

Comparing and analyzing Puns and Metonymies based on Functions, Structures and Working Mechanism

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ABSTRACT

Pun and metonym have a key position in several significant conceptions of literature due to their formative and critical functions to language and cognition. Both rhetorical tropes share some common characteristics regarding their constructions and functions. This paper illustrates the relation between pun and metonymy considering their cognitive functions, constructions and working mechanism as it seems to be no research on English pun and their relation to metonymy have been conducted to date. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis will be made regarding these significant language phenomena by exploring some examples (24 samples) which will be analyzed for demonstrating that the usage of puns leads to the occurrence of metonymy. Analytical descriptive method will be followed.

1. INTRODUCTION

In traditional rhetoric, pun and metonymy are often treated as the same as trope by cognitive linguistics. This consideration has been taken from the perspective of their intimate relevance. In this regard, Culler (1988) argues that “the pun in Lacan (1994) is intimately related to his notion of metonymy and metaphor”.

Elizabethan manuals¹ on Rhetoric usually distinguished two main categories of deviation from plain language: tropes like metaphor, hyperbole, pun, metonymy, etc. and figures. In Quintilian's treatise on rhetoric (The Orator's Education), wordplay is reckoned among figures of speech. Quintilian divides these into two types: The first of which concerns innovation in language, and this is more grammatical based whereas the second considered as more rhetorical based concerns the arrangement of the words.

ECO's observation of how the WF functions establishes the epistemological importance of the pun by identifying it as the principal figure of Finnegans Wake². We can test this hypothesis on the atomic element of FW, the pun which constitutes a

particular form of metaphor founded on subjacent chains of metonymies. (1979, p. 72).

In addition, by tracing the tie between puns and metonymy, it is found that metonymy has been considered as a type of puns. Wikipedia defined a pun as a form of word play that exploits multiple meanings of a term, or of similar-sounding words, for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect. These ambiguities can arise from the intentional use of *homophonic, homographic, metonymic, or figurative language*. In contrast, Eco (1985) points out that: ‘pun can be taken as a special usage of metonymy at the level of discourse, using a part of the –‘ideal cognitive model’* ICM to send a “discourse connotation” (p.138) can help to achieve special effects.

Konrad Žyško (2017) demonstrates that a cognitive account must acknowledge the role in the conceptualizer to construct the meaning. It is assumed that language, and hence wordplay is a metaphor, metonymy, blending, schemas, etc....’ (p. xi) illustrating the cognitive relation between a pun and metonymy.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

2.1 Definition and Structure of Puns:

2.1.1. Definition of a Pun

The famous linguist Cellar in his works traced the word etymologically, but he could not determine it, as he writes "it seems entirely appropriate that pun should be of uncertain origin and provokes etymological speculation, since this is the diachronic version of punning". Hence, Pinch puts that playing on words, traditionally understood as a literary technique and a form of wit, has a long history of use and is probably almost as old as language itself. Although the earliest traces of wordplay are impossible to find due to the oral tradition of language, some early written forms have been well preserved. One of the first instances of such a use of language was found in ancient Egypt, where wordplay was richly involved in the creation of myths and interpretation of dreams (Pinch 1995: 68).

Although scholars have sought to define and classify puns, but their results have never met with much success (Brown,1956). The following are some definitions of puns by researchers and dictionaries:

Punning is a form of wordplay where a word is used in such a way as to evoke several independent meanings simultaneously, with this regard Delabastita treats wordplay as paronomasia, or treating the whole concept of language as a kind of wordplay, who refers to it as:

"the various textual phenomena in which structural features of the language(s) used are exploited in order to bring about a communicatively significant confrontation of two (or more) linguistic structures with more or less similar forms and more or less different meanings" (Delabastita 1996: 128).

A pun is the form of a word play and *paronomasia* is also considered as a broad figure of classical rhetoric closely related to modern pun. As John Dryden puts it, 'punning is to torture one poor word ten thousand ways. (Dryden's quotes).

Also, Delabastita defines wordplay (a term which he uses interchangeably with pun) as: "Wordplay is the general name for the various textual phenomenon in which structural features of the language(s) used are exploited in order to bring about a communicatively significant confrontation of two (or more) linguistics

structures with more or less similar forms and more or less different meanings."

A Pun is defined by Merriam Webster as the usually humorous use of a word in such a way as to suggest two or more of its meanings or the meaning of another word similar in sound. Also, a pun is defined by Cambridge Dictionary as a humorous use of a word or phrase that has several meanings or that sounds like another word.

With consideration of the aforesaid scholars' definitions and the study of empirical material, it can be concluded that a pun is a part of speech which is exploited by the punsters' as a symbolic device and rhetorical trope to realize communicative functions via bonding two or more contexts, it is a mechanism that needs flagrantly previous sufficient lexical knowledge. Consequently, to understand a pun, the hearer must be familiarized with author's style, era and social background. Also, a pun must be linked intrinsically to the source language and culture.

