

Grzegorz Kwiatkowski – The Cognitive Value of Creative Metaphors Based on Metaphorical Sentences of the ‘X is Y’ Type

Summary

The paper is an analytical study of the ‘X is Y’ type of metaphorical sentences, based on the corpus of metaphors collected from texts of new Polish poetry. The aim of the study is to highlight the cognitive value of metaphor, and the basic assumption behind it is that of the dynamic character of cognition as vividly emerging by means of linguistic creativity. The focus of the dissertation is an analysis of the pre-defined metaphorical sentence treated as a bearer of a certain metaphorical thought, the latter being a cognitive recognition of a particular element of reality through the process of its redefinition. The outcome of the redefining process, at the same time, does not seem to comply with any conceptual way of capturing that element.

Part One of the thesis is a critical review of some historical-philosophical approaches to metaphor. Part Two deals in detail with the ‘X is Y’ structure and includes a discussion of the philosophical aspects of the verb ‘to be’, addressing the possibility of assimilating these aspects within the framework of the metaphorical sentence. Some elementary concepts used in the following comparative analysis of metaphors are introduced here, too. The rules of language material selection as well as the method of analysis are provided in Part Three. What follows is specific analysis of the cognitive value of thematically ordered metaphorical sentences. The Conclusion summarizes the study findings and emphasizes their significance.