

Metaphor Research from the Perspective of Cognitive Linguistics: A Case Study of “Sea” in *The Old Man and the Sea*

Ruimeng Xu

City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Hong Kong 999077, China

Abstract

This study starts from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, focusing on the “sea” element in Hemingway’s classic work *The Old Man and the Sea*. By analyzing the description of the sea, this topic tries to reveal the metaphorical concepts such as kindness, cruelty and female power, which are symbolized by the sea. By using the methods of text analysis and the theory of conceptual metaphor, this paper explores the role of these metaphors in shaping the overall style of the work, such as creating the unique literary atmosphere and affecting the readers’ reading experience, which includes the emotional resonance and in-depth thinking these metaphors evoke. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, this study enriches the understanding of Hemingway’s writing style and provides a new perspective for the integration of cognitive linguistics and literary studies.

Keywords

The Old Man and the Sea, sea metaphor, cognitive linguistics, literary function, reader reception.

1. Introduction

1.1. Research background and objectives

In recent years, cognitive linguistics has provided a new perspective for literary studies and it emphasizes that metaphor is not only a rhetorical device but also a fundamental cognitive tool. Ernest Hemingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* is a classic literary work and the “sea” runs through the entire book as a key and recurring image. However, previous studies mainly focused on traditional literary analysis such as themes, characters and writing techniques. So far, the exploration to the role of the “sea” from the perspective of cognitive-linguistic metaphors has still been insufficient. This thesis aims to analyze the metaphors of “the sea” in *The Old Man and the Sea* from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, which can not only reveal the rich abstract concepts represented by the metaphor of “sea”, such as kindness, cruelty and female power, but also deepen our understanding of the novel. Furthermore, by providing some literary cases, promoting the integration of literature and linguistics, and offering new perspectives into the relationship between human cognition and literature, this study also tries to make contributions to the research of cognitive linguistics.

1.2. Significance of the study

It has significant value in multiple aspects to conduct in-depth research on *The Old Man and the Sea*. In the academic field, this kind of research can help us expand our understanding of Hemingway’s creative style. Hemingway is known for his theory of “iceberg principle” on literary creation, which is concise yet profound in meaning. Kandilat (2021:216-219)[6] pointed out in *Metaphorical Interpretation in Myth ways Stories*, “Hemingway’s use of metaphor is a means of expressing complex motions and philosophical ideas”. This study is

inspired by Kandilal's viewpoint and tries to delve into the abstract concepts behind the sea metaphor in *The Old Man and the Sea*, open up new perspectives and provide new research methods for the study on literary styles, and promote the development of contemporary literary creation and criticism. Meanwhile, this research will also inject new research materials into the field of cognitive linguistics.

From a practical perspective, it is crucial to explore the role of sea metaphors in shaping the overall style of this masterpiece. These metaphors create a unique literary atmosphere, greatly influence readers' reading experience such as triggering strong emotional resonance and deep thinking. For example, by interpreting the metaphor of the sea, readers can feel like being in the complex situation Santiago encountered in the sea, and thus gain a deeper understanding of the themes conveyed in the work, such as the relationship between humans and nature, and the return of the spirit of "tough guy". This not only helps to enrich the dimensions of literary criticism and provide a new perspective for the interpretation of *The Old Man and the Sea*, but also showcases new vitality in the contemporary context of this classic work, and promotes readers' understanding of literary metaphors. In terms of literary teaching, this study can provide useful references for teachers to guide students to master more effective methods of literary appreciation, enhance their ability to appreciate literary works and cultivate their in-depth reading habits and aesthetic literacy.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Cognitive linguistics and metaphor studies

Cognitive linguistics refers to a discipline that studies the interrelationship between language and thinking. It conducts cross-disciplinary research from knowledge in different fields such as psychology, linguistics and philosophy, aiming to reveal the relationship and influence between language and thinking. Cognitive linguistics holds that language is not only a symbolic system but also a way to reflect human thinking. The structure and grammatical rules of language reflect the organization mode of human thinking, and the semantics and expression mode of language are also closely related to the characteristics of human thinking.

