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THE METAPHORICAL CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE “JOURNEY” SOURCE DOMAIN ACROSS DIFFERENT TARGET DOMAINS

This article examines the metaphorical representation of the concept of “JOURNEY” in modern English from a cognitive linguistics perspective. The study demonstrates that the concept of travel plays an active role in conceptualizing life, love, career, and cognitive processes in English culture, serving as a basic metaphorical domain. It is established that the metaphorical productivity of the concept of “JOURNEY” is explained by its foundation in universal bodily-spatial experience. All these domains, metaphorized by the concept of “JOURNEY”, are characterized by a number of common cognitive features. It is demonstrated that these processes occur over time, demonstrate consistency and graduality, require the active participation of the subject, and are ultimately accompanied by change. It is determined that the synthesis of spatial and temporal categories makes the concept of travel a particularly effective metaphorical model for the perception of abstract concepts. Thus, the metaphorical activity of the concept of “JOURNEY” indicates its high significance in English culture. In the modern English-language worldview, movement, development, and change are considered positive values, and these values are metaphorically reinforced by language. Metaphor is one of the main vehicles of this ideological and cultural system. The concept of “JOURNEY” is a universal and highly productive source for conceptualizing goal-oriented, step-by-step, and dynamic processes in modern linguistic consciousness. Various domains, such as love, career, discussion, and reading, are presented in a more understandable, structured, and culturally meaningful form thanks to this framework. This fact confirms that the historical and cultural evolution of the concept of “JOURNEY” directly influences its role in modern conceptual metaphors. The article concludes by confirming the cultural and cognitive significance of this concept. The study found that the concept of “JOURNEY” has the status of a basic concept. This concept relates to the natural realm of human experience, reflects interaction with space, concepts of movement and direction, and also serves as a basic cognitive model for the metaphorical explanation of more abstract concepts.

Keywords: source domain, target domain, journey, metaphor, conceptualization, mapping.

Introduction. One of the main research directions of modern linguistics is the study of the interaction of language with cognitive activity and culture. Within the framework of this approach, language is considered not only as a system for transmitting information, but also as a mechanism for human perception, structuring, and making sense of the world. Cognitive linguistics, in particular, views metaphor as one of the central tools of human thought and considers it a key conceptual mechanism in the understanding of abstract concepts [3, p. 252]. Metaphor, in this sense, is not a peripheral phenomenon of language, but a cognitive model deeply rooted in the structure of everyday thought and cultural behavior.

According to the cognitive approach, metaphor is the process of conceptualizing one concept through the structure of another concept. During this process,

a person perceives more abstract areas using more concrete, sensory and bodily experience-based concepts. Such metaphors are not the product of random or individual creativity, but are systematic models that reflect the collective experience and worldview of a particular language community [6, p. 124]. For this reason, the analysis of metaphors allows us to uncover not only lexical-semantic, but also cultural and cognitive information.

Within this general theoretical framework, the concept of “JOURNEY” is of particular importance. The concept of travel is universal in human experience and is based on cognitive schemas formed at an early stage. Components such as movement in space, direction, beginning and end of the path, overcoming obstacles and change are integral parts of the travel experience. As Johnson [8] emphasizes, such con-



cepts become entrenched in human thinking as image schemas and later serve as the basis for the construction of more complex concepts. It is these features that make the “JOURNEY” concept a highly productive source domain from a metaphorical perspective.

Task statement. The aim of this study is to investigate the metaphorical actualization of the “JOURNEY” concept in modern English, to identify both its domain-source and domain-target functions. The aim is to analyze the metaphorical productivity and diffusion of the “JOURNEY” concept, to show how it, as a basic concept, reflects the human interaction with space, the concepts of movement and direction. The study aims to clarify the complex nature of the concept, its internal structure – starting point, path, stages, direction, obstacles and destination – at the level of both physical and cultural experience.

In addition, the aim of the study is to identify the basic role of the “JOURNEY” concept in the metaphorizing of purposeful and dynamically developing processes, as well as to indicate the main metaphors in which it is used as a domain-source – LIFE, LOVE, ARGUMENT, READING, THINKING. This will allow us to scientifically confirm the importance and metaphorical functionality of the “JOURNEY” concept in the English-speaking cultural and linguistic consciousness.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The metaphorical representation of the concept of “JOURNEY” has been examined in studies by various authors. We primarily rely on researchers such as Charteris-Black J., Evans V., Green M., Lakoff G., Johnson M. and etc. In modern English, the concept of “JOURNEY” is widely used not only in the field of meaning related to physical movement and transportation, but also to describe life activities, emotional relationships, social and professional development, as well as intellectual processes. This fact shows that the concept of travel in English culture acts not only as a real activity, but also as a model of understanding the world. The concept of travel is particularly suitable for metaphorical modeling of abstract concepts, as the evolving, gradual, and changing nature of human experience over time aligns with the semantic structure of the concept [2, p. 98].

