

## THE ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT OF UGLINESS IN XX CENTURY HISTORICAL TEXTS

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### Abstract

Through linguistics, we analyze how language encodes concepts. This is done with the help of meaning explication and frame analysis as well as contextual analysis and conceptual metaphor analysis. Universal aspects of the concept of "ugliness" and cultural influences in different languages, allomorphy emerge as a result of comparison of prototype symbols and valuable concepts that embody national-cultural values. In this article, the words in the lexical-semantic field of ugliness-ugly were compared through examples used in a historical book 'A new ride to Khiva' by R. Jefferson. Our analysis shows that the basic phenomena of intuition, assessment, and feeling are important for the understanding of ugliness, which prepares the ground for the increase of human experience and knowledge and the creation of the concept.

**Keywords:** frame analysis, contextual analysis, aesthetic judgement of ugliness of people's physical appearance and moral aspects, aesthetic judgement of ugliness through hearing, smelling.

### Introduction

To analyse the concept of ugliness in historical sources, the travelogue called "A New Ride to Khiva" written by Robert L. Jefferson in 1900 is chosen. The book depicts Jefferson's journey to Khiva, a city located in present-day Uzbekistan, during the late 19th century. Jefferson recorded his experiences traveling through the deserts of Turkestan, encountering various tribes and peoples along the way. He also provides detailed descriptions of the landscape, climate, and culture of the region. During his visit in Central Asia, he described everything he watched including people, the atmosphere, rituals, animals and so forth. In our analysis, the focus has put on the reflection of ugliness through senses like seeing, smelling, hearing and touching in the book and how it was perceived by people of 20 th century.

### Methods

The results and analysis are based on the methods like frame analysis, contextual analysis and conceptual metaphor analysis. In discussion part, the frames of ugliness have been provided with examples taken from the travelogue.

### Results

After the analysis of the book, it is identified that the concept of ugliness can be reflected in four cases: the aesthetic judgement of human moral aspects, the aesthetic judgement of the appearance

of people, the aesthetic judgement of objects by hearing, the aesthetic judgement of personal experiences through tasting smelling.

## Discussion

In the examples taken from the travelogue, the concept of ugliness can be expressed in different ways as will be explained below.

### The aesthetic judgement of the appearance of people

“He was a somewhat tall, grave and extremely old man, his long white beard hung on his breast, his copper-colored face was wrinkled and gnarled.” [2, 269] In this example, the ugliness is conveyed through the detailed physical description of the old man. The use of words like "extremely old," "wrinkled," and "gnarled" paints a picture of someone who is aged and weathered, emphasizing physical deterioration and the passage of time. The description of his "copper-colored face" adds to the sense of ruggedness and perhaps a lack of vitality or youthfulness typically associated with beauty. The overall portrayal of the old man suggests a sense of decay and unattractiveness, capturing the concept of ugliness in aging and physical deterioration.

“His grin and his blackened teeth almost made me sick”. [2,88] In this example, the ugliness is described through the man's grin and blackened teeth, which are qualities that evoke a sense of disgust and repulsion in the observer. This suggests that ugliness can be linked to physical attributes that are deemed unattractive or off-putting in social standards. Its frame:

#### Ugly: Object-sense.

His grin and his blackened teeth almost made me sick

1-a. This object is ugly, unpleasant;

1-b. I did not like its structure and does not have good signs, signals;

1-d. That's why I don't feel good (I hate it, I dislike it)

### The aesthetic judgement of the appearance of males and females.

“Outside the doorway of the kubitka lay a man writhing in agony. Behind him, and sitting on his haunches was one of the **ugliest and most repulsive** individuals I have ever seen” [2,222]. This example presents ugliness through the physical appearance of the man and the individual sitting behind him, described as one of the ugliest and most repulsive individuals. This conveys a sense of revulsion and discomfort in encountering someone whose appearance is so unsettling that it triggers a strong negative reaction in the observer.

An old woman, clothed in the filthiest of rags came upon the scene. I learned that she was one of the mad Khirgiz of the desert, a religious fanatic, who had sworn never to change her clothing from girlhood till death. She was an awful sight, the less said about her the better. [2,193]

In the next example, the ugliness is portrayed through the old woman dressed in filthy rags, who is described as an awful sight. Her refusal to change her clothing despite its unsanitary and unkempt condition adds another layer to the concept of ugliness in this context. The description

implies that her physical appearance is repulsive and undesirable, reinforcing the societal norms of cleanliness and personal hygiene as determinants of beauty or ugliness.

