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**Figurativeness as psycholinguistics factor of creating and comprehension  
the religious discourse**

Metaphor, metaphorization, metaphorism are phenomena that were analyzed in detail in linguistic and literary fields of science, but in Ukrainian psychology these notions were not properly studied. Since metaphorism is a common component of everyday communication and due to the popularization of psycholinguistic researches, it should become the subject of researches done by both linguists and psychologists; and especially by the scientists, whose work is connected with the most metaphorized areas of speech, as well including religious discourse.

Modern linguistics defines metaphor as a trope or mechanism of speech, which means the usage of a word (word combination), that indicates a certain class of objects (items, events, etc.), characterizes or indicates their other class that is in some way similar to the first one. In other words, metaphor is a specific word or word combination in its figurative, non-traditional or unusual sense.

Religious discourse is treated as a text in the context of «live» oriented communication, i.e. real communication, the main functions of which are connected with the glorification of God and «heavenly» things, the ideal of a holy person being the «image and likeness of God».

Certain values and real aims of religious discourse (unlike some other types of discourse, for example political one) are expressed, on one hand, quite openly, but on the other hand, they often become parables, moral tales or narrative tales. The basic method of these made structures is a metaphor.

The author tries to answer the question why the authors of religious texts appeal to the reader in such an indirect form, through the analysis of metaphorism on its psychological level.

Firstly, it is substantiated that physiological mechanisms and corresponding psychological phenomena (especially synesthesia as interaction, reciprocal transfer, «mixing» of tastes of different modalities) are the basis of the emergence and functioning of metaphors in a language.

Secondly, it is stated that significant factors of metaphorization are implied in such a verbal way with the help of powerful psychological protective mechanisms, including transfer and projection. Thirdly, it is accented that in the process of creation and comprehension of a metaphor its communion with the mechanisms and methods of divergent thinking is observed.

The result of theoretical analysis states that metaphorism is the «golden psychological core» of religious discourse, which with the help of traditional linguistic means has to retell about not quite familiar («unearthly») essence, to properly point out significant mistakes («sins») of an ordinary person, and in a new way to describe and classify the quality and manifestations of surroundings («earthly» if compared to «heavenly» world).

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