

# Cognitive Stylistic Analysis of *Asymmetry* by Lisa Halliday

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**Abstract**— There are various methods that have been used to discover the sublime mysteries of literary texts, cognitive stylistics is one of most valuable methods. Its focus is to deduce meanings though these meanings of the texts are located in the formal construction of the literary text, readers can approach meanings by using some aspects of their prior knowledge (schema). This study is a cognitive stylistic analysis of Lisa Halliday's "*Asymmetry*". The novel contains three parts. In this research, the researcher's main objectives were; to explain how writer goes beyond the words to set up rich representation of alternate worlds, to employ figures of speech as features of creativity and novelty and to understand certain types of conceptual metaphors used by writer to create certain cognitive representation. The researcher has used two theories; schema theory and conceptual metaphor theory to analyze the text. Schema theory is the collection of individual's background knowledge and their experiences that provide interpretation of new information. Cognitive Metaphor Theory facilitates its readers and writers with a set of tools to consider metaphor within mental functioning. This theory deals with mapping between source domain and target domain. The researcher has used qualitative method in this study. The data has selected in forms of chunks. The researcher found how a writer used figurative language in order to show the novelty of her novel. Hence, the researcher has concluded her research by saying that the novel is highly creative and the writer has used many of figures of speech.

**Keywords**— Cognitive stylistics, figures of speech, schema theory, conceptual metaphor theory, Conceptual mapping

## I. INTRODUCTION

The present study is a cognitive stylistic analysis of Halliday's "*Asymmetry*". In this research, the researcher attempts to explore the patterns of creativity and novelty in language used by the writer. Its main concern is with investigating how the writer has used figures of speech as features of originality and novelty in the novel "*Asymmetry*". The researcher has used two theories on the background while conducting this research i.e., schema theory and conceptual metaphor theory. There are various

methods have been used to discover the sublime mysteries of literary texts. The most useful and rich approach is cognitive stylistics. Its focus is on the process of reading to deduce meaning. Though the meanings of the texts are located in the formal construction of the literary text, the readers to deduce meanings (Rumelhart, 1980) can use some aspects of the previous background knowledge (schema).

Anderson (1984) defines schema theory, as it is a collection of individual's background knowledge and experience, which provide interpretation of new information. Schema contains facts, rules and responses are used to accomplish a specific goal. Carrell (1983) described that there are three types of schema: linguistic schema, content schema and formal schema. A conceptual metaphor is to understand one domain of experience is abstract and the other domain is concrete. Conceptual metaphors are essential part of language of common people and shared by the individuals of a culture or a tradition. George Lakoff & Mark Johnson (2008) have identified three categories of conceptual metaphors; orientational metaphor, ontological metaphor and structural metaphor.

"*Asymmetry*" is, a novel written by Lisa Halliday, published in 2018. The word "*Asymmetry*" refers to lack of equality or equivalence between parts or aspects of something; lack of symmetry. As the title of the novel "*Asymmetry*" implies that there was a sharp examination of an unequal power dynamic between men and women, innocence and experience, and fame and aspiration. This novel was a master piece of novelty. How the writer has created novelty and innovation in her work by using many types of figures of speech. Though the language she has used was a little bit complex, but, overall it was a good example of how reader goes beyond the world by using alternate words (figurative language). Many figures of speech have applied by the reader named as metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, metonymy etc. She has

made use of conceptual metaphors by using cognitive approach. For example, it is up to the reader now, how he/she is able to find out those figures of speech by using their schema or already existing knowledge about anything. Though this work is a masterpiece because of its split structure and incompleteness, it also explores the irregularity of memory, the incidents of history and the exercise and the understanding of creativity. Most of all it wonders whether we can ever have a glance of our own personality to imagine the consciousness of others- a question as it is relevant to human relationship. "Asymmetry" is a book consists of three parts that take place in different situations over different periods in 2000. The first part named as "Folly", the second is "Madness" and the third is "Ezra Blazer's Desert Island Discs".

### Research Questions

How does cognitive research enable reader to go beyond the words to set up rich representations of alternate worlds in "Asymmetry" by Lisa Halliday?

How can figures of speech employed as features of creativity and novelty in "Asymmetry" by Lisa Halliday?

What certain types of conceptual metaphors are used by the writer to create certain cognitive representations in "Asymmetry" by Lisa Halliday?

### Importance of the Study

The present study will help the researchers to understand the hidden psychological representations of writer. The use of different linguistic devices will also help them to enhance their skills. It will also help them to interpret the text. Students will also be able to study literature deeply. Psycholinguists will enable to understand the cognitive representation of language beyond sentence. Variety of figures of speech that the researcher will analyze, it will help the readers to understand all devices with examples. By using these kinds of conceptual metaphors, the readers will be able to understand the psyche of the writer. Students will be able not only to understand the types of conceptual metaphor, but they will also be able to distinguish them from other.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Cognitive stylistics is a sub-discipline in the field of applied linguistics (Steen and Gavins, 2003; Stockwell, 2002 and 2005; Semino and Culpeper 2002 and Freeman, 2002). Stockwell (2002) observes that, "cognitive stylistics provides a new way of thinking which also involves the applications of cognitive linguistics and psychology to the literary writings". He also observes that the main concern of cognitive stylistics is with presenting a descriptive and detailed account of linguistic features of a text.

Freeman (2000) suggests that literary writings are "the products of cognizing minds". He defines interpretations as "the products of other cognizing minds in the context of the physical and socio-cultural worlds in which these writings

have been created and read" (Glotova, 2014). In this respect, Stockwell (2002) asserts that cognitive stylistics looks people as they are cognitive human, while relying on their background knowledge and experiences they are able to understand the literary writings. Cognitive stylistics provides important means for the reader to have a clear view of text and context, situations, knowledge and beliefs. It can thus be seen as it is a starting point for readers that enable them to understand and approach how a literary context is built (Stokwell, 2002).

