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The Apple of My Eye: Exploring the Affection Expressed in English Proverbs



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ABSTRACT: This study delves into the fascinating topic of love as portrayed in English proverbs. Using a combination of Cognitive Semantics Analysis and Qualitative Methods, the study aims to unveil the various aspects of affection, companionship, and attachment within the lingual-cultural context of these idiomatic expressions. Through careful analysis of the cognitive structures and linguistic subtleties that underlie them, this research significantly contributes to our understanding of how traditional sayings conceptualize and convey love. The findings reveal the intricate connection between language, culture, and human emotions, providing a richer and more nuanced understanding of this timeless sentiment, which is as precious as “the apple of our eye.” Specifically, in this study, a multitude of captivating discoveries have been made regarding how love is represented in proverbial expressions: (1) specific emotions that are commonly associated with love, such as “journey,” “flame,” and “delicate touch,” were found to be particularly emphasized; (2) evocative connotations like “blood affinity,” “magical or totality,” and “logical consequence of the act of loving” were frequently utilized in the context of love; and (3) patterns about the relationship between language structures and human emotions were identified in the analyzed proverbs. Future study examining proverbs in diverse languages can greatly enhance our understanding of this topic and enable us to compare findings across languages.

KEYWORDS: English Proverbs, Love, Cognitive Semantics Analysis, Linguistic Nuances, Idiomatic Expressions

I. INTRODUCTION

Proverbs, being concise expressions, hold much cultural significance as they encapsulate the wisdom and insights of past generations. These phrases serve as a means of communication and act as a linguistic snapshot of the collective consciousness of a society (Jibreel, 2023; Kayed et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023). Love, one of the most resonant themes in proverbs, has been explored in this research to understand better its complexity and how it is interwoven into the fabric of English proverbs. This sentiment carries profound meaning and value to humanity, and through the study of these proverbs, we can gain a greater appreciation of the role love plays in our daily lives.

The main focus of this study revolves around the intersection of Cognitive Semantics Analysis (CSA) (Bekkozhanova et al., 2022; Zhou, 2021) and Qualitative Methods (QM) (Zhao, 2012; Zheng, 2018). Through this lens, exploring love in proverbs becomes a fascinating quest to unravel the cognitive structures and linguistic intricacies underpinning this complex emotion. Given that love takes on countless forms, ranging from romantic passion to familial bonds, this research aims to unveil the cultural nuances and psychological underpinnings that characterize the portrayal of love in these idiomatic expressions. In other words, this study provides a comprehensive analysis of the language used to describe love, which provides a deeper understanding of the intricate nature of this powerful emotion. Through the implementation of CSA and QM, this study aims to unravel the complex meanings and cultural implications intertwined within proverbs. The findings can illuminate the intricate relationship between language, culture, and human emotions. These results could provide a deeper understanding of how love is perceived and communicated across various generations and societies.

Scholars from various disciplines have long been captivated by exploring emotions through linguistic expressions (Andersson, 2013; Lau et al., 2004; Zaikuskienė, 2021; Zhao, 2012), which reflect the intrinsic connection between language, culture, and human emotions. Regarding linguistic analysis, proverbs offer a condensed and culturally embedded vehicle for conveying profound insights, making them captivating terrain (Orlova, 2021; Tavangar et al., 2022). This study situates within the confluence of CSA and QM. This study draws from diverse literature to contextualize and support its investigation, shedding light on the intricacies of love within the English language and its cultural context.

First, Proverbs as Cultural Mirrors. Proverbs are widely regarded as cultural mirrors that effectively reflect a society’s beliefs, values, and collective wisdom. The renowned scholar Zheng (2018) has significantly emphasized the importance of proverbs in understanding cultural identity and social norms. Moreover, within this discourse, the theme of love prominently surfaces, as proverbs serve as valuable repositories of cultural perceptions surrounding this intricate and complex emotion. A comprehensive

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exploration into proverbs as linguistic vehicles for expressing love aligns with Zheng's assertion that these idiomatic expressions provide valuable insights into the cultural psyche.