Metaphor is an extension method based on certain similarities between the metaphorical real phenomena reflected by two meanings. Structurally, a metaphor consists of the subject, the object of the metaphor and the base of the metaphor. At the level of discourse, many idioms and proverbs are also metaphorical, such as: "Waiting by a stump for a rabbit" and "playing the lute to a cow". Zhang (2013)[15]. Ma (2024)[13] found in his research on imitation language that metaphor is closely related to metonymy and construction. The generation and understanding of imitation language rely on metaphorical cognitive operations-constructing new meanings through metaphorical mapping or variation of existing expressions, which further confirms the fundamental role of metaphor in language use.

Metaphor research presents multidimensional development at both theoretical and practical levels. Scholars have analyzed and summarized the cognitive mechanisms of three different types of metaphors, including structural metaphor, positional metaphor and ontological metaphor. They not only enrich our language, but also help us understand and express complex thoughts and emotions more deeply. Cross linguistic and cross-cultural studies have shown that metaphors are both universal based on human cognitive commonalities and specific due to cultural differences. Cognitive context helps language users accurately interpret the cultural connotations of metaphors in this process. Lu (2010)[12]. In the field of application, Zlatev (2024)[9] points out that metaphor maintains logical coherence in discourse analysis, constructs deep imagery in literary creation, and helps learners understand abstract concepts and enhance cross-cultural communication skills in language teaching.

Overall, the study of metaphor from the perspective of cognitive linguistics not only helps to reveal the universal laws of human metaphor cognition, but also has important theoretical value and practical significance. This research also helps to promote the further development of cognitive linguistics and provides new perspectives and methods for cross-cultural communication and cultural inheritance.

2.2. Existing interpretations of the Old Man and the Sea

Since its debut, *the Old Man and the Sea* have attracted widespread attention and enthusiastic responses. He not only won Hemingway the Nobel Prize in Literature, but also became a classic in literary history. Many scholars have interpreted it from multiple perspectives.

In terms of exploring the thematic significance, most of the existing studies focus on the humanistic spirit conveyed by the works. Scholars have pointed out that the work deeply demonstrates the indomitable and courageous spirit of human beings in adversity through the arduous struggle between the old fisherman Santiago and the marlin and shark. Amos (2024)[1]. Although Santiago only brought back a pair of fishbones in the end, he always upheld his dignity and courage in the process of confronting powerful natural forces, vividly interpreting the great theme of “people can be destroyed, but cannot be defeated”.

The use of symbolic techniques and the concise language style in *The Old Man and the Sea* are the key reasons why it has received widespread attention and popularity. They are also a direct manifestation of Hemingway's “iceberg” style, making the plot and theme in the novel far exceed its own connotation, creating a vast space for people's thinking and imagination, allowing readers to associate and experience for themselves. Zhu (2024)[16] The story closely revolves around Santiago's experiences at sea, repeatedly depicting the inner monologue of the old fisherman, allowing readers to deeply understand his struggles and perseverance in adversity. The narrative rhythm is tight and powerful, thrilling and captivating. Fa (2015)[10], based on the theory of cognitive translation, selected two Chinese translations of *The Old Man and the Sea* for a comparative study, attempting to deepen the understanding of translation works and explore the “translator subjectivity” demonstrated by translators in this process, providing a new dimension for the cross-language dissemination of understanding texts.

In terms of symbolic meaning, images such as the old fisherman Santiago, the marlin, the sea, and the little boy have all been endowed with rich and profound connotations. Ma's (2016)[14] study on the sea imagery in Chinese and British American novels before the 20th century shows that the sea is often used as a symbolic carrier of natural forces and human destiny in literature, which echoes the interpretation of *The Old Man and the Sea*--Santiago symbolizes the spiritual power of humanity, the marlin represents the goals that humanity strives for, and the sea is seen as a symbol of nature and destiny full of unknowns and challenges. The sea not only nurtures life and hope, but also harbors danger and destruction, and its complex and diverse symbolic meanings run through the entire work.

The majority of the analyses on *The Old Man and the Sea* are conducted from the perspectives of literature, systemic functional linguistics, and translation, while few are conducted from the viewpoint of cognitive linguistics. Although Chen's (2024)[2] research on the construction of ecological consciousness in works from the perspective of conceptual metaphor touches on the cognitive function of metaphor, there is still no systematic analysis of how “sea” as the core metaphor shapes readers' cognition of the relationship between nature and humanity. Cognitive linguistics provides a new approach for the in-depth analysis of metaphor theory. The author explores the mapping mechanism existing between the source domain and the destination area by analyzing the Marine description. This also plays a unique role in constructing the meaning of the work, deepening the theme, and influencing readers' cognition.

