ABSTRACT

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
in the specialty "6D021000 – Foreign Philology"
by Ongarbayeva Meruyert Syrlybayevna on the theme:
"Metaphorization of meteorological lexis
in the English and Kazakh languages (based on the material of National Language Corpora)"

Relevance of the research. Philology, as one of the core disciplines of the humanities, contributes to the shaping of contemporary humanistic knowledge by preserving and interpreting the cultural meanings embedded in language. It plays an important role in the renewal of public consciousness, in the preservation of language, and in the continuity of cultural memory and national identity. Since language is at once a repository of cultural heritage and a symbolic code of ethno-national identity, its study remains one of the main routes by which we can understand the collective worldview of a people.

The question of how to balance globalisation with the preservation of national cultural identity occupies an important place in contemporary Kazakh language policy. The spread of English is actively encouraged in order to strengthen the country's position in the global academic and economic space; at the same time, the support and revitalisation of the Kazakh language is treated as a matter of equal strategic importance, particularly through corpus-based research, digitalisation, and educational reform.

State initiatives reflected in the strategic documents Kazakhstan-2050 and Digital Kazakhstan, as well as Government Resolution of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 1045 of 31 December 2019 approving the State Programme for Implementing the Language Policy for 2020-2025, explicitly list the creation of the National Corpus of the Kazakh Language as a priority. The aims of the present research fit within this policy framework: the dissertation contributes to building a linguistically grounded approach to preserving national linguistic heritage and strengthening ethnocultural identity in the face of expanding global communication.

Within the framework of Kazakhstan's national ideas – "Eternal Nation" and "Spiritual Revival" – national linguistic consciousness, the national linguistic worldview, and the ethnocultural features of language revealed through comparative research all stand among the essential components for the preservation of the cultural code and identity. Metaphor brings these components together, acting as a bridge between language, culture, and thought.

Meteorological metaphors carry significant national-cultural meanings; they reflect the people's way of life, traditions, customs, and cultural identity. This is

what makes their study both relevant and theoretically valuable for the present dissertation. The topic acquires particular weight today, when national identity is undergoing modernisation and the country is becoming increasingly open to the influences of globalisation.

Metaphorisation is one of the key cognitive mechanisms by which speakers perceive, interpret, and classify the surrounding world, then encode their understanding in linguistic form. The universal character of metaphor lies in the fact that it is present in every language, since metaphoricity is among the most fundamental principles of human thought and communication. Metaphor is therefore not a passive image of reality but an active instrument that shapes the way human beings experience the world.

Research object: the meteorological metaphor in the English and Kazakh languages based on the material of National Language Corpora

Research subject: the nationally specific features of the metaphorical use of meteorological lexis in the English and Kazakh languages.

Research purpose: to determine the national and cultural specificity underlying the metaphorization of meteorological phenomena and to analyse both structural-semantic parameters and cultural characteristics.

Research objectives:

– to identify the corpus of meteonyms with metaphorical meaning, drawing on corpus data and lexicographic sources;

– to determine the structural and semantic features of meteorological metaphors in both languages on the basis of corpus data;

– to establish the motivational attributes of metaphorical transfers in the meteorological lexis of the two languages;

– to reveal the regular metaphorical transfers and their productivity in the meteorological lexis of the two languages;

– to interpret the national and cultural specificity of meteorological metaphor in the two linguocultures through its culturally grounded sources.

Research methods: continuous sampling and contextual analysis; component and structural-semantic analysis; descriptive, interpretative, and comparative methods; the Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP) and its extended version (MIPVU); corpus-based frequency, collocational, and concordance analysis.

Research sources and materials: The empirical basis of the study consists of metaphorical nominations extracted from balanced corpora. The corpora used cover texts of various genres and registers — literary and scientific works, popular-science journals, newspapers, academic publications, and dictionaries. Metaphor is understood in the study in a broad, cognitive sense; accordingly, uses in which weather phenomena are depicted as living beings or as human (personification) are also included in the scope of the research.

The research material consists of meteorological lexis — words that name weather phenomena. In the course of the corpus analysis, more than 20 000 concordance lines in English and Kazakh were examined, and a total of 556 meteorological lexemes were identified: 255 in English and 301 in Kazakh. In addition, 282 contexts containing meteorological lexis were selected from the British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), and 297 contexts from the National Corpus of the Kazakh Language (NCKL) and the Almaty Corpus of the Kazakh Language (ACKL). Of these, meteorological lexemes are used in a figurative (metaphorical) sense in 205 English and 132 Kazakh contexts.

Scientific novelty of the research:

– for the first time, the meteorological lexis of English and Kazakh has been systematized in a comparative perspective as a source domain of metaphorization; its composition has been delimited (556 meteonyms: 255 English and 301 Kazakh), and the motivational characteristics underlying the metaphorical potential of meteonyms have been identified on corpus material, revealing the context-dependent and evaluatively ambivalent nature of meteorological metaphor;

– a structural-semantic analysis of meteorological metaphors has been undertaken on the basis of national language corpora, used as the main empirical foundation, with a step-by-step procedure for the extraction, verification, and categorisation of metaphors developed on the basis of MIPVU and adapted, for the first time, to the material of the Kazakh national corpora;

– the motivational attributes and the mechanism of metaphorical transfer have been systematically analysed, which has made it possible to establish empirically the anthropocentric orientation as the dominant direction of meteorological metaphorisation;

– the regular metaphorical transfers and their productivity have been revealed through a comparative corpus-based interpretation, which discloses both the universal and the language-specific features of the metaphorisation of meteorological lexis in the two languages;

– the national and cultural specificity of English and Kazakh meteorological metaphor has been interpreted comparatively through its culturally grounded sources, showing that the two languages draw on distinct cultural frameworks and that one and the same meteorological image can receive different axiological readings depending on the cultural tradition in which it is used.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical and practical value of the results lies in propositions that contribute to the advancement of several related fields – philology, cognitive linguistics, and corpus linguistics. The findings provide a new interdisciplinary foundation for analysing metaphor as a cognitive and cultural phenomenon within corpus-based research.

