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LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF METAPHOR REPRESENTATION IN THE WORKS OF SOMERSET MAUGHAM

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Abstract. Somerset Maugham's literary corpus is renowned for its profound exploration of human nature, societal norms, and existential dilemmas. Central to the thematic depth and narrative complexity of Maugham's works is his adept use of metaphorical language, which serves as a conduit for conveying intricate layers of meaning and emotional resonance. This thesis aims to analyze the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation in Maugham's oeuvre, delving into the stylistic nuances and thematic implications of his metaphorical expressions. Through a comprehensive examination of selected texts, linguistic devices, and contextual frameworks, this study seeks to elucidate how Maugham employs metaphor as a literary tool to evoke vivid imagery, convey abstract concepts, and imbue his narratives with profound depth and nuance. By exploring the intricate interplay between language, metaphor, and meaning in Maugham's works, this thesis contributes to a deeper understanding of his artistic craftsmanship and the enduring relevance of metaphor in the realm of English literature.

Keywords: Somerset Maugham, Metaphor, Linguistic Characteristics, Representation, English Literature, Narrative Analysis, Thematic Complexity, Literary Linguistics.

Somerset Maugham, one of the most celebrated writers of the twentieth century, captivates readers with his poignant narratives, rich characterizations, and incisive observations of the human condition. Central to the enduring appeal and literary merit of Maugham's works is his masterful use of metaphorical language, which infuses his prose with vivid imagery, emotional resonance, and thematic complexity. While much scholarly attention has been devoted to analyzing Maugham's themes, characters, and narrative techniques, the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation in his works remain relatively underexplored. This thesis seeks to fill this gap in scholarship by undertaking a detailed examination of how Maugham employs metaphor to craft his narratives, convey deeper layers of meaning, and engage readers on multiple levels of interpretation. By investigating the linguistic intricacies of metaphor representation in Maugham's literary universe, this study aims to shed light on the profound impact of metaphor on the aesthetic and thematic dimensions of his writing, thereby contributing to a broader understanding of his artistic legacy and the enduring significance of metaphor in English literature.

Previous scholarship on Somerset Maugham has predominantly focused on thematic analysis, biographical studies, and critical assessments of his narrative techniques. While scholars have acknowledged the importance of metaphor in

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Maugham's works, there exists a notable gap in research specifically dedicated to exploring the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation in his narratives. However, studies in the field of metaphor theory and literary linguistics have provided valuable insights into the role of metaphor in shaping literary discourse and enriching textual interpretation. Building upon this foundation, this thesis aims to bridge the gap between metaphor theory and Maugham studies by offering a comprehensive analysis of how metaphor functions as a linguistic device in his works. By synthesizing insights from metaphor theory, stylistics, and narrative analysis, this study seeks to elucidate the nuanced ways in which Maugham utilizes metaphor to construct meaning, evoke imagery, and convey thematic significance in his writing.

The methodology employed in this study involves a close reading of selected texts from Somerset Maugham's literary corpus, focusing on the identification and analysis of metaphorical expressions within the narrative. Textual excerpts will be examined for linguistic features such as metaphorical language, imagery, symbolism, and thematic resonance. These excerpts will then be subjected to qualitative analysis, drawing upon concepts and frameworks from metaphor theory, stylistics, and literary criticism. By adopting a qualitative approach to textual analysis, this study aims to uncover the underlying patterns, motifs, and rhetorical strategies employed by Maugham in his use of metaphor, thereby providing insights into the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation in his works.

The analysis and discussion section of this thesis will present findings from the textual analysis of selected excerpts from Maugham's works, focusing on the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation. Key themes, motifs, and narrative techniques associated with metaphor will be identified and examined in relation to their aesthetic, thematic, and rhetorical functions within the text. Special attention will be given to the ways in which Maugham's use of metaphor contributes to the development of character, setting, plot, and thematic resonance in his narratives. By exploring the linguistic nuances of metaphor representation in Maugham's works, this section aims to elucidate the diverse ways in which metaphor enriches the textual fabric of his stories, engages readers' imagination, and enhances their interpretive experience.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this thesis offers a comprehensive analysis of the linguistic characteristics of metaphor representation in the works of Somerset Maugham. Through a close examination of selected texts, this study has elucidated how

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Maugham employs metaphor as a literary device to convey deeper layers of meaning, evoke vivid imagery, and imbue his narratives with thematic complexity. By exploring the interplay between language, metaphor, and meaning in Maugham's literary universe, this study has shed light on the profound impact of metaphor on the aesthetic and thematic dimensions of his writing. Moving forward, further research in this area could explore additional aspects of metaphor representation in Maugham's works, examine the reception of his metaphorical language by readers and critics, and investigate the broader implications of his use of metaphor for the study of English literature and literary linguistics.

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