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# FORMAL AND STRUCTURAL ASPECTS OF GENITIVE METAPHOR: A REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

*The article analyzes the formal and structural aspects of the genitive metaphor, focusing on modern trends in its use and interpretation. Based on the analysis of various linguistic corpuses and examples from well-known works and publications, the article demonstrates a wide spectrum of variations of the genitive metaphor and its role in shaping the language image. The article analyzes four types of metaphorization – full metaphor structure, one-sided semasiological metaphor, one-sided onomasiological metaphor, and etymological metaphor. The results show the following: the genitive metaphor is a binary construction consisting of two nouns, with the second element being the head; word order can be fixed or free in genitive metaphor constructions; Structural models containing a genitive metaphor are divided into simple and complex based on composition; the noun in the genitive always specifies the head noun of the construction, but the head is content-wise the noun in the genitive case; the genitive metaphor consists of two nouns, which leads to the emergence of metaphorical meaning. In conclusion, the analysis of various metaphors shows the complexity of the language mechanism and its connection with the cultural context. The article expands our understanding of the genitive metaphor phenomenon and its role in modern language.*

***Keywords:*** *genitive metaphor, linguistic, contemporary discourse.*

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# ФОРМАЛЬНО-СТРУКТУРНИЙ АСПЕКТ ГЕНІТИВНОЇ МЕТАФОРИ: ОГЛЯД СУЧАСНИХ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ

*У статті проаналізовано формальний і структурний аспекти родової метафори, зосереджено увагу на сучасних тенденціях її використання та інтерпретації. На основі аналізу різних лінгвістичних корпусів та прикладів з відомих творів і публікацій продемонстровано широкий спектр варіацій родової метафори та її роль у формуванні мовної картини світу. У статті проаналізовано чотири типи метафоризації: повна метафорична структура, однобічна семасіологічна метафора, однобічна ономасіологічна метафора та етимологічна метафора. Результати дослідження свідчать про таке: генітивна метафора – це бінарна конструкція, що складається з двох іменників, другим елементом якої є голова; порядок слів у генітивних метафоричних конструкціях може бути фіксованим або вільним; структурні моделі, що містять генітивну метафору, за складом поділяються на прості та складні; іменник у родовому відмінку завжди вказує на головний іменник конструкції, але головою змістовно є іменник у родовому відмінку; генітивна метафора складається з двох іменників, що призводить до виникнення метафоричного значення. Отже, аналіз різних метафор показує складність мовного механізму та його зв'язок з культурним контекстом. Стаття розширює наше розуміння явища родової метафори та її ролі в сучасній мові.*

***Ключові слова:*** *генетивна метафора, лінгвістика, сучасний дискурс.*

**The problem formulation.** In modern linguistic research, the problem of analyzing and interpreting the formal and structural aspects of genitive metaphor is becoming relevant. The genitive metaphor, as an integral part of linguistic expression, is key to understanding and analyzing the semantic and stylistic aspects of language. However, despite considerable research in this area, there is a need for a deeper and more systematic consideration of the formal and structural features of genitive metaphor in the context of modern linguistic discourse. The issue remains the understanding of various ways of expressing genitive metaphor, its influence on the syntactic and semantic structure of the language, and its role in the formation of stylistically expressive speech. Therefore, it is important to further study this phenomenon to expand our knowledge of language and its functioning in the modern linguistic context.

**Analysis of recent studies and publications.** The relevance of this study lies in the growing interest in linguistic phenomena in modern linguistics. The genitive metaphor is a complex linguistic concept that has a significant impact on how we perceive and use language. In this regard, the study of its formal and structural aspects is critical for understanding and analyzing linguistic constructions. The researchers studied the structure and semantics of genitive constructions in Ukrainian, and their functional features in different contexts. Their focus is on the cognitive mechanisms underlying the understanding and use of genitive metaphors, such as ownership, relations between objects, and conceptual models. Linguistic research is also aimed at revealing the semantic shades of genitive metaphor in the Ukrainian language, in particular, identifying and analyzing conceptual metaphors that are reflected in the use of genitive constructions in the context of Ukrainian culture and mentality. These areas form a comprehensive approach to the study of genitive metaphors in Ukrainian language and culture. Understanding and researching this topic will allow us to reveal the depth of linguistic possibilities and enrich our understanding of the linguistic process as a whole. The growing interest in the genitive metaphor can be traced in the studies of Datsyshyn H. (2004), Dmytryshyn L. (2006), Yeshchenko T. (2018), Chadyuk O. (2005) etc.