The most widespread manifestation of the metaphorical potential of the “JOURNEY” concept is in the understanding of human life. The conceptualization of life as a journey presents human experience as a sequential, purposeful, and meaningful process. In this model, a person acts as an active subject of his life path, life stages are perceived as different parts of the path, and the

difficulties encountered are evaluated as temporary obstacles [8, p. 105]. Such a conceptualization allows us to perceive life events as processes with a certain direction, rather than random ones. This metaphorical model is closely linked to the social and ideological values prevalent in English culture. The ideas of individual responsibility, planning, self-actualization, and sustainable development are normatively framed through the perception of life as a journey. A life without purpose and plan is metaphorically expressed with negative semantic connotations such as “losing direction” or “going astray.” As Quinn [9, p. 147] notes, such metaphors become an important discourse tool that regulates the behavioral patterns of society.

Outline of the main material of the study. At the same time, the perception of life as a journey is not limited to social success and career. This metaphor also encompasses human inner development, spiritual quests, and personality transformation. Expressions such as going beyond the familiar and safe route, moving forward in new and unknown ways become metaphorical descriptions of internal changes and psychological development. According to Kövecses’ [7, p. 172] extended theory of conceptual metaphor, such metaphors are based not only on bodily experience, but also on emotional and cultural experience. The “JOURNEY” concept also provides a broad metaphorical framework for understanding romantic relationships. Love relationships are often described as a journey that two individuals travel together. Relationship development is conceptualized as progress, crises as crossroads, and separation as parting of ways. This metaphorical model allows us to view love not as a static state, but as a process that changes and develops over time [7].

Professional activity and career development are also structured around the metaphor of a journey. A career is conceived as a journey that begins, progresses through stages, and leads to certain goals. Knowledge and skills are understood as resources for the journey, and successes are understood as milestones. Charteris-Black [1] notes that this metaphor is particularly widespread in contemporary corporate and political discourse, presenting the concept of success in a normative framework.

The “JOURNEY” concept also plays an important role in the metaphorical modeling of intellectual activity. Thinking and reasoning are understood as a directed movement, argumentation is presented as a gradual progression, and reaching a conclusion is presented as reaching a certain point [10, p. 201]. The reading process is also often perceived as an

intellectual journey, and the reader acts as an active discovering subject in this process [4].

Within the framework of the theory of conceptual metaphor, the understanding and interpretation of abstract concepts is often carried out through concrete, physical and areas close to human experience. In this regard, the conceptual metaphor “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” is considered one of the most fundamental and basic metaphors in the formation of the concept of life in the human mind. The metaphor in question makes it possible to explain the concept of “life”, which is the basis of human existence, through a concrete and experience-based area such as “journey”. It is for this reason that the “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” metaphor is often used as an example by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson to explain the basic mechanism of conceptual metaphor theory [8, p. 37].

In terms of the typology of conceptual metaphors, the “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” metaphor is considered a structural metaphor. In this type of metaphors, the structure of one domain (source domain – “JOURNEY”) is transferred to the structure of another domain (target domain – “LIFE”). The understanding of life as a staged, directed, purposeful and dynamic process is formed precisely as a result of the application of the journey structure to the concept of life. At the same time, this metaphor has the character of a complex conceptual metaphor, since it combines several smaller metaphorical models. Another important component of the metaphor is the “Life States Are Locations” model. For example:

For him, teaching represented only a stopover in his broader life journey.

Here, a certain period of life is perceived as a “stopover”. This reinforces the staged structure of life and the concept of temporality. As a logical continuation of this model, “Long-term Purposes Are Destinations” (Long-term Purposes Are Destinations):

My goal lies at the end of my life’s journey.

Lakoff and Johnson [8] note that purposefulness is the main semantic axis of this metaphor. A person without a purpose is considered to have “lost his way, without direction”. This shows that the metaphor is not only descriptive, but also socio-normative in nature: society models the concept of “right life” as a purposeful and planned journey. Within the metaphor, “The Means for Achieving Purposes Are Routes” (The Means for Achieving Purposes Are Routes):

If this way doesn’t lead to results, I’ll look for another route.

