A Comparative Study of Time Metaphor in Persian and Arabic Novels

(Relying on the theory of ontological conceptual metaphors of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary linguistics always seeks to present new theories to regulate studies systematically and objectively. After the emergence of cognitive semantics, many researchers and linguists started to write about it. One of the theories of cognitive semantics in literary studies is George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's conceptual metaphors theory. *Metaphors, we live by* described conceptual theory of metaphor or conceptual metaphor in detail in their first joint book.

Regarding their theory, Lakoff and Johnson believe that one conceptual domain is understood based on another conceptual domain in conceptual metaphor. Since metaphor creates an implicit similarity between two domains or two conceptual domains, the term *mapping* can illustrate the connection between the two dominions. This term matches the characteristics of two cognitive domains close to each other in the form of metaphors. Conceptual metaphor is, in fact, the process of understanding and experiencing dominion (a), which takes place with the help of phenomena and terms related to dominion (b).

2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Each metaphor has three constructs: 1- Target domain (a), which generally covers mental and abstract concepts. 2- Source domain (b) is usually more objective, familiar, and conventional matters. 3- Mapping is the relationship between two domains that takes the form of correspondences between two sets (Lakoff & Johnson, 2003, p. 24). In contrast to the traditional view, this approach does not

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consider metaphor as a tool for beauty but instead considers metaphor as a feature of the mind through which an abstract concept is understood by applying a tangible concept. According to Lakoff and Johnson, conceptual metaphors are divided into orientational metaphors, existential or ontological metaphors, and structural metaphors.

Orientational metaphors: in this type of conceptual metaphor, a concept is understood by the physical direction. These types of metaphors are associated with spatial orientations: up-down, in-out, forward-backward, far-near, deep-shallow, and center-margin.

Ontological or existential metaphors: In this form of metaphor, abstract concepts and experiences are understood through objects and materials, the container, and man.

Structural metaphors: The third type of conceptual metaphors that Lakoff and Johnson pay attention to are structural conceptual metaphors. It is structural since it transfers an objective whole to an abstract whole.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study is to conduct a comparative study regarding the abstract concept of time in the first three volumes of Mahmoud Dolatabadi's novel (Kelidar) and Yusuf Idris's four novels (Al-Bayda, Al-Askari Al-Aswad, Al-Haram, and Al-Aib). After data collection, the descriptive-analytical method has been used based on an American school.The abstract concept of time in their works is depicted in five domains of origin: object, place, container, man, and food. Object and location domains have the highest frequency than other domains, which indicates the tendency to visualize the abstract concept of time in the form of object and place in two writers' works. Regarding the source domain of object, the concept of time in Persian examples has been stated in more diverse formats than Arabic, which refers to the diversity of imagery and flexibility of Persian speakers' minds. According to Ray's movement model for time (linear, circular, and spiral) in Persian examples, we observed linear movement, and in Arabic observed circular movement for a time, which is completely derived from the social context and intellectual-cultural basis of the author or characters. Since Lakoff and Johnson consider the two schemas of culture-based and body-based concepts in the conceptualization of conceptual metaphors, the results indicate that in the works of these authors, the abstract concept of time is more culture-based.

It is worth mentioning that in this regard, we obtained a total of 78 sentences from both writers in which the abstract concept of time was conceptualized in the form of 5 mapping names: 1- Time is place. 2- Time is a container. 3- Time is an object. 4- Time is human. 5. Time is food. Their statistical analysis was presented in the data analysis section.

4. CONCLUSION

The result obtained from these frequencies indicates that in the works of the two writers, the abstract concept of time was formed more on the basis of an empirical basis influenced by the surrounding environment (culture-base), in other words, it had a socio-cultural experience He has had physical experience, which in itself indicates in more detail and in particular that in both Iranian and Arabic writers the mind is more inclined to objects and properties specific to objects in order to make the abstract concept of time tangible than to the concept of time in the form of The

metaphor of man or food illustrates, in other words, it shows that the mind is object-oriented in relation to the abstract concept of time. In the field of origin of the object, in Dolatabadi's view, the concept of time is associated with features such as blackness, weight (heaviness), hardness and dryness, which in fact indicates the difficulty of the situation, and interestingly, the weight is physically slow and slows down. Likewise, the characteristics (hard and dry) are undoubtedly derived from the same experiences of nomadic life and its challenges. Have a circular motion because it brings good experiences and memories for them.

In the study of time mapping, it is an object from Persian and Arabic examples. We are faced with more variety, and in other words, the conceptualization of the abstract concept of time in Persian examples is more diverse than in Arabic examples. It is also worth noting that some of the examples given for each of the five aforementioned maps overlap, meaning that some of these samples can be placed in multiple maps. Of course, Likoff and Johnson also point to this, and believe that each of the different writings on abstract concepts sheds light on some of the different aspects of that concept.