The main purpose of this paper is to systematically analyze and study the genitive metaphor. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are envisaged: theoretically substantiating the formal and structural aspects of the genitive metaphor and establishing the level of metaphorization of binary structures expressed in the form of genitive phrases.

**Research results.** Genitive metaphor is one of the most important linguistic tools used to convey the relationship between objects through ownership. The peculiarity of the genitive metaphor is that it is based on the use of grammatical constructions with words that indicate ownership, but they have shades of meanings that go beyond the simple indication of ownership. Genetic metaphors can include implicit or explicit relations between objects, creating additional layers of meaning in the language system. The influence of the genitive metaphor on the language system is quite significant. It helps to reflect complex concepts and relationships between different phenomena, making them more understandable and accessible to perception. In addition, a genetic metaphor can impact the development of the language itself, prompting changes in semantics or syntax. It can lead to the emergence of new constructions or the reinterpretation of existing ones, enriching the language system with new possibilities of expressiveness and accuracy in expressing thoughts and feelings. Thus, genetic metaphor plays an important role in the formation and development of language and in the perception and understanding of the world around us.

This article discusses the results of theoretical research by contemporary scholars who have studied the formal and structural aspects of the genitive metaphor, trying to identify its features and influence on the language system.

Let us consider Kozlova's definition of the concept of "metaphorical phrase". According to the scientist, it is a combination of words, the main member of which is expressed by a metaphor, and the dependent member is a word in the literal sense (Kozlova, 208). For example: The village is the *root of the nation*, it is the waters // that move the shore (Zhadan, 2003).

Basilaya N. A. in work "Semasiological analysis of binary metaphorical word combinations" notes that "Metaphors of the type under consideration are binary because they consist of two components – a noun in the nominative case and a noun in the genitive case" (Basilaya, 1971). For example: The three chords of the neighborhood, and in fact the fate of the whole (Vasylashko, 2007); Further is a matter of time (Zhadan, 2003); The organ of his love is visual memory (Etymological Dictionary, 1982).

Investigating the question of which genitive phrases should be considered metaphors and which should not, we fully agree with Balko's conclusion that "constructions of this type" such as genetic (erased metaphor) "should not be considered among metaphorical formations, since they lack the main feature of metaphor – duality" (Balko, 2004). The duality has disappeared only for an outside reader and only in relation to our time. Scholars have repeatedly considered the types of metaphorical words. Among them, one can find a place for each genitive construction. To do this, you can use the schemes of metaphor structure or the formula of the degree of metaphoricality by McCormack.

The research of these authors shows that genitive metaphor has various forms and shades that should be considered in the context and language system. They reveal important aspects of metaphorical expression, which contribute to a deep understanding of linguistic dialectic and its impact on perception of the world.

The type of subordinating relation in the middle of the genitive construction is control: Here it is, the workshop of *space* (Lozova, 2007); This is a serious *warning from Heaven* (Taran, 2007); and I will uproot the tight *roots of longing* (Zhadan, 2000). In the selected genitive constructions, the core word requires a certain case form from the dependent, and it remains unchanged with any change in the form of the core word.

Ingenious designs with strong control are not uncommon: "If this is a *bunch of thoughts,* then why // A computer soul, even if it is a sentient one? (Andrukhovych, 2004). When changing the form of the phrase "a clot of thoughts", the form of the first component changes, while the second remains unchanged.

The word form in genitive constructions is an expression of the connection between dependent words and core words through case endings (Datsyshyn, 2004). This is the second constituent of a genitive phrase that constantly retains the genitive case form. For example: From the outside, it is an old dilapidated house surrounded by construction sites, but inside it is a real *citadel* of anarchist organizations, leftist *art*, and simply *alcoholics* (Volvach, 2007). In this case, we see three ingenious metaphors: "*citadel of organizations*", "*citadel of art*" and "*citadel of alcoholics*". The peculiarity of this construction is that the first constituent of these phrases is connected to the other through the genitive case of the second constituent.

Word order is an indicator of syntactic relations in a phrase. Genitive phrases, like any other, are characterized by a stable or free word order. That is, they can be lexical and syntactic. For example: The *eyes of the blue fish* are elongated // They stare at me then (Vasylashko, 2007). The phrase "*fish's eyes*" has a reverse word order. Syntactically, the main constituent of the phrase comes first. Therefore, in this case, the syntactic relations in the phrase are free. Another ingenious metaphorical phrase "the moment of truth" in Serhiy Zhadan's poem "…here is the moment of truth, needless to say, we all dreamed of becoming covens" (Zhadan, 2003) is characterized by a stable word order.

