

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF METAPHORICAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPTUAL SOURCE DOMAIN  
LAW IN THE AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN PAROEMIC DISCOURSES*Liliya R. Mukharlyamova**Kazan Federal University**mukharlyamova@mail.ru**Svetlana L. Yakovleva**Mari State University**Elzara V. Gafiyatova**Kazan Federal University*

**Abstract.** The article focuses on the comparative analysis of metaphorical modeling of the conceptual source domain *law* in Russian and American paroemic discourses. The objective of the article is to compare verbalization of the conceptual source domain *law* in the paroemic views of the world by the American and Russian peoples. The verbalization of the conceptual source domain *law* is analyzed with the help of a systemic approach. During the research both linguistic and cognitive methods have been used. In the paper, the law is viewed in a broad meaning of the word: as a system of rules, which all the people of a country must follow; as the body of obligatory norms regulating relations in the society. The description of metaphorical models is one of the perspective trends in modern cognitive linguistics. The man prefigures model of the situation and a target specific fragment of the world (natural, social or cultural) in his consciousness with the help of the language and the metaphor; this suggests that the metaphor helps to create a new way of representing an object and may be considered a phenomenon both linguistic and cognitive. Metaphors used in proverbs and sayings create a specific national paroemic picture of the world which can be presented as an “integrated communicative and cognitive space”. Ontological, spatial and structural metaphors of different types are described in the paper. Metaphorical model is viewed as an idiomatic structure, a certain type of relations between source and target domains. In any metaphorical model, the components provide similarity but not direct identification. The analysis of the frame structure of metaphorical models allows revealing characteristic frames and slots typical of each model in order to find out universal and specific features of the world conceptualization by peoples and their system of values.

**Key words:** Russian paroemic discourse, American paroemic discourse, metaphorical model, conceptual domain *law*, frame, slot.

**1. Introduction.** The widespread use of legal terminology in the texts of various themes and style is explained by the fact that these dictionaries are popular not only among legal professionals, but also among the professionals working with languages: translators, teachers, journalists and others [1: 137].

Model of the situation, a target image of the reality fragment – natural, social or cultural may be formed in consciousness with the help of the metaphor, which gives the ground to consider the metaphor as a phenomenon referring both to language and to cognition. The description of metaphorical models seems to be a perspective trend in modern cognitive linguistics; in particular, their functioning in a paroemic discourse.

In the paroemic discourse, a national linguistic picture of the world is vividly reflected; it represents cognition of the people and being conceptualized in individuals’ consciousness, it creates a specific national paroemic picture of the world, which represents moral, religious, scientific, legal and other ideas, and values of the people on the level of ordinary consciousness. The analysis of the frame structure of metaphorical models allows performing a comparative analysis of universal and specific features and peculiarities of the Russian and American language pictures of the world, their system of values related to such reality fragment as the conceptual source domain *law*.

To study the source domain *law* is topical due to its importance for the conceptualization of the language picture of the world. The conceptual source domain *law* is one of the key domains of human being: beginning from the formation of person’s individual values to the formation of civil society. The objective of the research is to compare metaphorical (ontological, spatial, and orientational) models in the American and Russian paroemic discourses. To reach this objective the following tasks must be solved:

- to describe the use of metaphorical models in the American and Russian paroemic discourses;
- to analyse metaphorical models of the conceptual source domain *law* with the view of determining its denotative characteristics and the description of basic frames and slots taking part in the realization of the source domain under study;
- to compare realization of the conceptual source domain *law* in the American and Russian paroemic discourses.

A comparative analysis of the Russian and American paroemic units, verbalizing the source domain *law* and selected by a continuous sampling method from the most complete American and Russian dictionaries is performed on the basis of semantic and contextual analysis.

A model in cognitive linguistics is connected with the sphere of a person’s mental activity, his psychic and intellectual activity. Man lives in the world of ideas which he creates to realise his intellectual, moral and social needs, modelling specific situations and fragments of the world. This modelling is determined by communicative needs of a person and is realized in individual consciousness as well as in the consciousness of the ethnos.

The research on regularities of how metaphorical models are built gives an opportunity to find the connection between the notions which are kept in human consciousness and to systemize people's old experience. Metaphorical models allow revealing peculiarities of reality conceptualization and specific features of the national picture of the world. It stands to reason that metaphorical models created in human mind may be viewed as schemes with the help of which the man thinks and acts. The metaphor comprises two conceptual domains: source and target. The source conceptual domain is also nominated as the mental source domain, donor-domain; the target conceptual domain – the mental magnet domain or target domain. The metaphorical model is presented in the form of a scheme 'A IS B'. For example, the metaphorical model 'LAW IS PROCESS' is represented in the paroemia *Where law ends, tyranny begins*. In every metaphorical model its components are opposed according to their similarity but not direct identification.

