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**Nadiia KABANTSEVA**, PhD (Philol.)

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-5566-407X

e-mail: kanadezhda1@gmail.com

International Humanitarian University

Odesa, Ukraine

**Oksana NAZARENKO**, PhD (Philol.), Assoc. Prof.

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4697-6100

e-mail: nazoks13@gmail.com

National University "Odesa Law Academy"

Odesa, Ukraine

### **CONCEPTUAL FIELD OF SUBSPHERE "NATURAL WORLD" ON BASIS OF POLITICAL METAPHORS (UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH)**

*The article is devoted to the conceptual field of the subsphere "Natural world" based on metaphors in political discourse in the Ukrainian and English languages. The frequency of political metaphors use in the research languages was studied. The special features of the subsphere "Natural world" in metaphors of political discourse in the Ukrainian and English languages are determined. The conceptual field's lexical-semantic content of the subsphere "Natural world" is analyzed. The peculiarities of the subsphere conceptual field, its division into concepts, and the connotative nuances of this subsphere on the material of the research languages are distinguished. The frames of the animal and plant world are determined, where metaphors reflect the specifics of political life, election procedures, ways of attracting voters, the nature of the interaction between political parties and voters, the processes of adopting laws, reforming and international interaction. Political metaphors in the field of geology and meteorology are also analyzed, where metaphors are actively involved in political rhetoric, reflecting the political life of the country as a whole, as well as political events abroad; metaphors are actively used to denote elements of the country's political life, which journalists present as changeable, poorly predicted, but at the same time dynamic and cyclical.*

**Keywords:** *metaphor, political metaphor, political discourse, conceptual field, subsphere, natural world, living nature and abiocoen.*

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The variety of political metaphors is an integral part of the modern journalistic text, where the "environment" field has the most active use. A man models political reality by drawing an analogy with the world of living nature and abiocoen. Political metaphor's conceptual sphere in the journalistic discourse of the Ukrainian and English languages is filled with cultural and universal specificity. The analysis of the political metaphor's conceptual fields is the object of many domestic and foreign researchers on the works of whom we base in our research: O. M. Chadyuk (Chadiuk, 2005), O. I. Andreychenko (Andreichenko, 2011), H. P. Datsyshyn (Datsyshyn, 2005), O. O. Zhulavska (Zhulavska, 2011), A. Musolff (Musolff, 2006), I. Vestermark (Vestermark, 2007), A. Santa (Santa, 2002), J. Zinken (Zinken, 2003), J. M. Wei (Wei, 2001), A. Cienki (Cienki, 2008), S. Bratož (Bratož, 2014).

However, the analysis and comparative study of the political metaphor's conceptual fields of the subsphere "Natural world" in the fundamental original conceptual sphere "Environment" on material of the Ukrainian and English languages has not been investigated yet, which determines the *actuality* of the study.

The *purpose* of work is the subsphere "Natural world" comparative study as a component of the conceptual sphere "Outworld" of the concept sphere "Politics" based on the Ukrainian and English languages.

The purpose realization involves solving the following specific *tasks*:

- to analyze the study degree of the subsphere "Natural world" as a conceptual field of political metaphor in the Ukrainian and English languages;
- to determine the lexical-semantic content of the subsphere "Natural world" based on both study languages;
- to investigate the use frequency of given subsphere in the political discussion in Ukrainian and English;
- to compare and correlate the obtained statistical data between the Ukrainian and English languages.

The *object* of the research is political discourse based on the journalistic style in Ukrainian and English.

The *subject* of the research is the subsphere "Natural word" as a component of the conceptual sphere "Outworld" of the concept sphere "Politics" based on the Ukrainian and English languages.

In the given research, the following *methods* were used: the continuous sampling method for selection of factual material among Ukrainian-language and English-language texts from journalistic sources; the method of critical analysis and systematization of scientific literature made it possible to determine the theoretical foundations of metaphor research; the metaphor identification method made it possible to identify metaphorical lexical units; the linguistic-statistical method was used to verify statistical data; the descriptive-analytical (descriptive) method was used to systematize information about the subsphere "Natural world" as a conceptual field of the conceptual sphere "Outworld"; the comparative method made it possible to establish the similarities and differences of political metaphors in the subsphere "Natural world".

According to the research results, the concept sphere "Politics" in the Ukrainian and English languages includes the fundamental original conceptual sphere "Outworld". This sphere includes the external world phenomena, they exist beyond the man's will, which he can influence indirectly.

