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Чорна Олена

Науковий керівник – канд. філол. наук, викладач Гарасим Т. О.

THE PECULIARITIES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN DISNEY SONGS

In this article we concentrate on the figurative language usage in the song lyrics of Disney films, specifically “Let it Go”, “Love is an Open Door” and “I See the Light”. The paper surveys the explanations of “figurative language”, “figure of speech” and comprises the definitions of figures of speech. It was proved that the extensive usage of metaphor, anaphora, simile, onomatopoeia, hyperbole and personification is the key feature of Disney soundtracks. In the course of our investigation, it was justified that each figure of speech has a certain value in the lyrics and impact on the listener.

Key words: *figures of speech, figurative language, lyrics, metaphor, anaphora, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, simile.*

Стаття присвячена використанню фігуральної мови в текстах пісень Діснея, зокрема “Let it Go”, “Love is an Open Door” and “I See the Light”. У статті наводяться тлумачення “фігуральної мови», “фігури мовлення» та міститься огляд дефініцій основних мовленнєвих фігур. Доведено, що широке використання метафори, анафори, порівняння, ономапонемії, гіперболи та уособлення є ключовою особливістю саундтреків Діснея. У ході дослідження було встановлено, що кожен вид фігуральної мови має певну цінність у тексті пісні та впливає на її слухача.

Ключові слова: *фігура мовлення, фігуральна мова, тексти пісень, метафора, анафора, уособлення, ономапонемія, гіпербола, порівняння.*

Language is the unique capacity of people to communicate and interact with each other. Also, language helps us convey some information. Besides, there are various ways that we use to show our feelings and reveal ideas. The song is one of them as many people pour their emotions into lyrics. Usually, songwriters do not put their ideas explicitly, but it demands certain efforts and requires more knowledge to realize what is implied by a songwriter. Thus, figurative language used in literary texts composes the soundtracks.

The **aim** of the article is to point out different figures of speech in Disney songs and determine their effect on the lyrics.

Figurative language belongs to semantics within the arrangement of language, used to display something in the implicit meaning of the word, not in the actual one. This kind of language is opposed to the literary one as it is characterized by figures of speech. “Merriam-Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature” defines figure of speech as “a form of utterance used to convey meaning or intensify effect, often by comparing or associate one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener” [2, p. 415]. The usage of figurative language in a sentence has its own impact, as it provides special effects and feelings and can be observed in pieces of writing and speaking, for example, lyrics of the songs.

The Walt Disney Company is the largest and most successful company of animated film production. Since every Disney movie includes songs with many hidden meanings, in the course of our investigation the song lyrics from the films Frozen (“Let it Go”, “Love is an Open Door”) and Tangled (“I See the Light”) were analysed and the following figures of speech were found out: metaphor, onomatopoeia, anaphora, hyperbole, personification and simile.

M. H. Abrams, American literary critic, explains *metaphor* as “a word or utterance that in literal usage indicates one kind of thing is applied to a definitely different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison” [1, p. 97]. A metaphor is an implied comparison in contrast to the explicit comparison of the simile [2, p. 756]:

e.g. “Love is an open door” [5].

This quote indicates that love can make you feel welcomed, loved and special. The stylistic effect of this metaphor is significant as it appeals to the reader's intuition, giving him/her a chance to interpret the text creatively.

Meyer Abrams claims that another figure related to metaphor is *personification* in which “either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings” [1, p. 99]:

e.g. “The wind is howling like this swirling storm inside” [4] (the wind cannot howl, only humans can produce such a long cry of pain).

e.g. “Couldn't keep it in, heaven knows I tried!” [4] (the heaven does not have knowledge and brain to use it for solving a problem or understanding a situation).

e.g. “And the fears that once controlled me can't get to me at all!” [4] (only humans have the ability to order, limit or rule our actions and behaviour)

e.g. “I don't care what they're going to say let the storm rage on” [4] (the storm cannot feel and express anger).

e.g. “*My soul is spiraling in frozen fractals all around*” [4] (the soul is an abstract notion, so it cannot move in a spiral).

From the examples above, we see that the usage of personification gives us a more vivid picture of what is happening and helps to comprehend the circumstances better and sympathize with the characters.

