

Англійська  
мова

English  
language

ISSN: 2411-6181 (on-line); ISSN: 2311-9896 (print)  
Current issues of social studies and history of medicine. Joint  
Ukrainian-Romanian scientific journal, 2017, №:1(13), P. 51-54  
UDK 811.111'373.7  
DOI 10.24061/2411-6181.1.2017.12

СТИЛІСТИЧНІ ЗАСОБИ ВЕРБАЛІЗАЦІЇ АЛЮЗІЇ  
У ПРЕЗИДЕНТСЬКИХ ПРОМОВАХ АВРААМА  
ЛІНКОЛЬНА

Михайло ВАХОЦЬКИЙ, Оксана МАКОВСЬКА

Вищий державний навчальний заклад України  
«Буковинський державний медичний університет»,  
Чернівці (Україна)  
oxanamakovska@yandex.ua

STYLISTIC DEVICES OF VERBALIZATION OF  
ALLUSION IN ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S PRESIDENTIAL  
SPEECHES

Mykhailo VAKHOTSKYI, Oksana MAKOVSKA

Higher State Educational Institution of Ukraine  
“Bukovinian State Medical University”,  
Chernivtsi (Ukraine)  
ORCID ID 0000-0003-2642-5990  
Researcher ID S-6141-2016

**Вахоцкий М., Маковская О. Стилистические средства вербализации аллюзии в президентских речах Авраама Линкольна.** Работа посвящена исследованию аллюзии в президентских речах А. Линкольна. Предметом исследования являются аллюзии, использованные оратором за время президентства, объектом – языковые средства воплощения аллюзии: метафоры, сравнения, исторические и культурные реалии, антропонимы, топонимы, мифологизмы, библеизмы. Для достижения цели в работе раскрыто понятие политического дискурса, а также осуществлено когнитивно-прагматический анализ аллюзии в политических речах Авраама Линкольна.

**Ключевые слова:** аллюзия, политический дискурс, стилистические средства, антропоним, топоним, мифологизм, библеизм.

The paper is dedicated to the linguistic cognitive analysis of the allusion, exploration of pragmatic potential of stylistic means of its expression in the speeches of Abraham Lincoln.

The paper defines the notion of allusion, the main features that distinguish it from related phenomena, structure, types and mechanisms of allusions. In addition, special attention is paid to the characteristics of political discourse as a domain of the presidential speech implementation.

Detailed analysis of the works of this issue shows that in modern linguistics the term “allusion” has no unambiguous interpretation, and therefore other related phenomena are not clearly delineated from allusion, among them are: quotation, reference to literary or general cultural phenomenon, links, folklore, literary historical or everyday fact, known aphoristic expression, idioms, associations.

Allusion studies are reflected in the works of various scientists: O. Akhmanova, O.M. Dronova, I.A. Behta, M.V. Vorobiova, T.M. Kara, O.M. Kopylna, G.V. Kuznetsova, O. Akinshyna, K.S. Karpova, O.O. Lavrynenko, N.Y. Novokhacheva, A.B. Romaniuk and other linguists. For example, G.M. Kuznetsova draws attention primarily to the cognitive aspect of allusions research. According to O.M. Dronova and A.A. Tiutenko, allusion investigation may be conducted within the study of intercultural relations, problems of intertextuality, it may cover the fields of stylistics, phraseology, translation, and have different directions. N.Y. Novokhacheva focuses her works on the study of allusions in newspaper and journalistic style, and in the belles-lettres style it is researched by M.D. Tukhareli.

**The topicality** of the paper is stipulated by the general

trends of modern researches to analyze the cognitive pragmatic aspect of the utterance, implicit world of the foreign culture, intertextual relations of the literary text and its stylistically significant parameters. There arise various issues related to the recognition of allusions in literature by the hearer, the desire to represent them without losing their artistic shades of meaning and transferring the functions they perform in the original work of art, as well as the identification of the best ways of their embodiment.

**Subject** of the research – allusions, found in the English texts of speeches of the 16<sup>th</sup> US president, Abraham Lincoln. Means of allusions representation, verbalized units, found in the English speeches of Abraham Lincoln: 84 cases of verbalized allusions and 15 fragments situations where biblical phrases are used constitute the **object** of the article. 17 A. Lincoln's texts of speeches in English have been analyzed for the study.

