

Looking at Emotion with Plant Metaphors in English and Uzbek Poetry

By

Zarnigor M. Mo

O‘zbekiston-Finlandiya pedagogika institute, Uzbekistan, Asia

ABSTRACT

When using the names of flower species to create or describe an artistic image in poetry, the transfer of its meaning to a person is necessarily based on certain conditional similarities between a flower and a person. Such comparisons, a phenomenon of metaphorization, are also used to describe human emotions. This article discusses the “emotion is a plant” model that is observed in English and Uzbek poetry.

KEYWORDS: Phythonyms, Conceptual Metaphors, Emotion.

INTRODUCTION

Linguists are interested in how language reflects the conceptual systems that people use to understand the world. In particular, G. Lakoff and M. Johnsen, who conducted the first studies of conceptual metaphors, suggested that abstract concepts that do not have a material appearance, such as thought, emotion, love, friendship, sadness, and which are difficult to imagine, should be considered from the point of view basic concepts. ¹ According to researchers, metaphors are not only a feature of language, but are also associated with the processes of thinking and understanding. Concepts, which are products of thinking, influence our daily lives and systematize our feelings, behavior and attitudes towards other people. ²

METHODOLOGY

O. Yeseneva studies the “Emotion - Plant” model in English and Chinese and connects the six stages of a plant’s life with the expression of the concept of “emotion” in English. These are seed (seed), germination (germination), budding (budding), flowering (blooming), fruition (fruiting), withering (withering). ³ Indeed, if you pay attention to the opinions that we use in everyday life (“Kalbda muhabbat urugi undi” “The seed of love sprouted in their hearts”, “Ular orasida do’stlik nish otdi” “Friendship sprouted between them”, “Uning ilk sevgisi kurtak ochdi” “His first love blossomed”, “muhabbat mevasi/nafratning achchik mevasi” “The fruit of love/the bitter fruit of hatred”, “Ishqi so’ldi/ishtiyoki suldi”, “His love has faded/hispassion has faded”) one can see that plants serve to express human emotions. The scientist says that emotions, like plants, can sprout (seed), develop (bud), reach the peak of

development (flower), give some result (fruit) and fade. After all, emotions are in the process of movement, like plants, that is, they are not always the same. A person is sometimes happy, sometimes sad, sometimes full of joy, and sometimes depressed.

DISCUSSION

In his poem “Verses Made the Night before he Died” M. Dryten compares love to corn. The words "corn, seed, sow, rise" used to describe the first two stages of the plant's life cycle represent the emergence and intensification of the feeling of love. The concept of love is

¹ Лакоф Г., Жонсен М. Метафоры, которыми мы живем. – М.: Едиториал УРСС, 2004. – 256 с.

² Лакоф Г., Жонсен М. Метафоры, которыми мы живем. – М.: Едиториал УРСС, 2004. – С. 25.

³ based on the concept of a plant (there is no real plant). The poet says that from one seed several leaves grow and love grows like a poppy seed.

The *corn*, that in the ground is *sown*, first dies,

And of one seed do many *ears arise*;

Love, this world's corn, by dying multiplies.⁴

Poetry reflects the life experiences and dreams of poets. Such mental states are especially manifested in poems poured out from the heart upon the loss of loved ones. Having lost a close friend, A. Tennesen wrote: “From land to land; and in my breast Spring wakens too; and my regret Becomes an April violet, And buds and blossoms like the rest.”⁵ In the line “My regret becomes an April violet” we find a conceptual metaphor. The strengthening and development of this feeling is expressed by the words buds and blossoms. Interestingly, the above example contradicts the idea that flower metaphors are typically associated with strong positive evaluation. Although the words “April violet, buds and blossoms” evoke positive emotions, in the discourse of the text they express a growing sense of regret that tormented the poet.

In E. Vakhidov's poem, the feeling of regret is compared to squeezing out juice of a pomegranate and shows the poet's mental anguish “But - my father did not return, when I remember him, my heart is squeezed like a pomegranate seed” (“Аmmo - Dadam kaitgani yŷk, uni eslasam, Anor donasidek ezilar yurak.”)⁶. The pomegranate is the size and color of a heart, and its water is the color of blood. The juice that comes out when squeezing a pomegranate resembles the blood of the heart. Squeezing a pomegranate is a physical movement and it occurs under external influence, force. Grief is also caused by certain

external events that affect a person spiritually and the heart suffers.

