



LINGUOCULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TONGUE TWISTERS FORMED ON THE BASIS OF THE LEXEME FOG

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Abstract. This article examines the linguocultural characteristics of tongue twisters formed on the basis of the lexeme *fog*. Fog, as a natural atmospheric phenomenon, is characterized by reduced visibility, softness, and gradual movement, which make it a significant object of perception in human experience. In folklore, fog-based tongue twisters reflect not only phonetic complexity and articulatory difficulty but also cultural perceptions, symbolic meanings, and cognitive interpretations of obscurity, mystery, and uncertainty. The study analyzes the phonetic, semantic, cognitive, and cultural aspects of fog-based tongue twisters and demonstrates their role in shaping linguistic competence and cultural worldview.

Keywords: linguoculturology, tongue twister, fog, lexeme, phonetics, cognition, folklore, linguistic worldview, symbolism.

Language is a reflection of both human cognition and cultural experience. Linguoculturology studies the interconnection between language and culture, focusing on how cultural meanings are encoded in linguistic units. Folklore genres such as tongue twisters provide rich material for such analysis because they combine sound organization with cultural symbolism.

Tongue twisters are short oral texts designed to improve pronunciation through repetitive and challenging phonetic structures. Although they are primarily linguistic tools, they also reflect how speakers conceptualize natural phenomena through language.

The lexeme *fog* refers to a dense atmospheric condition that reduces visibility and creates a blurred perception of the environment. Because of its visual ambiguity



and soft diffusion, fog is often associated with mystery, silence, uncertainty, and transition. These qualities influence its representation in tongue twisters, where phonetic softness and repetition often imitate its gradual and unclear nature.

The aim of this article is to analyze the linguocultural characteristics of fog-based tongue twisters and to identify the cultural and cognitive meanings embedded in their structure.

From a linguocultural perspective, lexical units are carriers of cultural meaning. The lexeme *fog* represents not only a meteorological phenomenon but also a symbolic concept associated with mystery, concealment, calmness, and perceptual uncertainty.

Tongue twisters operate at the phonetic level but also reflect cultural cognition. They reveal how speakers transform sensory experience into structured sound patterns. Therefore, they function as both linguistic exercises and cultural artifacts.

Fog-based tongue twisters typically rely on soft consonants, nasal sounds, and fricatives that imitate the smooth, diffused nature of fog.

Example:

Fog flows far across the fields,

Fading forms the forest yields.

Another example:

Foggy fields feel faint and far,

Floating softly from afar.

Phonetic features include:

- Repetition of /f/ and /fɒ/ sounds
- Use of fricatives and nasals (/f/, /m/, /n/, /v/)
- Smooth rhythmic flow
- Soft alliteration and internal repetition

These features create a blurred auditory effect that mirrors the visual obscurity of fog.



Fog-based tongue twisters often describe visibility, movement, silence, and gradual disappearance.

Example:

*Fog hides houses, hills, and sky,
Softly sliding slowly by.*

The semantic focus is on concealment and reduction of clarity. Fog is represented as a covering force that obscures familiar landscapes.

From a cognitive perspective, fog-based tongue twisters reflect how humans process uncertainty and limited perception. Fog is cognitively associated with ambiguity and lack of clarity, which is mirrored in the soft and indistinct sound structures of the tongue twisters.

Example:

*Fog floats faintly, forming forms,
Fading forests, shifting storms.*

Here, fog is conceptualized as a moving but undefined entity. This reflects the cognitive tendency to interpret unclear visual input through metaphor and abstraction.

Personification is frequently used, allowing fog to be understood as an active force that “moves,” “hides,” or “covers” objects.

The cultural significance of fog varies across societies, but it is commonly associated with mystery, transition, silence, and emotional introspection. In literature and folklore, fog often symbolizes uncertainty, hidden truth, or a boundary between known and unknown spaces.

In rural and maritime cultures, fog is also a practical environmental condition affecting movement, travel, and daily activities. These experiences shape its representation in oral traditions.

Example:



*Fog falls softly on the town,
Turning light and color down.*

This reflects cultural perceptions of fog as a transformative and mood-changing phenomenon.

Fog-based tongue twisters therefore encode both environmental experience and symbolic interpretation of obscurity and transition.

Fog-based tongue twisters combine phonetic softness with semantic ambiguity, reflecting the dual nature of fog as both a physical and symbolic phenomenon. The lexeme *fog* provides a rich basis for linguistic creativity due to its association with obscurity and gradual movement.

These tongue twisters demonstrate both universal and culture-specific perceptions. Universally, fog is associated with reduced visibility and softness. Culturally, it is often linked to mystery, silence, emotional reflection, and transitional spaces.

Thus, fog-based tongue twisters serve as linguistic representations of how humans conceptualize uncertainty and perceptual limitation.

The study has shown that tongue twisters formed on the basis of the lexeme *fog* possess distinctive linguocultural characteristics. Their phonetic structure reflects softness, fluidity, and repetition, while their semantic and cultural content conveys meanings related to mystery, concealment, and ambiguity. Through these features, fog-based tongue twisters function as both linguistic exercises and cultural representations of natural perception.

Therefore, they represent an important object of linguocultural analysis, demonstrating the interaction between sound, cognition, and cultural worldview in oral folklore traditions.



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