 2000 and Gul et al., 2022).

Figurative language is the different words that a poet can use to create a poem's ideas. Making a strong impression to communicate a new message in a unique way. The main idea is that using metaphorical language is the most essential part of writing in a literary way. It influences writer's innovative skill and increase Innovative writing skill to get artistic competence. Yeibo (2012) asserts that it is crucial for telling captivating stories. Its primary goal is to pique readers' interest regarding what that writer is attempting to convey through an announcement or statement. When speaking, metaphors are a useful tool for explaining difficult-to-understand or complex concepts.

Aristotle claims, the best writing style is straightforward and has a specific quantity of uncommon words, metaphorical expressions, and expanded anything that is brief (Cameron & Graham, 1999). It deviates from the standard idiom. Figurative language is one of the Literary strategies and techniques that are the instruments for a writer's style who, by doing so, influences his readers, which encourages students to investigate a variety of literary strategies and the author's traits; this is what we call it the analysis of style. A comprehensive comprehension of the writer and his compositions can be stylistics' approach (Leech & Short, 1981 and Ishtiaq et al., 2022).

Consequently, lexical decisions take on a central as a whole. Coady and Huckin(1997) claimed "central to the language"(p. 5). Because they foster innovation, words have a direct impact on language output. As a result, the entire lexical development process serves as a tool in the Linguistic development, and they aid readers in understanding the many interpretations. In this instance, the key components are polysemous phenomena and variance in lexical meaning. Likewise, the most advanced research on metaphors is cognitive metaphor, which is essentially the study of words. Trend in linguistics that promotes both human perception and understanding of the structure of lexical development. In spite of all the points raised above, metaphor improves mental strategy and provides clearer visual aids for human interaction (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Understanding metaphor is essential to reading any literary writing. A metaphor deviates from how language is typically used. It aims to make a powerful statement that can't be made by a literal text. Unlike idioms, a metaphor can be understood by everyone, regardless of prior knowledge. Literary metaphor works outside of the immediate context in which it is used. It also functions well within the larger framework of the whole piece, including the writer's entire corpus of work, and within the framework of societal norms associated with certain areas of metaphor (Ritchie, 2013; Nasir et al., 2023 and Gul et al., 2024).

Current research is based on Corpus analysis. The study concentrates on recognizing and examining the nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's selected poems. Initially, the researcher pinpoints the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems and subsequently interprets the metaphors'



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significance. This research uncovers and assesses the figurative meanings of the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems, revealing that their literal meanings differ from their expressive connotations.

Statement of the Problem

Metaphors are necessary for any literary work to make sense. A metaphor deviates from the recognized linguistic conventions. It aims to assert a declarative statement more powerful than any textual content. In Robert Frost's selected poems, nominal and verbal metaphors are used extensively, but the ways in which they are employed may deviate from traditional metaphorical practices. The challenge lies in understanding how these metaphors function within the context of Frost's work. This study seeks to identify and analyze the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems. This study utilizes qualitative method and applies Conceptual metaphors' theory to examine how they contribute to the meanings of the poems and how they deviate from established linguistic practices.

Research Objectives

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems.
2. To analyze meanings of the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems.

Research Questions

1. What nominal and verbal metaphors are used by Robert Frost in his selected poems?
2. How and what types of meanings are conveyed by the nominal and verbal metaphors in Frost's selected poems?

Literature Review

This chapter incorporates a review of existing data that is directly related to the current study. It includes AntConc model, Conceptual Metaphors' theory, Corpus linguistics and most parallel studies to the current study. The existing literature provides detailed information about the current study and helps fill in the gaps. The current study is based on a corpus analysis of nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's selected poems. It aims to comprehend the concealed messages within his work. To find out the nominal and verbal metaphors and then analyses these metaphors to determine what the expressive meanings are conveyed by these metaphors. The study utilizes the AntConc toolkit (Anthony, 2023) for data collection and follows Conceptual Metaphors' theory (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980) as a theoretical framework. The theory has two domains: the concrete domain, which means the experiences, and the abstract domain, which is the personal interpretations of the researcher or viewers.