Cognitive stylistics places perception and contextual effects at the heart of its logical space. In formalist and functionalist stylistics, the center of the analysis of models takes place the sentence and then the text respectively. Cognitive stylistics model, however, is a withdrawal from textual to contextual stylistics interpretation of a text. He further claims that cognitive stylistics work is not only to focus at the script but also at the contributions of one's mind with reading. In other words, cognitive stylistics explore that how we can understand certain types of metaphorical images by using the reader's knowledge, ideas, beliefs and interpretations. Furthermore, as Jeffries and McIntyre (2010) determine that cognitive stylistics takes into account all those cognitive processes, through which the readers respond to particular aspects of texts. It also attempts to capture how readers employ their real life background knowledge that is already existed in their minds or schematic knowledge in the interpretation of literary writings (Patil, 2014).

One more important point that is stated here, Stockwell (2002) states that there are a number of scholars who work in the field of cognitive stylistics They have used different theories such as schema theory, conceptual metaphor theory, text world theory, blending theory, mental space theories in order to expand the boundaries of linguistic analysis of literature. The focus of these theories is on reading and cognition. All these theories provide frameworks for the analysis of literature.

In order to understand the style of a text one need to know about the figures of speech. These literary devices help to convey meaning rather than the real or literal meanings. Figures of speech are the devices used to compare or find similarities. These are linguistic elements that have non-literal meanings. According to Leech and Short (2007), traditional figures of speech include schemes and tropes. Schemes are the repetitions of expressions and tropes are irregularities of content. Phonological schemes, grammatical schemes, and lexical schemes are some categories of schemes (Leech and Short, 2007). Phonological patterns of rhyme, alliteration and assonance are some phonological schemes, while grammatical and lexical schemes contain formal and structural repetition. In addition, tropes also contain some traditional poetic figures of speech have their special figurative language and their special interpretation. Perrine in his book "Sound and Sense" classifies twelve kinds of figures of speech and he distinguishes them in three categories, i.e. figures of speech

by comparison, figures of speech by association and figures of speech by contrast.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used by the researcher, is qualitative one. Textual analysis has been opted for the analytic and interpretive study of the text. The technique used for the particular and specific text has been completed through textual analysis and reading of the novel. The study has been directed by applying the text of "Asymmetry" by Lisa Halliday. It is methodology which plays a dynamic role in conducting a research process. The text has been analyzed through reading of that text thoroughly. The analysis of the novel highly spots the fundamental connotations contained by the text. It is research methodology that knows not only the soul meaning of the writing but also knows the historic, societal and ethnic circumstances. If the researcher wants to take the benefit, he should have to read the text carefully and then he/she becomes able to analyze the text.

### IV. TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

#### Part 1 (FOLLY)

"Alice knew who he was-she'd known ..... been made of concrete" (P. 3).

In the above mentioned text Lisa Halliday has presented a rich representation of alternative world with the help of two figures of speech namely; watermelon pink and gnome. These words are used to create a mental representation. The word watermelon pink is used to show the beauty of cheeks by calling it watermelon pink. A watermelon is called rich in taste and color if it carries a bright pink color. Secondly, Alice's astonishment look is linked with a studious little garden gnome with the help of a simile. Here the word "gnome" means a small ugly person with bearded look having a pointed hat to guard the earth's treasures underground. The look of Alice is linked with gnome just in order to emphasize the astonishment look. The word astonishment may result in happy or sad situation after occurring but here the occurring can be seen in the case of Alice but the results are not mentioned. So, the word astonishment may be well mentioned in the category of conceptual metaphor if we have found the results. But now the situation is in between.

"While his doorman made room for her by pressing herself into a cruciform position" (P. 6).

In this line, the writer goes beyond. His doorman put himself in the position of a crucifier- the act of putting one to death by fixing the hands and feet to a cross. The words to set up rich representation of alternate worlds by using the word "crucified position". Crucifixion is a method of punishment in which the victim is tied or nailed to a large wooden beam and left to hang for several days until the eventual death came to him. Here the writer used the word crucifier as a metaphor because he was not crucifying himself as Christians do but he was just in that position.

The word may be resulted into a sad situation because no one will want to be crucified happily as it is state of sad and very depressive. Lakoff & Johnson (2003) has proposed a variety of orientation metaphors. In orientational metaphor, for example happy is up and sad is down. These metaphors may vary from person to person or from one nation to another. Here the situation that has been shown the writer is going to be downward and it is clear from the example that downward orientation is coupled with negative meaning so, it falls in the category of orientational metaphor.

The word "Crucified" here has been used by the writer as an orientational metaphor to create mental representation. As it is already existed in our mind the process of crucifixion because we have knowledge about it as we have heard about it from our forefathers or from cultural conventions.

"Over her sweater, he put a hand on each breast, as if to silence her" (P.8).

This line shows the intimate relationship between Ezra and Alice. This line shows how the writer Lisa Halliday escapes from this world to the other world of imagination, i.e. romanticism. Through these words, the writer is showing some kind of creativity by using figure of speech, i.e. simile. This has been used to describe the mental representation between those who have close relationship among them. This might be a gesture to silence someone. This might be a gesture that has been used by the lovers only.

The writer has used certain types of conceptual metaphors that can be understood by creating cognitive representation of that particular word. For example, in this line, the expression of silencing her through his hands means that she is feeling comfortable and this situation leads upward and we can relate upward orientation with positive response.

