



 Research Article

THE LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT OF UGLINESS IN ENGLISH JOKES

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ABSTRACT

Short literary jokes and puns are one of the best ways to have fun with word play in English. The literary humour may include short literature jokes also. Humour also plays a crucial role in the perception of concepts in different cultures. Therefore, this article investigates and explores the reflection of aesthetic concept of ugliness in jokes and provides a deep insight to evaluation of the audiences' reaction to certain comic situations, the analysis of the ridiculed characteristics of the concept of ugliness and the study of linguistic features of concept actualization.

KEYWORDS

Concept actualization, linguistic features, ugliness, comic statements.

INTRODUCTION

Linguaculture, a new branch of linguistics, studies the relationship between language and culture. Concept is considered its central concept. The linguistic and cultural concept serves as a worldview model for all language speakers. Linguistic concept is a cultural tool influencing the formation of national character. Cultural concepts are studied separately in linguistics. The main concepts of culture are important in the consciousness of the collective language. The main concepts of culture mean abstract nouns, in particular,

conscience, fate, fate, will, sin, law, freedom, intellectuals, homeland.

METHODS

Nowadays several methods of studying concepts have been developed. Conceptual analysis is the only method for today's research. The purpose of conceptual analysis is "to determine the paradigm of culturally significant concepts and to describe their conceptosphere." The object of this kind of research is



not only the concept being studied, but also the use of catacorpous words and lexemes in fiction. The conscious and structural multi-layeredness of the concept is often reflected in the process of understanding the concept. In the first stage of this process, the external factors of the concept are mainly reflected, and in the second stage, the inner center of the concept, the concept-image is reflected. Although the world's scientists have expressed different opinions on the linguistic representation of the world, at the root of them is the idea that the national landscape cannot be fully formed without the language and culture of the people. , cannot imagine and remember, language is a cognitive matrix that reflects existence as a whole. In this article, the concept of ugliness has been analysed in English jokes.

It is suggested to divide flaws of physical appearance of the people in comic statements into two groups: acquired and natural. The primary ridiculed acquired physical drawback of people can include excess weight and poor memory. Non-standard shapes and sizes of human organs, short or tall stature, and speech defects are usually included in common ridiculed natural physical flaws of people. The main linguistic means of actualizing the concept of ugliness include direct exaggeration, metaphors, wordplay, irony, self-deprecation, and anthropomorphism.

RESULTS

In English jokes that revolve around the concept of ugliness, there are various linguistic features used to create humor or irony. Here are some common linguistic features found in jokes about ugliness:

1. Exaggeration: Jokes about ugliness often involve exaggerating the physical appearance of a person or thing to ridiculous extremes. This exaggeration adds a comedic effect to the joke.
2. Metaphors and similes: Metaphors and similes comparing someone's appearance to something

unattractive or unpleasant can be used to create humorous images and surprise the audience.

3. Wordplay: Puns and wordplay are commonly used in jokes about ugliness to play with the language and create a humorous twist. For example, a play on words like "She's so ugly, her shadow ran away from her" uses wordplay to evoke laughter. Moreover, in this example, the speaker is using a metaphor to suggest that the person in question is so unattractive that even her own shadow doesn't want to be associated with her. This statement emphasizes the extreme nature of the person's perceived ugliness by employing a vivid image of her own shadow rejecting her presence.

4. Irony: Irony is often used in jokes about ugliness to create a contrast between what is expected and what is actually said. For example, a joke like "I'm not saying she's ugly, but when she walks into a bank, they turn off the cameras" uses irony to create humor. Furthermore, the speaker is again using a form of hyperbole to indirectly comment on the person's appearance. By stating that the cameras are turned off when she enters the bank, the implication is that her presence is so visually unappealing that it is deemed necessary to avoid capturing it on camera. This example emphasizes the extreme nature of the perceived ugliness by highlighting a drastic reaction to the person's appearance.

5. Humor through self-deprecation: Sometimes jokes about ugliness involve self-deprecating humor, where the speaker makes fun of their own appearance in a lighthearted way. This can also involve exaggeration and irony to create comedic effect.

6. Anthropomorphism: Giving human-like characteristics to ugly objects or animals can also be a source of humor in jokes. For example, a joke about an ugly car could involve treating the car as if it had feelings or emotions, adding a humorous twist to the joke.



DISCUSSION

The concept of ugliness can be also understood in various ways, often relating to actions or behaviors that are deemed socially inappropriate, offensive, or morally wrong. In the given examples:

1. "Your dog keeps its eyes closed while humping your leg": This scenario can be considered ugly due to its grotesque or inappropriate nature. The act of a dog humping a person's leg is generally seen as a behavior that is not socially acceptable or pleasant. The dog keeping its eyes closed while engaging in this behavior may add an element of discomfort or awkwardness, emphasizing the ugliness of the situation.
2. "We're gonna lie to her that the pandemic isn't over so she can keep her mask on": This example involves deceit and manipulation for personal gain, which can be considered morally ugly. Lying about the status of the pandemic to persuade someone to keep wearing a mask under false pretenses not only lacks integrity but also undermines trust and honesty. The ugly aspect lies in the deceitful nature of the action and the potential harm it may cause to the individual being deceived.
3. "Had to tie a pork chop around my neck to get the dog to play with me": This statement conveys a sense of desperation and absurdity in resorting to extreme measures to elicit a particular response. Tying a pork chop around one's neck to attract a dog's attention or affection reflects a lack of boundaries or dignity, which can be perceived as unseemly or unattractive. The act may be seen as demeaning or inappropriate, highlighting the ugliness of the situation.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that ugliness in these examples can be associated with behaviors that are socially

unacceptable, morally questionable, deceitful, desperate, or lacking in integrity. Such actions may evoke discomfort, awkwardness, or a sense of wrongness, contributing to the perception of ugliness in different contexts. Overall, the linguistic features used in jokes about ugliness often involve exaggeration, metaphors, wordplay, irony, self-deprecation, and anthropomorphism to create humor and entertain the audience.

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