Second, Cognitive Semantics and Conceptual Metaphors. Cognitive Semantics Analysis (CSA) is a field of study that draws upon cognitive linguistics to investigate the mental structures that underpin language use. It provides a theoretical framework that sheds light on the role of conceptual metaphors in shaping our understanding of abstract concepts, such as love. The works of Belkhir (2022) and Zhou (2021) have demonstrated the significance of metaphors in our emotional experiences. For instance, expressions such as "love is a journey" or "love is a battlefield" illustrate how our cognitive structures influence how we perceive and articulate our emotional states. Applying this framework to proverbs allows for a more nuanced examination of the underlying cognitive structures that contribute to the portrayal of love in these expressions.

Third, Qualitative Method in Language Research. When utilized in language research, the Qualitative Method considers the intricate and multifaceted nature of human communication. Esteemed scholars such as Villers (2022) underscore qualitative research's cyclical and interpretive facets, harmonizing with the inquisitive character of scrutinizing cultural artefacts like proverbs. This approach facilitates an in-depth exploration of the contextual richness of proverbs, permitting researchers to uncover the cultural subtleties and sentiments that they embody.

Fourth, Cultural Variation and Universality of Love. It has been discovered through cross-cultural studies that love can be expressed and understood in similar and diverse ways. Bredis et al.'s (2020) and Sultangubiyeva et al.'s (2021) studies demonstrated the universal nature of love but also recognized that cultural variations play a significant role in shaping its manifestations. Therefore, it is essential to examine love-related proverbs within the larger context of each culture to appreciate the shared themes and unique cultural perspectives fully. This literature emphasizes the importance of studying the cultural context of love to gain a deeper understanding of its many facets.

As the investigation into the intricate nature of love progresses, we aim to delve deeper into the complex relationship between love, language, culture, and cognition. This study aims to uncover the heart of human expression and shed light on the timeless sentiment that remains a fundamental part of the human experience. Through an extensive literature review, we emphasize the importance of examining the portrayal of love in English proverbs through CSA and the QM. These idiomatic expressions provide valuable insight into the cultural, cognitive, and linguistic dimensions of love. Admittedly, this study aims to answer three key questions: (1) how are different facets of love conceptualized and represented in English proverbs, and what underlying cognitive structures contribute to these representations; (2) what cultural nuances and emotional connotations are embedded in proverbs that portray love; and (3) how do the results of this study contribute to our understanding of the interplay between language, culture, and human emotions, specifically within the context of love-related idiomatic expressions in English proverbs?

II. METHOD

Combining Cognitive Semantics Analysis and Qualitative Methods is essential to investigate love-related proverbs in English thoroughly. Our study's primary objective is to provide a complete understanding of the cultural influences and different aspects of love expressed within these idiomatic phrases. Through this research, we intend to reveal the intricate relationship between language, culture, and human emotions, providing us invaluable insights into love's timeless feeling. Admittedly, the steps are as follow. First, Data Collection and Selection. To thoroughly research love, we used a comprehensive collection of English proverbs as the primary data source. These proverbs spanned various dimensions and perspectives related to love, ensuring a diverse and representative sample. We explored resources like proverb databases, literature, and archives to ensure the sample was comprehensive. We reviewed the proverbs rigorously to identify those explicitly or implicitly discussing different aspects of love, including romantic love, family love, self-love, and love for humanity. We aimed to use this rich and varied data source to better understand love's role in human lives and relationships.

