

The Applied Cognitive Metaphor Theory Based on the Poem Sir Walker Raleigh *What Is Our Life*

A.P. DR : Ali Dakhil Naem

Ministry of high education and scientific research, Department of English, College
of Education, Sawa university, Almathana, Iraq

Tel: +9647828701898 or +964779422718

E-mail: alid.n@sawauniversity.edu.iq

Abstract

This study aims to describe the special features of poet language style in *What is our life?* By Walter Raleigh that is the short poem which pressed to depict the life as the main concept and central theme. This study mainly focuses on how to apply the cognitive theories of metaphor on Walter Raleigh's poem *What is our life*. Metaphors provide people a new perspective of perceiving the world and the application of cognitive theories of metaphor creates a new field of research. The results show the special features of poet's language style are presented through variations of different word order, turning over unites to form sentence and turning at the atmosphere image of thought or the poet's message.

Keywords: Cognitive Metaphor Theory, Applied Metaphors, Sir Walker Raleigh's Poem, Concept of Life, Literature and Language .

نظرية الاستعارة المعرفية التطبيقية استنادًا إلى قصيدة "سير وولكر راليج: ما هي حياتنا"
إم دعلي دخيل نعيم

قسم اللغة الإنجليزية، كلية التربية، جامعة ساوة، المثنى، العراق
البريد الإلكتروني: alid.n@sawauniversity.edu.iq

الملخص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف الخصائص الخاصة بأسلوب لغة الشاعر في قصيدة "ما هي حياتنا؟" لولتر راليج، وهي قصيدة قصيرة تهدف إلى تصوير الحياة كالفكرة الرئيسية والموضوع المركزي. تركز هذه الدراسة بشكل أساسي على كيفية تطبيق النظريات المعرفية للاستناد على قصيدة وولتر راليج "ما هي حياتنا". توفر الاستعارات للأشخاص منظورًا جديدًا لفهم العالم، وتطبيق النظريات المعرفية للاستعارة يخلق مجالًا جديدًا للبحث. تظهر النتائج أن الخصائص الخاصة بأسلوب لغة الشاعر تتجلى من خلال تباين ترتيب الكلمات، وتغيير الوحدات لتكوين جمل، والتعبير عن صورة التفكير أو رسالة الشاعر. **الكلمات المفتاحية:** نظرية الاستعارة المعرفية، الاستعارات التطبيقية، قصيدة سير وولكر راليج، مفهوم الحياة، الأدب واللغة .

Introduction

Cognitive Metaphor Theory (CMT) has become an important framework for understanding how metaphors influence our thoughts, language, and perceptions of reality. Formulated by cognitive linguists like George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, CMT argues that metaphors are not just linguistic tools but are essential to human cognition. They affect how people conceptualize their experiences and express complex ideas. This research intends to apply CMT principles to Sir Walter

Raleigh's poem "What Is Our Life," which reflects on the fleeting nature of human existence.

The poem, rich in metaphorical expressions, is an excellent text for exploring how cognitive metaphors can shed light on the central themes of mortality, purpose, and the human experience. By examining the metaphors used in the poem, this study aims to demonstrate how they influence the reader's comprehension of life and death, ultimately enhancing the appreciation of Raleigh's philosophical reflections which are understanding of life and death, ultimately contributing to a deeper appreciation of Raleigh's philosophical insights.

The writings of renowned English courtier, explorer, and poet Sir Walter Raleigh (1552–1618) capture the complexity of the Elizabethan period. "What Is Our Life" captures Raleigh's philosophical thoughts on life, death, and the passing of time and is a moving reflection on the transient essence of human existence. The poem is distinguished by its use of figurative language and striking imagery to highlight the fleeting nature of existence. In this regard, Raleigh's use of metaphor to communicate important existential truths can be examined through the useful lens of Cognitive Metaphor Theory. According to the cognitive metaphor theory, our comprehension of abstract ideas is frequently based on more tangible experiences through metaphorical mappings that show the special features of poet's language style are presented through variations of different word order, turning for instance, life is frequently conceptualized as a journey, where various stages represent different phases of existence.