Therefore, within the framework of the fundamental original conceptual sphere "Outworld" in both Ukrainian and English languages, the most frequent subsphere "Natural world" is selected.

The subsphere "Natural world" consists of two concepts: "Living nature" and "Abiocoen". The concept "Living nature" ranks first in terms of frequency among concepts of the subsphere "Natural world" in both study languages (Ukrainian – 58.2 % and English – 59.4 %). The presented concept is verbalized through the semantic field, which generally consists of lexical units that name and characterize objects of flora and fauna, assimilating certain socially significant situations in the usual sense to animals and their behavior or plants, their characteristics and qualities, as well as features care for them.

The concept "Living Nature" semantic content is divided into two frames: "Animals" and "Plants". The first place among frames of the concept "Living nature" belongs to the frame "Animals" in both study languages (Ukrainian – 62.2 % and English – 63.5 %). It includes metaphors depicting nominations of animals' various classes, including domestic and wild animals, predators, mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects, rodents, invertebrates, etc., whose lifestyle is

reinterpreted in certain characteristics and qualities that are constantly appear (from the perspective of native speakers), for example:

(1) *It was there that the Kreml directed its **poisonous sting** of incitement to separatism and civil war.* (Саме туди й спрямував Кремль своє **отруйне жало** підбурювання до сепаратизма та громадянської війни). – In sentence (1), the metaphor "**poisonous sting**" is used. The metaphorical meaning of the phrase "poisonous sting" is based on its direct dictionary interpretation – "the sharp part of the poisonous insects' organ for defense or attack, with which they sting" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1979, p. 505). The metaphorical expression "poisonous sting" is figurative and, in the context of the given sentence, denotes harsh policy of the Russian leadership in inciting the residents of Donbas to separatism. The metaphor is negatively connoted, based on the meaning of lexeme "poisonous" and the association of exeme "sting".

(2) *Ukraine can become a "**European tiger**"* (Україна може стати "**європейським тигром**") – In the given example, the metaphor "european tiger" is used. The metaphorical meaning of the lexeme "tiger" is based on such qualities of this animal as speed, dexterity, ability to jump far. In this case, we are talking about the fact that Ukraine can make a revolutionary leap in reforming state mechanisms and the economic sector, which was carried out at one time by the "Asian tigers" – Japan, South Korea and Singapore. This metaphor has a positive connotation. Such a connotation is modeled by the specified qualities of a tiger.

(3) *When the old **lion weakens**, the young **jackals bare their teeth**, preparing to divide the prey..* (Коли **слабшає** старий **лев**, молоді **шакали вишкірюють зуби**, готуючись до поділу здобичі....) – In the given example, the use of a metaphor is observed, which is expressed by the complex subjunctive sentence, the metaphorical meaning of which is produced by the lexemes "lion", "jackal", which belong to the frame "Animals", as well as by the natural habits of jackals: "bare their teeth, preparing to divide the prey". The metaphorical meaning of the lexeme "jackal" is based on its figurative meaning – "greedy, predatory person" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1979, p. 396). The figurative meaning of the lexeme "lion" is "about a very brave, fearless person" (Bilodid,

Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1973, p. 458), given in the dictionary does not coincide with the meaning assigned to it by the author of the article. In this case, we are talking about the "lions" from the first generation of the "Ukrainian political elite", which seized and distributed the national property among themselves after Ukraine left the USSR. And, therefore, the "young jackals" of today, in the opinion of the author of the article, are the continuation of the case of seizing state property and redistributing among themselves the already divided "old lions". This metaphor has a negative connotation. Such a connotation is modeled by the meaning of the lexeme "jackal", the expression "the old lion is weakening", as well as the described natural habits of jackals.

(4) *"They don't need this **drove**": Ukrainians were reminded of the key problem of the de-occupation of Donbass ("Їм ця зграя не потрібна": українцям нагадали про ключову проблему деокупації Донбасу)* – In the given example, the use of the metaphor "drove" is observed. In the metaphorical sense, "drove" is "a group of people who engage in shameful activities; a gang" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1971, p. 523). The specified metaphor is derogatory and has a negative connotation. Such a connotation is modeled by the lexeme "drove", which in the recipient's mind is often associated with a group of wild animals (wolves, jackals) that demonstrate coordinated collective behavior and pose a threat to humans.