In terms of composition, genitive phrases, like any other, can be divided into two structural models: simple and complex. "A simple phrase is a semantic and syntactic combination of two fully meaningful words, one of which is the core word and the other is the dependent word: "an index of literature", "painting a picture", "the wind of the Dnipro". A compound is a phrase made up of three, four, or more fully meaningful words. The model of a simple phrase is the basis of any complex phrase" (Chadiuk, 2005). For example: But this current has picked up and is carrying, // and your conscience is scoring for everything, // for the echoing water supply, // for the barrack birds, // *for the slate white bird plantations* (Zhadan, 2003). In the example under consideration, we see a complex genitive metaphor, which is complicated by the adjectives "slate" and "white". The basis of this genitive metaphor is the binary "*bird plantation*".

Based on the opinion of scholars, it can be noted that, as a rule, the dependent word in the genitive always specifies the anchor word of the structure, but the word in the genitive case that defines the word in the nominative case is, on the contrary, the semantic anchor. For example: Gusper continues to talk, and at some point Sarah loses his train *of thought*, turns to me and explains that she is exhausted because she has been doing something so important for the last two days and has hardly slept (Volvach, 2007).

In her works, Kozlova O. proves that the genitive construction is considered metaphorical and allows its double characteristic – comparison in metaphor (Kozlova, 2008). O. Kozlova, studying the genitive metaphor in the works of Lina Kostenko, distinguishes genitive constructions in which the lexical main noun correlates with the verb. For example: All the crossings of rivers, railroad posts, // all the lost scrolls, coins, letters, // the whole city with a mess of events and things // stuck like prey in the trap of the eyes (Vasylashko, 2007). Another type of genitive phrase contains a lexical main noun that correlates with an adjective, for example, the blue of the oaks, the weekday of the heart, or the frenzy of the storms (Kozlova, 2008).

The specificity of a noun as a part of speech conveys a feature in the most generalized subject form compared to an adjective and a verb. This quality of the noun is most revealed in genitive constructions (Kozlova, 2008).

When considering metaphor, we can distinguish four types of metaphorization: the complete structure of metaphor, one-sided semiological metaphor, one-sided onomasiological metaphor, and etymological metaphor.

1. The full structure of the metaphor is revealed through the correlation between the direct meanings of objects and the intermediate concept, which determines the metaphorical transfer of the object's name. In the example of "sea of time," there is a double asymmetry that allows for the creation of multiple meanings and synonymy of objects or phenomena: "There was a sea of time left before we left, // and there was no way to leave the trailer // with a crowd of friends" (Lozova, 2007).

2. A one-sided semiological metaphor is used when the subject does not have its own fixed meaning in the language. In the example of "the sun's disk", the word "tongue" is used as the only way to refer to this phenomenon, which supports the metaphor: "The disk of the evening sun hangs jocularly // over the shabby bus traveling between the prairies, the dusty wagon of the Sloboda settlers // crawls under the sky without suitcases and without carts // into this gate from the East, even no, it is better to say – the door" (Zhadan, 2003).

3. A one-sided onomasiological metaphor is characterized by the absence of a direct meaning of the metaphorized word. In the case of "citadel", the usual direct meaning is lost and a metaphorical one is obtained through expressive coloring: "From the outside it is an old dilapidated house surrounded by construction sites, but inside it is a real citadel of anarchist organizations, leftist art, and alcoholics." In this case, the word "citadel" is used in the sense of "central part".

4. Etymological metaphors allow us to trace the origin of a word and its direct meaning in the history of language. For example, the word "vermicelli" comes from the Italian language and the direct meaning of this word is worms (Etymological Dictionary, 1982), and the word "bust" comes from Icelandic and has a direct meaning – fire (Etymological Dictionary, 1982). In the sentence: "Death will leave you through the window of the room (Zhadan, 2003) the phrase "window of the room" loses its usual direct meaning for a modern person and acquires a metaphorical meaning because its etymological meaning is derived from the Old Slavic words "wind" and "eye" (Etymological Dictionary, 1982).

**Conclusions.** Thus, by analyzing various types of metaphors, we can conclude that they reflect the complexity of the linguistic mechanism and its connection with the cultural context. Genitive metaphors are binary word combinations in which the second element is the core. The order of words in constructions can be stable and free. Structural models containing a genitive metaphor are divided into simple and complex models. The word in the genitive always specifies the anchor word of the structure, but the word in the genitive case is the semantic anchor. A genitive metaphor consists of two nouns, which is the reason for the emergence of metaphorical meaning.

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