In "What Is Our Life," Raleigh employs several metaphors that resonate with this cognitive mapping, inviting readers to reflect on their own perceptions of life and mortality. By situating Raleigh's work within the framework of CMT, this study aims to uncover how these metaphors not only enhance the aesthetic quality of the poem but also facilitate deeper cognitive engagement with its themes. Furthermore, the exploration of metaphor in literature has gained traction in recent years, with scholars recognizing its significance in shaping narrative and thematic elements across various genres.

As such, applying CMT to Raleigh's poem not only contributes to literary scholarship but also enriches our understanding of how language influences thought and perception. This background sets the stage for a detailed analysis of "What Is Our Life" through the lens of Cognitive Metaphor Theory, ultimately revealing the intricate interplay between language, thought, and human experience within Raleigh's poetic oeuvre.

Problem Statement

The application of Cognitive Metaphor Theory to Sir Walter Raleigh's poetry is still lacking, despite the wealth of research on his poetry, especially in "What Is Our Life." The majority of assessments concentrate on theme components or

historical background, frequently ignoring the cognitive ways in which metaphors impact interpretation and meaning. By examining how Raleigh uses metaphor to communicate difficult concepts about existence and mortality, our study fills this gap. The main challenge is twofold: first, to recognize and classify the cognitive metaphors in the poem; second, to examine how these metaphors advance our knowledge of the transient nature of life. By tackling this issue, the research hopes to improve understanding of both Raleigh's creative goals and the more general ways that metaphor shapes human experience.

What Is Our Life? By Walter Raleigh

In this poem, the poet uses conceptual image. It appeals to the readers' mind and intellect. There is an extended metaphor throughout the poem. The poet compares man's life to a dramatic play which is performed on the stage. The play is short and the theatre symbolizes earthly life. This is sustained image, man's happiness is compared to the long period of suffering, distress and struggle. The poet continues this image throughout the poem and shows that the embryo in his mother's womb is like the actor who gets ready in the dressing room to come out and appear on the stage. In brief the poem was a great metaphoric piece of work. Since the fact that metaphor is not only a features of language but it also a matter of thought which is central to our conceptual.

The purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is about the applied cognitive metaphor theory in the poem *What is our Life* by Sir Walter Raleigh. This poem is chosen for this study being as one of the most famous poems which are fully of metaphoric expression which enable the researcher to illustrate the application of the cognitive metaphor theory.

Limitation of The Study

The study shows how cognitive metaphor theory applied in the poem *What is our Life*. The researcher will explain the effect of the cognitive metaphor theory through some events of the current poem. It presents a conceptual metaphor analysis of the metaphors that the poem uses to describe emotions. Analyzing the metaphors that people use to describe emotions will help to learn more about how poem conceptualize emotions, and, more broadly, how it illustrates about our life environment around the world.

What Is Our Life

What is our life? The play of passion
 Our mirth? The music of division:
 Our mothers' wombs the tiring-houses be,
 Where we are dressed for life's short comedy.
 The earth the stage; Heaven the spectator is,

Who sits and views whosoever doth act amiss.
The graves which hide us from the scorching sun
Are like drawn curtains when the play is done.
Thus playing post we to our latest rest,

The term *life*, according to Neufeldt, refers to the period from birth to death; the experience or state of being alive (Neufeldt, 1995: p. 780). Still, Hornby defines it as the ability to grow and produce new forms that distinguishes living animals and plants from dead ones and from rocks, metals, etc. (p.680). Besides, some symbols also represent life such as yin-yang and the tree of life. The definition, indeed, will vary also between studies and religions. This condition takes place because the studies are imposed to be objective, justifiable and methodical, while religions lead us, as the followers, to believe the tenets. The discussion of life, nevertheless, often takes more care of its origin, purpose and fate. Indeed, this will also lead to an end that varies between studies and religions, or even cultures.