The **aim** of the study is to identify cognitive-pragmatic potential of allusions in the English political discourse and to determine different ways of allusions verbalization by stylistic means of the English language. Thus, the **objectives** are:

- clarify the content of terminological notion of allusion in the modern linguistics;
- determine the types and mechanism of allusions in political discourse;
- identify characteristic features and functional features of political discourse;
- describe the possibilities of verbalization of allusions in Abraham Lincoln's presidential speeches;
- find out pragmatic potential of biblical phrases in the

English texts of these speeches.

**Research methods.** Descriptive method is the essential one. It allows to give an accurate and complete description of language units. Descriptive-empirical method makes it possible to describe the pragmatic characteristics of the studied phenomena; contextual interpretation, which highlights the functioning of language units in a particular environment; to confirm the objectivity of the results the elements of the quantitative analysis are used and schematic representation of elements of quantitative characteristics; statistical data analysis.

In the process of research, in particular when working upon the typical papers on the subject, a sufficient number of sources has not been found, especially those that directly analyze allusion as a stylistic device in A. Lincoln's speeches. That's why cognitive and quantitative analysis of the ways of allusion verbalization in the English texts of presidential speeches represents an element of *novelty* of this work.

Language in politics implements a number of related functions, the main of which is argumentative – regulation of outlook and behavior of citizens<sup>1</sup>. The distinctive feature of political discourse is its focus on the recipient in order to

achieve perlocutive effect – to cause social and political reaction in the audience. Typically, members of political communication represent certain socio-political positions, and exchange of information has a pragmatic purpose, i.e., communicative process in politics always has intentional nature<sup>2</sup>. Political discourse refers to a special type of communication, for which a high degree of manipulation is typical, and therefore identifying the mechanisms of political communication is important for determining characteristics of language as a means of influence.

Thus, the study of 17 A. Lincoln's speeches<sup>3</sup> made it possible to single out and analyze allusions used by the politician during his presidency. From the point of view of the abovementioned ways of verbalization of such speech expressions different stylistic means can be used, among them are: metaphors, comparisons, historical and cultural realities (using information about the known events), place names, anthroponyms, mythologisms, biblical phrases (see Fig. 1).

O. Fedorova<sup>4</sup> distinguishes in A. Lincoln's speeches basic metaphor "law", in which the following aspects can be singled out:

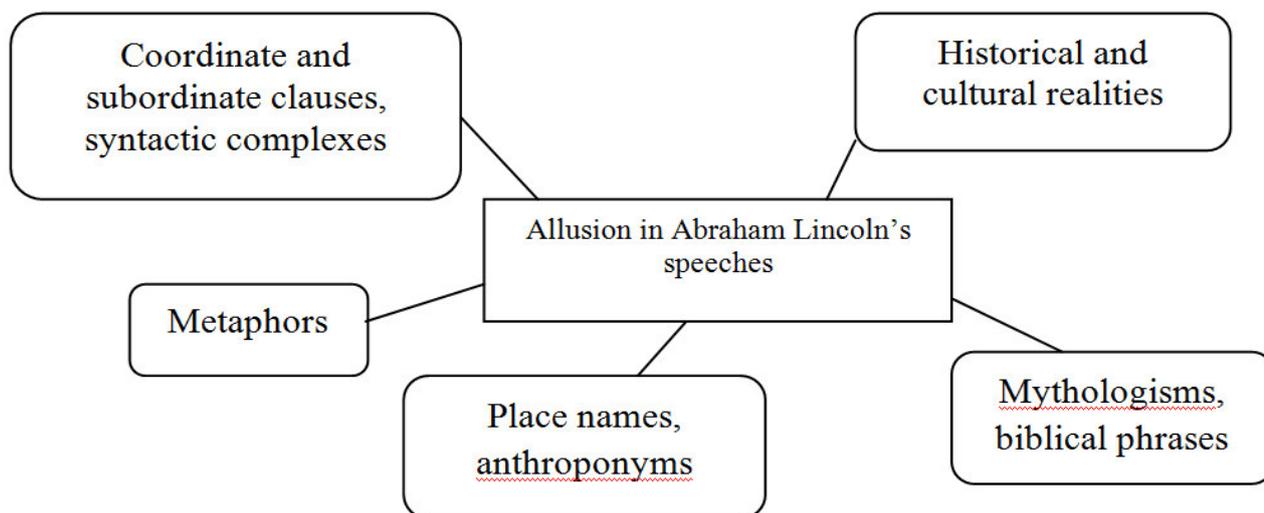


Figure 1. Stylistic means of allusion verbalization in A. Lincoln's political speeches.

