

This work is concerned with the role of metaphor in language, discourse and thought. The first section presents a brief historical survey of the origins and development of theorizing about the metaphor as a legitimate cognitive tool and not just a rhetorically or poetically effective but otherwise uninformative sort of expression. The aim of the second section is to outline several different accounts of metaphor given by contemporary researchers in the fields of the philosophy of language, cognitive psychology and linguistics as well as to hint at some possible ways they could be interconnected. Especially those theories are concerned which in some way diverge from the traditional view on metaphor as a fringe phenomenon of language and discourse and which on the contrary stress its central role in the meaning-making activity of the human mind. Although the work does not focus primarily on the metaphor in art, its relevance for aesthetics lies nevertheless in its highlighting certain aesthetic or poetic aspects of human reasoning and everyday communication.