

Abstract

The dissertation addresses the issue of conceptual theory of metaphor in relation to emotions. This theory is regarded as one of the most pertinent frameworks as far as the study of emotion concepts is concerned. The aim of this dissertation is to present and classify the conceptualizations of emotions and emotional states that have been identified on the Internet forum for adult children of alcoholics. For the purpose of this study, the threads posted from 1 January 2010 until 31 December 2014 have been analyzed.

There are numerous publications on emotion concepts being expressed with conceptual metaphors; however, they mostly refer to emotions that people experience without indicating what kind of emotional problems they may have. In this thesis, the emphasis is put on being an adult child of alcoholics and the way in which this syndrome determines how emotions are conceptualized.

It seems that the interdisciplinary approach has been adopted since three aspects – linguistic, psychological and social – have been taken into consideration in the analysis of the metaphors used by adult children of alcoholics. It can be claimed that metaphors expressed by adult children of alcoholics may serve the purpose of regulating their emotions. Metaphors may help them to interpret their thoughts that accompany emotions. As far as the particular findings of the research are concerned, it can be concluded that most of them confirm what has been described by linguists specializing in conceptual metaphor. However, the fact that there are some novel conceptualizations should not escape attention. They are not as numerous as the conceptualizations that have already been classified by cognitive linguists, but they may pave the way for further research.

The analysis of the conceptualizations of emotions constitutes a contribution to the research on conceptual metaphors of emotions. It should not be neglected that the conceptualizations depict emotions of people who experienced traumatic events and this is perceptible in the way they view their emotional states.