

**SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF STYLISTIC DEVICES (METAPHOR,
METONYMY AND IRONY) IN THE STORY “THE LITTLE PRINCE” BY
ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY**

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Abstract

This article identifies the semantic analysis of stylistic devices in children’s storybook, named “The Little Prince”. The author of this children’s book, who is French and not an English native, makes it appealing. This paper aims to explore the stylistic devices (metaphor, metonymy and irony) used in the storybook and analyse them. The given examples are collected from the storybook by reading thoroughly. Then the sentences are analysed in the results part of the article.

Keywords: metaphor, metonymy, irony, semantic analysis

INTRODUCTION

Semantic analysis is a field within linguistics and natural language processing that focuses on understanding the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences in a given context. its purpose is to extract insightful information such as context, emotions, relationships between words, and input entities' overall tone from unstructured data (text, voice, or video) to give it a concise and meaningful structure for further data analysis. In this article, it will be provided that an overview of semantic analysis, discussing its importance and exploring the primary techniques and algorithms that enable researchers to identify and analyze semantic s in natural language data. And also some stylistic devices which can occur in the children’s storybook “The Little Prince” are examined.

People express their ideas in written or spoken form according to their style. P.Verdonk describes language style as a particular linguistic expression, which means that style enables people to use language in a distinctive way to communicate ideas [8]. Also, according to E. Chaika, “style” refers to the impact of one’s language habits [3]. Simply defined, stylistics is utilized to combine art with language. Style is a feature of language in both spoken and written form. The choice of more beautiful words rather than common ones might convey deeper meaning in a stylistic context.

Stylistic devices taken for analysis

Metaphor. The practice of transferring meaning within a single conceptual area is known as metaphor [7]. S.Glucksberg explained the metaphor as a language device in which a name or a term or phrase that is figuratively descriptive is used to an item or



an activity that has a different meaning than the literal application [4]. In other words, the researchers believe that a metaphor involves transferring an actual thing name. A conceptual metaphor is defined by Z.Kovekses as a system of mappings in which components from the source domain are modelled onto components from the destination domain [5]. I conclude that metaphor occurs by transferring the name of an object to another one on the base of some quality of two objects by taking into consideration the given definitions.

Metonymy. Metonymy is primarily the usage of one term instead of another to refer to a particular entity when the meanings of the two words are closely linked [5]. Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a term or word is used to refer to something closely associated with it, instead of the actual thing being referred to. It is a form of figurative language often used in literature and everyday conversation. Metonymy involves the use of a word or phrase to represent something else, based on its association or proximity to the thing being referred to.

Irony. A literary device known as irony conceals a meaning difference beneath the language's outward appearance [2]. Besides that, sarcasm, satire, and humour are frequently mistaken with irony while discussing its definition, yet irony can be used none of these intentions. Speaking in a sarcastic or cutting way with the intention of hurting someone's feelings. Satire, on the other hand, is hurtful while also being helpful, and it hurts in the interest of the patient or society. In satire, the vices or foolishness of a person, a group, an institution, an idea, or a community are exposed.

Semantic analysis

Semantic analysis can be applied to stylistic devices such as metaphor, metonymy, and irony to gain a better understanding of the meaning and impact of these devices in a given context. Here are some examples of how semantic analysis can be applied to these devices:

Metaphor: Semantic analysis can help identify the underlying meaning of a metaphor by analyzing how the metaphorical image relates to the context in which it is used. By examining the semantic features of the metaphor, such as the source domain and the target domain, we can gain insight into how the metaphor functions in the text.

Metonymy: Semantic analysis can help identify the specific meaning of a metonymy by analyzing the relationship between the metonymic term and the larger concept it represents. By examining the semantic features of the metonymy, such as its referent and its relationship to other elements in the text, we can gain insight into how the metonymy functions in the text.

Irony: Semantic analysis can help identify the intended meaning of an ironic statement by analyzing the context in which the statement is made.



By examining the semantic features of the ironic statement, such as the speaker's attitude, the intended audience, and the effect on the listener, we can gain insight into how the irony functions in the text.

The Little Prince

“The Little Prince” is a classic French novella written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry [1]. It follows the story of a young prince who travels from his tiny planet to other planets, ultimately ending up on Earth. Along the way, he learns valuable life lessons about love, friendship, and the meaning of life. The prince meets various characters, including a fox, a rose, and a pilot, who become his friends and help him on his journey. The book is a poignant tale that delves into complex themes such as loneliness and human nature. Despite being a children’s book, “The Little Prince” has been renowned for its philosophical and literary depth ever since its publication in 1943. It has been translated into over 300 languages and remains one of the best-loved and most widely read books in the world.

