



USAGE OF METAPHORICAL EXPRESSION AS REFLECTED IN RUSKIN BOND'S STORIES

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ABSTRACT:

The main purpose of some writers is to convey their ideas and messages briefly by representing and arranging in figurative language to achieve the maximum effect. As far as Metaphor, a figures of speech is concerned, it plays the important role not only in conveying the meaning of words but also its literary meaning spoken or written by the social people. Actually some words, phrases, idioms and language used in communication is too difficult to understand and clarify. Therefore, metaphor one of the figures of speech that is used by the authors to be explained smoothly the meaning of the words. In this article, by the closer study of the selected short stories of Ruskin Bond, the most popular Indian English novelist and short-story writer describing fantasy, naturalism, social circumstances, helplessness and adolescents of children metaphorically in his stories. Metaphors can be traced out in different ways which have been portrayed perpetual intently by Ruskin Bond to help the understanding of readers.

KEYWORDS:

RUSKIN BOND, SHORT STORY, METAPHOR, FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE, PROSODY.

INTRODUCTION

Figures of speech are such kind of rhetoric device used by the authors that plays important role in both literature and ordinary communicative language spoken in the society. It is also applied to convey the subject to the maximum readers effectively by portraying figurative language which tells us not only meaning of the words but also its literary meaning. 'Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the meaning of words, or else standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect' (96). As far as metaphor is concerned, the word 'metaphor' has been derived from the Greek words meta and phero, meta means over and phero means carry which literary means "a carrying over from the object to which it belongs to another in such a manner that a comparison is implied so it can be approved that metaphor is closely related to other rhetorical figures of speech that achieve their effects via association, comparison, or resemblance. Aristotle defines metaphor as 'a shift carrying over a word from its normal use to a new one (69). Usage of metaphors can be traced out in some literary works as Epic of Gilgamesh, Odyssey. After years so many writers like William Shakespeare, John Milton, Wordsworth, P.B Shelly, John Keats, T.S Eliot, have applied metaphors in their poetic works and John Donne who is called metaphysical poet has known for his abundant use of metaphors throughout in his poetical works.

Though metaphor and symbol is related to each other in general but they are different to one another. Metaphor is comparison to convey the concrete idea while symbol the abstract idea. A metaphor is typically used in specific

instance to compare of two objects but a symbol is used as a major part of theme and a metaphor is a direct substitution of one idea or object for another, while a symbol is used to imply something else. Metaphors change their surface meanings but the inner meaning is unchanging while in symbol the surface meaning of symbols is less important than the inner meaning.

The words or language used by the writers or speakers metaphorically in the forms of two elements tenor and vehicle. M. H Abrams defines tenor as the subject to which it is applied and vehicle as the metaphorical term itself. For authors it is the only way to convey their social, political, economical, psychological ideas or messages to the readers easily so that readers could understand the hidden meanings of the surface meaning of the words. Thus it can be said that the usage of metaphors are essential to the functioning of language and the subject of copious analyses and sharp disagreements. Use of metaphors can be seen in John Donne's metaphysical poetry. In his poem 'The Rising Sun' he writes,

"She's all states, and all princes, I,

Nothing else is.

Princes do but play us; compared to this (672)

In the above mentioned lines John Donne claims that his lover is like every country in the world and he is every ruler nothing else exists outside of them similarly Lord Hosmer, Hezekiah quotes the lines of Shakespeare's "Shall I compare to thee to a Summers Day":

'But thy eternal summer shall not fade,

Nor possession of that fair thou owest;' (40)

In the above quoted lines, Shakespeare communicates that the speaker's lover will always remain beautiful and vital. In *Animal Farm*, George Orwell's characters and their actions and events serve as metaphors for the Soviet Union leading and leaders. These metaphors play a role of the political nature and artistic value. In the novel, the whole story is a metaphor for the political situation during the Russian civil war. Through the leading character old Major George Orwell presents him with Karl Marx in resemblance regarding their contribution in inspiring other characters for great changes of society and for a better future of the people. When Old Major observes the oppressions and sufferings done by powerful and pompous animals to the other animals in the animal farm, he society sees how animals suffer wants to lead them to stand for their right and creates the idea of animalism in the song "Beasts of England". On the other hand, Karl Marx is the creator of "communism". The novelist tries to compare and presents the character in parallels as Napoleon and Stalin. Both of them are aggressive and brutal, capable of doing whatever it takes to those who stand on their way. Snowball is presented as a metaphor for Leon Trotsky, a pure communist leader who is influenced by Karl Marx. Squealer, another character who is a fat pig, with round cheeks, twinkling eyes and a brilliant orator is a metaphor of the V.M. Molotov. On other hand, the working class character, Boxer is a hardworking horse which stands as a metaphor for the working class.