"He called her a mermaid. She didn't know why" (P.10).

Through this line, the writer has employed the figure of speech in order to represent some sort of innovation by calling Alice a "mermaid"- that is depicted throughout history as beautiful creatures half women and fish. And the writer has compared Alice with mermaid metaphorically. The concept which comes into our mind, when we listen the word mermaid is beauty. The writer here wants to describe her beauty and that is why she has used it metaphorically.

The word "mermaid" falls under the category of ontological metaphor, because this type of metaphor states that something abstract is represented in terms of concrete entities. Here the mermaid is concept and he called her a mermaid is structural metaphor

"He watched hungrily as she took a bite, then a sip. The bourbon went down like a flame. Alice coughed. "It's heaven," she said" (P.11).

Having a sip of bourbon, the writer has shown that it has passed out like a flame. Here flame has been used as a simile just to show the intensity of her wine. Flame is intensive in its brand and quality, so, when she takes a sip it goes down so intensively that she called it a flame.

Alice said it as heaven, this concept means a very happy situation because when you are extremely happy it becomes like you are heaven or you are going up to the heaven. It has been clear from the cultural traditions and beliefs that heaven is a place where everyone feels happy and comfortable, though this concept may be changed in other nations who have different perspective. In conceptual metaphor, one who is happy, it becomes up and upward orientation of a word leads you towards a positive response. Here the word heaven falls in the category of orientational metaphor.

“Alice nodded; her pupils rolled back, and, after teetering for a moment, her body pitched slowly forward and to the side, like a discarded marionette” (P. 31).

Here the writer is again creating some kind of novelty by personifying the character of Alice with marionette. Her body pitched slowly forward like a puppet that is unable to move. The writer is depicting Alice’s character very submissive, like she has no will and she is just like a puppet in Ezra’s hands. She cannot do anything by her own will.

The word marionette creates a cognitive representation of a person who is controlled by someone, a person who is unable to do anything according to his wish. As we know that a puppet can’t even stand or walk and writer is depicting Alice’s character same like a marionette.

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1989), human beings have certain shape and that has specific functions in our environment. Human beings use physical conditions in order to understand the conceptual metaphors. For example, the physical condition of Alice that has been presented by the writer goes downward as she has no will and she is dependent on Ezra. Such kind of metaphor is known as orientational metaphor.

“Ezra , no I broke my hand”. “Oh my God.How? Are you in pain?” (P. 32).

I broke my hand is a figurative expression that one has used to show his pain. This figure of speech not meant to be taken literally. In this sentence, Ezra didn’t break his hand but he meant that he is feeling too much pain in his hand and he is unable to bear this pain that is why he is using such kinds of words just to show his pain and express his feelings. it is a figure of speech that is giving meaning other than what is said.

As Ezra is feeling too much pain. He is sad and that is why feeling down. This downward orientation is related with negative meaning.

#### *Oriental Metaphor*

He got up.....parachuting invaders(P. 34).

The scene started when Ezra was asking from Alice, what she will eat? He got up to bring a toast for her and after giving, he was obscuring Alice, who was eating toast with one hand. She lay down near the window to see the snow. Snow was falling more calmly and quietly in the light of his balcony. The writer has compared this snow with an army of parachuting invaders-military parachute in which someone is trained to parachute into an operation. These parachutes were first used on a large scale during World War II for troop distribution and transportation. These parachutes are often used in surprise attacks.

Here the writer has beautifully described the snow that is falling just like the troops of military invaders who are landing down onto earth from their parachutes slowly and quietly. This scene is describing that the night has been prevailing and when the reflection of light directly hits the particles of snow, it seems like military parachutes.

Alice, who is sitting calmly and watching outside from the window, the writer has described that she is happy because she is feeling comfortable and she has no fear. Because she is happy, it means that it is an example of orientational metaphor and it provides positive evaluation.

“We’re going to war!” they sang, walking back down Broadway, past the colored lights and tempera snowdrifts and Christmas trees bound up tightly to look like cypresses” (P. 35).

The Christmas tree which has been decorated with colored lights and snowdrifts and it has bound up tightly to look like cypresses. It has been compared with cypress tree-trees are often very tall and are pyramidal in shape. Christmas tree is a decorated tree or an artificial tree which looks like the cypress tree.

According to classics, the mental concept about cypress is that it was considered a symbol of mourning. It was associated with death. Death is a sign of sorrow because someone who is very dear to us leaves us alone and one who faces this situation, goes downward, and it has a negative effect.

“He lowered the book and gave her a dully affronted look. Sweetly, Alice slithered under the covers and scabbled around there until he came like a weak water bubbler” (P. 37).

These lines show that the writer has used simile to compare Ezra with weak water bubbler. Because apparently, the water bubble is complete and in its full shape but it is hollow from inside. Same is the case with Ezra who seems to be fit apparently but he has become weak from inward because of his growing age.

The mental concept about the word “weak” is that of growing age. For example if a man is growing old, definitely he will become weak and will not remain strong as he was in his youth. For example Ezra becomes weak

because of his old age. When he becomes weak, it goes down and when something goes down it falls in the category of orientational metaphor.

“Oh! Said the girl, turning back. “And I *love* Ezra Blazer.”“What does it feel like?”“Like I’ve got a cigarette lighter in my chest.”“It *looks* like you’ve got a cigarette lighter in your chest”(P.43).

The conversation started when Alice is expressing her love for Ezra and saying I love you. It feels like he has got a cigarette lighter in her chest. Cigarette lighter has been used as a metaphor and its meaning should be taken figuratively. Here the writer is comparing the warmth of Alice’s love for Ezra Blazer through a cigarette lighter. The intensity of her love has been shown as hot as someone put a cigarette lighter on his chest and he is feeling a kind of hotness like the lighter’s flame is on and giving him heat.