The Russian researcher A. P. Chudinov defines metaphorical modelling as the means of cognition, rubrication, presentation and assessment of reality fragment with the help of scenarios, frames and slots referring to an absolutely different conceptual domain, which reflects national, social and individual consciousness [2, p. 48].

In the process of metaphorical modelling, in addition to the source and target domains, typical for the model scenarios are introduced, representing the sequence of actions appropriate for the source domain and frames of the model. The term has been first introduced by Charles Fillmore who defined frames as 'the cognitive structures (or "frames") knowledge of which is presupposed for the concepts encoded by the words' [3]. According to E. S. Kubryakova, frames are the basic elements of creation of the metaphorical model; they consist of slots and perform specific functions, 'organise our understanding of the world in general'; typical slots that build the frame are 'elements of the situation which include a part of the frame, some aspect of its specification' [4, c. 188]. The target domain is structured through the source domain wherein the value of the metaphor's cognitive resource is demonstrated.

The object of the research is metaphorical models of the conceptual source domain *law* in the Russian and American paroemic discourses. A comparative analysis of metaphorical models and their typical frames are its object.

**2. Methods.** Metaphorical models of the conceptual source domain *law* in the American paroemic discourse have been analysed in detail by the author of the present article in the paper "Metaphorical Models of the Conceptual Domain *Law* in the American Paroemic Discourse". Six metaphorical models have been revealed as the result of the analysis: LAW IS ACTIVITY / PROCESS / SPACE / COST / COMPONENT OF MEANS OF TRANSPORT / THE MAN HIMSELF.

It has been found out that in the American paroemic discourse for this conceptual source domain ontological, spatial and orientational metaphorical models are relevant which represent:

- antagonistic entity of construction and destruction;
- a great variety of choice for honest life;
- the beginning and the end as temporological notions;
- metaphorical orientation in space: the law as a central line, a peculiar diameter of public space, where no man can be above it or below it, which provides equality and justice in the society; a peculiar dual system divided vertically;
- the law as a material monetary form which is less important than love;
- representation of the law through the objects of everyday life;
- man as the man of good morals, the creator of his own internal laws who does not need external ones.

**3. Results And Discussion.** The analysis of metaphorical models of the Russian paroemic discourse representing the source domain *law* allowed revealing six basic models.

The metaphorical model LAW IS ABUSE OF POWER

The structural metaphor forms the basis of the paroemia *Воля царя – закон*. [5]– *The tsar's will is law*; it allows using one notion to structure the other one. In the paroemia the tsar's own judicial power is reflected. Will in this case is not an external but internal space; the will as the tsar's despotism, to which everyone should obey and when all people are at the tsar's mercy. On the other hand, tsar – wearer of crown is superior to anyone in the Russian paroemic consciousness, and Russian people used to be considered 'tsar-loving'.

The metaphorical model LAW IS VIOLATION OF JUST LIFE

The structural metaphors form the basis of the paroemia *Не будь закона, не стало бы и греха. – No law – no sin; Строгий закон велику вину творит. – A severe law makes a great guilt; Законы святы, да судьи супостаты. – Laws are just but lawyers are villains* [6]. These paroemia are connected with beliefs, with external imperatives that the person must follow. The notions of sin and sanctity serve to show the reality providing the realization of the horizontal model 'law is sin', law is guilt'. A peculiar attitude to the law of the Russian archaic consciousness is characterized by the opinion that the court is not an efficient means of protection of human rights, it does not guarantee defence to people, which leads to mistrust both to courts and judges.

The metaphorical model LAW IS FEELING

The law may cause failed expectations: *Где закон, там и обида. – Where is the law, there is offence* [7]. With the help of the structural metaphor a situation connected with an unjust court decision, unjust verdict causes a negative reaction and, as a consequence, mistrust and disrespect to the court.

The metaphorical model LAW IS ACTIVITY

Construction, creation and opposite to them deconstruction are the source conceptual domain in its frame structure. In the Russian paroemic discourse, split of the lawmaking process is evident due to the contradiction between building and destruction: *Кто законы пишет, тот их и ломает. – He who makes laws breaks laws*.

The naturmorphic metaphor of personification is part of the paroemia *Закон, что паутина: имель проскочет, а муха увязнет*. – *Laws are like nets: they catch flies and bumblebees go free*. The frame structure of the metaphorical model is represented by catching insects; it contains slots in which two kinds of insects serve as representing words.