2-1.2. Pun's Structure

"The linguistic structures through which the pun can be embedded can be phonological, polysemous, idiomatic, morphological, and syntactical. It is important to state that in many cases two or more of these linguistic features are exploited to obtain a single pun" (Delabastita, 1996:130-131).' Therefore, it is possible to identify four types and degrees, which can be further specified in terms of homonymy, homophony, homography, and paronymy" (Delabastita, 1996:128).

Konrad Žyško (2017) illustrates Delabastita definitions by stating that the definition includes the whole structural features of puns: In this definition proposed by Delabastita, wordplay can exploit all sorts of features, be they phonological, graphological, orthographic, morphological, syntactic or semantic. Delabastita provides a list of universal ways through which linguistic phenomena can be similar, i.e. can share a similar form: identical spelling and pronunciation (homonymy), identical pronunciation but different spelling (homophony), identical spelling but different pronunciation (homography), or slightly different spelling and pronunciation (paronymy).

According to the aforesaid definition, here are four forms through which puns are constructed:

Firstly: Homographic puns that exploit multiple meanings of essentially the same word {e.g. foil (meaning to baffle and a very thin sheet of metal). A pun is a play on words. A pun is a comedic phrase that plays of the sounds and double meanings of words.

Secondly: Homonymy that exploits words with identical sounds and spelling.

Thirdly: Homophonic puns that substitute words with the same sound but unrelated meaning (e.g. raised and razed). For example the headline *'Batchelor Pads it out: Jockey denies misleading investigators'* (*Daily Mirror*, 22 June 2004), reporting allegations against the jokey Mttie Batchelor, contains an example of a homographic pun on the word 'pad'. (John E. Richardson, 2007:70).

Fourthly: The paronymic pun exploits words that have slight differences in both spelling and pronunciation. An example of such a word pair is *'adding in salt/insult to injury'* (Delabastita, 1993:79-80).

2.1.3. Pun's Functions

a-Linguistic Function

Pun can inspire momentous action as well as narrative. It may also become the instrument of knowledge Pierre Guiraud argues: "Pun is the general condition of all natural linguistic activity." Another important theoretical construct which can shed some light on wordplay mechanisms is Koestler's (1964) cognitive bisociation model. Bisociation is defined by Koestler as "the perceiving of a situation or idea (...) in two self-consistent but habitually incompatible frames of reference"

b-Poetic Function:

Wordplay therefore has to do with something fundamentally poetic in language, or as Roman Jakobson puts it, poetry is precisely characterized by being untranslatable: In poetry, verbal equations become a constructive principle of the text. Syntactic

and morphological categories, roots, and affixes, phonemes and their components (distinctive features) – in short, any constituents of the verbal code – are confronted, juxtaposed, brought into contiguous relation according to the principle of similarity and contrast and carry their own autonomous signification. Phonemic similarity is sensed as semantic relationship. The pun, or to use a more erudite and perhaps more precise term – paronomasia, reigns over poetic art, and whether its rule is absolute or limited, poetry by definition is untranslatable." (1987;434)

c-Attention-Grabbing Device:

Peter Handler adopts in his contribution (Les noms de domaineune.....) a broad perspective on wordplay, as he demonstrates the frequent use of various creative techniques in the choice of domain names or web addresses. These techniques include blends, phonetic spelling and phonetic deformation, paronymy, double meanings and permutations.

By tracing the scholar's' studies regarding the function of the pun as attention-grabbing device, this term can be considered as an umbrella which includes other communicative functions as advertisements. Researchers such as Zeff and Aronson (1999) have explained this relation as "color, animation, and interactivity are often included in the advertisement in an attempt to capture attention, with the interactivity element also providing a way to track user interest". Besides, Simola et al (2013) had conducted a study regarding the relation between attention and memory for newspaper advertisements. Keller and Lehmann (2006) and Maughan et al (2007) state that: "any on-line advertisements that fail to capture or hold a viewer's attention will generally be ineffective in instilling product knowledge or brand awareness".

According to the above evidences, attention-grabbing function have been exploited in the following areas; titles and the names of places, characters, and organizations, in slogans and advertising. Common examples of these are:

1-Many restaurant and shop names use puns: as Chicken Palace, *Tiecoon* tie shop, *Planet of the Grapes* wine and spirits, *Curl Up and Dye* hair salon, as do books such as *Pies and Prejudice*.