What is Our Life?" is a short poem, ten lines, that tries to depict what life is. Raleigh tries to contemplate life and mortality through this poetry with his world of a poet. He compares life with a play, a drama in the stage. Here, Raleigh depicts the beginning and the end of life, with what to do and who the participants are, as well as the onlookers. The poet, Sir Walter Raleigh, on the other hand, was a versatile one. He was a soldier, courtier, philosopher, explorer and colonist, student of science, historian, and poet (Abrams, 1979: p. 878). His brilliant talent, then, led him to his great favor with Queen Elizabeth, interrupted in 1592 when he seduced, and then married, one of her ladies-in-waiting (p. 878).

Although he had a great life, he died executed by the later King James. King James threw him into the Tower of London in 1603. In 1618, James, bowing to Spanish pressure, had Raleigh executed on the old treason charge (Abrams, 1979: p. 878). Many researches in previous prior, have been examined the poem but no one of the researchers examined the poem "What is Our Life?" with stylistics. The researcher adopts stylistics in analyzing the poem in this research. The current research, thus, aims at analyzing a poem based on stylistic analysis on a graduating paper.

The Cognitive Metaphor Theory

This theory states that metaphor is not limited of literary texts but is a pervasive phenomenon in all texts types. Also it asserts that a metaphor is not just a feature of language but a matter of thought which is central to our conceptual system and the way we make sense of ourselves and the world we live in. There are two different

accounts of this theory, the first account is a cognitive theory account of a metaphor. This views that a metaphor is limited to literary texts but is pervasive in all texts types, it states that a metaphor is not just a feature of language but a matter of thought which is central to our conceptual system and the way insight to the cognitive basis of metaphors nor the means by which we process and make sense of them. Conceptual metaphor theory started with George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's book, *Metaphors We Live* (1980). (Grady,1997)

The theory goes back a long way and builds on centuries of scholarship that takes metaphor not simply as an ornamental device in language but as a conceptual tool for structuring, restructuring and even creating reality. Notable philosophers in this history include, for instance, Friedrich Nietzsche and, and more recently, Max Black. A recent overview of theories of metaphor can be found in Gibbs, ed. 2008 and that of CMT in particular in Kövecses 2010a.(Fussell,2002).

It based on the examination of conceptual metaphors that have been discovered and analyzed in the literature so far (such as Life is a journey, Anger is fire). There is an assumption that shows the most conceptual metaphors share more physical aspects as sources and more abstract aspects as targets makes a lot of conjectural sensation. For example, the concept of life is very difficult to delineate because of its complexity, that of anger is an internal feeling that remains largely hidden from us, that of theory is a sophisticated mental construct, and so on for other cases.

In all of them, a less tangible and thus less easily accessible target concept is conceptualized as and from the perspective of a more tangible and thus a more easily accessible source concept. (Deignan,2005). Logically, it makes a lot more sense to move conceptually in this particular direction to understand the world: that is, to conceptualize the cognitively less easily accessible domains in terms of the more easily accessible ones.

Notice how odd and unintuitive it would be to attempt to conceptualize journeys metaphorically as life, fire as anger, or buildings as theories. We would not find this way of understanding journey, fire, or building helpful or revealing, simply because we know a lot more about them than about such concepts as life, anger, or theory. This is not to say that the reverse direction of conceptualization never occurs. It may occur, but when it does, there is always some special poetic, stylistic, aesthetic, and so on, purpose or effect involved. The default direction of metaphorical conceptualization from more tangible to less tangible applies to the everyday and unmarked cases.