Kesarwani, Inkpen, Szpakowicz, and Tanasescu's (2017) article entitled "Metaphor Detection in a Poetry Corpus was the first to explore the computational analysis of poetic metaphor." The researchers were working on type-independent metaphor identification and rule-based methods to improve classification accuracy.



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They planned to analyse phrase compositionality, use deep-learning classifiers like CNN (Computer Neural Network), distinguish between poetic and common-speech metaphors, and developed metrics for metaphor quantification. The study aimed to establish that poetry was amenable to computational methods and demonstrate that statistical features can contribute significantly to digital literary studies and academic poetry criticism. The study found metaphors in poetry.

Du Bois (2000) stated in his book entitled *Corpus Linguistics Method Theory and Practice* that Corpus section is still under develop and the section on examples of metaphor usage in conversations is currently undergoing revision. The study's goals are to investigate the frequency with which metaphors are used in everyday speech and how people use metaphors to describe different topics. The majority of the illustrations center on particular words or concepts employed in a discussion. In an endeavor to require a more comprehensive approach, this paper talked about different methodological issues that a raise when utilizing corpora as a instrument for considering representations and proposed benchmarks for recognizing metaphor in common dialect.

DuBois (2000) claimed, approximately 500 metaphors from the American local dialect. As autonomously affirmed with a study of college understudies, it was found that the recurrence of each of these sorts of representation emphatically coincides with its degree of concreteness. This investigates about too examined the work of representation as a discourse-level organizing gadget. The common approach was provided as a format for other considers.

The study of metaphor is outlined by researcher Pinker (2007) book entitled *The Stuff of Thought*. Pinker talks about two different ideas about metaphor: the killjoy theory and the messianic theory. The killjoy theory suggests that metaphors are "lifeless," indicating that many people are unaware of the comparisons within the metaphors they use regularly. An example of this is that a lot of people are unaware that the expression "to come to a head" refers to a pimple becoming filled with pus. Conversely, the messianic theory bears a closer resemblance to Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphor concept.

Pinker (2007) claimed individuals who employ metaphors comprehend their relevance to various subjects and utilize them to link everyday experiences to more intricate concepts. Pinker also examines the contrast between literary metaphors and conceptual metaphors. Creative comparisons are made through poetic metaphors to illustrate similarities or differences. Pinker uses the example of Shakespeare's line "Juliet is the sun" to illustrate how metaphors can conjure vivid mental pictures. It can be difficult to fully comprehend these comparisons without additional information. Conceptual metaphors stem from the relationship between two unrelated ideas. The use of these popular metaphors can inspire the creation of numerous new metaphors. If they were to view debates as a battle, we could say "they completely refuted his argument" or "he demolished my points completely".

Anthony (2004) has written guide entitled "AntConc: A Learner and Classroom Inviting, Multi-Platform Corpus Examination Toolkit" He expressed a lightweight, clear, an user-friendly corpus examination instruments, AntConc had demonstrated to be very effective when utilized in a classroom setting (Noguchi, 2004). Whereas it lacked some of the foremost widely used commercial programs' capabilities and highlights, it did had numerous of the



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foremost imperative the disobedient required for corpus examination, together with the advantage of a user-friendly interface and freeware Consent.

Since its make a big appearance in 2002, the program has had 19 updates to date, counting three critical changes. Moreover, a modern adaptation of the program that fixes these issues was planned to be updated before long. Certain limitations that were mentioned in the going before area. The starting update would be a makeover of view Records instrument empowering it to operate at a much faster rate. In spite of the fact that there's a critical speed fetched, the present tool can handle records with hazy line endings. Moreover, a highlight to see collocates and the choice to organize word records in order from both the starting and wrap up of words; a characteristic pushed (Hockey, 2001; Ishtiaq et al., 2021 and Gul et al., 2023(a)).