2-Names of fictional characters also often carry puns, such as *Ash Ketchum and Goku* ("Kakarrot"),

d-Social Function:

Furthermore, Attardo (1994: 322-330) claims that wordplay offers a set of social functions, such as interaction within a group and the exclusion of outsiders. In some situations, wordplay may be a source of pleasure for both parties i.e. the author and the addressee of the wordplay

e-Entertainment Function:

wordplay is a linguistic device used for entertainment. This is in line with a more general description of playing with language as presented by Crystal:

"We play with language when we manipulate it as a source of enjoyment, either for ourselves or for the benefit of others. I mean 'manipulate' literally: we take some linguistic feature – such as a word, a phrase, a sentence, a part of a word, a group of sounds, a series of letters – and make it do things it does not normally do. We are, in effect, bending and breaking the rules of the language. And if someone were to ask why we do it, the answer is simply: for fun." (Crystal 1998: 1)

2.2-Definition and Structures of Metonymy

2.2.1. Definition of Metonymy

A figure of speech consisting of the use of the name of one thing for another of which it is associated as 'crown' in 'lands belonging to the crown'. Jasinski (2001:551) writes that metonymy "*is the form of substitution in which something is associated with X is substituted for X*". More formally, a metonym is a figurative trope in which one word, phrase or object is substituted for another form of a semantically related field of reference.

2.2.2. Structures of Metonymy

Etymologically, the word originally comes from Greek, constituted by two affixes —metal and 'onoma' which mean 'change' and 'name' respectively. A metonymy also is formed of three parts—tenor, vehicle and ground. What makes it different is that the 'tenor' never appears in a metonymy and the 'vehicle' serves as the 'ground' at the same time. The 'tenor' and the 'vehicle' function implicitly, one substituting for the other. This is because the 'vehicle' represents some characteristics of the 'tenor' but the

two components in the same metonymy do not share any similarities at all. For instance:

- "He is mad, absolutely mad!" The greybeard said abruptly. Here 'greybeard' is a metonymy, taking place of the person who was wearing grey beard. 'Grey beard' is a significant feature of the 'tenor' thus it functions as the 'ground' does in this sentence. Reisigl and Wodak (2001:56-58) detail a number of metonymic replacements:
- The cause or creator is replaced by the product: e.g. 'the anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 criminalises Muslims'.
- The user of an object is replaced by the object: e.g. 'Rachel Corrie was killed by Israeli bulldozer'
- People are replaced by a place in which these people work /are staying e.g. "The White house declared ..."the detention centre erupted into violence.
- Events are replaced by the date in which these events occurred e.g. "September 11th must never be allowed to occur again".
- A country, or state, is replaced by (certain people) living in this country: e.g. 'We cannot let the evil of ethnic cleansing stand. We must not rest until it is reversed' (*Tony Blair, 22April1999, cited in Fairclough, 2000:148*).

Metonymies are used because the actors responsible are unknown. Consider the following headline: '*Truck crashes into UK embassy*' (*Independent,1 April 2003*). Here, the user of an object is replaced by the object –perhaps partly because the reason why the truck was driven into the embassy building died with the driver, and partly because it was a punchier headline than alternatives (e.g. "*Man drives truck into UK embassy*"). On the other hand, metonymies may 'enable the speakers {or writers} to conjure away *responsible, involved or affected actors (whether victims or perpetrator) or to keep them in the semantic background*' (Reisigl and Wodak,2001:58)

Furthermore, there are many other ways to constitute a metonym. Just as conceptual domain in terms of another such as the human body, a conceptual metonym names one aspect or element in a

conceptual domain while referring to some other element which is in a contiguity relation with it. (Jakobson, 1985, p.45). Consider the following examples:

- a. Person for His Name: I'm not in the telephone book.
- b. Author for Book.
- c. Inventor for Invention.
- d. Container for Contained: This is an excellent dish/He drank the whole bottle.

The above terms have been adopted directly from Peirman and Geeraerts (2006) (Part for Whole, Container-Contained, location-located, Entity-Material, Possessor-Possessed, and characteristic) In the present system, entity is also used to classify the terms, Adjacent Entity, Single Entity, and object). In addition to that Laura. A. Janda(383) in her comparison of Metonymy patterns shared by lexicon and word formation characteristic cites a "naked person" as an example for (characteristic for entity,object-for-representation: a proper noun can refer to a representation) such as a (photo or a painting) of the referent of its literal reading. Thus, Malta in Example refers to a drawing of the island when pointing to a map. 'This is Malt'.

In addition, Peirman and Geeraerts (2006) claim that the vast majority of word formation metonymies are of the "part-whole" kind this include (not only part& whole relations but also entity& material, characteristics& entity and various relations of actions and participants among others)

2.2.3. Metonymy's Functions

Roughly speaking, metonymy has six types of functions. A comprehensive introduction will be given of these functions in the following paragraphs: (Shu, 2000, p.112-151).

a-Rhetorical Function:

Since metonymy denotes something with its related characteristics, usually the most significant one, it often has strong rhetorical effects. Many good nicknames come in this way, making themselves protruding and humorous by emphasizing some special features of things being mentioned.

b-Linguistic Function

Cognitive linguists assume that language develops by metaphorical extension. Foundation of language will be provided by basic body experiences, such as moving in space, seeing people and handling objects. At the same time, a certain form of language can focus on some movement (or path) or the endpoint of some incident (endpoint of the path), just like the following sentences.