Here, life choices are presented as alternative paths. The “arduous path” symbolizes a life strategy that leads to the goal, but requires effort. At the same

time, “Difficulties Are Impediments to Travel” (Difficulties Are Impediments to Travel):

He has a rocky road ahead of him. “The rocky road” figuratively expresses future difficulties based on feelings arising from physical experience. In this metaphorical model, social relationships are also interpreted through the prism of travel. “Counselors Are Guides” (Counselors Are Guides): *His mother guided him to the right way.*

Here, the concept of guidance reflects the function of a guide who helps a person find the right direction on the path of life. Even the term guidance counselor acts as an institutionalized form of this metaphor. Another important component of the metaphor is “Progress Is the Distance Travelled” (Progress Is the Distance Travelled):

We’ve come a long way.

In this expression, time and life experience are measured through spatial categories. The more a person “travels”, the more experienced and developed he is considered. This model also reflects the integration of concepts such as planning, schedule, and route into the concept of life in Anglo-Saxon culture, which is associated with Protestant ethics and rationalism [8]. At the same time, the “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” metaphor also combines various forms of cultural experience – types of travel such as pilgrimage, adventure, guided tour. For example: *Life is a journey, not a guided tour.*

This comparison emphasizes the active position of a person in life, the need to choose his own path. Thus, the metaphor not only explains life, but also creates an ideological and cultural framework that guides human behavior.

Consequently, the conceptual metaphor “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” is a basic metaphor that systematizes human experience regarding the meaning, purpose, difficulties and development of life, has a universal character, but at the same time acquires culturally specific shades. Through this metaphor, life is perceived not as a set of abstract events, but as a directed, purposeful and meaningful process.

Conceptual metaphor theory suggests that human consciousness appeals to more concrete and empirically based conceptual domains to understand complex, abstract, and time-evolving processes. In this regard, the concept “JOURNEY” serves as a productive domain-source not only in the “LIFE IS A JOURNEY” metaphor, but also in the conceptualization of a number of other purposeful processes. These processes include time-evolving, staged, and directed activities such as love, career, argument, and reading. One of the conceptual metaphors in which

the “JOURNEY” domain that is widely applied, is the “LOVE IS A JOURNEY” (also “MARRIAGE IS A JOURNEY”) metaphor. This metaphor is characterized by Lakoff and Johnson [8] as a complex structural metaphor and explains the development of human relationships through a journey scheme. The main components of the metaphor are structured as follows: lovers are travelers; relationships are the means of movement; shared life goals are the destinations; difficulties are the obstacles to movement.

The development of relationships is often described as progress, which is clearly seen in the following statements:

Their relationship has come to a standstill.

They are moving closer to a shared future.

This romance has taken a wrong turn.

In these examples, relationships are perceived as a process moving along a road. The phrase “Wrong turn” symbolizes wrong decisions, and “standstill” symbolizes emotional stagnation. On the other hand, relationships are sometimes metaphorized as a moving object or vehicle:

Their relationship is slowly losing momentum.

This marriage has derailed after years of tension.

They are trying to get their relationship back on course.

These types of phrases show that relationships are a process that can be managed, but is influenced by external and internal factors. One important component of the metaphor is the perception of shared life goals as “destination points”:

They no longer share the same destination.

Their paths no longer converge.

Thus, the “JOURNEY” concept presents possible development scenarios of human relationships – progress, stagnation, separation or crisis – within the framework of a single, clear and culturally understandable model.

The metaphor “CAREER IS A JOURNEY” plays a special role in the metaphorical conceptualization of goal-directed processes. Career development is particularly compatible with the journey scheme, since it has a clear structure in consciousness. Within this metaphor, important events are presented as “landmarks”:

Securing her first management role marked a turning point in her career.

Key decisions are expressed as “crossroads”:

She’s at a crossroads in her life.

Personal skills and talents are perceived as “reserves taken along the way”:

She has the skills necessary to carry her forward in her profession.

The “CAREER IS A JOURNEY” metaphor is often combined with the orientation metaphor to create the “CAREER IS A JOURNEY UP” model. In this case, career development is presented as a movement in a vertical direction:

He’s half-way up the corporate ladder.

You’ll meet the same people on the way down.

This model presents career success in a normative and evaluative framework based on the basic metaphor “UP IS GOOD, DOWN IS BAD” [8]. Thus, career is conceptualized not only as a movement, but also as a purposeful process laden with social values.

The “JOURNEY” domain is also widely used in metaphorical explanations of cognitive processes. The “AN ARGUMENT IS A JOURNEY” metaphor is based on the perception of arguments and discussions as a gradual process that develops over time. The discussion participants act as “travelers”, and the arguments as “directions”:

Do you follow my argument?

We’re moving step by step toward a solution.

Coming to a logical conclusion is presented as “reaching a destination”:

We have reached a clear conclusion.

