THE REVIEW OF METAPHORICAL NOMINATION OF PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

This article reviews the use of metaphorical nomination in philosophical terms within the English language, highlighting the role of metaphors in shaping philosophical discourse. The study explores how metaphors facilitate the articulation of abstract concepts, drawing on theoretical frameworks from prominent scholars like Paul Ricoeur, George Lakoff, Mark Johnson, Donald Davidson, and Max Black. By categorizing metaphors into structural, orientational, and ontological types based on George Lakoff's theory, the research demonstrates the cognitive functions of these metaphors and their contribution to philosophical communication. The findings reveal that metaphors are indispensable in philosophy, providing clarity and depth to complex ideas, and enhancing our understanding of fundamental philosophical concepts.

Keywords

Philosophical terms, cognitive linguistics, metaphors, conceptual frameworks, philosophical concepts, abstract concepts.

Introduction. The use of metaphor in philosophical discourse has long been a subject of interest and inquiry among scholars seeking to understand how language shapes our conceptual frameworks and influences philosophical thought. At the forefront of this exploration are seminal works by scholars such as Paul Ricoeur, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, Donald Davidson, and Max Black, who have delved deeply into the intricate relationship between language, metaphor, and meaning. These scholars offer valuable insights into the role of metaphor in philosophical terminology, demonstrating how metaphors serve not merely as rhetorical devices but as fundamental mechanisms for generating and conveying meaning within philosophical discourse.

Metaphors play a crucial role in shaping philosophical discourse by transforming abstract concepts into more comprehensible and relatable terms. This study aims to explore the intricate ways in which metaphors are employed within philosophical language, particularly focusing on how they help articulate complex

ideas and theories. By categorizing these metaphors according to George Lakoff's theory into structural, orientational, and ontological types, we can gain deeper insights into their cognitive functions and the unique ways they enrich philosophical communication. This investigation not only illuminates the significance of metaphors in philosophy but also enhances our understanding of how metaphoric language influences thought and perception within this domain.

Literature review. In "The Rule of Metaphor: Multi-Disciplinary Studies of the Creation of Meaning in Language", Paul Ricoeur argues that metaphor plays a central role in the construction of meaning across various academic disciplines, including philosophy[1]. Ricoeur contends that metaphor is not simply a decorative or ornamental feature of language but a powerful tool for conceptual innovation and understanding. Similarly, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, in "Metaphors We Live By", propose a cognitive linguistic perspective on metaphor, highlighting its pervasive influence on human cognition and its role in structuring our understanding of the world. Through rigorous analysis and empirical research, these scholars elucidate the profound impact of metaphor on philosophical thought and discourse, laying the groundwork for further exploration into this fascinating intersection of language and philosophy[2].

Donald Davidson's essay "What Metaphors Mean" offers a rigorous analysis of the semantics of metaphor, challenging the view that metaphors are merely decorative or ornamental expressions. Davidson argues that metaphors have genuine cognitive content and convey meaning by establishing conceptual mappings between different domains of experience. His work sheds light on the cognitive processes involved in metaphorical interpretation and their implications for philosophical understanding[3].

Max Black's exploration of metaphor in "Models and Metaphors: Studies in Language and Philosophy" provides valuable insights into the nature and functions of metaphor within language and thought. Black examines the similarities and differences between models and metaphors, elucidating how metaphorical language enriches philosophical discourse by facilitating conceptual understanding and imaginative exploration[4].

These scholars, among others, have made significant contributions to our understanding of metaphor in philosophical terminology, highlighting its role as a fundamental mechanism for generating meaning, structuring thought, and fostering conceptual innovation within philosophy.

[1] Ricoeur, Paul. "The Rule of Metaphor: Multi-Disciplinary Studies of the Creation of Meaning in Language." Routledge, 2003.
[2] Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson. "Metaphors We Live By." University of Chicago Press, 2003.
[3] Davidson, Donald. "What Metaphors Mean." Critical Inquiry, vol. 5, no. 1, 1978, pp. 31-47.
[4] Black, Max. "Models and Metaphors: Studies in Language and Philosophy." Cornell University Press, 1962.

Method.

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the use of metaphors in the formation and communication of philosophical terms in English. The research is descriptive and analytical, aiming to identify and interpret the metaphoric language that shapes philosophical discourse.

The primary sources for this study include seminal works of philosophy written in English, such as texts by Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Nietzsche, and Wittgenstein, as well as translations of significant non-English texts[5].