- a- We walked in the forest.
- b- We walked home.

This proves that the nature of metonymy formation lies in the possibility of establishing some connections among individuals contiguously appearing within the same conceptual Construction. These individuals do not need to have contiguities in the sense of space. They are not restricted to behaviors, either. From this perspective, metonymy is the most basic form of meaning extension.

c-Poetic Function:

Metonymy is employed to add a poetic color to words to make them come to life. Language is building materials for poetry. Innovation in each layer of language can engender poems. In fact, such kind of innovation is a deviation from the original regulations and rules. Layers of language include phonetics, syntax, lexical, etc. Theoretically speaking, the more it deviates, the more poetic it could be. However, in practice, it is always limited by rules of language itself and people 's cognitive ability. If the tenor is too distant in meaning from the vehicle, it would be too abstruse to understand, not to mention appreciate.

d-Social Function:

As we know, metonymy is an important approach to constitute euphemism, indirect discourse behavior and argot; the former two express politeness while the later one has a sense of privacy. All of them function in strengthening social communications.

e- Cognitive Function

The study of metonymy in cognitive linguistics starts with the publication of George Lakoff and Mark Johnson's influential book *Metaphors We Live By* (1980, p.37), in which it is claimed that metonymy, like metaphor, is not only a linguistic form but also a

powerful cognitive tool for people's conceptualization of the world'.

Metonymy is an important component of our conceptual system. People can use a familiar and easy recognized characteristic to represent the whole thing. Therefore, by obtruding their characteristics, metonymy makes it easy to find out and remember the identity and features of things being discussed. Langacker explains metonymy as "a process consists in mentally accessing one conceptual entity via another entity" (1993. p.30). This definition points out the cognitive nature of metonymy. What is more, all phenomena of ellipsis, truncation, and phonological reduction/neutralization are linguistic examples of metonymy. In our daily life, out of some certain consideration, people often express something by describing something else related to it instead of talking about it directly.

A: How did you get to the airport?

B: I waved down a taxi. Towards A's question, B did not answer directly - I got to the airport by taxi—but only choose one part of the whole process to give an indirect reply. The whole process of this incident is a so-called 'Ideal Cognitive Model' (ICM) (Eco, 1985, p.330). As for a westerner, the ICM for the incident of —going to some place is like this:

Precondition: You have (access to) the vehicle.

Embarkation: You get into the vehicle and start it up.

Center: You drive (row, fly, etc.) to your destination.

Finish: You park and get out.

Endpoint: You are at your destination. (Lakoff, 1987, p.78)

People usually use one part of this ICM to call the whole process and the hearer will instantly understand that the speaker is talking about the whole thing through the part being mentioned simply because they share the same ICM. This enables us to infer something we are not being told.

f-Wordplay Function:

This function mainly works in nicknames, puns and two-part common expressions as (two -part allegorical saying). A functional comparison of both pun and metonymy illustrates that pun and metonymy share similar functions as poetic, linguistic, social, rhetorical functions, hence, puns realize additional

functions as attention-grabbing, and entertainment functions. On the other hand, scholars prove that a pun is considered as a kind of metonymy or vice versa, metonymy is a type of pun's functions. Therefore, it can be concluded that metonymy can realize the whole pun's functions.

3- ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

A considerable number (24 samples) of naturally occurring instances of puns and metonymies will be analyzed. Samples were collected from Shakespeare's plays, literature, advertisement, web sides, and newspapers' headlines, to show that the word that has been punned realizes the rhetorical trope metonymy simultaneously.

A particular attention has been given to Shakespeare's works for analyzation because they are excellent demonstration for artistic use of a particular figure of speech subject to analyzation. Perhaps no writer is better known for the use of puns than him. Analytical descriptive method will be adopted.

1-Puns in William Shakespeare's works

a-Playing on the words "melt", 'earth and 'crown"

The following example of Shakespearean puns is a Cleopatra's line at the death of Antony:

"The crown o'th earth doth melt" (IV.XV.63)

Analysis of the words as puns:

1-Here, in these examples 'crown" according to Cambridge Dictionary have three possible meanings:

*The royal governing power of a country that has a king or queen

*To put a crown on someone's head in an official ceremony that makes that person king or queen.

*A circular decoration for the head, usually made of gold and jewels (= precious stones), and worn by a king or queen at official ceremonies.

2-Earth means: the world on which we live.

*Melt means: to change something from solid to liquid by heating, or to dissolve a solid in a liquid.

*Shakespeare played on the expression 'crown melt" to indicate the situation of the king's disappearing.