If the discussion fails, the participants are described as “going in the wrong direction” or “stuck”:

The discussion drifted off course.

We seem to be stuck at the same point.

This metaphor allows us to understand discussion not only as an intellectual but also as a structured action.

Conclusion. The analysis shows that the “JOURNEY” concept is a basic concept with high metaphorical productivity in modern English culture. Through it, life, love, career and cognitive processes are structured, evaluated and given meaning. This fact proves that the concept of travel is not just a lexical unit, but a phenomenon with deep cognitive and cultural meaning. The metaphorical analysis of the “JOURNEY” concept creates an important scientific basis for understanding the worldview and value system of English culture. Moreover, the “JOURNEY” concept is a universal and highly productive domain-source for conceptualizing purposeful, staged, and dynamic processes in modern linguistic consciousness. Various domains such as love, career, discussion, and reading are presented in a more understandable, structured, and culturally meaningful way through this scheme. This fact confirms that the historical and cultural evolution of the “JOURNEY” concept directly influences its role in modern conceptual metaphors.

The conducted research allowed to comprehensively analyze the metaphorical actualization

of the “JOURNEY” concept in modern English. The research showed that this concept acts in both domain-source and domain-target functions and plays an important role in the structuring of various conceptual areas. The obtained results confirm that the “JOURNEY” concept has high metaphorical productivity and functional potential in the English-speaking linguistic consciousness. One of the main results of the research is that the “JOURNEY” concept is characterized by a wide metaphorical demand in modern English. The active use of the concept in various semantic areas indicates a high level of its metaphorical diffusion, which proves that the “JOURNEY”

concept occupies a central position in English-speaking culture and collective consciousness. In addition, it was found that the “JOURNEY” concept has a complex character. It combines layers of both physical and cultural experience, reflecting movement and gradation within space on the one hand, and social relations and cultural behavioral models on the other.

Finally, the research shows that the “JOURNEY” concept plays a basic role in the metaphorizing of purposeful and dynamically developing processes and acts as a productive domain-source in the formation of the conceptual structure of concepts such as LIFE, LOVE, ARGUMENT.

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Мустафасва Н. К. МЕТАФОРІЧНА КОНЦЕПТУАЛІЗАЦІЯ ДЖЕРЕЛА ПОНЯТТЯ «ПОДОРОЖ» В РІЗНИХ ЦІЛЬОВИХ ОБЛАСТЯХ

У статті розглядається метафоричне уявлення поняття «ПОДОРОЖ» у сучасній англійській мові з погляду когнітивної лінгвістики. Дослідження показує, що поняття подорожі відіграє активну роль у концептуалізації життя, кохання, кар'єри та когнітивних процесів в англійській культурі, виступаючи як базовий метафоричний домен. Встановлено, що метафорична продуктивність поняття «ПОДОРОЖ» пояснюється його основою універсального тілесно-просторового досвіду. Усі ці галузі, метафоризовані поняттям «ПОДОРОЖ», характеризуються низкою загальних когнітивних особливостей. Доведено, що ці процеси відбуваються в часі, демонструють послідовність та поступовість, потребують активної участі суб'єкта та зрештою супроводжуються змінами. Визначено, що синтез просторових та тимчасових категорій робить концепцію подорожі особливо ефективною метафоричною моделлю для абстрактних понять. Таким чином, метафорична активність концепції «ПОДОРОЖ» вказує на її високу значущість у англійській культурі. У сучасному англійському світогляді рух, розвиток та зміни вважаються позитивними цінностями, і ці цінності метафорично підкріплюються мовою. Метафора виступає одним із головних носіїв цієї ідеологічної та культурної системи. Концепція «ПОДОРОЖ» є універсальним та високопродуктивним джерелом для концептуалізації цілеспрямованих, поетапних та динамічних процесів у сучасній мовній свідомості. Різні області, такі як любов, кар'єра, дискусія та читання, представлені у більш зрозумілій, структурованій та культурно значущій формі завдяки цій схемі. Цей факт підтверджує, що історична та культурна еволюція концепції «ПОДОРОЖ» безпосередньо впливає на її роль у сучасних концептуальних метафорах. Стаття завершується підтвердженням культурної та когнітивної значущості цієї концепції. В результаті дослідження було встановлено, що поняття «ПОДОРОЖ» має статус базового поняття. Це поняття відноситься до природної сфери людського досвіду, відображає взаємодію з простором, поняття руху та напрямки, а також виступає як база пізнавальна модель для метафоричного пояснення більш абстрактних понять.

Ключові слова: вихідна область, цільова область, подорож, метафора, концептуалізація, картування.

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