



RESEARCH PAPER

The use of Metaphorical Language in the Novel "*Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy*" by Umera Ahmed

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to analyze the metaphorical language that novelist Umaira employed in her distinctive novel *Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy*. The intellectual, conceptual, connotative, and symbolic concepts that readers must explain to understand the intended meanings of these terms comprise the basis of any metaphorical statement. Metaphors are important linguistic strategies that are completely integrated into literary and linguistic terms to enhance their symbolic and suggestive meanings. The researcher selected four texts from the Urdu novel '*Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy*', which represent all aspects of the metaphor. The researcher employed a model of Lakoff and Johnson's Theory of Metaphor (1980) to address each aspect of the metaphor that was employed in the novel. Based on this adopted model to study the aspects of metaphor, two levels of analysis are pursued: contextual analysis and cognitive linguistic analysis. Individual thoughts and symbolism were found to be expressed through the use of metaphors as a type of rhetorical device.

KEYWORDS Metaphorical Expressions, Cognitive Linguistic Study, Lakoff and Jonson's Theory of Metaphor, Contextual Analysis, Cognitive Linguistic Analysis

Introduction

Since metaphors are often used in political and narrative discourse, it applies to many facets of life, but it is particularly relevant to human communication and discourses. The most powerful metaphoric formulations can be found in idiomatic expressions, proverbs, synonyms, and similes, among other rhetorical devices. Metaphors are literary and linguistic instruments used by speakers to express a symbolic meaning and specific implications, whether they be favorable or unfavorable. However, the style of Umaira is characterized by many facets of personal identities and these metaphorical statements supported her style.

In the novel "*Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy*," Umaira mostly employs phrases that have various interpretations or meanings. For this reason, it is important to identify an appropriate model to examine these kinds of expressions. To analyze metaphors, Lakoff and Johnson's Cognitive Metaphor Theory (henceforth CMT) (1980) is utilized. In this paper, two levels of symbolic analyses were employed to investigate the chosen texts in the study of metaphors as a cognitive language. Also, their cognitive linguistic analysis and contextual analysis serve as representations of them. The main aim of cognitive linguistic analysis is to categorize metaphors and their function, as this can aid in investigating the intended meanings or, at the very least, the most appropriate explanations.

To understand this concept better, we first explored how metaphors work from a thinking and language perspective (cognitive-linguistics). Then, we used a specific language analysis model to examine real-world examples. Using Lakoff and Johnson's Theory of Metaphor (1980) as a framework, the adopted model analyses a few chosen texts from "Hum Kaha Ke Sachhe Thy", focusing on distinctive features of language based on individual identity, i.e., the metaphoric concepts before concluding with a discussion of the findings of the present study. To investigate the metaphoric concepts in terms of certain linguistic theories, i.e., cognitive linguistic theory is a limitation of the study. Therefore, the study is qualitative. The paper study aimed to investigate the cognitive linguistic aspects of metaphor in Umaira's Urdu novel 'Hum Kahan Ke Sachhe Thy' four texts from the Urdu Novel Hum Kahan Ke Sachhe are chosen, and extracted texts represent specific aspects of metaphor.

The present study aimed to understand metaphor and the fundamental forms, patterns, and purposes of metaphor as they are employed in Umaira's novel "Hum Kahan Ke Sachhe Thy." This used the cognitive linguistic analysis of metaphor to investigate its functions and the most prevalent forms employed to illustrate various aspects to explain the role of each kind.

The novel 'Hum Kahan Ke Sachay Thy' by Umera Ahmed is a compelling story that revolves around the lives of three main characters: Mashal, Aswad, and Mehreen. The narrative complexly explores themes of love, betrayal, restoration, and the complexities of human relationships. Mehreen's journey, in particular, serves as the focal point as she faces the consequences of her choices and seeks to find truth and understanding in her life.

The researcher investigated the depth into the psyche of each character, revealing their vulnerabilities, desires, and inner turmoil. Ultimately, "Hum Kahan Ke Sachay Thy" is an emotional tale of self-discovery and the quest for authenticity in a world filled with deception.

This study analyzed the metaphorical language used in the novel "Hum Kahan Ke Sachay Thy." It utilized Lakoff and Johnson's Theory of Metaphor to investigate diverse aspects of metaphor, followed by contextual, and cognitive linguistics analysis.