*The presence of 'melt' suggests a 'metal crown' which represents according to its contextual meaning the royal headdress (symbolizing sovereignty) which

made earth kingly is dissolving, and all of these indicate 'the king dying', the most excellent thing on the earth is disappearing. (J. Brown.1965 P.18).

Analysis of the 'crown' as a metonym:

The noun crown stands for the empire, so it realizes the trope metonymy.

b-Usage of the noun 'grave'

The following case can be found in "Hamlet" when Polonius asks Hamlet:

"ask for me tomorrow, you shall find me a grave man."

Analyzing of the word 'grave' as a pun:

The above example from *Romeo and Juliet*, a morbid pun comes from a fatally- a stabbed Mercutio, where grave means serious, but also alludes to his imminent death:

Analyzing of the word 'grave' as metonymy:

The word grave as a noun means: A hole dug in the ground to receive a coffin or dead body, typically marked by a stone or mound. In this example, the word grave has been used metonymically as place which stands for people

c-Usage of word 'sole' and 'soul'

In act 1, Scene IV of *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare uses a pun, playing on words, in one of Romeo's sentences:

Not I, believe me. You have dancing shoes
With nimble soles. I have a soul of lead
So stakes me to the ground I cannot move.

Analysis of the word 'sole' and 'soul' as a pun:
Shakespeare plays on the homophonic words with similar sound sole and soul. First, he refers to the nimble soles of shoes. Then he contrasts those nimble soles with his "soul of lead," which weighs him down because of his love sickness.

Analysis of the words as metonymy:

Soul as a noun according to Cambridge Dictionary means:

*The spiritual part of a person that some people believe continues to exist in some form after their body has died.

*Also, as a noun means: the bottom part of the foot that touches the ground when you stand or walk or

the part of the shoe that touches the ground, usually not including heel.

Both the words 'sole' and 'soul' stand as a part of the whole, therefore, they have been used metonymically.

d-Punning of the word "teen"

Another pun can be found in the nurse's lines when we first meet her and Juliet in Act 1 Scene 3. When 'The subject turns to Juliet's age' The nurse replies by making a pun out of the word teen:

NURSE

I'll lay fourteen of my teeth—
And yet, to my teen be it spoken, I have but four—
She's not fourteen. (15-17)

Analysis of the word 'teen' as a pun:

The word 'teen' means sorrow, but can also be interpreted to refer to a teenager. The nurse intended to say she would bet "fourteen of her teeth, but to her sorrow she has only four teeth" making a pun out of the word "teen" to refer to both "sorrow" and Juliet as a "teenager".

Analysis of the word 'teen' as a metonym:

The word 'teen' as a noun according to Cambridge Dictionary means: teenager, relating, involving, or intended for people between the ages of 13 and 19: therefore, it a stage that refers to people, the word has been used metonymically.

e-Playing on words "colliers", "collars" and cholera

Act '1' opening scene in *R&J* is filled with puns intended to worm up the audience. In this scene Sampson and Gregory two Capulet servants playing on the words: collier, collar and cholera, all sounding alike(homophonic) as we will see in the following dialogue:

SAMPSON: Gregory, o' my word, we'll not carry coals.

GREGORY: No, for then we should be colliers.

SAMPSON: I mean, an we be in cholera, we'll draw.

GREGORY: Ay, while you live, draw your neck out o' the collar

Analysis of the words as puns:

We will not carry coals meaning we will not be humiliated by the Montagues.

"Collier" is to be a person who either digs for or sells coals. However, said with a British accent, *collier* sounds very much like the word *choler* or *collar*. So, when Gregory replies, "No, for then we should be colliers," Sampson turns "collier" into "choler," meaning angry, as we see in the line, "I mean, an we be in choler, we'll draw". Gregory next turns the word into *collar*, which refers to a hangman's noose.

Analysis of the words as metonymies:

*Collier in Cambridge Dictionary means: a person who works in a mine removing coal from the ground. The word is used to name a person who performs that kind of work; therefore, it has been used metonymically.

*Collar according to the context refers to a hangman's nose, therefore it realizes the trope metonymy as the part stands for the whole

f-Usage of the word "eye"

In the following literary example, some lines have been taken from Shakespeare's Sonnet CXXXII to illustrate how he plays on some words. (only included the lines subjected for analysis)

 "THINE eyes I love, and
they, as pitying me,"

 And truly not the
morning sun of heaven

 "Better becomes the grey
cheeks of the east,"

 "As those two mourning
eyes become thy face:"

 "O! let it then as well
beseem thy heart "

 "To mourn for me since
mourning doth thee grace,"

"And suit thy pity like in every part".

"Then will I swear beauty herself is black,"

Analysis of the word "eye" as a pun:

The sonnet is replete with wordplay and puns, especially on the words "I" and "eye", and morning and mourning. Appropriately, the sonnet contains

two instances of the word "I", punningly mirroring the two eyes.