Academic papers, articles, and commentaries discussing the use of metaphors in philosophical language were also reviewed[6]. This includes contemporary analyses of classical philosophical texts and studies focusing on metaphor theory in philosophy.

Philosophical texts were selected based on their influence and recognition in the field of philosophy[7]. The criteria included the frequency of citation in academic literature and the texts' historical significance.

The study examined metaphors used in key passages that introduce or explain philosophical terms and concepts. Particular attention was given to metaphors that have become terms themselves, such as "the veil of ignorance" (Rawls) or "the mind as a blank slate" (Locke) [8].

Metaphors were identified through close reading and annotation of the selected texts. This involved systematically highlighting phrases and sentences where metaphors were used to explain or define philosophical terms.

The identified metaphors were categorized based on their thematic and conceptual similarities. Categories included metaphors of vision ("insight", "enlightenment"), space ("framework", "boundary"), and journey ("path to knowledge", "crossroads of decision").

Each metaphor was analyzed to interpret its meaning and role in conveying philosophical concepts. This involved examining the context in which the metaphor was used and the underlying conceptual metaphor it represented.

The study compared metaphors across different philosophical texts and traditions to identify common patterns and unique usages. This comparative analysis helped to understand how metaphors function across various philosophical discourses.

Preliminary findings were presented to a panel of experts in philosophy and linguistics for feedback and validation.Metaphors identified in the primary texts

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[5] Plutarch's "Life of Theseus" as cited in Parfit, D. (1984). "Reasons and Persons."
[6] Rousseau, J. J. (1987). [1762] The Social Contract. The Basic Political Writings.
[7] Sartre, Jean-Paul, Sarah Richmond, and Richard Moran. Being and nothingness: An essay in phenomenological ontology. Routledge, 2022.
[8] Rawls, J. "1971: A theory of justice. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press." (1971).

were cross-referenced with secondary literature to confirm their interpretation and significance.

This study involved the analysis of publicly available texts and did not require ethical approval. Proper citations and acknowledgments were provided for all sources used in the research.

Results. The exploration of metaphors in philosophical terms reveals the profound ways in which metaphorical language shapes our understanding and communication of abstract concepts. By analyzing the metaphors identified in philosophical discourse, we can observe the diverse functions they serve and how they align with George Lakoff's classification into structural, orientational, and ontological metaphors.

Structural Metaphors

Structural metaphors provide a framework for understanding abstract concepts through more concrete terms. In our study, several structural metaphors emerged prominently:

- *Beautifully Structured Argument* and *Building an Argument*: These metaphors conceptualize argumentation as a constructive process, akin to building a physical structure. This suggests that arguments have components that fit together to create a coherent whole, emphasizing the logical and systematic nature of philosophical reasoning.

- *Laying a Foundation for Reasoning*: This metaphor implies that reasoning is built upon a solid base of foundational principles or premises, highlighting the importance of initial assumptions in the development of logical arguments.

- *Allegory of the Cave*: Plato's famous metaphor uses a cave to represent the limitations of human perception and the journey towards enlightenment. This structural metaphor vividly illustrates the transition from ignorance to knowledge.

- *Light* : Light as a metaphor for knowledge and understanding is a classic example, portraying enlightenment as illumination and ignorance as darkness.

- *Chimera Conundrum*: This metaphor conveys the complexity and multifaceted nature of certain philosophical problems, likening them to the mythical chimera, a creature composed of various parts.

Orientational Metaphors

Orientational metaphors organize concepts spatially and help us navigate abstract ideas by linking them to physical orientation. The study identified several key orientational metaphors:

- *High Moral*: This metaphor positions morality on a vertical axis, suggesting that higher moral standards are superior and more desirable.

- *Falling from Grace*: This metaphor uses vertical descent to describe a loss of status or respect, implying a fall from a previously elevated position.

- *Straight Path*: The concept of a "straight path" metaphorically represents a direct and righteous course of action, indicating moral or ethical integrity.

- *Reaching New Heights*: This metaphor depicts achievement and progress as upward movement, symbolizing advancement and success.

Ontological Metaphors

Ontological metaphors conceptualize abstract phenomena as concrete entities or substances. The metaphors identified in this study include:

- *Grasping a Concept*: This metaphor frames understanding as a physical act of grasping, suggesting that concepts can be mentally held and manipulated.