Anthony (2004) claimed, that AntConc will be upgraded in a consequent update to handle explained information, particularly, in a distant more successful and common way. The search settings can incorporate header affirmations if they are derived from the data. The task is completed without requiring the computer to comprehend. It has the option to utilize these strategies if desired. The software will come with an extensive manual and a tutorial video to help users. The instructions will include visual aids and a comprehensive guide on how to operate each tool.

Lakoff and Johnson's lens (1980) is the foundation for examination. The concept has been in existence for an extended period and is supported by extensive research conducted over numerous years. It indicates that metaphor serves a more significant function in language by aiding in the reorganization, modification, and even construction of reality, rather than being used purely for adornment. Friedrich Nietzsche is a famous philosopher from the past, while Max Black is a more recent figure in the field. A new summary of metaphor theories can be found in a book edited by Gibbs. Numerous research have been conducted to confirm, build upon, and modify the original concepts put forth by Lakoff and Johnson in their 1980's book.

Both Lakoff and Johnson also contributed new ideas, showing the evolution of metaphor theory since *Metaphors We Live By* was published. Some individuals believe that CMT "Conceptual Metaphors Theory" is just like *Metaphors We Live By* (1980) and criticize it, but their belief is incorrect. Because of this, he won't talk about this type of criticism in this CMT introduction. Conceptual metaphors' theory helps us comprehend abstract ideas by likening them to more palpable things. This definition explains how conceptual metaphors are both created and what they become. The process of metaphor involves comprehending our thoughts about something. The way our thoughts are organized as a result is called the product. In this analysis of the theory, he won't distinguish the two components: basic ideas and principles.

For example "Mending Wall." by Frost Two neighbor who fix the fence between their estates are the subject of the poem. Nonetheless, it is clear that this circumstance is a metaphor for a couple's relationship. The emotional barrier dividing them is represented by the wall. The "neighbor" in this scenario wants to leave the barricade in place, while the "I" voice wants to knock it down. Here, "neighbor" refers to a metaphor for a pair of individuals who share a strong emotional bond. The author highlights the phrase "Good fences make good neighbors" by using it twice. The main character disagrees with the statement



made by the “neighbor.” He is unable to perceive the need for them to be “walling in or walling out” because of something.

Methodology

The researcher utilizes various techniques to gather and analyze data, incorporating a qualitative method to study Robert Frost’s poems. The study layout, collecting information tool, and theoretical foundation for evaluating the information are all included in this chapter. This chapter includes the study design, wherein the material is evaluated using a qualitative method by the researcher. The chapter incorporates a data collection tool that involves a close reading of Robert Frost’s selected poems. It incorporates theoretical framework, which is used by the researcher to analyses the data.

Research Design

Current research is corpus based analysis of Robert Frost’s selected poems. A close reading technique is done (Paul & Elder, 2003) and date is collected through Ant-Conc toolkit (Anthony, 2023 and Gul et al., 2023(c)). A qualitative method by Creswell (2014) is used in current research and textual analysis approach (Arya, 2020 and Sajjad et al., 2023) is applied as an analytical tool. Then, Conceptual Metaphor theory is applied to analyses the data. It identifies the Nominal and Verbal metaphors in Robert Frost’s selected poems and then analyses the expressive meanings of the nominal and verbal metaphors. Technique for gathering data: A Concordance is an arrangement of certain terms from mentioned information or set of informations. That is frequently displayed with the context of each word underlined. This informational strategy is called Key Word in Context, or “KWIC.” Typically, concordance application has the ability to retrieve and display many kinds of information, such as identification.

Metaphors Collection Procedure

Click on the File → Locate the file being uploaded → Select the file

Open the file → Search the word or phrase → Press Start

Required Results displayed → Screenshot or Save.

Analysis and Discussion

The researcher reads the data closely and then AntConc toolkit is used to collect the metaphors from the data. Textual approach is used as analytical tool and all the metaphors are analyzed under Conceptual metaphors lens.