The feeling of depression, uselessness, abandonment in love can be seen in examples of comparison with fallen fruit of withered tree. In the “Walsingham” verses, Sir Walter Raleigh says that he has become no longer needed by the love of his life, describing it as “love does not love the fruit that falls from a withered tree.”

I have loved her all my
youth, But now old as you
see,
Love likes not the falling
fruit From the withered
tree.⁷

E. Vakhidov’s poem “I wrote a letter to a Beauty” (“Dildorga noma yozdim”), in which the face of a lover, suffering the bitterness of separation, is compared to a yellowed leaf (“bargi khazan”):

Bargi xazonni olib
Yoniga qo’yginu ayt:
Bu oshiging yuzi deb
Hijron degan baloda
Take a withered leave;
Put it in front of your
beloved: Tell it’s your
beloved face, Faded from
separation.⁸

⁴ Gardner H. The New Oxford Book of English Verse. – New York: Oxford University press, 1985. – P.283.

⁵ Gardner H. The New Oxford Book of English Verse. – New York: Oxford University press, 1985. – P.652.

⁶ Вохидов Э. Муҳаббатнома. Сайланма. 2 жилдлик. 1-жилд. – Т.: Фафур Фулом номидаги Адабиёт ва санъатнашриёти, 1986. – Б.451.

Yesenova O. notes that some plants, especially roses, have their own specifics. Roses have sharp and woody thorns. The metaphor of thorns usually has a strong negative

connotation because we experience intense physical pain if thorns prick us.⁹ Therefore, if love is compared to a rose, then its pain is compared to the thorn of a rose in both English and Uzbek poetry. For example, in the poem by R. Burns “The Banks o’Doon” the poet writes that the beloved left taking the rose (love) but leaving the thorns ((pain) (Wi’ lightsome heart I pu’d a rose, Fu’ sweet upon its thorny tree ; And my fause lover stole my rose, But ah! He left the thorn wi’ me)).

S. Daniel in his poem “Love is sickness” (“Love is a disease”) described love as “a plant that grows taller the more it is cut” (Love is a sickness full of woes, All remedies refusing; A plant that with most cutting grows, Most barren with best using. Why so?), E. Bronte compared love and friendship, comparing one with a rose-briar, and the other with a sacred tree (holly-tree). Love blooms briefly in summer, but the holy tree is always green. These characteristics of plants apply to human relationships as well.

Love is like the wild rose-briar,

Friendship like the holly-tree—
The holly is dark when the rose-briar

blooms
But which will bloom most
constantly?

The wild rose-briar is sweet in
spring, Its summer blossoms scent
the air¹⁰;

The image of flowers, especially rose, are used in Carpe Diem poetry which encourages celebrating life, enjoying oneself and seizing the day. In the poem by W. Spenser “The Bower of Bliss”, human life and youth are resembled to a blooming rose and poet calls for appreciating this period (Of many a lady, and many a Prmowre: Gather therefore the Rose, whilst yet is prime, For sooner comes age, that will her pride deflower: Gather the Rose of love, whilst yet is time,). The same meaning is observed in “To the Virgins” by R. Herrick (Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying: And this same flower that smile today. Tomorrow will be dying). In both poems rose represents young and beautiful girls.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, flowers as a comparative source are more expressive for the feeling of love, and its suffering is also observed in the poetry of the two languages. Especially, such cases are characterized by a specific rose and its characteristics (its beautiful flower, limited flowering time, thorns). At the same time, a person’s internal thought, feelings, and mental state are also figuratively described using phytonyms. Six stages of plant life cycle can be associated with different human feelings and verbalized in our speech which can also be observed in poetry.

¹⁰ <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50537/love-and-friendship>

⁸ Suggested translation by author of the article

⁹ Esenova O., 2007. Plant metaphors for the expression of emotions in the English language.
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