Analysis of the word "eye" as metonymy:

The meaning of the word 'eye' as a "noun" according to Cambridge Dictionary: one of the two organs in your face that are used for seeing. Therefore, 'eye' has also been used metonymically; it stands as a part for the whole (person).

2-Puns in Prose

Novels and plays also benefit from the addition of puns to add humor and also give nuance to the story.

There are many examples of puns in Lewis Carroll's (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*),

which help to convey the strangeness of Wonderland. Here Alice confuses:

a-"tale" and "tail:"

Lewis Carroll was another author who was a fan of using puns in his work. In this example of pun, Alice confuses the nouns 'tale and 'tail.' The author exploited them as homophonic words (same sounds and different spellings)

"Mine is a long and a sad tale!" said the Mouse, turning to Alice, and sighing. "It is a long tail, certainly," said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse's tail; "but why do you call it sad?" And she kept on puzzling about it while the Mouse was speaking."

Analysis of the words as puns:

Tale and tail are homophonic words (similar sound and different spelling), while the mouse talking about his sad 'tale' which means 'story' Alice is confused (tail and tale). Hence, the adjective 'sad' indicated the intended word 'tale'.

Analysis of the words as a metonymy:

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

*Tail means; a part of an animal's body, sticking out from the base of the back, or something similar in shape or position. Tail has been used metonymically, as part stands for the whole (animal).

b- Duchess confuses "axis" and "axis"

[Alice:] 'You see the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis—' 'Talking of axes,' said the Duchess, 'chop off her head!'

(Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll)

Analysis of the word as a pun:

In the mentioned example Lewis Carroll has also used puns. In this instance, Alice is trying to impress the Duchess with her worldly knowledge. When she uses the word axis which refers to (imaginary line going through the center of an object that is spinning) though, the Duchess makes the homophonic connection to “axes” and calls for Alice’s execution.

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

*Axis means: a real or imaginary line going through the center of an object that is spinning, or a line that divides a symmetrical shape into two equal halves:

Therefore, 'axis' is considered as a part of the object, in this example it refers to the earth. The word has been used metonymically.

c-Usage of the word "school' as Homonymy (identical sounds and spelling):

*Where do fish learn to swim?

*They learn from a school.

Analysis of the word as a pun:

In this example, the word "school' can mean either the place where kids go to learn or a group fish. The author exploited homonymous words which are spelt and pronounced in the same way but have different meanings.

One has to have a certain background knowledge to guess this witty answer or in other words should know the meanings of this word (school).

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

According to Cambridge Dictionary school means:

*A place where children go to be educated.

*A large number of fish or other sea creatures swimming in a group.

The homonymous word "school” has been used metonymically, since it indicates a place for people “children” according to the first meaning and indicates 'fish' in the second meaning.

d-Playing on the word 'Ernest':

Another example of pun is built right into the title of Oscar Wilde's play (The Importance of Being Earnest). In the beginning the main character is neither earnest nor Ernest, but by the end of the play he is both:

'I've realized for the first time in my life the vital Importance of Being Earnest.'

Analysis of the word as a pun:

Ernest as an adjective means serious and determined, especially too serious and unable to find your own actions funny. On the contrary, Ernest in this example refers to the person name

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

*Ernest as an adjective means serious, the word has been used metonymically because it denotes characteristic for entity 'people'.

3-Puns in Advertisements

The following are some examples of advertisements: (All examples have been taken from the paper "On the Pun in English Advertisement", Xiang Ling)

a-The usage of the word "branches" which refer to the bank

An accurate example of English pun is:

“Money does not grow on trees. But it blossoms at our branches”.

Analysis of the word "branches" as a pun:

The word “branch” has been used as a pun because the writer played on the word with two meanings- (homonymic) one is correlated to trees in the first sentence meaning “the arm like division of a tree”, while the other is a “division and subdivision of a bank”.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

*Branch means: a part of something larger or one of the offices or groups that form part of a large business organization. Therefore, the noun 'branch' has been used metonymically.

b-Usage of the word "can" as a verb and a noun

"Coke refreshes you like no other can. ---Coca-Cola"

Analysis of the word as a pun:

The word 'can' is taken in meaning literally in American English as the aluminum tin used to contain liquid, especially drinks, while it also functions as the modal verb in its homograph. Homonymic words were exploited. Thus, this advertisement can be interpreted in two ways:

* 'Can' as a container. Coke refreshes you like no other can.

* 'Can' as a modal verb (can refresh you), this means Coke refreshes you more than other drinks.

Analysis of the word as a metonym can stand as container for the contained, it realizes the metonymic trope.

c-Usage of the word 'ear' in the coming advertisement for a kind of sweet corn

"Try our sweet corn, you'll smile from ear to ear. ---"

Analysis of the word 'ear' as a pun:

Ear here has double meanings: one is organ of hearing while the other is seed-bearing part of a cereal. Hence, the prepositional phrase "from ear to ear" means smiling brightly or eating one corn after another.