Literature Review

Statuary and Nature of Metaphor

Richards (1936) examined Metaphor as a conceptual economy instrument with no limits on its uses. It serves as a tool of discovery as well as a means of expressing or discovering structure in new or unfamiliar contexts.

The use of metaphors to condense difficult ideas is quite common. According to Fetzer et al. (2007), they facilitate the understanding of abstract concepts by establishing connections with more readily comprehensible notions. Metaphor is another crucial way that language evolves (Searle et al., 1979). Although metaphor is not just ornamentation in language, it is merely an ornament. Without the symbolic resources, language certainly would have been considerably obscure and, even more significantly, would not have been able to acquire its complexion and substantial resources of abstraction and even generalization.

On the other hand, there are two challenges with metaphor: the source field and the target field. For instance, as in "Man is a wolf," the term "Man" denotes the source field, and

the word "wolf" is the target field. Using this metaphor, our perception of man is shaped by the beliefs held by members of the linguistic community regarding the characteristics of wolves (Fetzer et al., 2007). Furthermore, symbolic notions that occur at the level of cognitive and metaphorical statements, that is, linguistics presents insights at the surface level—are distinguished by Lakoff et al. (1980) as two different levels of metaphor. As stated by Fromkin et al. (2003), metaphors could seem strange if taken literally.

For instance, the metaphor "Walls have ears" indicates that this text is inappropriate, but it also means *"you can be overhead even when you think nobody is listening."* Although there is a little ambiguity in the line, listeners are likely to invent a different interpretation because the literal meaning seems so unlikely. This highlights that knowledge of the world's reality and the literal meaning of metaphors is essential for understanding concepts (Fromkin et al., 2003).

Types of Metaphor

Metaphor is a part of the rhetorical wave and poetic imagination (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980 a). They claimed that language acts as confirmation of our conceptual structure in 'Metaphors we live by'. Thus, the efficient affair of a human being's daily business serves as a framework for symbolic distinctive characteristics. The notion that "Argument is War" is where Lakoff and Johnson (1990b) distinguish the metaphorical conception. They argue that all language used in wartime disputes contains metaphorical elements. This evidence has been expressed not merely by the war terminology, even also by the organized and verbal elements that comprise acts of war. Moreover, they demonstrate the necessity of metaphor for human awareness since metaphorical terms help build and sympathize with intellectual conceptions of simple or physical objects. As a result, they differentiate between three main categories of metaphors: ontological or conventional, structural, and orientation.

Structural Metaphor

Several metaphorical actions are metaphorically formed in terms of another and are what identify a structural metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1990b). For example, the phrase *"Time is Money"* can be applied to the abstractive time concept in terms of the money concept literally.

Oriental Metaphor

The terms "physical situation" or "physical situation" are used to represent orientation AL metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1990a). The spatial orientation concept, specifically 'Down and Up', is used to define sadness and happiness in the example of "Sad is Down and Happy is Up." Thus, the orientation of metaphors like *"I'm feeling up," "I'm in high spirits," "I'm feeling down,"* and *"his spirit sank"* are not arbitrary; rather, they are founded on our cultural and physical understanding.

The Ontological Metaphor

The ontological metaphor, based on Lakoff and Johnson (1990b), offers an exceptional foundation for comprehending concepts given things that exist. Thus, ontological metaphors come in many different kinds of forms and serve several functions. One such example is the notion that "abstracts are considered things." For instance, *if she 'fell' in love*, this could indicate that *she will be 'out' of her worries soon*. Besides these

categories, other metaphorical types will be discussed in the study, including animating, synthesis, and implicit, personifying, complex, and absolute metaphors.

Cognitive Metaphor Theory (CMT)

Lakoff and Johnson identified CMT in 1980, which later became known as the 'Conceptual theory of metaphors'. This theory discusses conceptual and semantic metaphors. Hence, Cognitive metaphors are defined as a graph of a cognitive form or root region and also a receptive or object area. As a result, three fundamental concepts demonstrate aspects related to the cognitive theory of metaphor: the experience of humans, visual design, and an essential component of metaphor (Taverniers, 2002).