### **The aesthetic judgement of personal experiences through taste, smell and tactile sensations.**

1. Wind there seems to be none, so that the fetid stench to be met with in every direction hangs suspended in the air. [2, 281]

In the first example, the lack of wind exacerbates the issue of fetid stench hanging in the air. The description of the stench as "fetid" emphasizes their unpleasant smell, while the fact that they seem to be suspended in the air suggests a stagnant and oppressive atmosphere. This imagery evokes a sense of suffocation and discomfort, painting a picture of a contaminated and uninviting environment.

2. That day I saw the son of the Khan. We had wandered through evil-smelling streets until I became fairly smothered in dust and disreputable to look at. [2, 281]

The second example continues to emphasize the unpleasantness of the setting, focusing on the protagonist becoming "fairly smothered in dust" and appearing "disreputable to look at." The use of terms like "evil-smelling streets" and "dust" conjures up images of filth and decay, while the characterization of the protagonist as disreputable suggests a loss of dignity and cleanliness. This description highlights the degrading effects of the environment on both the physical appearance and the self-image of the protagonist. Its frame:

**Ugly.** Smell, taste, experience is not pleasant.

**1. Subject-smell, sense;**

**2. Subject-taste and feeling;**

**3. Subject-activity and feeling**

2 a. Unpleasant smell, taste, condition;

2 b. This smell, taste and condition is very unpleasant

### **The aesthetic judgement of objects by hearing**

1. The reed pipes screeched, the cymbals clashed with increasing fury, the drums rattled and bumped and thumped until I felt that I was being deafened. [2, 284] In this example, the ugliness is conveyed through a sound created by the music playing. The screeching reed pipes, clashing cymbals, and rattling drums create a sense of discomfort, with the protagonist feeling overwhelmed and deafened by the noise. This sensory overload portrays a lack of harmony and order, evoking a feeling of ugliness through the discordant and overpowering soundscapes.

2. Passing through small villages, little children come running out, shouting in their shrill treble, "All hail! Radfahrer, all hail. It was unpleasant [2, 42] This example depicts ugliness through the interactions between the protagonist and the children in the villages. The shrill voices and repetitive shouting of "All hail! Radfahrer, all hail" suggest a sense of forced cheerfulness and insincerity. The superficial nature of the greeting and the way in which the children come running out in an almost mechanical manner imply a lack of genuine connection or warmth in the interaction. This depiction highlights the artificiality and hollowness of the social exchange, painting a picture of superficiality and disingenuousness.

**Ugly:** It is determined by hearing that the sound is unpleasant.

**Its frame:**

**Subject-**sound (symbol and signals with national meaning);

**Object-**sense.

3-a. This sound is unpleasant;

3-b. I did not like the sound of it and does not have good signs, signals;

3-c. I don't feel good by hearing (I hate it)

### **The aesthetic judgement of human moral aspects**

1. Their character, their religion, their manners, customs, and internal control are summed up in a few crisp, pointed sentences, We learn that they are treacherous, that they are lazy and their existence of no possible benefit to the state. [2, 242] In this example, the concept of ugliness is framed through the characterization of a group of people based on negative stereotypes. The summary of their character as treacherous and lazy, along with the assertion that they are of no benefit to the state, reflects a judgmental perspective. This portrayal emphasizes the ugliness of prejudice and discrimination, highlighting the destructive impact of unfounded generalizations and stereotypes.

2. Justice as meted out by the Khan and his ministers is of a very scrappy and unreliable character, but the Khivans to a man have come to recognise the fact that they have only to let the Russians alone and they themselves will not be interfered with. [2, 254] In this example, ugliness is depicted through a system of justice that is described as unreliable and arbitrary. The characterization of justice as "scrappy and unreliable" suggests a lack of fairness engendering a sense of injustice and insecurity. The implicit suggestion that the Khivans need to avoid interference from the Russians in order to avoid repercussions further underscores the precarious and oppressive nature of the legal system. This portrayal emphasizes the ugliness of a justice system that fails to uphold principles of fairness and equity, perpetuating a climate of fear and uncertainty.

**Ugly:** The meaning that evaluates the moral aspects of a person aesthetically negatively.

**Its frame:**

**Subject-**emotional evaluation

4.a Behaviour that does not fit the social environment is unpleasant

4.b It is a vice that is not characteristic of a person

### **Conclusion**

It can be concluded that in the travelogue written by Robert L. Jefferson ugliness is reflected in language through aesthetic judgement of the appearance of people and other objects, human moral aspects, by hearing, tasting and smelling. In order to understand ugliness, the main phenomena of intuition, evaluation, feeling, which prepare the ground for the increase of human experience and knowledge and the creation of the concept, are considered important phenomena.

### References

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