2.3. Core model of conceptual metaphor theory

In the book *Metaphors We Live By*, Lakoff & Johnson (1980)[8] proposed that metaphor is not only a rhetorical device but also an important tool for human cognition. This theory includes three main types: structural metaphor, which uses the structural framework of known concepts to construct new concepts, such as comparing “debate” to “war” and forming systematic expressions like “attacking arguments” and “defensive positions”; Orientation metaphor: Organizing abstract relationships based on spatial orientation, such as “Positive is upward” (promotion, high mood), “negative is downward” (degradation, low mood), such metaphors are often related to the experience of gravity; Ontological metaphor endows abstract concepts with physical attributes through materialization, such as visualizing time as quantifiable resources (“saving time”).

The core model of this theory consists of the source domain, the target domain and the mapping. The source domain, also known as the “object of metaphor”, is the object used in the study of metaphorical rhetoric to depict and highlight the characteristics of other things. For instance, in the metaphorical expression “The eye is the window to the soul”, the “window to the soul” is the object of metaphor, used to describe the traits of the subject’s eye. The target domain refers to the object being metaphorized and the things or concepts involved in the direct subject. In metaphorical expression, the target domain is the endpoint, and its concepts, structures and features are constructed through the source domain, thus making it easier for people to understand the target domain. Mapping refers to the cross-domain mapping process from one conceptual domain to another. Mapping serves as a bridge connecting the two, projecting the characteristics of the source domain onto the target domain. For example, in the metaphor “a knowledge system is architecture”, “cornerstone” corresponds to basic knowledge, and “framework structure” corresponds to the classification of knowledge.

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, the “sea” is a key image. Its vastness, depth, and variability constitute the source domain, and the sea metaphor mainly belongs to structural metaphor. It systematically maps various features of the sea to all aspects of life, representing the unknowns, challenges and difficulties in life. When analyzing “the sea as a symbol of light and hope”, we can draw on the concept of positional metaphor to analyze “light upward/darkness downward”. The sea surface bathed in sunlight is in a bright space with an “upward orientation”, naturally evoking positive and hopeful emotions.

2.4. Research methods: textual analysis and cognitive mapping

Text analysis is the core method of this study. The author identifies descriptions related to the sea such as “sea”, “wave”, and “current” through keyword filtering, and then reveals the metaphorical concept of the sea through in-depth context analysis. The author used the corpus linguistics tool AntConc to search and analyze the original English text of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and found that the core image “sea” appeared about 72 times. The frequent appearance of sea makes it the narrative core and metaphorical carrier of novels.

Cognitive mapping is also an important component of this study. After summarizing the descriptions related to the sea, the author identified the source domain, which consists of the tangible features of the sea, such as vastness, turbulence and unpredictability, etc. The target domain includes human spirits such as perseverance and unyielding struggle against adversity, and matches them with the characteristics of the sea based on semantic similarity. Just as Liu (2017)[11] emphasized, this kind of matching helps to present the tenderness and sadness of tough guys to the fullest extent, bringing profound inspiration to readers.

To more clearly present the relationship between the source domain and the target domain in the work, the author has constructed a mind map, which contains two branches. The first one is the concept of the source domain, that is, the sea. The second one is the target domain, namely the abstract concept. And the three characteristics of the source domain and the target domain

were analyzed respectively. This mind map not only vividly presents the semantic network and cognitive framework about the source domain and the target domain constructed by the sea metaphor, but also enables us to analyze the logical relationship between metaphorical concepts. By accurately determining the core and marginal concepts, we can better understand how the metaphorical system systematically affects people's thinking, which is consistent with the findings of Ge, M, et al. (2025)[5]. Through this method, we can conduct in-depth research on the cognitive tendencies of the author during the creative process and how these tendencies affect readers' interpretations, thereby providing a new perspective for the study of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

3. Research on the Metaphor of the Sea

In Hemingway's classic work *The Old Man and the Sea*, the concept of "sea" is like a multi-faceted gem, each side containing rich and diverse metaphorical meanings. Metaphor, as an important part of cognitive linguistics, is not only an important linguistic rhetorical device, but also an important cognitive way for human beings to understand and experience the world. It is rooted in our thinking patterns and helps us understand abstract and unfamiliar concepts with the aid of concrete and familiar things when reading literary works.