A metaphor is described as an artistic, linguistic expression or novel in which several words are employed to describe a concept in ways that are not traditionally understood. As a consequence, Goatly (2007) shows that metaphoric characteristics have been seen like a general map, defined by the language used to indicate these generalizations. Therefore, understanding the process by which words are combined in a metaphorical expression is critical to grasping the concept of metaphor. The lexical meaning of context defines the theoretical concept of metaphor in linguistics. Linguistically, metaphor ideas vary depending on whether the meaning is recognized or not.

Multiple theories were addressed from linguistic, semantic, and pragmatic perspectives. From a linguistic point of view, metaphor is regarded as a cognitive or conceptual expression (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980). A metaphor is defined as a cognitive element. A metaphor is developed from the root domain to the object domain. Furthermore, cognitive metaphoric theory is exemplified by three main functions, including the systematic feature of metaphor, the general structure, and the nature of human experience according to the Lakoff & Johnson (1980) book theory.

Empirical Review

Abd Hassan et al. (2020) stated in their research study to evaluate the literary devices Elif Shafak employs in her literary work 'The Forty Rules of Love'. The intellectual conceptual, meaning, and symbolic concepts that readers must decipher to understand the intended meanings of these terms form the basis of any metaphorical statement. Metaphors are prevalent language strategies that were used extensively in literary and linguistic phrasing to impose the symbolical and suggestive meanings of those statements. To illustrate and address every facet of metaphor, researchers have chosen four passages that serve as stand-ins used in the English novel 'The Forty Rules of Love'. To address every facet of metaphor utilized in the book, the researcher employed a model of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) extracted from the Theory of Metaphor. Contextual analysis and cognitive linguistic analysis were carried out. Based on this model that had been chosen to investigate the various facets of metaphor. It was discovered that metaphor was a form of rhetorical strategy used to express Sufi ideas and symbolisms.

Abboud et al. (2024) studied research to analyze the play "Flower and Knife" by Ahmed Yasir Dhain, written in 2020, through the lens of metaphors. Also, the play used the contrasting concepts of love (flower) and hate (knife) to explore how men and women view life. The study's main focus was the play's use of metaphors, especially conceptual ones. The study was qualitative, focusing on critically interpreting and explaining the collected data where metaphors are analyzed using the Theory of Kövecses, 2002 on the conceptual metaphor model (categorized as structural, directed, and ontological). Additionally, the

key findings of metaphors that examined the complexities of love and hate, especially how women may be viewed as both dangerous and beautiful, dominate in the play. Whereas, the author suggested the text likely employs metaphors to illustrate the potency of love, despite its obstacles, in overcoming hatred and fostering new life.

In this study, Talkhabi (2024) tried to examine the linguistics of metaphorical phrases' comparison aspect. The main objective was this study is to comprehend how metaphors influence our perception of language and its structure by looking at their application in many linguistic circumstances, where the metaphors were important for three reasons, according to the researcher. Cultural reflection, effective communication, and understanding difficulties in subjects by Knowing intricate ideas by connecting abstract ideas to well-known concepts and metaphors aid in our understanding of language. Moreover, metaphors can improve communication effectiveness by presenting concepts interestingly and understandably. On the other hand, cultural images display how other cultures perceive and express themselves through the metaphors that people use. The findings showed that metaphors were essential for communicating ideas that were abstract in language, reflecting cultural influences, and aiding in conceptualization. The results added to the continuing conversation on the symbolic use in language study and its possible effects on language instruction and interaction between cultures.

Whereas Johnson's theory of picture schemas is credited to the author for conducting a study on a theoretical framework. In this study, the research first discussed metaphors and then introduced the notion of picture schemas. It also examined the image schemas used by Sarami in his works of poetry. The researcher gave an example of how Sarami organized his concepts using visual schemas. In Addition, to exhibit a regular and dynamic design of perceptual contact with the surroundings, Sarami physically expressed his ideas. In the end, the author looks at his linguistic and intellectual growth. However, this paper illustrated Sarami's corpus of knowledge by using picture schemas from the poem "Salomon's Rug" to illustrate how learning a language worked from this point of view (Uralova, 2024).