(5) *Reuters: Among **political sharks**, Ukrainian pilot Savchenko to be a 'small **piranha**'*. – In the given example, two metaphors' use of the given slot is observed: "political sharks" and "a small piranha". The metaphorical meaning of the phrase "political sharks" is based on the direct dictionary interpretation of the lexeme "shark" – "a long-bodied chiefly marine fish with a cartilaginous skeleton, a prominent dorsal fin, and toothlike scales" (English Oxford Living Dictionaries). In the context of this sentence, "political sharks" refers to experienced political figures who predatorily exploit other people and the resources of their position for selfish purposes. The metaphorical meaning of the phrase "a small piranha" is modeled by the dictionary interpretation of the lexeme "piranha" – "a deep-bodied South American freshwater fish that typically lives in shoals and has very sharp teeth that are used to tear flesh from prey" (English Oxford

Living Dictionaries. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>). In a metaphorical sense, "a small piranha" denotes N. Savchenko's inexperience as a politician, but hints at the fact that more experienced politicians should be wary of her. Both metaphors convey negative connotations achieved due to the lexemes' semantics "shark" and "piranha".

The second place among the concept "Living nature" frames belongs to the frame "Plants" in Ukrainian (37.5 %) and English (36.5 %). This frame reflects the ancient archetypal perception of the world, which is based on the images of a plant, a tree and its components (roots, leaves, seeds, flowers, etc.) to characterize a person and his activities, for example:

(6) *The tragedy roots of the East and Crimea. (Коріння трагедії ходу та Криму)*. – In sentence (6), the metaphor "tragedy roots" is used. In a metaphorical sense, "roots" (from "root") are "the beginning, the origin of something", "the basis, source, main cause of something" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1978, p. 292). The metaphor "tragedy roots" carries a negative connotation, which is produced by the lexeme's metaphorical meaning "tragedy" – "great sorrow, misfortune, national or personal, caused by a sharp, irreconcilable conflict" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1973, p. 223).

(7) *A woman in politics: the burdock of stereotypes (Жінка в політиці: пен'яхи стереотипів)* – In the given example, the metaphor "burdock of stereotypes" is used. The metaphorical meaning is based on the direct dictionary interpretation of the lexeme "burdock" – "a weed of the compositae family with tenacious inflorescences and thorns" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1978, p. 512). The prickly, clinging head of the burdock, which has numerous thorns, is able to cling to people's clothes, animal fur, etc., and hold on to them firmly. Therefore, burdock root deteriorates the quality of livestock fur, besides, it is difficult to separate them from clothes and human hair. This property of burdock became the basis for the metaphorical transfer to generally accepted stereotypes, which were firmly imprinted in people's minds. In the context of the given sentence, we are talking about one of the most painful stereotypes regarding the distribution of social roles between men and women, in particular, that women have no place in politics. The

metaphor "the burdock of stereotypes" has acquired a negative connotation in the Ukrainian language, which is based on the meaning of the lexeme "burdock".

(8) *Judicial reform gives the first sprouts.* (Судова реформа дає перші нащадки) – In the given example, the use of the metaphor "reform gives the first sprouts" is observed. In a metaphorical sense, a "sprout" is "a sign, the first manifestations that something has begun to develop" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1979, p. 75). In the context of the submitted sentence, it is about the fact that the unjust decisions of the judges, which were made by the old corrupt judges, were overturned by the panel of the Court of Appeal. This metaphor has a positive connotation. Such a connotation is modeled by its meaning associated with development, progress.

(9) *My prediction: Will Trump blossom or fail?* – In the given example, the metaphor's use "blossom" is observed, the meaning of which is based on its metaphorical dictionary interpretation – "mature or develop in a promising or healthy way" (English Oxford Living Dictionaries). In the context of the given sentence, we are talking about political future's forecast of President Trump. The author of the article tries to predict whether Trump will succeed in the position of President of the United States, or whether he will suffer a political defeat. The metaphor "blossom" is positively connoted based on its semantic meaning.

The concept "Abiocoen" ranks second in terms of frequency among concepts of the subsphere "Natural world" in both study languages (Ukrainian – 41.8 % and English – 40.6 %). This concept is verbalized through a semantic field, which generally consists of lexical units describing political reality in terms of geology and meteorology. The first place among frames of the concept "Abiocen" belongs to the frame "Geology" (Ukrainian – 66.7 % and English – 62 %) (see sentences (10), (11) and (12)):

(10) *The new political landscape of Ukraine.* (Новий політичний ландшафт України). – In example (10), the metaphor "political landscape" is used. The metaphorical meaning of the lexeme "landscape" is modeled by its direct dictionary interpretation – "the general appearance of the area; landscape; part of the earth's surface with a certain combination of relief, climate, soils, flora and fauna"

(Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1979, p.444). The general distribution of political forces in the country is presented as a political landscape. The main feature of the Ukrainian political system is its ability to change, and the desire for change, and, therefore, the movement due to multipartyism, is most often evaluated positively by the mass media. The text of the article talks about the fact that Ukraine elected a new parliament in extraordinary elections, in which the arrangement of political forces has changed significantly, and, therefore, the metaphor has a positive connotation.