Cognitive representation has been created by presenting abstract things in terms of concrete. Here the concept of love is presented and compared with cigarette lighter and such type of metaphor is known as structural metaphor.

“Light shimmered in the trees, whose leaves, when the wind ran through them, sighed like the gods after a long and boozy lunch” (P. 51).

Here the writer uses simile while comparing tree’s leaves with sighed like god after taking a long lunch. For example, after taking a long lunch we sigh, in order to say thanks to god for all those blessings which He give us. She is saying that when the wind blows, the leaves of the trees which remain silent they are sighing just like gods. The concept which comes into our mind about sighing is that person who takes breathe deeply and heavily.

Cognitive representation that is already in our mind, we can use this knowledge to know what type of conceptual metaphor it is. In this line, abstract is presented in terms of concrete, for example, leaves are presented like gods. So, this is an example of structural metaphor.

“Ezra gathered her in and kissed her hair. “Sweetest girl. You are the sweetest girl”. The words were like a hot feather in her ear” (P. 54).

Lisa Halliday has created some sort of innovation by using simile. Here she is comparing Ezra’s words with hot feathers. Like Ezra who is praising Alice, he is saying that you are the sweetest girl. These words were felt like hot feathers in her ear, and she is feeling that someone has put something hot in her ear. Here, it shows their intimacy of love for one another and that is why the writer has to take the support of figures of speech which can convey that meaning which the writer wants here to convey to the readers.

Mental representation about hot feathers is that the feeling of extreme love and here, writer is presenting Ezra’s words in terms of feathers such type of metaphor

falls in the category of structural metaphor. Structure metaphors enable the speaker to understand target domain by means of source domain.

“A radio came on. .... strains of what sounded like a luau” (P. 55).

In above mentioned paragraph, the writer has made use of three figures of speech, through which she is creating a sort of newness. This paragraph is enriched with figurative language. For example, by using simile, she is comparing Ezra with an old wooden box which in ancient times used to keep all kinds of weapons. Here she wants to describe the old age of Ezra and he is looking like an old box which becomes too much hollow because of weapons. Same is the case with Ezra. By growing his age, he is becoming weak as well as hollow from inward. Secondly, Lisa Halliday is personifying by comparing a human being with non-living entity. Here, the writer is comparing Ezra with an old wooden box, because the work of that box is only to have something which one can put into it. She is depicting Ezra’s character as he is unable to do work and just like that box, he is just laying.

Thirdly, she is comparing the sound with luau- a living or noisy part which involves dancing and drinking by using simile “like”.

“...when a **figure** appeared in the lawn, approaching unsteadily through the dusk. “**Virgil!**”**Ezra** called out. “What’s the good word?” (P. 55).

Here the writer has made use of figure of speech named synecdoche. It can be defines as; referring to when a part of something is used to refer to the whole. For example, here she has used a word “figure” which is referring to a whole human being. Though, a single word has been used to show a whole human being. It has been shown from above mentioned paragraph that her variety of choosing metaphorical language is just outstanding. Here, she can use the word human being but instead she has used this word to bring some sort of innovation in her writings. Secondly, Ezra called Alice as Virgil. And our mental concept about this word is that this word is used for an unmarried girl.

“The lower camp .....finally the “Road to Heaven” (P. 61).

A kind of figure of speech in which one thing is replaced with a word closely associated with it is known as metonymy. The writer uses the phrase “Roads to Heaven”, here it means that to take something towards Heaven. One can relate this concept with the concept of life after death. That is the life where we have to stay permanently and the word heaven shows some kind of happiness that remains forever. Here, the writer is talking about the victims who have been sent to this camp, where they left their clothes, their hair cut off and then they have been left their to lead towards the road which take them towards heaven.

The mental representation of the word heaven is that when we listen the word heaven it brings a lot of happiness

that has to remain forever that will never ends. It creates a sense of happiness and according to orientational metaphor, one who is happy he is up and his upward orientation is coupled with positive response and that is why it is an example of orientational metaphor.

“A helicopter changed its....beeps and died”(P. 63).

These lines contain two types of figures of speech which have been beautifully explained by the writer and how she has created transformation by using these figures of speech. A helicopter has been compared with locust through the use of simile. The helicopter changed its direction just like locust- a grasshopper in warm regions having short antennas. One can compare such types of grasshoppers with helicopter because their characteristics are same to some extent. These grasshoppers changed their directions simultaneously just like helicopter. There is no comparison of the vocabulary which the author has used to show her choices of figures of speech.

Secondly, the figure of speech that has been used by the writer is personification. As Alice’s phone rung three times and dead. The word “dead” here is personifying the quality of human beings, e.g. death. Though the mobile phone can’t be dead, literally the word dead here is not describing that mobile phone is dead but figuratively it means that her mobile phone shut down.

The mental concept about this word is that we know about this characteristic of human beings, death. So, this concept is already presented in our minds through our cultural conventions and through the environment in which we are living. In these lines, the concept of death is related with mobile phone, means to say that abstract thing is presented in the form of concrete. This is an example of ontological metaphor.

“Have you ever changed you clocks yet, Anna?”

“What?”.

“Have you changed your----.”

CALLER ID BLOCKED.

The words flashed like a heartbeat resuscitated in her hand. I’ll be right back. Anna, okay?” (P. 64-65).

The conversation started when Alice is asking about clock, suddenly her phone rang. Here the writer has used simile to compare words with something like her heartbeat come into her hand. This phrase is used to show some kind of depression or a state of being fearful. Because it is not possible that her heartbeat come into her hand, the meaning of this sentence should be taken figuratively. For example, the writer is trying to describe Alice’s feeling which she is feeling after talking on phone.