Analysis of the word "ear" as a metonymy:

The meaning of the word 'ear' in Cambridge Dictionary:

*Ear means: either of the two organs, one on each side of the head, by which people or animals hear sounds, or the flower part of a plant like a grass, such as wheat, that later contain the grains that are used as food.

The word 'ear' is a metonym. Here, the part stands for the whole.

d-Usage of the word "more" as a brand or as a determiner

"Ask for More. ---More cigarettes"

Analysis of the word as a pun:

In this example the pun has been realized by the double meanings of the word "more":

* More can be understood as a brand name of cigarettes.

* As a determiner, it can also refer to encourage usage of more cigarettes of this brand name.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

Brand means in Cambridge Dictionary: as a noun: 'a product' a type of product made by a particular company:

'More' as brand name realizes metonymy trope as a product stands for producer.

4-Puns from Websites

a-Playing on the word "tired"

"A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is too tired."

Analysis of the word as a pun:

The word 'tired' according to Cambridge Dictionary means (need of rest or sleep) and the same word also means (a rubber ring, usually filled with air, that fits around the wheel of a car, bicycle, or other vehicle). Consequently, the writer has exploited multiple meanings of essentially the same word "homonymous".

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

According to Cambridge Dictionary the word "tire" means: a rubber ring, usually filled with air, that fits around the wheel of a car, bicycle, or other vehicle. The word considered as a metonym because it represents the part which stands for the whole.

b-Playing on the word "leave"

"Make like a tree and leave"

Analysis of the word "leave" as a pun:

*To go, to leave. Used derogatively.

*A pun on the word 'leave', the process of shedding leaves that occurs in deciduous trees.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

According to Cambridge Dictionary the word 'leave' means:

* to go away from someone or something, for a short time or permanently

*plural of leaf, parts of plants, according the mentioned meaning 'leaves' realizes the trope metonymy as parts stand for the whole.

c-Playing on the word "liver"

"Is life worth living? That depends on the liver"

Analysis of the word 'liver' as a pun:

Liver in Cambridge Dictionary means a large organ in the body that cleans the blood and produces bile, or this organ from an animal used as meat.

But, here in this sentence, it denotes the living person. The word has been used as an agent noun. According to that a homonymic word has been used which realizes the figure trope pun.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

Liver in Cambridge Dictionary means: a large organ in the body that cleans the blood and produces bile, or this organ from an animal used as meat. A Part stands for the whole (person) therefore, it realizes figurative trope metonymy.

d-Playing on the word 'weak'. *"Seven days without a pun makes on weak"

The aforesaid example is a one shot action written by MibuWolf for Minnchi's Epic Art Epic for Battles contest.

Analysis of the word 'weak' as a pun:

According to Cambridge Dictionary:

* weak means: not physically strong.

*Week means: a period of seven days, especially either from Monday to Sunday or from Sunday to Saturday.

One means: 'one' used when saying there is no other person or thing: e.g. He's the one person you can rely on in an emergency.

In this example the writer has played on noun phrase (one weak). The word "one" denotes "person" therefore, "one weak" denotes a person that is not physically strong. On the other hand, the meaning of the noun phrase "one week" according to Cambridge Dictionary indicates the seven days of the week.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

According to the above illustration of the adjective "weak" which refers to the person's state (characteristic for entity), the word realizes the figurative trope metonymy.

Also, the word "week" which represents the whole days of the week (whole for the part) has realized the trope metonymy.

5-Puns in Newspapers' Headlines

a-Playing on the words "arms" in the headline: *'Iraqi Head Seeks Arms'*

Analysis of the word 'arms' as a pun:

In the above headline, the writer played on the word "arms" which means weapons and explosives used in fighting wars and the plural form of the noun "arm" which indicates either of the two long parts of the upper body that are attached to the shoulders and have the hands at the end.

Analysis of the word as a metonymy:

According to Cambridge Dictionary: Arm means: either of the two long parts of the upper body that are attached to the shoulders and have the hands at the end. Therefore, represents parts for the whole (person) the word 'arm' realizes the trope metonymy.

b-Usage of the word "drops": regarding the headline: *'Eye Drops Off Self'*

Analysis of the word as a pun:

The word 'drops' can either be a noun or a verb. According to this, the illustration of this headline 'eye drops' as a noun phrase which means "a liquid medicine put into the eyes usually to cure an eye infection", is taken off the market. On the other hand, the word 'drops' as a verb, which means "to fall or to allow something to fall", indicates that eye allows or makes shelf to fall.