The materials of the study can be applied in the methodology of teaching languages, since the analysis of metaphorical meanings in weather-related vocabulary substantially enriches learners' linguocultural competence and supports intercultural communication. The developed algorithm for corpus search, metaphor extraction, and the step-by-step analysis of lexemes can serve as a working model for further corpus-based linguistic research.

The results of the present study, particularly the corpus analysis of meteorological metaphors, can be used in the compilation of an electronic dictionary of metaphors with interpretative and explanatory data. The national-cultural completeness of meteorological metaphorisation could also be reflected in a bilingual or trilingual metaphorical dictionary that integrates linguistic and cultural information – descriptions of phraseo-meteonyms, etymologies of meteorological lexemes, references to geography and mythology, and examples of usage in speech, literature, and various discourse genres.

Main propositions submitted for defense:

1. The metaphorisation of meteorological lexis in both languages is motivated: each transfer rests on one of seven types of motivational features of the source lexeme (physical, decorative and sensory, tactile and thermal, temporal, functional and dynamic, quantitative and structural, subjective and psychological). The evaluative charge of a metaphor is assigned not by the source image but by the feature activated in context, so one meteonym can denote both a destructive force and a positive phenomenon (*мұзжүрек* – insensitivity, *мұздай киіну* – impeccable neatness). Evaluative ambivalence is a systemic property of meteorological metaphor in both languages.

2. The grammatical realisation of meteorological metaphor differs systematically between the languages (205 English and 132 Kazakh metaphorical uses). In English the leading pattern is "meteonym + of + noun" (*a storm of protest, a hail of criticism*) – 100 uses (48.8%); in a further 31 cases (15.1%) the meteonym functions as a verb (*to storm off, to be snowed under*). In Kazakh the meteonym is never used as a verb: in 68 cases (51.5%) it is an agent-subject acting upon the human being (*аяз қысты, найзағай ізден табады*), and in 29 (22.0%) a component of compound and attributive patterns (*жел өкпе, мұзжүрек*). English thus represents weather as a process or a measure of intensity, Kazakh as an autonomous acting force.

3. The dominant direction of meteorological metaphor in both languages is anthropocentric: in all five thematic groups a natural phenomenon serves above all to characterise the human being. The macrospheres PSYCHIC WORLD and HUMAN account for 51 of 65 regular transfers in English (78.5%) and 26 of 41 in Kazakh (63.4%). English is richer in transfers (65 versus 41; in the ice group 18 versus 3), whereas Kazakh extends more often to abstract concepts and objects (36.6% versus

21.5%). Reverse transfers towards the weather are isolated: 11 in English (*eye of the wind, frostbite*) and a single ANIMAL → WIND model in Kazakh (*желмая*).

4. Regular transfers form a universal and a language-specific level, the latter predominating in both languages. Seventeen conceptual models are shared (WIND AS CHANGE, RAIN IS TEARS, SUDDEN MISFORTUNE IS LIGHTNING FROM ABOVE, THE GAZE IS ICE, etc.), accounting for 19 of the 65 English (29.2%) and 17 of the 41 Kazakh (41.5%) transfers. Specificity lies in the choice of target domains: in English, news and breath (*to get wind of*), politics, authoritative speech and everyday idiom (*to rain cats and dogs*); in Kazakh, character expressed through body parts (*жел өкпе, мұзжүрек*), warfare (*бұршақтап оқ ату*) and endurance (*қар төсеніп мұз жастанып*). The same image may receive opposite evaluations: *not a snowball's chance in hell* (hopelessness) versus *қар жандыратын* (tenacity); rain mostly signals gloom in English but blessing in Kazakh (*алтын жаңбыр*).

5. National and cultural specificity is determined by different cultural paradigms. English metaphor draws on religious and moral idiom (*cold comfort, the wind of God*), the literature of polar expeditions (*devouring ice*) and the folk weather names of sailors and farmers (*Robin Hood's wind, lambing storm*); Kazakh metaphor draws on nomadic pastoral experience: the speed of the wind is gauged against the horse and the camel (*желмая*), the strength and character of a phenomenon are conveyed by colour terms (*қара жел, сары аяз, қоңыр суық*), and endurance of cold becomes a measure of spiritual strength. Much of this specificity lies outside the metaphorical core identified by MIP/MIPVU: the borderline layer is comparable to the productive inventory (52 units against 65 transfers in English, 31 against 41 in Kazakh), and 19 of the 21 Kazakh terminological nominations form a colour code of intensity. The cultural paradigm determines which motivational features of a meteonym are activated in the language, and this accounts both for the divergence of target domains and for the opposite evaluations of the same images in the two languages.

Approbation of the research. 14 scientific articles have been published on the topic of the dissertation: 5 in the proceedings of international conferences, 7 in scientific journals recommended by the Committee for Control in the Sphere of Education and Science of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and 2 in journals indexed in the Scopus database. In addition, 5 copyright certificates have been obtained.

Structure of the research work. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, each followed by conclusions, a general conclusion, a list of references, and appendices.