As stated in “A Glossary of Literary Terms”, “*simile* is a comparison between two definitely different things is explicitly indicated by the word “like” or “as” [1, p. 97].

e.g. “*A kingdom of isolation, and it looks like I'm the queen*” [4] (She acts like a queen in her own kingdom, which means that she is a powerful ruler, reliable and responsible person, can control an independent state).

e.g. “*The wind is howling like the swirling storm inside*” [4] (this sentence compares two different actions such as ‘the wind is howling’ and ‘the swirling storm inside’. So, the wind is as strong as her feelings and worries).

e.g. “*I'll rise like the break of dawn*” [4] (she hopes that no matter how dark the clouds are now, she will be free and able to get up like the sun at the break of dawn).

Simile creates an image for the listener/reader, introduces vividness, adds some flavour and a new perspective on the world. Moreover, the use of similes makes it easier to understand the subject matter of the song/text.

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is an intentional exaggeration for emphasis or comic effect [2, p. 573].

e.g. “*The cold never bothered me anyway*” [4].

This example carries two meanings: the first meaning is literal – she is not disturbed by the cold weather, she has no problem living on top of a frozen mountain; the second one is implicit – she's resolved to become emotionally ‘cold’, separating from humanity in general and her sister specifically.

e.g. “*And the world has somehow shifted*” // “*All at once everything looks different*” [3].

The song lyrics above are over-emphasizing as the world cannot change suddenly, i.e. there is a change in her life after she has met someone and everything looks better due to the presence of someone by her side.

Hyperbole creates an amusing effect in the text, helps to emphasize our meaning. Hyperbole also serves as a form of persuasion, causing the reader to pay attention.

The song “I See the Light” is a riddle with the examples of the figure of sounds – **anaphora**. In “Merriam-Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature” it is defined as repetition of a word or words at the beginning of two or more successive clauses or verses especially for rhetorical and poetic effect [2, p. 47].

e.g. “*All those days watching from the windows*” // “*All those years outside looking in*” [3].

In addition, the song “Let It Go” contains examples of onomatopoeia, another phonetic figure. M. H. Abrams indicates that “**onomatopoeia** designates a word, or a combination of words, whose sound seems to resemble closely the sound it denotes: “hiss”, “buzz”, “rattle”, “bang” [1, p. 199]:

e.g. “*Let it go, let it go turn away and slam the door!* [4] (to slam – to shut the door forcefully);

e.g. “The wind is **howling** like this swirling storm inside” [4] (to howl – to make a long, loud, doleful cry).

Having analysed the lyrics of the Disney songs famous for their figurative language, six kinds of figures of speech were found: metaphor, personification, anaphora, simile, onomatopoeia and hyperbole. This indicates the fact that figurative language is significant in lyrics as it gives special emphasis to the idea, helps to convey the meaning of the song. Moreover, different figures of speech have their peculiar effect. For example, metaphor gives us a chance to interpret the text creatively. Personification and simile introduce a more vivid picture of what is happening for better understanding of the subject matter of the song. The presence of hyperbole helps to emphasize a certain meaning, causing the reader/listener to pay attention. On the examples from Disney songs figures of speech can be easily taught and creatively interpreted.

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Шпаковська Єлизавета

Науковий керівник – канд. філол. наук, доцент Притолок С. А.

ЛЕКСИЧНІ ЗАСОБИ ВИРАЖЕННЯ ЕМОТИВНОГО ЗНАЧЕННЯ В СУЧАСНІЙ НІМЕЦЬКІЙ МОВІ

У статті подається огляд емотивного лексичного фонду, який є складною, багатоплановою системою семантично об’єднаних мовленнєвих одиниць, які належать до різних частин мови. Розглядаються емоційні конотації, які реалізуються в мові за допомогою емоційно-оцінних прикметників, прислівників ступеня, іменників та дієслів, семантична структура яких містить оцінку, а також вигуків. Важливим засобом мовленнєвого відображення почуттів та емоцій людини є фразеологізми. Виділення окремих груп емоційної лексики дає можливість бачити її параметри, інтенсивність уживання певних її типів і враховувати найбільш продуктивні в практиці навчання німецької мови. У результаті аналізу мовленнєвого матеріалу встановлено, що емоційна лексика є ефективним засобом вираження емоцій та емоційного стану людини.

***Ключові слова:** емотивна лексика, емотивність, фразеологічні одиниці.*