(11) A *political storm is approaching Italy* (*На Італію насувається політичний шторм*) – In the given example, the use of the metaphor "political storm" is observed. The metaphorical meaning of the lexeme "storm" is modeled by its direct dictionary interpretation – "a strong storm, wind on the sea or lake and the great agitation of the water caused by them" (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1979, p. 542). The lexeme "storm" focuses the reader's attention on the unpredictable, threatening nature of the behavior of natural elements, which became a prerequisite for the emergence of a metaphorical image. Images of strong and stormy waves, catastrophic, destructive force, according to ancient ideas, fatal for sailors, are used to nominate openly negative phenomena in the political life of the country. By the "political storm" in Italy, the author refers to the referendum that has alarmed Europe, as it could not only lead to the resignation of the prime minister, but also threaten the stability of the euro, and therefore could lead to a financial crisis in the EU. This metaphor has a negative connotation. Such a connotation is produced by the meaning of the lexeme "storm".

(12) *So long, 2016: the year of the political earthquake*. – In the given example, the metaphor "political earthquake" is used. The metaphorical meaning is based on the direct and metaphorical dictionary meaning of the lexeme "earthquake" – "a shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust" (English Oxford Living Dictionaries); "a great upheaval" (English Oxford Living Dictionaries). The metaphor "political earthquake" arose to describe major upheavals and upheavals in the world of politics. The text of the article states that 2016 was a year of great political upheavals: Brexit, the US elections, the growth of the terrorist



threat, the migration crisis in Europe, the war in Syria, etc. The metaphor has a negative connotation. Such connotation is modeled semantically and contextually.

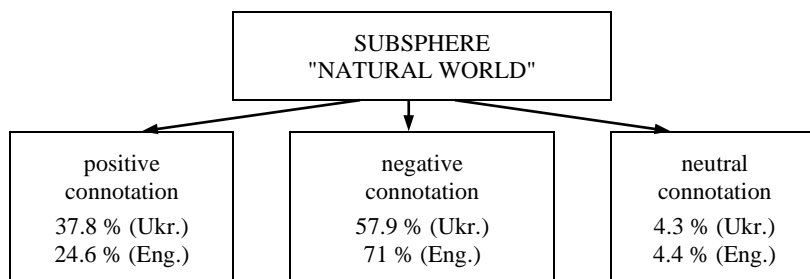
The second place among frames of the concept "Abiocen" belongs to the frame "Meteorology" in the Ukrainian (33.3 %) and English (38 %) languages. This frame includes metaphors that refer to the atmosphere and its state, climatic, weather and meteorological conditions, as well as seasons (see sentences (13) and (14)):

(13) *The opposition "political spring" began on the streets of Kyiv. (На вулицях Києва розпочалася "політична весна" опозиції).* – In example (13), the metaphor "political spring" is used. The metaphorical meaning of the lexeme "spring" is modeled by its direct dictionary interpretation – "the season between winter and summer, which is characterized by the lengthening of the day, warming, the appearance of migratory birds, the flowering of plants, etc.." (Bilodid, Buriachok, & Vynnyk, 1973, p. 341). The metaphor "political spring" has a positive connotation, which is produced by background and associative knowledge, characterizing the situation in the country as a time of political and social upsurge, renewal and prosperity. The metaphor is positively connoted.

(14) *Drugs are a major campaign point in Michigan this political season.* – In the given example, the use of "political season" metaphor is observed. The metaphorical meaning is based on the direct meaning of the lexeme "season" – "each of the four divisions of the year (spring, summer, autumn, and winter) marked by particular weather patterns and daylight hours, resulting from the earth's changing position with regard to the sun" (English Oxford Living Dictionaries). A season is also called a period of the year characterized by the intensification of certain activities, in our case – political. Therefore, "political season" can be considered as the period of pre-election campaigning, the departure of deputies from long vacations, etc. In the context of the presented sentence, the metaphor "political season" refers to the election campaign, where the question of the feasibility of legalizing marijuana in the state of Michigan came to the fore. The metaphor has a neutral connotation, which is implemented semantically.

