A Study of the Linguistic Realization of the Concept 'Love' in Persian Poetry

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The present study is an attempt to investigate the love metaphors in classical and modern Persian poetry through cognitive linguistics. This study demonstrates the conceptual metaphors of classical and modern Persian poetry through the poems of Hafez, Saadi and Molavi as three classical poets and Seepehri, Farrokhzad and Aminpoor as three Persian modern poets. This survey is also concerned with whether modern poets follow classical ones in the use of metaphors or not. Likewise, it considers the classical and modern poet approaches to love as metaphor and its frequencies. The results suggest that there are some mismatches between classical and modern metaphorical use of love. All in all, the modern poets seem to conceive love more materialistically. So they understand love through more concrete and tangible concepts than the classical poets while the less materialistic view of classical poets leads them to consider love in terms of more abstract concepts. For example, +LOVE IS ILLNESS+ has more frequency in classical Persian poetry than the modern one because the classical poet understands love mostly through abstract concepts but in +LOVE IS OBJECT+ there is more frequency in modern poetry than the classical one. This difference in frequency is because of the difference in thought patterns and world view as modern poet tries to resort to more tangible and concrete concepts to make love more understandable. Keywords: Love metaphors, Classical Persian poetry, Modern Persian poetry, Cognitive linguistic