3.1. A symbol of kindness and compassion

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Santiago often personifies the sea as a kind-hearted woman, symbolizing kindness and compassion. As Hemingway writes, "The old man always thought of her as feminine and as something that gave or withheld great favours, and if she did wild or wicked things it was because she could not help them" Hemingway (1952:30)[4]. This vividly illustrates the sea's "kindness" trait. The formation of this metaphor is closely related to the characteristics of the sea itself. The sea is like a generous mother, the birthplace of all marine creatures, nurturing countless vibrant lives. It generously and proactively provides humans with abundant resources such as fish, just like a mother feeding her child with breast milk, giving nourishment and care to humans. The meaning of nurturing and protecting runs through the interaction between Santiago and the sea. For example, in his long fishing career, the sea has always been the material source for Santiago to survive. Even when he encountered the dilemma of not catching fish for eighty-four consecutive days, he still looked forward to the sea and believed that the sea would give him another chance to harvest. This trust and dependence on the sea deeply embodies the kindness and compassion symbolized by the sea. It is not only a material giver but also a spiritual comfort for Santiago.

3.2. A representative of cold and cruel

However, the sea is not only gentle. It also exhibits a cold and cruel trait. Although the sea provides resources for human survival, it also brings dangers such as storms and surging waves, which can endanger the lives of fishermen. During the arduous struggle with marlins and sharks in San Diego, the ruthlessness of the sea was fully revealed. After San Diego finally caught the huge marlin, the sea stirred up strong winds and huge waves, attracting greedy shark groups. These sharks are crazily biting the marlin, and the harsh weather conditions in the sea make it difficult for San Diego to resist shark attacks. In his life and death struggle with sharks, he deeply experienced the cruelty of the sea. The sea seemed to instantly transform from a generous mother to a ruthless enemy, putting him on the brink of life and death, making him feel the fragility of life and the impermanence of fate.

3.3. The metaphorical connotation of female power

The sea has also been endowed with the metaphorical connotation of female power. Hemingway's choice of the term "la mar" (the Spanish word for the sea, which is feminine)

further reinforces this cultural metaphor. "The old man always called the sea 'la mar' which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her" Hemingway (1952:29). The sea is powerful and elusive, with an emotional side. From a cognitive perspective, this is mapping the many characteristics of the sea onto the abstract concept of female power. The sea possesses immense power, capable of stirring up tumultuous waves and controlling the life and death of marine creatures, much like the resilience and strength demonstrated by women in nurturing life and managing their families. At the same time, the emotions of the sea are constantly changing, sometimes calm and peaceful, sometimes surging and tempestuous. This emotional and elusive characteristic echoes people's understanding of the rich emotions and complex inner world of women. In the novel, although there is no direct appearance of powerful female characters, Santiago's perception and emotions towards the sea seem to see it as a powerful female presence. In his interactions with the sea, he admires the power of the sea and attempts to understand the emotional changes of the sea, which allows readers to better understand the complexity and multifaceted nature of female power through the image of the sea.

3.4. The metaphorical source of light and hope

In the long and lonely waiting process in San Diego, the sea plays an important role in light and hope. When he drifted alone on the sea without any harvest for several days, feeling lonely, helpless, lost, and hopeless, the sea provided him with companionship. The vast and boundless sea makes Santiago feel that he is not alone, and it becomes the driving force for Santiago to continue to persevere. The ebb and flow of the sea, the sunrise and sunset, these natural phenomena seem to be a silent encouragement, like light in the darkness, guiding Santiago in the right direction. For example, when he was exhausted from a long confrontation with the marlin and almost gave up, he looked at the magnificent sea and felt its eternity and resilience, thus reigniting his fighting spirit and strengthening his belief in catching the marlin. The walrus symbolizes hope in adversity, keeping Santiago hopeful for the future on his difficult fishing journey.