The cognitive representation that comes into mind is that one says these words when he is very worried or suddenly he received some shocking news. As she becomes

depressed and worried, it goes down and it means that this sentence has negative impact on the character. From above description, it has been cleared that it is an example of orientational metaphor.

“Gabriela frowned. “Forty is too old. Forty things don’t work right. Forty you are too tired”(P. 68).

Here Gabriela asked from Alice, when do you have children? Alice said, I am not sure either I will have them or not. She will wait until the last possible moment, like when she is forty. Gabriela frowned at her and said, forty is too old and at that time things don’t work properly. As Lisa is comparing forty with growing age, because thirty is considered as middle age and the best time to do things. At that time you feel energetic and without any hesitation, you can do your work properly. She has symbolized forty with old age and also saying that at the age of forty you become too much tired and things will not happen as they will happen smoothly and easily at the age of thirty. So, having children at the age of thirty as Gabriela said is too much exhausted work.

The mental representation is that at the age of forty, you have spent thirty nine years of your age and you become fatigued as sometimes many diseases may attack on you and you become sick and tired of to do some tasks. The type of conceptual metaphor which has been used in these lines is orientational metaphor, because, at the age of forty you becomes weak and feel depressed, if you feel depressed you go down and it has negative impact.

“What does ‘halal’ mean?” asked Gabriela. “Good for Muslims!” the vendor called down proudly” (P. 69).

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which one thing is replaced with a word closely related to it. For example, ‘Halal’ is a word which has a complete concept in Muslim’s history. One can easily associate this word with Muslims. Because, only Muslims have the concept of Halal, and it means that anything which is good for Muslims will be halal for them. Furthermore, it means that to do things which are allowed and avoid from those which are forbidden. How beautifully the writer has portrayed the whole Muslim’s concept in just single word. It shows her choices of words through which she brings novelty in her work.

The mental representation of this word is that it is good for all Muslims because a thing which is good for them they become up and it goes up, it falls in the category of orientational metaphor.

“At Yaphank, there was a smattering of chicory flowers along the tracks, quivering like tiny well-wishers” (P. 72).

In this line, the writer brings some sort of novelty by using figure of speech in order to compare flowers with tiny well-wishers. The writer is presenting a scene in which small amount of chicory flowers- flowers usually in bright blue rarely in white and pink, they were just trembling or shaking with slight rapid motion just like tiny well-wishers.

A well-wisher who wishes well to another or an admiring supporter whose existence in one's life is not less than a blessing. A well-wisher is one who always stands with you whenever you needed. One who always look out the best for you and is selflessly concerned about his/her happiness. One who encourages you to move forward in your life. The writer is personifying here the characteristics of human with that of flowers like flower were smattering like tiny well-wisher.

Whenever the word well-wisher clicks into someone's mind, it represents a personality who thinks the best for you without his personal concerns. And this may also means that these flowers are shaking or waving with happiness because this is understood that when you feel good, it has been clearly shown from your expressions and when you become happy, you go up and happy is considered up in orientational metaphor.

It was cool for June, .....an antique sea chart (P. 73).

It was the day of June, where steam that is arousing from water is looking like a river of magma-extremely hot liquid and semi liquid rock located under the surface of Earth. The steam is compared with a kind of lava. It has been represented because the smoke of steam is compared with lava. Just like larva which make smoke when it has been melted due to high temperature. Secondly, the trees that are moving involuntarily with quick short movements and they have covered the basin with its shadow. The layers of the trees have covered that area over the years and these green trees are looking like spirals. The above scene is looking like an ancient sea chart-the spiral branches of trees, their movements, aquamarines, the sea-water, its pale blue color. All these things are representing that someone has pasted the sea chart here.

"I just killed the biggest wasp".

"I thought George Plimpton was the biggest wasp"(P. 73).

Metaphor can be defined as; "comparison between two things which are unlike." Here, a character has been compared with an insect wasp. They both share different characteristics but both are compared by the author. According to the author, George Plimpton is sharing some characteristics of wasp and that is why she has compared him with an insect. Above mentioned lines carry the same meaning. For example, George Plimpton is compared with wasp. Ezra is calling him as the biggest wasp. Here the writer has taken this word figuratively because, it's literal meaning is an insect, if it bites to a person he will feel pain, but it's figurative meaning is to show aggressive nature of George. The mental representation of this line is that it shows the anger of Ezra, which is for George and anger is considered to be down in orientational metaphor.

"Ezra took a pill.

"I thought you weren't supposed to take it every day".

Thank you, Little Miss Elephant Brain" (P. 90).

The scene is started when Ezra called Alice, Little Miss Brain. Here, he is using elephant brain as a symbol. A symbol can be defined as, "Thing that represents or stands for something else, specifically, material object represented something abstract. The purpose behind called Alice as Elephant Brain is to describe her level of intelligence. Ezra took a pill and Alice said you were not supposed to take it every day, it shows that she remembered about her time for taking pills. And it is considered that the brain of an elephant is 3-4 times larger than the human brain. The most fabulous thing is their sharp memory and this is one of the things that make them so special. Lisa Halliday has described that her brain is larger than Ezra, as she is young and Ezra becomes old and weak and that is why he is unable to remember these things. On the other hand, Alice has a sharp memory to remember things. Here, the writer has meant that Alice is little, but, she has a brain of an elephant because she has stored too many things in it and also of her sharp memory.

"Like a shot, .....pruce stump"(P. 104).