According to Cognitive Metaphor Theory, metaphor resides not only in language but also in thought. Many researchers and authors use metaphors not only to speak about certain aspects of the world but also to think about them. As above, Cognitive Metaphor Theory makes a distinction between linguistic metaphors and conceptual metaphors which rely on in our daily living or in our life to think about

aspects of the world. For example, metaphors such as What is our life? By Walter Raleigh can actually govern the way we think about life: we can set goals we want to reach, we do our best to reach those goals, we can make careful plans for the journey, we can prepare ourselves for facing obstacles along the way, we can draw up alternative plans in the form of choosing a variety of different paths, we can prefer certain paths to others, and so on. When we entertain such and similar ideas, the researcher, in fact, think about life in terms of the life as a journey in conceptual metaphor. Consequently, individuals can use the language of journeys to also speak about the life. (Cameron,2003)

Through analyses described above, it can also be concluded that the special characteristics of Raleigh's poem lie in his skill and carefulness in utilizing sounds for the importance of orchestration. The orchestration covers harmony, balance, and melodious sounds that are transformed to agree with the theme. In other words, the poet realizes that the well-structured sounds can be the supporting of the meaning of the poem.

Literature Review

some researchers have searched the same material object and theory as this research, the researcher finds some prior researches that are relevant to this research. The first research was a graduating paper written by Nurhayati (2014) from UIN Sunan Kalijaga entitled "Meaning of Metaphor in Sir Walter Raleigh's Poems". Although "What is Our Life?" was not analyzed exclusively as the only material object in this research, the poem was included in one of the analyzed poems in the research. In this research, Nurhayati used reading technique to collect and identify the data. She also applied metaphor theory to examine the type and the meaning of metaphor. Besides, she used a qualitative descriptive analyses research method. The research was aimed to clarify the types and the meaning of metaphors found in Sir Walter Raleigh's poems, and concluded that Sir Walter Raleigh's poems revealed two types of metaphors – anthropomorphic and abstract to concrete metaphors, and two kinds of meaning. The paper was written by Sardar Fayyaz ul Hassan (2012) entitled "A Stylistic Analysis of Iqbal's 'Shikwah'". *Shikwah*, Muhammad Iqbal's poem, was analyzed from a perspective of linguistics stylistics as the aim of the paper.

The paper was also supposed by Hassan to find out objectively how Iqbal used different linguistic techniques in his poetic language. Since the paper was analytical, he used various approaches, and adopted the revised methods of stylistic analysis proposed by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short in their books. This paper concluded the entire strength of lexical items including different types of compounds, three different but inter-linked themes, and evidence of

alliteration, assonance, consonance and the technique of rhyme scheme in the poem. The thesis was written by Rohani Binti Haji ismail (1994) entitled 'Sajak-sajak Sepatu Tua Karya Rendra: Analisis Stilistika from Gadjah Mada University. She applied the realization (Phonology and Graphology), form (Morphology, Syntax, and Lexicon), and figurative languages levels as the basis of the analysis. The thesis was supposed to find out applied linguistic devices in the poem, to explain aesthetic and poetic functions in the poem, and to look at the relevance among linguistic devices in the poem. It concluded that the poem used simple words and phrases with several aesthetic and poetic functions in various different styles.

The paper which published in International Journal of Academic Research and Reflection by Abdul Bari Khan & Tallat Jabeen (2015) entitled "Stylistics Analysis of the Poem 'To Autumn' By John Keats." This paper was made under the aspects of graph logical, syntactical, grammatical and phonological patterns, and aimed to know the style, the structure and the theme of the poetry, romantic traits-love of nature, beauty and imagination, and it was rich in sensuous imagery

It concluded that theme of the poem was fulfillment and richness, it possessed all the. The paper also published in British Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences by Hafiz Ahmad Bilal and Almntaha Cheema (2012) entitled "Stylistic Analysis of Wordsworth's Poem: 'Early Spring.'" The analysis was made under the aspects of graph logical, syntactical, semantic and phonological patterns. This concluded that the poem Early Spring described the beauty and charm of the nature. This harmony of the nature reminded Wordsworth the disharmony of the world. Wordsworth explained this through his style by the variations in rhythm, by the stressed pattern he followed, and by playing through words, he beautifully described the contrast in the real natural world and the materialistic world of man.