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

Meaning of the word 'drops' in Cambridge Dictionary:

*As a noun: a small round-shaped amount of liquid: The word 'drops' refer to the whole liquid that has been used as a medicine therefore it realizes the figurative trope metonymy.

c- Usage of the word 'dies': *'Two Soviet Ships Collide - One Dies'*

The word "dies" in the mentioned headlines as a verb means to stop living or existing, either suddenly or slowly, also it may be used informally. If a machine, battery, or phone dies, it stops working, usually because it has no power. But the above headline intended to inform the readers of the death of one person because it is a great loss rather than telling them the ship has stopped working, told them about the ships' stop working.

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

In this example the verb 'dies' refers to (the person who died in that accident) here action stands for participant. Therefore, the word 'dies' realizes the trope metonymy.

d- Playing on the word "jam": *'Big Rig Carrying Fruit Crashes on 210 Freeway - Creates Jam'*

Analysis of the word as a pun:

The author in the above headline played on the same word 'jam' which has different meanings. The first one indicates a situation in which a lot of people are in a small space and the other meaning is a sweet, soft food made by cooking fruit with sugar to preserve it.

Analysis of the word as metonym:

According to Cambridge Dictionary 'jam' means:

*A situation in which a lot of people are in a small space. Jam donates 'people' who crowded in one place therefore it realizes the trope metonym.

e- Playing on the word 'larger': *'New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group'*

Analysis of the word as a pun:

The headline's writer played on the word 'larger' as an adjective, as it may refer to the person who is a big in his size or may be referred to the group which includes a large number of people.

Analysis of the word as a metonym:

The meaning of the word "large" in Cambridge Dictionary:

*Of more than a typical or average size or amount. The adjective 'larger'(characteristic for entity) refers to people, this word realizes the figurative trope metonym.

f- Usage of the nouns phrases 'left hook' and 'right hamza': *Was it a left hook or a right hamza? (Sun, 7 March 2005)*

The above headline is from *Sun* newspaper which is usually far better at inventing puns.

Analysis of the noun phrases "left hook" and "right hamza" as puns: Regarding the phrase "left hook" the writer played on the noun —"hook" as (a short sharp blow with your fist that you make with your elbow bent, usually in a boxing match boxers will use this 'left hook' to try and hammer to the body as they leave their heads in close so that it's hard to counter them.) e.g. He was knocked down by a left hook in the first round. (<https://expertboxing.com/mastering-the-left-hook>.) And "hook" is a nickname of Abu-Hamza who has been nicknamed as "Hook" by UK tabloid in allusion to the fictional private captain Hook. (Wikipedia). In the noun phrase "right hamza", the author played on the homophonic words (write and right) and the homonymic words 'hamza' as a name of "the Hook Hand or simply Abu Hamza", (is an Egyptian cleric who was the imam of Finsbury Park Mosque in London, England, where he preached Islamic fundamentalism and militant Islamism).On

the other hand, "hamza" is (A letter in the Arabic alphabet, representing the glottal stop [ʔ]. Hamza is not one of the 28 "full" letters and owes its existence to historical inconsistencies in the standard writing system. (Wikipedia).

Analysis of the 'hook' and 'hamza' as metonymies:

According to Collins English Dictionary:

*Hook: as a short sharp blow denotes (action & participants) in addition to that it has been used in this headline as a nicknamed. Also, using of the noun 'hamza' as a proper noun 'person name' or as a part of an Arabic writing system, all these nouns have realized the trope metonymy.

4. CONCLUSION

This paper makes a comprehensive analysis of pun and metonymy through comparing and contrasting these two significant language phenomena from the perspective of structure, function and working mechanism. It takes pains to prove that these two phenomena are considered as figurative tropes as Lacan (1994) illustrates their intimate tie by stating that "It is the pun contiguous, polysomic function which ties it to metonymy" (Clement, 1983). Scholars prove that a pun is regarded as a kind of metonymy's functions and vice versa metonymy is regarded as type of puns' functions. Consequently, it can be concluded that metonymy can realize the whole puns functions. In this paper, the researcher has attempted to demonstrate the relation between pun and metonymy, which appears in contexts ranging from literary, prose works through everyday conversation, to advertisements and news headlines.

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NOTES

1-Elizabethan literature refers to bodies of work produced during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558–1603), and is one of the most splendid ages of English literature. Elizabeth, I presided over a vigorous culture that saw notable accomplishments in the arts, voyages of discovery, the "Elizabethan Settlement" that created the Church of England, and the defeat of military threats from Spain.

2-Finnegans Wake is a work of fiction by Irish writer James Joyce. It is significant for its experimental style and reputation as one of the most difficult works of fiction in the English language. Written in Paris over a period of seventeen years and published in 1939 (two years before the author's death), Finnegans Wake was Joyce's final work. The entire book is written in a largely idiosyncratic language, which blends standard English lexical items and neologistic multilingual puns and portmanteau words to unique effect. Many critics believe the technique.