Paroemia *Не всякий прут по закону гнут*. – *Not all rods are bent according to the law*; and *Нужда закона не знает, а через шагает* – *Poverty does not know laws and steps over them* can also be referred to the metaphorical model *LAW IS ACTIVITY*. *Rod* is a representing word in the first paroemia and the archiseme of movement: *step over* – in the second one. An idea that external factors influence the proof whether a person is guilty or non-guilty to the damage of the accused is a typical feature of the Russian paroemic discourse. In addition to that people's poverty and miserable life may provoke violation of the law. Inappropriate and privileged jurisdiction forms the basis and gives rise to this metaphorical model in the Russian archaic consciousness.

The metaphorical model of a vertical line and activity is represented in the paroemia *Все бы законы потонули, да и судей бы перетопили*. – *If only all laws would sink and take down all judges*. 'To sink' is the vertical movement down, it does not belong to the man's domain if only he does not want to commit suicide. It means that flood as a natural phenomenon is beyond people's control and it could make all laws disappear and destroy those who make them.

The metaphorical model *LAW IS PROCESS*

The beginning and the end as temporological notions represent a frame structure of this model and serve as a source of another abstract notion – the law. When something, in this case, the law goes on, has its beginning, past and present it may stay without future. This idea is embodied in the paroemia *Недолго той земле стоять, где начнут уставы ломать*. – *A country where people break laws will not last for a long time*.

The metaphorical model *LAW IS INSTRUMENT/TOOL*

In the paroemia *законные тиски* – *legal vise* the projection of the source domain connected with a typical tool – vise is realized with the help of the tool which toughly compresses things in order to process them.

In the paroemia *Закон – дышло: куда захочешь, туда и воротишь*. – *The law is like a wagon tongue: you can turn it whichever way you please* the correlation between source and target domains is represented through a horse harness, a thick shaft hitched to the middle of the front wagon axle; hence it follows that the wagon tongue is the frame of the model.

The paroemia *Закон не кол: не обтешешь*. – *The law is not a stick, you can't hew it off* as in the above given examples contains an ontological metaphor where an abstract notion is transferred with the help of real objects – vise, tongue and stick.

A linguistic and cultural analysis of the language makes it possible to understand perception, imagination, emotions of people, and to study the system of thinking of native speakers [8, 640].

**4. Summary.** In both paroemic discourses six basic metaphorical models representing a basic conceptual source domain *law* have been revealed which are characterized by ontological, orientational and spatial metaphors being their component parts. The metaphorical models: *LAW IS ACTIVITY*, *LAW IS PROCESS* and *LAW IS INSTRUMENT/TOOL* may be related to universal characteristics of proverbial consciousness.

The metaphorical models: *LAW IS ABUSE OF POWER*, *LAW IS VIOLATION OF JUST LIFE* and *LAW IS FEELING* are unique, specific models of the Russian archaic consciousness. A time-sapping procedure of courts, favouritism of judges, disrespect to the court, unjust verdicts, the tsar's will as the highest form of jurisdiction, the representing words *sin*, *sanctity* and *offence* inherent in the models may be related to specific, peculiar features of the Russian culturological type. On the other hand, metaphorical modeling allows creating a fragment of the system of values of the Russian archaic consciousness, represented in the paroemic discourse.

The metaphorical models: *LAW IS SPACE*, *LAW IS COST* and *LAW IS THE MAN HIMSELF* are peculiar to the American paroemic discourse. The way of figurative modeling and the way how the reality is reflected in the American paroemic discourse is characterized by the following features of their frame structure: the medial spatial line denoting legal equality of all people, when no one may be below or under it; a material monetary form when love is above law; the man as the creator of his own internal highly moral laws. "The modern linguistic paradigm [9] reveals that Many translators prefer to use meaning development in many cases instead of generalization" [10].

**5. Conclusions** .The metaphor, reflecting the process of the world cognition by an individual and an ethnos, allows researching similarities and differences between different phenomena of the reality. The metaphorical model is a peculiar scheme, a kind of correlation between source and target domains. As a result of the analysis of metaphorical models in the paroemic discourses common, universal and specific, peculiar features in both lingua-cultures have been revealed. A comparative analysis of frames shows typical slots of the source domain *law* in the American and Russian paroemic discourses and finds out universal and peculiar features of the conceptual spheres of the peoples.

Analyzing the source domain *law* we reached the conclusion that there are partially or completely identical metaphorical models in both discourses and a prevailing number of peculiar ones, which testifies that cognition of the world is unique for the people in their reality conceptualization on the basis of their experience.

**6. Acknowledgements.** The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

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