- *Elegant Theory*: The metaphor of elegance in theories emphasizes their simplicity, coherence, and aesthetic appeal, likening intellectual beauty to physical grace.

- *A Bridge Between Two Ideas* : This metaphor portrays connections between ideas as bridges, facilitating the crossing from one concept to another and implying a structured linkage.

- *Seeing the Truth*: Vision metaphors, such as "seeing the truth," suggest that understanding and perception are akin to physical sight.

- *A Clear Path*: This metaphor uses the imagery of a clear path to signify straightforwardness and transparency in reasoning or decision-making.

- *A Rainbow of Possibility*: This metaphor conveys a spectrum of opportunities and potential outcomes, likening them to the diverse colors of a rainbow.

- *Argus-eyed*: Derived from mythology, this metaphor describes a keen observer, likening their vigilance to Argus, the many-eyed giant.

Discussion. The term "social contract" metaphorically evokes the image of a contractual agreement among individuals in a society, wherein they consent to abide by certain rules and regulations for the sake of mutual benefit and social order. This metaphorical framing is commonly associated with political philosophy, particularly the works of thinkers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who explored the theoretical foundations of governance and the relationship between individuals and the state[9][10][11].

The Ship of Theseus is a metaphorical device often employed in philosophical discourse, particularly in discussions surrounding identity, persistence, and change. The metaphor originates from a thought experiment in which the question is raised: If every part of a ship is replaced over time, is it still the same ship? This metaphorical scenario prompts reflections on the nature of identity and the conditions under which an object retains its identity despite undergoing changes.

[9] Hobbes, T. (1964). Social Contract Theory.
[10] Sasan, J. M. V. (2021). The Social Contract Theories of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke: Comparative Analysis.
[11] Locke, J., Hume, D., & Rousseau, J. J. (1946). Social contract. *(No Title)*.

Coined by the philosopher John Rawls, the term "veil of ignorance" serves as a metaphor for a hypothetical scenario in which individuals are asked to make decisions about societal arrangements without knowledge of their own personal characteristics or circumstances. This metaphorical device is central to Rawls's theory of justice as fairness, as it aims to ensure impartiality and fairness by removing biases and self-interest from the decision-making process[12].

The term "existential angst" metaphorically captures the profound sense of anxiety, dread, and uncertainty that individuals may experience when confronted with the inherent existential questions of human existence, such as the meaning of life, freedom, choice, and death. Originating from existentialist philosophy, particularly the works of thinkers like Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Jean-Paul Sartre, this metaphorical expression conveys the existential condition of human beings grappling with the inherent absurdity and ambiguity of existence[13].

Conclusion. The examples discussed above illustrate how metaphorical terms are employed in philosophical discourse to elucidate complex concepts, provoke thought, and convey abstract ideas through vivid imagery and analogy. They demonstrate the rich interplay between language, metaphor, and philosophical inquiry in shaping our understanding of fundamental philosophical concepts and issues.

The use of metaphors in philosophical language highlights the inherent limitations of human cognition and communication. By relying on metaphors, philosophers can make abstract ideas more accessible and relatable, but they also shape the way we conceptualize and understand these ideas. Lakoff's theory helps to categorize these metaphors, showing that they serve different cognitive functions, whether organizing our spatial understanding of concepts, providing structural clarity, or making abstract entities more tangible.

Metaphors are indispensable tools in philosophical discourse, providing clarity and depth to complex ideas. This study's classification of metaphors into structural, orientational, and ontological categories according to Lakoff's theory illustrates their varied roles and significant impact on our comprehension of philosophical terms. Understanding these metaphors enhances our appreciation of philosophical language and its ability to convey profound and nuanced meanings.

[12] Runcheva, H. (2013). John Rawls: Justice as Fairness behind the Veil of Ignorance. *Iustinianus Primus L. Rev.*, *4*, 1.
[13] Moyn, S. (2012). Anxiety and Secularization: Søren Kierkegaard and the Twentieth-Century Invention of Existentialism. In *Situating Existentialism: Key Texts in Context* (pp. 279-304). Columbia University Press.

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7.   Plutarch's "Life of Theseus" as cited in Parfit, D. (1984). "Reasons and Persons."

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12.   Sartre, Jean-Paul, Sarah Richmond, and Richard Moran. Being and nothingness: An essay in phenomenological ontology. Routledge, 2022.