In those previous prior researches, there have been no researchers who examine the poem "What is Our Life?" with stylistics. This makes the writer adopt stylistics in analyzing the poem in this research. Also, there have been no English department students of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga who adopt Stylistics in analyzing a poem on their graduating papers. This research, thus, is the first research in analyzing a poem based on stylistic analysis on a graduating paper in English department of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga.

Research Design

This study employs a qualitative research design grounded in the principles of

Cognitive Metaphor Theory (CMT) as proposed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson. The primary aim is to analyze the use of metaphor in Sir Walter Raleigh's poem "What Is Our Life?" and to explore how these metaphors shape the reader's understanding of life and existence. The research will be interpretative, focusing on the subjective interpretation of metaphors within the poem. The poem "*What Is Our Life?*" by Sir Walter Raleigh serves as the primary text for this study. The choice of this poem is due to its rich metaphorical language and philosophical themes regarding life, death, and human experience.

The text will be analyzed in its entirety to ensure a comprehensive understanding of its metaphorical structures. The analysis will be structured around the key tenets of Cognitive Metaphor Theory, which posits that metaphor is not merely a linguistic ornament but a fundamental mechanism of human thought.

The first step will involve a close reading of the poem to identify metaphors present in the text. This will include both conceptual metaphors (underlying ideas) and linguistic metaphors (specific phrases). Once identified, metaphors will be categorized based on their conceptual domains. For example, metaphors related to life as a journey, life as a stage, or life as a fleeting moment will be classified accordingly. Each identified metaphor will be analyzed in the context of the poem. This involves examining how the metaphor interacts with other elements of the poem, such as tone, imagery, and structure, to convey deeper meanings. The study will explore the broader themes that emerge from the metaphors. This includes examining how Raleigh's use of metaphor reflects societal views on life and death during the Renaissance period and how it resonates with contemporary understandings.

Data collection

In this section, information is gathered and measured on variables of interest, in an established stylistics fashion that enables one to answer stated research question, test hypothesis, and evaluate outcomes. So, the researcher pay attention for the details that occurs in the work, the researcher reads the poem many times in order to comprehend the primary data, and then he aims to assign the data stylistically. Finally, the searcher breaks down the data based on the stylistic levels. Data for this study will be collected through a close textual analysis of Raleigh's poem. Secondary literature on Cognitive Metaphor Theory and previous analyses of Raleigh's work will also be reviewed to provide a theoretical backdrop for the study. This literature review will help situate the analysis within existing scholarship and highlight gaps that this study aims to address.

An interpretative approach will guide the analysis, allowing for multiple readings

of the text. The researcher will engage with the poem personally and critically, reflecting on their own responses to the metaphors and considering how different readers might interpret them based on their backgrounds and experiences. As this study involves literary analysis, ethical considerations primarily revolve around proper citation and acknowledgment of sources. All interpretations will be grounded in scholarly work, ensuring that the contributions of other researchers are respected. This study acknowledges potential limitations, including the subjective nature of literary interpretation and the constraints of focusing on a single poem. While the findings may offer insights into Raleigh's work, they may not be universally applicable to all poetry or all readers. This methodology outlines a structured approach to analyzing the application of Cognitive Metaphor Theory in Raleigh's "What Is Our Life?" By employing a qualitative framework that emphasizes close reading and thematic interpretation, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how metaphor shapes our perceptions of life and existence within literature.

Conclusion

In this research, the researcher analyzed the poem *What is Our Life* by Sir Walter Raleigh. According to the stylistic tools that involved in the cognitive metaphor theory. So, the researcher found thirteen a tenor and 12cwas a vehicle. The result of the analysis can be shown that poetical style and language play important roles in the creating a poem that has high-value, beautiful, and full of meaning qualities. Finally, it can be said that the special characters of style of the poet give high an esthetic impression. The results of this research refer to that the cognitive metaphor in the poem *What Is Our Life* was studied and analyzed. The verses of this poem classified according to the cognitive metaphor, however, the researcher found thirteen tenors and eleven a vehicle.

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