A figure of speech is thus a word that cannot be taken literally because it does not make any sense; rather it is a twisting of the normal meaning of words to create a new metaphorical formula. Simile has been used by the writer in order to compare the movement of Ezra. Ezra Blazer overturned into the lawn just like a shot. Lisa Halliday has made use of another figure of speech that is personification because she has given Ezra's attributes to the shot of a gun. His movement is as sudden as someone took shot from his gun. Further, his character has been personified with shot and we know that personification is a kind of ontological metaphor. So this expression is an ontological.

"Eileen picked the remote control up by its antennae and tossed it like a dead animal into the woods" (P. 104).

Here the writer uses a simile to show comparison between remote control and dead animal. She is describing about Eileen who is holding a remote control in her hand and she tossed it in the air like someone throws an animal into woods which is dead. The writer has compared the remote control with animal shows that her vocabulary is very high and that is why she is comparing two things which are totally different and even, sometimes, they don't give meanings.

"They sat for .....pregnant women 's arm" (P. 115).

Metaphor is a word or figure of speech that can be defined as, 'A comparison in which one thing is said to another'. In above mentioned lines, the writer is comparing two girls with beautiful colored butterflies. Though they are not butterflies but here the writer is trying to describe their beauty by calling them butterflies. She is trying to depict their colorful nature by comparing them with this insect. Through this word the writer is going beyond the words to set up rich representation of alternate worlds, and this is the

quality of writer, she has make use of such kinds of literary devices. One can say something and he/she means something else it is only possible by using such devices. The representation of this word in our mind is related to the beauty of something. As the word butterflies came into our mind an insect which is multi in colors and which has flies and wings to fly in the air.

“Mouth,” said Alice. Ezra snapped it shut, ....’m going to need my pills” (P. 118).

In this scene, Ezra shut his mouth just like a doll and he is not saying anything. Ezra shut his mouth like ventriloquist’s doll –the art of talking with tongue not moving the mouth or face. Ezra’s mouth has been compared with doll, he is unable to say something. Here, Ezra has been personified with doll. A human characteristic is given to a doll. Secondly, Ezra squeezed her hand should be taken as figuratively because literally it is not making sense and it means he squeezed her hand but in fact he has hold her hand tightly. He might be feeling fear that is why he holds her hand. In order to feel comfortable, he is holding her hand. This expression is an example of ontological metaphor, because when you are personifying something, it falls under the category of ontological metaphor.

“A small Chinese woman entered holding a clipboard. “I have some questions for you.”

“Shoot”(P. 120).

There are some words which are giving some other meanings and we need their context in order to extract their meaning. For example, the word ‘shoot’ here is proving the meaning of shooting something from gun but if we read the line before it we will be able to know in which context this word has been occurred by Ezra. Small Chinese women want to ask some questions from Ezra and in her reply he said shoot means ask those questions, I am to ready to answer your questions. Literally this word is providing other meanings and figuratively something else.

Cognitive representation of the word “shoot” “is that we speak this word when we are angry and here it has been shown that Ezra who become angry when Chinese woman said, she wants to ask some questions. When you become anger, you go down. For example, in ontological metaphor, joyful means up and anger means down. So, it has negative implications.

“He watched her thoughtfully for a moment, the spot of blood under his eye like a stopped tear” (P. 122).

The spot of blood under Ezra’s eye has been compared metaphorically with a stopped tear. As the writer is trying to depict the scene when Ezra is watching his beloved thoughtfully and he becomes static. While doing so, he is even unable to feel that blood which is running out from his eyes. Here the stopped tear symbolizes the growing age of Ezra as when someone is growing old, his

tears become dry and these remain stayed in eyes and do not come outside.

It symbolizes that Ezra is very depressive and he is in pain. According to Lakoff and Johnson (2003), happy is considered up and sad in considered to be down in orientational metaphor. Ezra is in state of feeling down and such kind of metaphor is known as orientational metaphor.

#### PART 2 (MADNESS)

“Sami and Zahra .....can look as though she is wearing both of the drama masks at once” (P.137).

Sami and Zahra got married and they have a little girl named Yasmine who according to Zahra looks like Sami from mouth and from eyes looks like Zahra. The little Yasmine seems to be in the state of melancholy- feeling of pensive sadness with no cause. Here the face of Yasmine is compared with the drama masks at once. For example, it has been shown from her face that she is smiling and at the same time she is feeling sad. There is a ratio between comedy and taragedy. The little girl, who is three years old, she is capable of expressing her emotions that one might think it is impossible for such a young girl to show what she is feeling or thinking.

“She was a young woman with .....sympathetic eyes a spidery look” (P. 139).

In order to describe the character of officer, the writer has to take the support of metaphor. In this line she is comparing her eyes with spidery look. She was a young woman who was wearing a lavender hijab and thick mascara. This thick mascara hide her sympathetic look which is just like a spidery look according to writer, her eyes look like sympathetic.

“She did not have any luggage with her, ..... her hips like a fig leaf” (P. 146).

Above mentioned lines contain simile which has been used by the writer in order to make comparison. Firstly, the woman is feeling hesitated and to overcome this hesitation, she held her embroidered purse in front of her hips like a fig leaf-fig leaf has been used as a simile, it refers to a thing intended to conceal a difficulty or embarrassment. Same situation is the woman feeling who becomes confused while the officer is asking some questions from her. Secondly, the officer is staring at her kindly and it seems like he is trying to encourage the woman to answer his questions. As the word fig-like contains the situation in which one used something to hide him or herself when he/she is in state of fear. This situation prevails when you become discouraged and depressed. Depression leads you down and it falls under the category of orientational metaphor.

“Calvin Coolidge would approve, ..... not being able to live like a dog”(P. 149).



