



The Dual Meaning Potential of Prepositional Grammatical Metaphor in Prose Fiction

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Abstract

From a Systemic-functional perspective, Grammatical Metaphor (GM) as is taken to be a chief driving force in the discourse of different genres. It is an important adult language machinery for ideational meanings to be semantically cross-mapped and realized through a different form in the stratum of the lexico-grammar, in order to convey changed meanings and tinker with the discursive flow and development of text in real time, mainly through nominalization of adjectives and verbs. Using some established works of the English novel as data, this study draws upon the author's previous model for the categories of GM used in modern prose fiction, with main focus placed on one of the six categories, Prepositional GM, having found that the language of prose fiction in English deploys the 'in + Prep GM' type in two different meanings varying according to context. Seen to be the hallmark of GM by many, it seems that GM opens up a vast ideational meaning potential in the semantics stratum, from which the lexico-grammar makes choices according to context and intended meaning. As argued elsewhere in the literature and here, and as backed up by the author's own experience with teaching advanced writing and reading, broadened understanding of GM is a critically important component to writing instruction and its effectiveness, as seen in the large-scale horizons and agendas for effective teaching of English as a Foreign Language in Iran and beyond.

Keywords: Systemic-functional, Grammatical Metaphor, Prose Fiction, Prepositional Grammatical Metaphor, Advanced Reading and Writing Instruction

In the Name of God

همایش ملی

نقش مطالعات زبان در توسعه اقتصادی، علمی و فرهنگی ایران

ایران-مراغه، ۲۴ فروردین ۱۳۹۶

Certificate of Presentation

This is to certify

Yaser Hadidi

Presented a Paper Titled

The Dual Meaning Potential of Prepositional Grammatical Metaphor in Prose Fiction

At

The National Conference on Language Studies & Economic, Scientific and Cultural Development

Dr. Mohammadreza Valilu

President of the Conference

همایش ملی

نقش مطالعات زبان

در توسعه اقتصادی، علمی و فرهنگی ایران

دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحد مراغه

فروردین ۱۳۹۶

Dr. Sorayya Behrooz Zad

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

Islamic Azad University
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بسمه تعالی

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دکتر محمدرضا ولیلو

رئیس همایش و رئیس دانشگاه آزاد اسلامی واحد مراغه

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