Younas et al. (2024) investigated how Taufiq Rafat's poem "*The Time to Love*" used metaphorical language and how it contributed to meaning conveyance. Three main questions were the focus of the study: (1) Types of Figurative Language: Identifying the poem's personification use, alliteration, and metaphors' figures of speech. (2) Lexical Categories: Analyzed the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions in the poem. (3) Meaning through Language: Examined how vocabulary and figurative language work together to convey themes of nature, love, and human existence. Furthermore, the researcher took a multilevel strategy, examining both the particular figures of speech and the more general word categories that were employed. The findings of the research problem were identified in the findings. The author employed alliteration, assonance, consonance, metaphors, personifications, and symbols as figures of speech. Additionally, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, verbs, and nouns made up the lexical categories. Linking the poem's meaning to the experiences of love, nature, and human life is the third study challenge. Additionally, the author of the study stated that the poem's meaning is mostly constructed through the use of metaphorical language. This study by Odikpo-Okafor et al. (2024) researched how the play "Showat and Sowhat" by Taban Lo Liyong metaphors shaped meaning. The conceptual metaphor theories (Lakoff, 1993; Johnson, 1980) were used to analyze the metaphors. Commonly, metaphors like "morality is light or darkness" and "time is a movement in space" were the main focus of their analysis. Analysis showed how these metaphors could be read incorrectly, which could have significant consequences for the characters and have an impact on Nigerian society. Interestingly, the study revealed that metaphors are influenced by beliefs, and phrases that appear simple might have more

complicated meanings. Where the author recommended critical reading to find these hidden meanings and analysis of their power. The translation of Malcolm X's autobiography was examined by Albakri & Teimi (2024), who paid peculiar attention to cultural expressions and symbolic language (metaphors). They looked at the translator's approaches to overcoming cultural equivalency issues and maintaining the original text's literary style. This research adopted a descriptive and analytical methodology to examine the translator's approaches to conveying metaphorical and culturally specific language. The results showed that translating autobiographical materials can be difficult because of their diversity in culture. Because there were no direct Arabic equivalents for culturally restricted terms, the translator used pragmatic tactics instead of semantic strategies, which were mostly used for metaphors. Similarly, the scholarly paper *"The Power of Metaphor: Exploring the Impact of Figurative Language in Literature"* explored the significant effect of metaphoric use in literary works. This analysis thoroughly revealed how the use of metaphors can communicate things that are difficult to understand or conceptualize in words simply. This paper addressed metaphors' emotional impact, their function in comparison and subtext, and their capacity to unite concrete with abstract. The study further discussed the meaning of metaphors contextually and culturally for scholars and readers who were curious about the influence of figurative language on literature. This paper was a great resource as it provided an insightful analysis of the creativity and power of metaphors (Shorakhmetov et al., 2024).

Material and Methods

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative research approach. In *"Hum Kahan Kay Sachy Thy"*, a novel written by Umaira Ahmed, the metaphorical terms were defined and discussed. The cognitive theory of metaphors with all its types, has been considered and used in the analysis where interpretations and discussions of the selected text lines are given properly. The theoretical framework of metaphor was used in this cognitive linguistic study and carried out by the researcher to pay attention to specific ideas of rhetoric techniques that helped in documenting. The theory of metaphor proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) model was adopted for analyzing this study. It is based on the analysis of the cognitive linguistic functions of metaphor in Umaira's novel *Hum Kahan Kay Sachy Thy*, as it is given in the theoretical framework below.

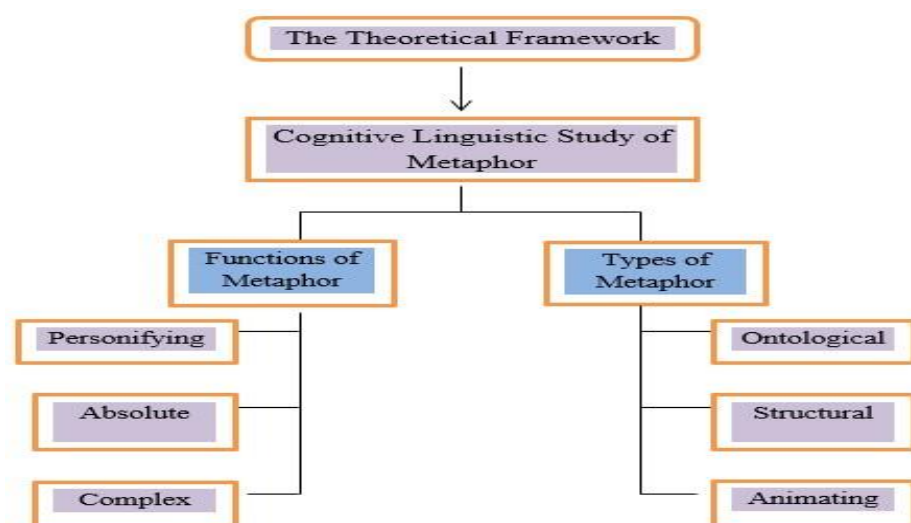


Figure 1: The proposed Theoretical Framework [adopted from Lakoffian theory of metaphor (1980, 1992).