Domains of Conceptual Metaphors’ Theory



Figure 1: Domains of Conceptual Metaphors Theory



The conceptual metaphor lens has two domains: the concrete and abstract domain or metaphorical expressions or expressive meanings are drawn. For example, Frost's uses the phrase "Road Not Taken," in which the road is a concrete thing. It means a path, while the other domain is the target domain or abstract domain, which is the abstract idea or it is also called the abstract domain. For example, in the above-given example, "Road Not Taken," it gives an abstract idea or expressive meaning about decisions or choices in life. The conceptual metaphor lens is working between concepts or domains, as the researcher mentions above in the current paragraph. A feature is mapped from the source domain to the target domain. As mentioned above, a road is a physical path or concrete and is interpreted as choices or decisions taken in life (Lakoff, 1993 and Afaq et al., 2022).

According to Ricoeur's *The Rule of Metaphor* (1975) Ricoeur talks about different ways we use metaphors in language. He examines the way we use words and phrases as metaphors. In a nominal metaphor, a word or phrase is exchanged for another one that holds a more profound implication. Alternatively, verbal metaphors employ language that evokes different ideas or images within a certain context or discussion. Ricoeur's analysis of metaphor has had a significant impact on the fields of linguistics, literary theory, and the philosophy of language. It has facilitated our understanding of how metaphor is utilized in communication and in shaping meaning.

Mind Plays a Significant Role in Metaphors' Understanding

Conceptual Metaphors' lens (1980) claims, mind has the significant role in the interpretations of metaphors. Frost uses the word "night," it makes the reader think of feelings like being alone, not clear, and unknown. In some cases, the word "night" can mean fear, deep thought, or calmness. Just as in Robert Frost's poem "Acquainted with the Night," the night's ability to make one feel alone and cut off also evokes a sense of melancholy in its readers. The concept of change and new beginnings is often likened to water in metaphors. The poem shows that water can mean disorder, energy, or goodness.

"Light" is a powerful symbol for knowledge, insight, enlightenment, and positive perceptions. Comparing light to something else can make a poet feel hopeful, enlightened, or like they understand things better (Afaq et al., 2023).

"Roads" are often used as a symbol for choices, journeys, and the passage of time. A road is like a person's journey through life. The splitting of the road signifies a decision point or a critical juncture in life. For example, in Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken," the place where the road splits represents the choices and paths we choose, showing how important and unexpected it can be to make decisions in life.

The phrase "diverging roads" is like a symbol for when you have to make a decision and what happens because of that decision. They symbolize the divergent journeys that life takes us on and the resulting consequences of those paths. Poets compare life to a road with many paths, which makes us think about how life is complicated and always changing.

Conceptual metaphors' lens (1980) claims, "walking" symbolizes growth, exploration, and becoming better. It shows progress in both real life and in ideas. Poets who write about walking in their poems may be talking about a journey of the mind, a spiritual trip, or looking for the meaning of life. Deignan (2008)



claims mind has the vital role in interpretation of metaphors (Ali et al., 2024).

Detection and Interpretation of Nominal and verbal metaphors

In this section, the researcher finds and analyses the nominal and verbal metaphors used in Robert Frost's selected. In the starting, he finds the nominal and verbal metaphors with the help of Anthony's AntConc toolkit. In the starting the researcher downloads the latest version of the AntConc toolkit (2023) and (Gul et al.,2023(b)) from Google, which is easily available on Lawarance Anthony's official website, and then he made a file of selected poems. The file is uploaded to the AntConc toolkit, which is temporarily stored there, and then he searches for the required metaphors in the data. The researcher uses the Key Word in Context option in the tool to find the nominal and verbal metaphors in the data. After clicking on the start button, the result is shown, and the procedure is repeated. He uses Lakoff and Mark's lens of Conceptual metaphors' lens (1980).

“Acquainted with the Night”

Nominal Metaphor

Conceptual Metaphors' lens (1980) claims, the poet employs the term "night" to symbolize the depths of his internal gloom, hopelessness, and isolation. Frost's life story reveals that he faced numerous hardships and tragic events, which inspired him to frequently write about the more somber aspects of life. He is saying that he is well-acquainted with the darkness and despair he has experienced in his life. Here, this line is used to compare one thing to another. It tells the story of his life. Truly, his life felt like a shadowy and solitary adventure.

