

The work discusses the phenomenon of death metaphors in Polish and English obituaries based on the cognitive model. It also presents the social, historical, philosophical and cultural background of death across the ages. It also presents a number of key concepts which are closely related with metaphor, i.e. euphemization, taboo, slang or Newspeak. The theoretical part comprises a historical background of linguistic trends which directly led to the creation of cognitive linguistics. The analytical part was a contrastive study of 16 metaphorical mappings including: UP, JOURNEY, CALL, REST, SLEEP, DEFEAT, GIFT/REWARD, EMBRACE, LIFE AS A SUPERNATURAL ENTITY, REUNION, BIRTH A RELEASE, A CELEBRATION, A SYSTEM SHUTDOWN, VICTORY and HAPPINESS. Overall, 479 items extracted from 20000 online obituaries were analyzed, with 152 functioning in both languages in the same or almost the same form and 328 used exclusively in one language or the other. Based on the results, despite numerous similarities between the analyzed languages, there are also significant differences. These pertain to a number of language aspects starting from evaluative processes, grammatical forms, stylistic devices, exposing or concealing religious elements and others which influence the way we conceptualize and perceive death today.

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