According to Calvin Coolidge, economy is the only method by which we prepare our today in order to save our tomorrows. According to her, one can live his/her coming life with all luxuries only when he lives today's life in difficulties. Here the writer is comparing today's life with the life of dog. She meant to say that if you work hard you will become able to save your future. The phrase "live like a dog" brings the concept about difficulty, unpleasant and boring life. One who lives like this will live unhappy and he will be sad, it leads you to downwards and it is an example of orientational metaphor.

"It was December, ..... Russian dolls."(P.150)

Here these four girls have been compared with the set of Russian dolls. She personified these girls with dolls, as she wants to describe their beauty and that is why she has to take the support of personification. As they are too much pretty and that is why the writer has used the word doll instead of girls, and also in hijab of same color that is why they seem to be a set of dolls. Secondly, the elder one named Rania, who is now older but too much pretty that one is unable to see her directly. To look at her has been compared with the strains that one feels to look at the sun directly. Here, the writer is personifying by comparing the character of Rania with that of sun. Thirdly, there is a phrase *Be Amrika el dunyamaqluba*, *maqluba* means upside down, and also there is dish of meat and rice that is baked in a pan and one should have to change its position from upside down and for this reason it is named like this. Further, the world is upside down. No one's life is smooth and without any tension. One has to face all ups and downs and he has to be ready to face all types of miseries.

"Next to the receptionist's computer stood a miniature foil Christmas tree, strung with colored lights that blinked quickly, then slowly, then quadruple-time, like a disco strobe" (P. 172-173).

In above lines Christmas tree is being decorated with colorful lights that blinked so quickly, then slowly and sometimes quadruple time and these lights has been compared with disco-strobe lights- an energy storage device much like a battery but capable of charging and releasing energy much faster.

"After all, the first word revealed in the Quran is: Read! And the third line is: Read, because your Lord has taught you the pen; he taught mankind what the mankind did not know"(P. 178).

In this scene, the writer is describing about seeking knowledge is a religious obligation. The first word received by Gabriel is 'Read'. The type in which one thing replaced with closely associated with this known as metonymy. The writer is beautifully describing this word by associating it with Muslims because Holy Quran is the sacred book for Muslims. It has revealed on Prophet through Gabriel in the cave of Hira. The first revelation begins with the name of your Lord, who created you and your Lord has taught you

with pen and taught you all those which the mankind did not know. The word 'Read' has the mental concept takes back towards the process of revelation and it took almost twenty-three years to complete the process of revelation.

"A birth-mark may be unfortunate, but at least it doesn't sneak up on you" (P. 184).

Lisa Halliday has made the use of symbols. Here she has symbolized *birth mark* with *unfortunate*. A birth mark is an irregularity on the skin which is present at birth. A birth mark could be as small as a dot or as big as the palm of your hand. The writer has associated it with unluckiness. Birth marks are also associated with a person's past life or incarnation. For people who believe to have come from another life, the birthmarks indicate some trauma they may have faced their birth.

"My mother, with her dark eyes and snug headwear, looked like an owl" (P. 206).

The writer creates a type of novelty by comparing Mr. Jaafri's mother with an owl. His mother has wide and deep eyes just like an owl. Furthermore, she is wearing tight headwear and from her head wear, her eyes become more widened that is why the writer has compared her with an owl. The concept of owl is already presented in our mind, when we listen the word owl it goes back to the concept which we have learnt from our cultural conventions. It represents the deep connection and it is known for its sharp vision and keen observation. Here, the writer is describing her eyes by relating them with a bird.

"In the pool, a series of fluorescent deck lamps reflected like a row of shimmering moons" (P. 211).

The writer goes beyond the words to show rich representation. For example, she has compared shiny bright lamps like shimmering moons. In the scene there is a series of lamps which are looking like there is a row of shimmering moons- moon that glow with soft light. There is a reflection in the water of pool which is presenting this scene. Secondly, the writer is presenting the abstract concept onto something concrete. Like the deck lamps are represented in terms of moons and such type of metaphor is known as ontological metaphor.

"This is because politics in imaginative work is like a shot in the middle of concert"(P. 228).

In above mentioned line, politics has been compared with shot of a gun. The writer has uses simile which explains an explicit relation between two concepts by using the word 'like'. The politics in imaginative work is like a shot in the middle of concert. Politics is not merely like a gun shot in the middle of a music concert, but sometimes they actually are a gun shot in the middle of concert. Here, the gun shot in the middle of concert means to emphasize on something. For example, in concert, everyone is busy and enjoying the music and they have lost in the sounds of music that no one is aware of what is going on and what others are doing. When someone wants people's attention,

they have to take the support of gunshot. Same is the case with politics one feels in talking about it is more urgent than anything else.

“Hassan had told me ..... a timepiece at 08:20 (P. 236).

The scene has started when Hassan is telling about some old days, and he is saying that there were male Ba’ath members who have long and short mustaches. Here the writer has compared those mustaches of men with that of hands of a clock, one is shorter and the second is longer. For example, Lisa Halliday has compared their mustaches with clocks, like the one of hand of clock is shorter and the other is longer. Furthermore, the left side which is shorter than the other is presenting that the time on clock is 08:20. She is comparing their moustaches with the needles of a clock. It shows that how keenly observer she is. She has observed them deeply and then she becomes able to compare them by using figurative language.

#### V. DISCUSSION

Cognitive stylistics provides a new way of thinking which also consists of cognitive linguistics and psychology. The main focus of cognitive stylistics is to extract meanings from text and interpret the text. The novel “Asymmetry” by Lisa Halliday is highly creative and the writer has used this technique to make it change from other’s work. In order to do the stylistic analysis, one must know about the figures of speech which create novelty in written work. It has been seen from this novel, that the author has used different literary devices, i.e. metaphors, simile, personification and types of conceptual metaphors.