According to the obtained data, metaphors of the subsphere "Natural world" are widely used when describing political processes, where metaphors of the frame "Geology" occupy the first place in Ukrainian (66.7 %), in contrast to English, where the frame "Animals" takes the first place (63.5 %). The second place in terms of frequency of metaphors' use is occupied by the frame "Animals" in the Ukrainian language and the frame "Geology" in the English language (Ukrainian – 63.5 % and English – 62 %). The third place is taken by the frame "Plants" of the concept "Living Nature" in Ukrainian (37.5 %), in contrast to English, where the frame "Meteorology" of the concept "Abiocoen" (38 %). The frame "Meteorology" (33.3 %) takes the last place among the frames in Ukrainian, while in English – the frame "Plants" (36.5 %).

According to study results, the majority (57.9 % in Ukrainian and 71 % in English) metaphors of the subsphere "Natural world" convey a negative meaning. Positively connoted political metaphors take second place (37.8 % in Ukrainian and 24.6 % in English). Neutrally connoted political metaphors occupy the last place (4.3 % Ukrainian and 4.4 % English) (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1.** Scheme of Percentage correlation of connotations in subsphere "Natural world"

Thus, a man models political reality by drawing an analogy with the world of living nature and abiocoen. Metaphors of living nature world are divided into two frames – "Animals" and "Plants". Metaphors of the frame "Animals" are actively involved in political rhetoric and generally reflect the typical characteristics of the animal

world, which are endowed with the image of one or another politician: habits, behavioral characteristics, qualities, etc. Metaphorical presentation of political reality, actualization of aggressive actions' images, fierce struggle inherent in political life, is successfully implemented with the help of zoomorphic metaphors. Metaphors of the frame "Plants" are also actively involved in political rhetoric, reflecting the specifics of political life, election procedures, ways of attracting voters, the nature of the interaction between political parties and voters, the processes of adopting laws, reforming and international interaction. Metaphors of abiocoen world are also divided into two frames – "Geology" and "Meteorology". They are actively involved in political rhetoric, reflecting country's political life as a whole, as well as individual elements of political life, political relations between countries, etc.

Further research plans include a comparative analysis of the following political metaphor's conceptual fields of the fundamental original conceptual sphere "Outworld", namely its subspheres "Sacred world" on the levels of frames, slots and subslots, as well as the determination of the connotative meanings of these conceptual fields on material of the Ukrainian and English languages.

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**Надія КАБАНЦЕВА**, канд. філол. наук

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-5566-407X

e-mail: kanadezhda1@gmail.com

Міжнародний гуманітарний університет,  
Одеса, Україна

**Оксана НАЗАРЕНКО**, канд. філол. наук, доц.

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-4697-6100

e-mail: nazoks13@gmail.com

Національний університет "Одеська юридична академія",  
Одеса, Україна

### **КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНЕ ПОЛЕ СУБСФЕРИ "ПРИРОДНИЙ СВІТ" НА БАЗІ ПОЛІТИЧНИХ МЕТАФОР (УКРАЇНСЬКА ТА АНГЛІЙСЬКА МОВИ)**

*Розглянуто та проаналізовано концептуальне поле субсфери "Природний світ" на базі метафор у політичному дискурсі в українській та англійській мовах. Вивчено частотність використання політичних метафор у мовах дослідження. Визначено особливі риси субсфери "Природний світ" у метафорах політичного дискурсу в українській та англійській мовах. Проаналізовано лексико-семантичне наповнення концептуального поля субсфери "Природний світ". Досліджено особливості поданого концептуального поля субсфери, його розподіл на концепти, виокремлено конотативні відтінки цієї субсфери на матеріалі*

мов дослідження. Висвітлено фрейми тваринного та рослинного світу, де метафори відображають специфіку політичного життя, процедури виборів, способи залучення виборців, характер взаємодії політичних партій та виборців, процеси прийняття законів, реформування і міжнародної взаємодії. Також виокремлено політичні метафори у сфері геології та метеорології, де метафори активно залучаються до політичної риторики, відображаючи загалом політичне життя країни, а також політичні події за кордоном; метафори активно залучаються для позначення елементів політичного життя країни, яке журналісти представляють як мінливе, погано прогнозоване, але водночас динамічне і таке, що розвивається циклічно.

**Ключові слова:** метафора, політична метафора, політичний дискурс, концептуальне поле, субсфера, природний світ, жива та нежива природа.