3.5. The metaphorical meaning of tolerance and broadness

The sea has a metaphorical meaning of tolerance and broadness. It accommodates everything, whether it is favorable factors for fishermen, such as abundant fishery resources, calm sea surface conducive to navigation, etc; The elements that bring danger, such as fierce sharks and harsh weather, are all contained by the sea. After experiencing various hardships such as battles with marlins and shark raids, Santiago gradually realized the inclusiveness of the sea. He understands that the sea will not change itself due to human demands and difficulties, it accepts everything with a broad mind. This tolerance and breadth are not only reflected in the material aspect of the sea, but also in the spiritual aspect. It teaches Santiago to face gains, losses, and setbacks in life with a peaceful and open-minded attitude, just like the sea can maintain its own operation and balance no matter what situation it faces. The metaphorical connotation of the sea enriches the theme of the novel and allows readers to have a deeper reflection on the relationship between humans and nature.

The metaphorical expressions of "sea" are closely related to the author Hemingway's life experience and national background culture. Hemingway had a rich life experience, including his many encounters and adventures with the sea, which also made the sea in his works full of rich and diverse symbolic meanings. Meanwhile, the complex emotions people have towards the sea in Western culture are also reflected in this novel, such as the depiction of the sea's cruelty and ruthlessness. These metaphors related to the sea not only enrich the content of this novel, but also become a carrier of cultural dissemination, allowing readers to appreciate the deeper cultural background and life philosophy behind the work by understanding the image of the sea.

4. Literary Functions and Reader Reception

4.1. Stylistic construction

In *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway employed writing techniques such as metaphor and metonymy. This not only enriches the content of the article, but also shapes his concise and condensed “iceberg” style.

From a metaphorical perspective, Hemingway employed a large number of cross-sensory perception metaphors when describing the sea, such as “the roar of the waves”, integrating auditory perception into the visual scene, comparing the waves to fierce beasts, highlighting the surging and violent nature of the waves, allowing readers to feel as if they were there and enhancing their intuitive perception of the sea's grandeur. This metaphorical mapping process constructs a rich model of imagery metaphor, making the text full of visual and experiential sensations. At the same time, when describing the struggle of the elderly against nature and fate, a metaphorical hierarchy of “the sea is the battlefield of survival” and “sharks are the threat of fate” is constructed layer by layer. This metaphor is not a simple linguistic rhetoric, but carries deep philosophical thinking, gradually deepening from the surface description of the sea and fishing process to the exploration of human survival conditions and resilience. It contains infinite philosophical depth in limited words, laying a profound ideological foundation for the entire work.

In terms of metaphor, *The Old Man and the Sea* also has exquisite use. Kö vecses and Radden (2009)[7] proposed the principle of metaphorical “proximity substitution”, and the “cold light of the harpoon” in the novel is a typical example, using the characteristic of the harpoon as a fishing tool, that is, its flashing cold light, to refer to the entire hunting behavior. With the help of this metaphorical mechanism, Hemingway was able to quickly switch scenes with concise strokes. This makes the narrative rhythm of the entire story tight and tense, with the plot full of ups and downs. This also enables readers to maintain a high level of attention throughout the reading process and immerse themselves in the intense development of the story. This metaphorical technique not only enhances the narrative efficiency of the text, but also requires readers to actively participate in meaning construction and explore the deep meaning behind the text, thereby increasing the fun and thought-provoking nature of reading.

Starting from the theory of cognitive hierarchy, further emphasis is placed on the metaphorical chain established between surface narrative and deep philosophy in the language of novels. Like the old man's repeated battles with sharks, every detail description, from the old man's actions and expressions to his inner monologue, is not just a simple narrative, but closely connected to the deep philosophy of survival through metaphorical chains. This style of literary construction makes readers feel like they are climbing a cognitive mountain while reading, and each level of language interpretation can bring new thoughts and insights, greatly enriching the aesthetic connotation of the work.

4.2. Impact on reader experience

The unique cognitive structure and metaphorical description of the text profoundly influence the reading experience of readers, mainly by activating their thinking patterns, integrating the text with their own lives, and generating a strong emotional resonance. The various metaphorical descriptions in *The Old Man and the Sea* play a crucial role in guiding readers to actively construct the connection between the text content and life, especially in establishing the connection between the metaphor of the sea and life.