Conclusion

Findings

The AntConc toolkit (Anthony, 2023) was used to collect the nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's selected poems. The software has worked successfully, and data has been collected through the software.

After collecting data through the AntConc toolkit (Anthony, 2023), metaphors have been analysed. The method was qualitative, and a textual approach was used to analyse the data. Moreover, the conceptual metaphor lens (Lakoff and Johnson's, 1980) was applied as a theoretical framework. This theory has two domains: the concrete, or writer view, and the abstract, or viewer view. All the metaphors were analysed under this theory and found to have expressive or metaphorical meanings. For example, Conceptual Metaphors' theory claims a metaphor “night” was used by the poet to show his worst life conditions or experiences. According to the researcher's interpretations, it shows gloominess or loneliness.

In addition, the study found that Frost used several nominal and verbal metaphors in his selected poems. For example, some are given: “Water” “Saddest city,” “desert,” “place apart,” “night”, “old dog”, “Pup”, “gift” “land”, “earth”, “apple”, “road”, “horse”, “home”, “diverged” etc.

Furthermore, several nominal and verbal metaphors have been used by Frost to describe his bad life experiences because he faced many challenges in his lifespan. He lost his parents at a very young age, and then he lost his children very early. Apart from that, he faced many barriers in his educational career. His



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personal health was also not good, so all these metaphors show pessimism and hopelessness in his life. Apart from pessimism and hopelessness in his life, the researcher found optimism or motivation in his poetry. For example, conceptual metaphors' lens claims in "Road Not Taken," normally road stands for path, and the poet talked about two diverged roads in the forest. But according to the researcher's interpretation, it stands for choices or taking decisions in life.

Moreover, the researcher found some metaphors convey religious meanings. For example, conceptual metaphors' lens claims "To rake the leaves." Physically, it stands for cleaning leaves, but metaphorically, it stands for cleaning the heart from sins.

Discussion

Robert Frost, a well-known American poet, was recognized for his adeptness in using language to express profound sentiments through metaphors. The focus of this research is to find and analyzing Nominal and Verbal Metaphors in Frost's Selected Poems. The current research uncovers the hidden or expressive meanings of the given metaphors.

Frost frequently draws parallels between nature and human life in order to enhance people's comprehension of it. Drawing comparisons between emotions and situations with nature can enhance our understanding of them. It makes vague ideas easier to grasp. Frost frequently discusses the idea that our decisions can shape our future in his poetry. This use of comparison words highlights how people make decisions and adapt to the subsequent outcomes, revealing the dynamic nature of life. Finding the right mix of being alone and being with others is a significant concept in the story.

In poems like "Mending Wall," metaphors show the conflict between being alone and wanting to be with others. It employs straightforward actions to communicate profound human bonds. Through comparisons and vivid imagery, Robert Frost enhances the depth and significance of his poetry. This investigation utilizes a diverse array of texts to illustrate how Frost's comparisons enhance the liveliness of his poetry and delve into profound musings on nature, human existence, choices, and connections. Understanding these comparisons can give us a better understanding of Frost's poems and why people still like them.

Recommendations

Literary techniques like symbolism and irony can be applied to find out how different metaphors are used and what their meanings. The AntConc toolkit can be used to collect the metaphors, and a thematic analysis approach is applied to find their themes. The AntConc toolkit can be used to collect the metaphors and then find out the emotional and cognitive impact of those metaphors. Their AntConc toolkit can be used to collect metaphors from cross-text, and then comparative analysis can be done. Linguistics software like NVivo and ATLAS can be used for finding and examining metaphors.

Further Research Gaps

The current study was limited to the analysis of nominal and verbal metaphors in Robert Frost's poems. Further research can be done to find and analyses



adjectival and adverbial metaphors.

The current metaphors can also be studied from the perspective of critical discourse analysis. Moreover, critical discourse analysis can be done on Robert Frost's selected poems.

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