"power": *Government; Republican Administration; All members of Congress; State or national authority; the Federal Union; Federal offices; Supreme Court; The Chief Magistrate; Almighty Ruler of Nations; American people; judgement of Courts; Ministers of justice.* Involvement of American people into the list of "powerful institutions" has a symbolic value here (*Almighty Ruler of Nations; American people*);

"document": *the Articles of Association in 1774; Declaration of Independence in 1776; Articles of Confederation in 1778; Constitution; Act of the Legislature; the Nebraska doctrine; the Dred Scott decision;*

"legal right": *institution of slavery; lawful right; rights of the States; evidence; delivered up on claim; clause should*

*be enforced; civilized and humane jurisprudence; privileges and immunities of citizens; unconstitutional; legal contemplation; legal right; the exercise of the offices.*

The use of legal and judicial terms, besides implementation of the mentioned tactics of conviction is a clear example and argument of "legal experience" of the speaker and therefore his authoritativeness and reliability. Complex syntactic structures (compound and complex sentences, branched syntactic systems, various phrases) which are common for official-business style are used in a speech with the same purpose<sup>5</sup>: *At the same time, the candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the Government upon vital questions affecting the whole people is to be irrevocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are*

<sup>1</sup> Pavlova Ye.K. "Leksychni problemy hlobalnoho politychnoho dyskursu" [Lexical issues of global political discourse], *Visnyk Moskovskoho universytetu*, Ser. 19, Lihvistyka i mizhkulturna komunikatsiia, 2005, № 2, P. 98-112.

<sup>2</sup> Popova O.I. "Nekotoryye problemy politicheskogo diskursa" [Some problems of political discourse], *Aktualnyye voprosy perevodovedeniya i lingvistiki: materialy nauchnoy sessii VolGU*, Volgograd, 2001, P. 73-77.

<sup>3</sup> Abraham Lincoln Online.org: [E-source], URL: www.abrahamlincolnonline.org

<sup>4</sup> Fedorova O. "Taktiky ta linhvostylistychni zasoby persvazyvnoi stratehii v inahuratsiinii promovi A.Linkolna" [Linguostylistic Means and Tactics of Persuasive Strategy Implementation in A. Lincoln's Inauguration Speech], *Filolohichni dyskurs*, Khmelnytskyi, 2015, Vyp. 1, P. 86-90.

<sup>5</sup> Karpova K.S. "Oznaky metaforyzatsii amerykanskooho kulturnoho symbolu Martin Luther King" [Peculiarities of metaphoric representation of the American cultural symbol Martin Luther King], *Suchasni doslidzhennia z inozemnoi filolohii*, 2010, Vyp. 8, P. 268-274.

ordinary litigation between parties in personal actions the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having to that extent practically resigned their Government into the hands of that eminent tribunal. Sentences with complicated syntactic structure make hearer focus attention, follow the main idea, and reader – reread the text repeatedly.

At the lexical level basic metaphor of Lincoln's notion "law" is verbalized by the nouns "right", "law", "oath", by the derived adjectives "lawful", "legal", by the verbs "swear", "promise": *to take in your presence the oath; I have no lawful right; rights of the States; the lawless invasion; lawfully demanded; under the laws; the lawgiver is the law; All members of Congress swear their support; contemplation of universal law; its organic law; all constitutional rights can be maintained; All the vital rights of minorities; I fully recognize the rightful authority.*

The following examples illustrate comparative metaphoric turns of speech: *...could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years; If they were annually swept, from the stage of existence, by the plague or small pox, honest men would, perhaps, be much profited, by the operation; ...but such belong not to the family of the lion, or the tribe of the eagle; They (the histories) were a fortress of strength; the silent artillery of time; They were a forest of giant oaks; but the all-resistless hurricane has swept over them, and left only, here and there, a lonely trunk, despoiled of its verdure, shorn of its foliage; to murmur in a few gentle breezes; They were the pillars of the temple of liberty;*