Thus, the model of Lakoff and Johnson's Theory of Metaphor (1980) that was selected for the cognitive linguistic analysis has a variety of justifications. The first one is shown by the cognitive theory of metaphor (CMT) proposed by Lakoff and Johnson in 1980. Later, Lakoff and Johnson (1980) identified CMT, which was discussed as the "conceptual metaphor theory" at the beginning. A mapping of the cognitive structure or source area and a receiver or target area is therefore defined as a cognitive metaphor. (Refer to Figure 2).

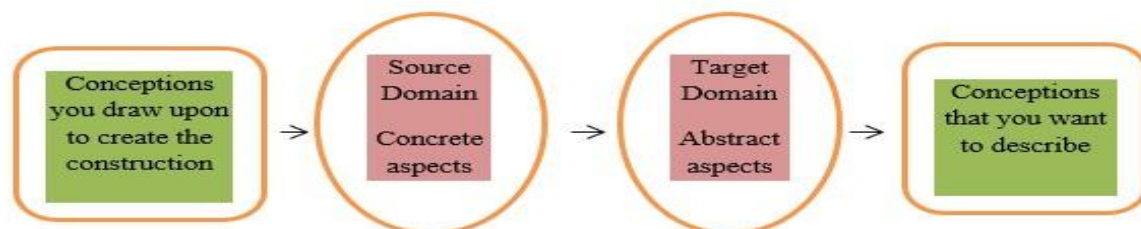


Figure 2: Cognitive Metaphor (Lakoff, 1980)

Results and Discussion

The data was analyzed by selecting the metaphorical lines from the Novel "Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy," where the researcher will specifically investigate the metaphorical cognitive linguistics elements of the novel and their functional and contextual use in the novel.

"I had a disease of speaking and listening to the truth, and such a person in Pakistan Nothing but stumbles - London was better for me in every way."

Contextual Analysis of the Extract

These lines are selected from the novel Hum Kahan KE Sachy Thy, in which Aswad visits Pakistan after getting an education from England. He is frustrated by the situation in Pakistan, where people lie regularly, and aims to return to England because he considers speaking and listening to the truth a virtue.

Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of the Extract

The metaphorical expression "disease of speaking and listening to the truth" is used to describe the speaker's tendency for honesty or truthfulness. Here, "disease" is metaphorically used to convey the idea that speaking and listening to the truth is seen as problematic or harmful. This metaphor suggests that the speaker views honesty as a burden or suffering rather than a virtue.

Type of Metaphor in Extract

Complex metaphors involve multiple elements or domains that are planned onto each other to create a more complicated conceptual structure. In this metaphor, the concept of "truth" is mapped onto the concept of "disease," suggesting that truthfulness is perceived as a harmful condition. The complexity arises from the interaction between these two domains, where the abstract concept of truth is understood in terms of the concrete concept of a disease, resulting in a nuanced metaphorical expression.

Function of Metaphor in Extract

Ontological metaphors conceptualize abstract concepts in terms of entities or substances with distinct properties. In this metaphor, the abstract concept of "truth" is conceptualized as a concrete entity or substance, specifically as a "disease." The metaphorical mapping treats truth as having attributes or characteristics typically associated with diseases, such as being harmful or burdensome. Ontological metaphors highlight the ontological nature of abstract concepts by grounding them in more tangible or concrete domains.

"Today, there are big people in this poor house."

Contextual Analysis of the Extract:

These lines are selected from the scene when Mehreen visits the house of Aswad after constantly insisting by the mother of Aswad. There, he pronounces these words because he perceives that Mehreen does not visit their home out of ego and self-highness. The Mashal builds these ideas into the mind of Aswad as she is jealous of Mehreen.

Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of the Extract:

Metaphorically, the visitors are compared to "big people," identifying that they are influential and important. This talks about the concept of social importance and the high status of the people. It is comparatively expressed for visiting the poor house. The "poor house" is also used metaphorically, where the poor are identified as the ones whose economic conditions are not good. This impacts the status of the people, and they are considered less valued by the big people or wealthy people.

Type of Metaphor in Extract

The metaphor "big people" is used in the sentence as a structural metaphor because the concept of the social status of the people is understood and the physical size from its structure. Moreover, the concrete form of poverty is also identified through its abstract concept of the clause of "Poor house"; this exemplifies the ontological metaphor.

Function of Metaphor in Extract

The "big people" metaphor highlights the influence, high status, and importance of the people in comparison to the owners of the "poor house". It functions as a contrast between poor and rich people, where the poor identify as the ones who are financially weak and the big people with high status and abundant money. The "big people" are identified as the structural metaphor, and it talks about the physical form, and the "poor house" is an ontological metaphor and expresses the conceptual form of the clause.

"On Mashal's Chehlam, mother had gone to Lahore and stayed there for a few days, then she called me from there and said that Mehreen was no longer agreeing to the engagement. There was a fire burning inside me, I told them."

Contextual Analysis of the Extract

These lines are taken from the scene when Mashal commits suicide, and Aswad receives a letter where Mashal expresses that the reason for my death is Mehreen. Aswad wants to marry Mehreen to take revenge for Mashal's death and force her to spend her life in vain.

Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of the Extract

The metaphorical expression “There was a fire burning inside me” shows that Aswad is under strong emotions of internal experience that could be classified as feeling high intensity, heat, and energy of hate against Mehreen. He is eager to marry her and take revenge for Mashal’s death.

Type of Metaphor in Extract

The “burning fire” can be classified into two types of metaphors. It can be an ontological metaphor because it carries an abstract concept of the intense emotions understood from the physical form of fire. Further, it can be a structural metaphor because it also helps us to understand the targeted emotions through the source of fire.

Function of Metaphor in Extract

The metaphor intends to convey the speaker’s strong and uncontrollable emotions as a fire. It also helps the listener and reader visualize the speaker’s mental state as he is about to burst out.

“I never cheated on anyone; I was very proud that I knew people; I used to claim to know them by face. But I don’t know when I got a snake in my sleeve.”

Contextual Analysis of the Extract

These lines are selected from the scene when Mehreen marries Aswad, and she waits for him on the bridal bed. When Aswad comes and gives Mashal’s letter to Mehreen and spits on her face, there, Mehreen utters these sentences and calls Aswad a snake and turns into tears.

Cognitive Linguistic Analysis of the Extract

Mehreen calls Aswad a snake when she feels like he deceived her and aims to harm her all her life. The snake in the sleeves can also be referred to as the hidden agenda or intentions against others. The one who has traits of danger and harm can be called the snake in the sleeves.

Type of Metaphor in Extract

This example uses the conventional metaphor, where the snake always represents danger and harm. This metaphor is commonly used in many cultures. A snake’s title is given to a person because it carries such attributes.

Function of Metaphor in Extract

The metaphor expresses that a person who has the attributes of a snake cannot be trusted because they have a deceitful nature. Mehreen entitles Aswad a snake because he betrayed her. She implodes because she is tricked by Aswad, marries him, and is bound to live her life restlessly.

Conclusions

It is explicit that the metaphors are used inconsistently to be interpreted literally, as their meaning is woven into the words. It is pertinent to understand the context, cognitive

linguistics, functional, and formation parameters of the metaphors for better comprehension of the language used in the novel. Further, it helps to understand such expressions as a reader while following the Lakoff and Johnson model (1980). While analyzing the metaphorical expressions of the text of the novel 'Hum Kahan Ke Sachy Thy,' it is evident that the personal traits of the people are targeted where the characters use metaphorical language for nominating them with different titles like snake in my sleeve, fire burning inside me, etc. Moreover, this study suggested that to understand a single metaphorical expression, it is crucial to understand its contextual usage in which condition and atmosphere it is used, cognitive linguistic parameters that how the mental approach of the writer is involved in the expression, understand the type of the metaphor, and its function that how it channelizes the action.

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