First of all, being researcher, the researcher has analyzed the text and found that the writer has used some words through which she goes beyond the world to show representations of other world. Halliday has represented rich representation of alternate world with the help of figures of speech. As she has used such words which take us far from this world of reality to the other world, which is the world of imagination. The researcher has analyzed the text and found a variety of words through which the writer wants to show some sort of escapism.

By using words like, “Crucified”, “Halal” and “Revelation”, it has been cleared from examples that the writer has discussed about the religion also. As, I have found a lot of imagery and figurative language used by the writer in this novel. She has used many figures of speech. She has used simile, metaphor, personification etc. It has been shown from this novel that by using figures of speech the writer wants to show the psyche of a particular character. If someone wants to show novelty and creativity, he/she must use these literary devices. This is a technique to attain reader’s attention and this novel is a masterpiece of novelty. If you want to say something, but you can’t say, now figures of speech make it possible for you to say anything by using irony. If you want to compare between two unlike things, you can compare them through metaphors. And if you want to give human being’s attributes to non-living things, you can use personification.

There is a variety of novelty which has been created by using all these devices.

The writer here wanted to describe what type of language has been used by a particular character. As it has been observed and analyzed by the researcher, that the language which has been used by the Ezra for Alice is highly figurative. She used different metaphors and through these metaphors, she goes beyond from this world to an alternate world. She has used words like Mermaid, Little Miss Elephant Brain, Marionette and boat to depict the character of Alice.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS

Cognitive stylistic analysis in Lisa Halliday’s novel “Asymmetry” can be viewed in broader look. This novel offers a complete picture of representations of alternate worlds, figures of speech, imagery, conceptual metaphors and cognitive representation.

Three most important objectives lay the foundation of this study. The first objective is to explain how the writer goes beyond the words to set up rich representations of alternate worlds in Lisa Halliday’s “Asymmetry”. For this, I choose extracts from the book and analyzed that how the writer used some words or sentences to represent alternate worlds. She has to take support of some figures of speech through which one can convey his/her meanings by saying something else. For example, he can compare the human attributes with that of non-human entities only through personification. In order to explain this objective, I have studied the text thoroughly and found some chunks in which the writer has made use of figures of speech. For example, the writer used many figures of speech in order to portray the character of Alice, like mermaid, marionette and Little Miss Elephant Brain. All these figures of speech are used to show her character, which reveals her beauty through the words mermaid and marionette and the other Elephant Brain is use to describe her intelligence level and that is why the writer has compared her with that of an elephant which is considered to be a wise animal than human beings. By using different figures of speech, Lisa Halliday distinguished her novel with other writer’s work and it is a point of appealing for readers to read her novel and due to this reason this novel has become best seller.

The second objective is to employ figures of speech as features of creativity and novelty. In this regard, I have studied the text, pick up possible figures of speech used by the writer and explained in chapter 4. The basic purpose behind this objective is to show some sort of innovation and newness by using such kinds of figures of speech. Figures of speech have been employed by the author, shows that she wants to bring something different in her text and the main purpose was to show uniqueness and newness through the language of her novel. And there is a lot of creativity and novelty presented in this novel. The writer has used metaphors, simile, personification and other figures of speech to show creativity and novelty which make her text different and unique from other texts. She has used similes to show comparisons between two things

which are not same by using the words “like” or “as”. I have explained in chapter 4, that how the writer employed these figures of speech and I have found them and discussed earlier. One becomes able to create innovation and genuineness in the text by using such kinds of literary devices. How beautifully she has compared Ezra with weak water bubbler because of his growing age and also to show that like a water bubble, he is hollow from inside and becomes weak.

The third objective of this research is to understand certain types of conceptual metaphors used by the writer to create certain cognitive representation. In this regard, I have selected the theory of Schema and Conceptual metaphor theory proposed by Stockwell, Lakoff and Johnson that is considered to be very important in cognitive stylistics. For example, for the word, “bird”, our schema is which have wings to fly, two legs, have feathers etc. It is shared knowledge about anything. On the other hand, conceptual metaphor is a metaphor in which one idea is understood in terms of another. This objective is also accomplished by the textual study of the novel through suggested theory. In this regard, I have selected the text in which I have found schema and also consists of any type of conceptual metaphor and then analyzed the text. Schema can be understood from the text through already existed knowledge in mind. Schema is basically our prior knowledge about a certain thing and by using that knowledge we interpret things. And by using two components of conceptual metaphor, one can easily interpret a text if he/she knows about the source meaning of a text. It means in which context the talk has been done. For example death is a word that can also mean departure from this life or leave taking. One can understand it only when he knows what the word death means.

Consequently, three research questions are devised to attain the objectives. The first question is how does cognitive research enable the writer to go beyond the words to set up rich representations of alternate worlds? The second question is how figures of speech can be employed as features of creativity and novelty. And the third question is that what certain types of conceptual metaphors used by the writer to create certain cognitive representation. While pursuing the path of the above mentioned research questions close textual analysis is conducted diversely.

To sum up, all three objectives and their answers have been given by the researcher in chapter no 4 while analyzing the text. As the statement of my thesis was to find out the words through which the writer goes beyond the words to create a sort of innovation and newness to the text and how he has used certain types of conceptual metaphors to create certain cognitive representations. Hence, it has been proved by the researcher that the writer’s language is highly figurative and one can understand the text if he/she has some idea about figures of speech. The basic purpose behind using figurative language is to convey the meaning which you cannot convey directly and you have to take the support of these kinds of devices.

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