Historical and cultural realities are embodied by the following expressions: *under date of the nineteenth century of the Christian era; He witnessed in the beginning the throes of the French Revolution. He saw the rise and fall of Napoleon; "When Greece rose against the Turks and struck for liberty, his name was mingled with the battle-cry of freedom. When South America threw off the thralldom of Spain, his speeches were read at the head of her armies by Bolivar;*

*...in the days of Nullification; The others followed more rapidly – the discovery of America in 1492; the Lutheran Reformation in 1517; Webster, at the time of writing his Dictionary;*

Anthroponyms: *with a Buonaparte for a commander; We permitted no hostile foot to pass over or desecrate his resting place; shall be that which to learn the last trump shall awaken our WASHINGTON; What! think you these places would satisfy an Alexander, a Caesar, or a Napoleon? – Never!; the head of her armies by Bolivar;*

Place names: *All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest...; They have pervaded the country, from New England to Louisiana...; Those happening in the State of Mississippi, and at St. Louis; Look at his apparel, and you shall see cotton fabrics from Manchester and Lowell; flax-linen from Ireland; wool-cloth from [Spain;] silk from France; furs from the Arctic regions, with a buffalo-robe from the Rocky Mountains; sugar from Louisiana; coffee and fruits from the tropics; salt from Turk's Island; fish from New-foundland; tea from China, and spices from the Indies. The whale of the Pacific furnishes his candle-light; he has a diamond-ring from Brazil; a gold-watch from California, and a Spanish cigar from Havanna;*

Mythologisms: *...and though you throw it with more than Herculean force and precision; The success of the argument in favor of the existence of an over-ruling Providence, mainly depends upon that sense; when Solomon referred the sluggard to them as patterns of prudence.*

Allusion belongs to the key rhetorical techniques used in speeches, it enriches content information and creates numerous associations by means of hinting at events, facts, characters of other works, or by using famous cultural and historical facts<sup>6</sup>.

General distribution of allusion means and techniques used in Abraham Lincoln's speeches, is reflected in table 1 (see Table 1).

Table 1

## Allusion means in Abraham Lincoln's speeches

Means / technique	Number of units	%
Metaphor "law"	33	39,3
"law – power"	14	16,6
"law – documents"	7	8,4
"law – right"	12	14,3
Comparison	10	11,9
Historical and cultural realities	8	9,5
Anthroponyms	6	7,1
Place names	24	28,6
Mythologisms	3	3,6
Total	84	100

Thus, as it can be easily seen from the table, Abraham Lincoln often used in his speeches different types of metaphorical shifts – 39,3% and appealed to the existing US legislative base of the time, quoting the law and commenting on some of its articles; toponymic nomination stands second (28,6%), i.e., the president often compared

their state to others, using proper names of countries, continents, cities and other geographical notions. Somewhat less frequent are comparisons, historical and cultural realities, and the least attention was paid to mythologisms.

Political discourse is considered by linguists as an object of linguistic and cultural study, as a secondary language

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., P. 268-274.

subsystem with its characteristic features, vocabulary and communicative influence. In political discourse almost all the complex of relationships between man and society is represented. Its integral component is the genre of political speech, which includes the influence on the audience, persuasions, sometimes even manipulation.

It has been investigated that in his speeches Abraham Lincoln often resorted to using allusion devices. Among them we managed to single out metaphor, simile, references to historical and cultural realities, anthroponyms – the names of famous historical personalities, toponyms – the names of geographical objects, as well as mythologisms.

Allusion as a linguistic phenomenon is still at its stage of development and is an important issue in the modern linguistic science. In the framework of cognitive stylistics activation of studies of allusions occurs in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although its use as a means of expression reaches 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Since allusion is a complex multifaceted concept, there exist many linguistic works with its definitions as a term “hidden, anonymous quote that includes a hint at literary or general cultural phenomenon”; reference, folklore, literary, historical, or everyday fact, well known aphoristic expression, idiom, association.

Historical allusions are the most common, it depends upon the historic nature of the works. Such allusions are the easiest to decode because they are concrete and precise, but at the same time, this is the reason that they are less expressive and emotional. Historical and literary allusions give the reader some content-intelligent information.

Allusion belongs to the key rhetorical devices used in speech, it enriches texts content and creates numerous associations at the expense of addressing to facts, events, famous personalities, places, cultural and historical facts.