Methods

“The Little Prince” storybook was the only source of information used for the article. Main attention was directed at metaphor, metonymy, and irony. First of all, the storybook was read. Secondly, stylistic devices were identified from the storybook and then connected to lexical or contextual meaning. Then a few examples gathered through the book. In the third step, each stylistic device which were discovered in the narrative were noted. Fourthly, they were classifiably analysed. In the final step, semantic analysis is used for examining the given fragments.

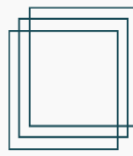
Results

Based on lexical and contextual meaning, there are three stylistic devices. These are metaphor, metonymy, and irony. The Little Prince and The Aviator are the novel’s major characters, and the plot of the book is centred around them. The stylistic devices used in the tale are depicted in the data frequency below, along with their classification in terms of lexical and contextual meaning. It is discovered that metaphor, metonymy and irony are the three stylistic elements that are expressly used in the story.

DISCUSSION

Metaphor

While reading the story a few metaphors can be faced. It is the second-least significant stylistic element used in the story. Being a children’s book, author Antoine de Saint-Exupery made an effort to make the story as simple as possible for the intended audience. Metaphor is a type of figurative meaning that involves an implicit comparison of two unlike objects by naming or replacing one of them with another.



Fragment 1

- I jumped out, completely thunderstruck (page 9)

When the Aviator met The Little Prince for the first time, he was shocked as if he had been beaten by a thunder. Because he had gone to sleep in the desert, a thousand miles away from any human habitation and he had not expected to meet a person in this deserted place.

Fragment 2

- But I am more powerful than king's finger. (page 68)

This sentence was told by the snake. With the help of this metaphor the snake was not going to point only the king's finger, though it was going to describe the function of his finger. As we know kings can give orders by only showing their fingers.

Metonymy

All of the metonymies in the storybook are lexical in nature. Metonymy is a form of symbolism in which the name of one thing or concept is used in place of another that is closely related to it [6]. The reader's already-known words are utilized in place of the familiar ones through the usage of metonymy.

Fragment 3

- I was awakened by odd little voice (page 8).

In this sentence the writer tried to refer The Little Prince with the words odd little voice. As it is seen metonymy serves to express a person with his or her attributes. The word little prince is substituted with odd little voice.

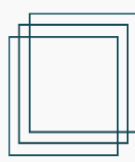
Fragment 4

- Grown-up are very strange (page 45).

The encounter between The Little Prince and the grown-up serves as the fragment's metaphor. The Little Prince's pure character has an odd mentality. The Little Prince's perspective on the world contrasts sharply with that of adults. In this passage, the metonymy "grown-up" refers to adults or those who are older than 17 years old. In other words, the noun in the word combination "grown-up people" is omitted.

Irony

The writer used the stylistic device, irony, dexterously to explain his ideas. While reading the story we can understand some of the ironies with the help of context whereas others demand extra knowledge to comprehend them.



Fragment 5

- But I did not know how to love her (page 36).

This passage has contextual irony. The Little Prince recognized his carelessness, leaving the flower behind, during the time described in this fragment. The great irony is that The Little Prince was known for his love for his flower. The Little Prince was unable to adore her after spending so much time with her. He was unable to appreciate her in any other way. They spent time together because they believed they were in love, but it was all staged since The Little Prince didn't know how to have fun.

Fragment 6

- You are beautiful but you are empty (page 80).

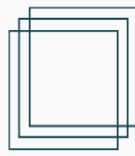
The "you" that is mentioned in this passage is The Flowers. The irony in the phrase is that the flowers are empty and the flowers are intended to be fair, but the term beautiful relates to something that can be seen from the bloom. Irony shows that life does not go according to one's plans. Anger and bitterness are inescapable in life, especially in relationships between people who are dear to you. The irony here is that while the bloom is lovely, it lacks the fullness of beauty that it should have.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of the storybook "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery, with lots of sentences containing stylistic devices based on lexical and contextual meanings, aimed to find deeper meanings and dividing them into semantic s. The article explains the use of structure of the sentences which contain stylistic devices. The storybook reflected the writer's own life, where he had a plane crash in the Sahara Desert in the 1930s. The character of Rose in the storybook was an imagery of the writer's wife. Overall, it can be concluded that the writer used a children's perspective to tell his hard life story.

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