Ruskin Bond is known as one of the most popular Indian English novelists and short-story writers. He belongs to Himachal Pradesh which is a northern Indian state in the Himalayas in India and It is home to scenic mountain towns, lakes, fountains, snowy regions. He grew up in Dehradun among trees, birds, animals, and insects of all kinds so he writings include nature, weather, animals, plants, moon, stars, sun, landscapes etc. As a contemporary Indian writer whose short stories for children provide a deep insight into several aspects of Nature as well as human nature. Therefore, his short stories and even his poems abound in metaphors and imageries borrowed liberally from Nature. His stories observe and contemplate the symbiotic relationship between man and Nature. Though From Walt Whitman to William Wordsworth and to Ernest Hemingway, who are considered not only as Romantic poets have written on Nature as well and prominent Indian writers such as Raja Rao, R K Narayan, Anita Desai, Kiran Desai, and Arundhati Roy also have notably contributed to such kind of literature but Ruskin Bond writes something apart. As in the opening lines 'the afternoon was warm and lazy, unusually so for spring; very quiet, as though resting in the interval between the spring and the coming summer' afternoon (Bond, Ruskin, 8) of his story "Room on the Roof" (An excerpt), resemble Mr. John Harrison who is from British lives in India but not following the Indian culture and can't understand the emotions and feelings of Indian people and even children, on one hand. On the other hand, spring stands for Rusty,

an orphaned boy who feels confused, obliged, lonely, helpless and sad. He can't disobey the rules and orders of Mr. Harrison, his guardian. In his another story 'A Face in the Dark' Ruskin Bond beautifully depicts the horror situation faced by Mr Oliver, a teacher who teaches with the Eton college of England in 'Eton of the East'. The title of the story "A Face in the Dark", also means that a face in the dark is always blurred. The title signifies the metaphorical significance. The word 'face' resembles to Indian culture and the word 'dark' refers to forgotten or ignorance which is too difficult to mingle because the English teacher is trying to see the face of the boy that is blurred for teacher and when he approaches to the boy he finds no head. He is afraid from the image. On a metaphorical level, it signifies that we find every single person just the same when we don't really have a closer look at them. And 'a strong wind the pine trees made sad, eerie sounds that kept most people to the main road. (63) Ruskin bond has grown in the range of Himalayas. He was accustomed to the night's brightness, moonlight, starlight, lamplight, firelight and even fireflies light up the darkness. Night had become his friend. By closer study it can be seen that minutely observation of Nature by Bond can be found out in Binya's 'gloomy silence' comparatively. (76). His story 'The Eyes Have presents that aunts are usually formidable creatures'. (2019, 34) and 'the sun is delicious'. In 'The Blue Umbrella' Ruskin Bond also presents not only children, animals but also females metaphorically because he considers that animals are the nurture of the family to be behaved not like animal but human being. As in the story the two cows fostered by Binya's family they are given to the names like Neelu and Gori which are metaphors of the cows. His stories focus mainly on women characters. They are simple and have a great patience. Ruskin Bond always shows sincerity and simplicity in depicting the woman characters, he found them extraordinary. In 'Platform no 8', he describes the woman character as 'I saw a pale face, and dark kind eyes'. Another interesting feature about his women characters is the Indian-ness. They may be from a village woman, a school going girl, a vendor seller, or a girl who sells flowers who are resemble of nationality. Saying to the woman, Arun says "I also liked her for the simplicity of her dress, and for her deep, soft voice and the serenity of her face." In the above statements women represent the metaphor of Indian culture. In his another story 'The Coral Tree' Ruskin Bond deals with the innocence of a girl that the short story writer introduced her as "fresh and clean like the rain and the red earth' because she was a small, dark girl, her eyes big and black, her pigtailed tied up in a bright red ribbon. The adjectives 'fresh', 'clean', 'red', all are metaphorical. The girl reflects the true sense of simplicity and very true from her. In his 'From Small Beginnings' Ruskin Bond visited the knoll that has been regarded 'place of peace and power' (140). During visiting the place, weather was coming gone the grassy, pine topped slope facing 'the Hill of Fairies' who have been called 'Pari Tobba to the locals' (140). When Bond tramped among the wild cherry tree, pine and oak, he observed oak tree as a rough, gnarled and

full of experience and Prem Singh. He compares Prem Singh to a Philosopher and oak that 'has secret, a hidden wisdom and Prem Singh 'has the art of wisdom' (140-41). Prem Singh has not get any job so he said to the author give a job. In his region there was a bride price (143)

In his another short story 'The Kite Maker', Ruskin bond compares master kite-maker, Mehmood to a banyan tree, as his hands are gnarled like that of an ancient tree's roots while Ali is compared to a young mimosa plant, which represents the lad's vigour who muses on how the world has changed while his grandson Ali flies a kite nearby. The short story writer tries to use natural imagery as a metaphor in the story because the children had grown up and they were struggling for living. They had no time for old man Mehmood 'They looked at the old kite-maker and their banyan tree with the same indifference.'(73)

Summing up it can be said that metaphor is figurative language that shows more connotative meaning more than denotative meaning of a word. Understanding what we have and what we have not remind us to attribute by studying literature and language. Considering the present scenario of the students who have such low literacy skills that it is tough for them to read and comprehend figurative language not only in rural areas but also in urban areas. Language education allows students to recognize what is personal, distinctive, and even unique. The students or adults who lack adequate literacy skills are likely to be unemployed or earning only a subsistent wage. This leaves these adults unable to help their children prepare for school and unable support their learning at home because it is said that poverty does not cause illiteracy, but rather illiteracy causes poverty. Metaphors are the way to

communicate feelings and experiences of the social people that can not be expressed in literal terms. As Metaphor is relevant to every aspect of the human condition, situation and circumstances therefore it should be recognized for its valuable role in society.

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