The analysis of political discourse involves primarily the investigation of texts together with extralinguistic factors and shows how in different linguistic groups cultural values are modeled, how social order is propagated, which elements of language picture of the world remain outside of the conscious speech strategies of the speakers, how conceptual picture of the world, typical for each linguistic community, is formed.

**Conclusion.** The 16<sup>th</sup> US president Abraham Lincoln often used in his speeches different types of metaphorical shifts – 39,3% and appealed to the existing US legislative base of the time, quoting the law and commenting on some of its articles; toponymic nomination stands second (28,6%), i.e., the president often compared their state to others, using proper names of countries, continents, cities and other geographical notions. Somewhat less frequent are comparisons, historical and cultural realities, and the least attention was paid to mythologisms.

**Вахоцький М., Маковська О. Стилiстичнi засоби вербалiзацiї алюзiї у президентських промовах Авраама Лiнкольна.** Робота присвячена дослiдженню алюзiї у президентських промовах А. Лiнкольна. Предметом дослiдження є алюзiї, використанi оратором за час президентства, об'єктом – мовнi засоби втiлення алюзiї: метафори, порiвняння, iсторичнi i культурнi реалiї, антропонiми, топонiми, мiфологiзми, бiблеїзми. Матерiалом дослiдження послужили 17 англiомовних президентських промов. Для досягнення мети у статтi висвітлено поняття полiтичного дискурсу, а також здiйснено когнiтивно-прагматичний аналіз алюзiї у полiтичних промовах А. Лiнкольна.

Алюзiя належить до ключових риторичних прийомiв, що використовуються у промовi, вона збагачує текстову інформа-

цію та створює численнi асоцiацiї за рахунок натяку на подiї, факти, героїв iнших творiв або використання вiдомих культурно-iсторичних фактiв.

Полiтичний дискурс розглядається лiнгвiстами як об'єкт лiнгвокультурологiчного вивчення, як вторинна мовна підсистема з функцiями, словником та комунiкативним впливом. У полiтичному дискурсі репрезентується майже весь комплекс взаємозв'язкiв мiж людиною та суспiльством, його аналіз передбачає, передусiм, дослiдження текстiв у сукупностi з екстралiнгвальними чинниками та показує, як у рiзних мовних колективах моделюються культурнi цiнностi, як пропагуються соцiальний порядок, якi елементи мовної картини свiту лишаються поза межами свiдомих мовленнєвих стратегiй мовцiв, як формується концептуальна картина свiту, властива кожному мовному колективовi.

Найчастiше А. Лiнкольт застосовував у своїх промовах рiзні види метафоричних перенесень – 39,3% та звертався до iснуючої законодавчої бази США того часу, цитуючи закон i коментуючи окремі його статтi; другим показником є топонiмiчна номiнацiя (28,6%), тобто, нерiдко президент порiвнював свою державу з iншими, вживаючи таким чином власнi назви країн, континентiв, мiст i iн. географiчних об'єктiв. Дещо менше були у вжитку порiвняння, iсторичнi i культурнi реалiї, а найменше автор промов придiляв уваги мiфологiзмам.

**Ключові слова:** алюзiя, полiтичний дискурс, стилiстичнi засоби, антропонiм, топонiм, мiфологiзм, бiблеїзм.

*Маковська Оксана – викладач кафедри iноземних мов Буковинського державного медичного унiверситету, автор понад 50 наукових та методичних статей. Науковi iнтереси: когнiтивна лiнгвiстика, вербалiзацiя лексичних одиниць у галузевих термiносистемах української та англійської мов.*

*Makovska Oksana – lecturer of the department of foreign languages of Bukovinian State Medical University, author of over 50 scientific and methodological articles. Research interests: cognitive linguistics, verbalization of lexical units in branch terminological systems in Ukrainian and English.*

*Вахоцький Михайло – старший викладач кафедри iноземних мов Буковинського державного медичного унiверситету, автор 30 наукових та методичних статей, співавтор 1 посiбника для iноземних студентiв. Науковi iнтереси: функцiонування медичних термiнiв з компонентом-власною назвою.*

*Vakhotskyi Mykhailo – senior lecturer of the department of foreign languages of Bukovinian State Medical University, author of 30 scientific and methodological articles, coauthor of 1 manual for foreign students. Research interests: functioning of medical terms with the onymic component.*

*Received: 10-01-2017*

*Advance Access Published: April, 2017*

© M.Vakhotskyi, O. Makovska, 2017