

The evolution of metaphor as a process of conceptual integration in cross-linguistic and intracultural contexts.

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This research examines the interconnected metaphorical concepts of the ancient Sanskrit texts of the *Ṛgveda*, the *Upaniṣads*, the Buddhist Pali texts of the *Dhammapada*, and early twentieth-century Bengali literary texts by Rabindranath Tagore. It argues that variations in culture-specific metaphors in the above philosophical contexts result from an evolutionary process of conceptual integration. The evolution of metaphor is understood as its conceptual development, resulting in variations in mappings (Musolff 2004). The research goal of determining changes in intra- and intertextual metaphorical networks was achieved by examining mappings with the application of Conceptual Integration Theory (Fauconnier & Turner 2002).

Cognitive analysis reveals that variations in mappings from the source domain of SHORE-RIVER-OCEAN-JOURNEY to the target domain of LIFE-TRUTH result from the process of intertextual, cross-linguistic, and intracultural conceptual evolution. CROSSING THE WATERS AS A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION and REACHING THE OTHER SHORE AS ACHIEVING PERFECTION are conceptual metaphors with multilevel philosophical contexts, which are the outcome of evolutionary conceptual processes between domains. The *Ṛgvedic* target domain of *yajña* (ritual) absorbed into the *Kaṭha Upaniṣad* evolved into the domain of *dhyāna* (meditation) in the *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad*, and finally developed into the domain of *dhammakamma* (righteous deeds) in the Buddhist *Dhammapada*, having as its basis the same source domain of crossing the waters, thus revealing the evolution of metaphorical mappings.

The analysis also proves that universal conceptual metaphors such as LIFE IS A JOURNEY, expressed in Bengali as JĪBAN YĀTRĀ, have culture-specific contexts in Tagore's writings, which is the result of the evolutionary conceptual integration of culture-specific concepts such as Buddhist *pāramitā* (perfection) into their networks. The research enabled the reconstruction of the cognitive framework of the evolution of metaphorical concepts, which combines intra- and intertextual mappings at the cross-linguistic level.

References

Fauconnier, Gilles and Mark Turner (2002), *The Way We Think. Conceptual Blending and the Mind's Hidden Complexities*, New York: Basic Books.

Musolff, Andreas (2004), Metaphor and Conceptual Evolution, *Metaphorik.de*(7), Hannover: Wehrhahn-verlang, 55-75.