Ching (2024)[3] conducted an analysis from the perspective of cognitive linguistics in her research, emphasizing that in cross-language learning, the understanding of different concepts can affect readers' reading experience and feelings, which is consistent with the process by which readers understand textual metaphors in *The Old Man and the Sea*. For instance, the

metaphor “the sea is the arena of life” has different understandings among different people. Some people think that the sea is full of competition, and life is also full of competition and challenges. People should face them bravely. Some people may still think that the sea symbolizes a true strong person, who not only has extraordinary perseverance and tenacious spirit, but also possesses extremely profound connotations. When the article describes an old fisherman fighting alone with a large marlin in the rough sea and facing an attack from a group of sharks, readers may associate these dangerous scenes with the hardships and hard work and study in their own lives. This process generated a strong emotional resonance. They seemed to be immersed in that dangerous and unknown sea as well, experiencing the interweaving of hope and despair together with the old man Santiago.

The specific descriptions of the environment in the novel enhance the readers' sense of immersion and experience. Descriptions like “the salty sea breeze” in the text activate the readers' taste memory. Readers seem to have personally experienced the saltiness in the sea breeze, thus experiencing the living environment of the elderly in San Diego more vividly. This multi-dimensional cognitive interaction enables readers to no longer be passive recipients of the text, but active participants who constantly combine their own experiences during the reading process. While experiencing the old fisherman's tenacious struggle against nature and fate, readers also conduct a profound examination and affirmation of their own strength and courage, achieving a profound emotional exchange and ideological collision between the text and the readers.

5. Conclusion

5.1. Key findings and implications

We have obtained many valuable results from exploring the “sea” element in *The Old Man and the Sea* from the perspective of cognitive linguistics.

Through the metaphorical study of *The Old Man and the Sea*, we find that the abstract concepts symbolized by the sea are rich and diverse. They not only have unique human traits such as kindness and cruelty, but also have unique metaphorical meanings such as female power. The analysis of these metaphors, especially the mapping between the realms of sensory perception, reveals the unique attributes and powerful functions in literary works. Metaphor can concretize abstract concepts, form vivid and meaningful images, and convey the reading or profound meaning that the author intends to convey in a unique and impressive way. The results of this study provide a new case for the research of cognitive linguistics, broaden the research scope of this field, and deepen our understanding of the close connection among cognition, culture and literature.

In fact, the metaphor of the sea is the barometer that constitutes the overall style of the sea. They have created a unique atmosphere of mystery and unpredictability, sometimes calm and sometimes violent, endowing the works with tension and artistic appeal. In order to fully mobilize the readers' senses and emotions, enable them to have a strong emotional resonance during the reading process, and unintentionally immerse the different cultural symbols of the sea deeply in it. Readers with different life and cultural experiences interpret these metaphors either based on their own experiences and social and cultural contexts, or greatly enrich the dimensions of literary criticism. These research results will not only open up new perspectives for the interpretation of films and literary works, but also provide useful resources for literature and linguistics teaching, helping teachers better understand literary metaphors, improve their literary appreciation ability and the combined application ability of linguistics and literature, and provide an effective way for ordinary readers to understand literary metaphors more deeply.

5.2. Limitations and future research directions

Although the analysis of the metaphor of *The Old Man and the Sea* in this study has produced some results, there are deficiencies in both application and methods. This research was only limited to the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*, and did not involve other genres such as poetry and drama, nor did it take into account the creativity of literature in different cultural backgrounds. The language structure and narrative style of different genres vary, and the use of metaphor is a characteristic of each genre. In different cultures, there are significant differences in the construction and interpretation of metaphors that only focus on *The Old Man and the Sea*, which makes the universal rules used in the metaphors random and difficult to understand.

In terms of research methods, the analysis of the text is mainly based on the analysis of the text to deepen the semantic, structural and expressive roles of metaphor in the text, but there is a lack of practical research on the cognitive and emotional responses of readers. Readers are the key to literary meaning, and individual differences can lead to differences in metaphorical understanding and emotional resonance. Without empirical evidence, it is very difficult to find an interaction mechanism between the reader and the metaphor.

Future research can be conducted from two perspectives. First, a large number of literary works of different genres and cultural backgrounds will be selected. Students will analyze the metaphorical research in the works, understand the cultural connotations and creative intentions behind them, and deepen our understanding of comparative literature. It can also complement studies such as neuro-linguistics and psycholinguistics, and adopt the form of integrating multiple research methods, opening up new research approaches in this field.

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