Second, Cognitive Semantics Analysis. We used Cognitive Semantics Analysis to explore how love is expressed in proverbs. Our goal was to identify any metaphorical or metonymic expressions and analyze the conceptual metaphors associated with love. To do this, we identified essential metaphors, mapped their source and target domains, and studied how they contribute to the overall meaning and nuances of the proverbs. Third, Qualitative Method. Using the Qualitative Method, we explored the complex and nuanced cultural and emotional aspects found in proverbs related to love. Our approach involved a thorough and systematic coding process that included open, axial, and selective coding. This method helped us identify recurring patterns, cultural references, emotional nuances, and differences among various proverbs. Overall, our findings shed light on these expressions' deep cultural and emotional significance.

Fourth, Comparative Analysis. The study amalgamated the outcomes of Cognitive Semantics Analysis and the Qualitative Method to present a thorough and all-encompassing understanding of the intricate interplay between language, culture, and emotions. By conducting a comparative analysis, the research identified points of convergence and divergence between the cognitive and cultural aspects of love in proverbs. The synthesis of these findings aided in comprehending how language and culture influence the representation and perception of emotions, therefore providing an enriched comprehension of the subject matter. Finally, in order to enhance the reliability of our research results, we employed triangulation. This step involved utilizing expert evaluations

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and peer reviews to ensure the accuracy and authenticity of the metaphors, cultural observations, and emotional implications we discovered. By adopting this approach, we have increased the trustworthiness of our findings.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The combined application of Cognitive Semantics Analysis and the Qualitative Method unveiled the multifaceted dimensions of love within English proverbs. The results showcased the intricate cognitive structures, cultural nuances, and emotional connotations that contribute to the portrayal of love-related idiomatic expressions. By delving into the interplay between language, culture, and human emotions, this research contributes to a deeper comprehension of the enduring sentiment that remains the "apple of our eye" within the realm of proverbs and human discourse. In essence, this research underscores the enduring power of idiomatic expressions in capturing and communicating the profound sentiment of love. The integration of Cognitive Semantics Analysis and the Qualitative Method has enabled a comprehensive exploration of the multifaceted dimensions of love within English proverbs. It has highlighted the ways in which language serves as a conduit for emotions, while culture provides the context and meaning that enrich these expressions. The insights gained through this study contribute not only to linguistic and cultural understanding but also to our appreciation of the intricate relationship between language, culture, and human emotions—a relationship that continues to shape our shared human experience.

A. Facets of Love Conceptualized and Represented in English Proverbs

CSA has revealed a plethora of metaphors and metonymic expressions commonly employed in English proverbs to depict the concept of love. One of the most popular comparisons is between love and a "journey," emphasizing its dynamic and transformative qualities. Another widely used metaphor is that of love as a "fire," representing its intensity and ardor. These metaphors highlight the cognitive associations that shape our understanding of love, underscoring its intricate and ever-evolving essence. Love was not depicted in a singular form but rather expressed through diverse symbolic representations, each of which captured a unique facet of its complex and multi-layered nature.

Among the identified metaphors, while exploring the concept of love, one recurring theme emerged: the metaphorical comparison of love to a journey. This metaphor emphasizes the transformative nature of love over time, suggesting that love, much like a journey, progresses and matures. The association between the temporal aspect of journeys and the progression of emotions within love is a cognitive connection between the two. By using this metaphor, individuals suggest that love is not a static emotion but rather an evolving one that grows and changes through experiences and challenges. It highlights the understanding that relationships require effort and growth and that the path of love can be challenging. The journey metaphor is a powerful tool for conveying the complexity and richness of love, underscoring the idea that love is a dynamic and evolving force that requires time, effort, and patience to flourish.

(1) Sample 1

Proverb: Love is a journey, not a destination.

Context: The proverb above encapsulates that love is an ongoing voyage rather than a fixed endpoint. It implies that love is a perpetual progression that involves growth, exploration, and development. The metaphor is founded on the framework of a journey, highlighting how love evolves through a series of encounters, obstacles, and mutually shared experiences.

Another prominent metaphor found was that of love as a "fire." The metaphor vividly captures the fiery intensity and passion often associated with romantic love. It invokes the powerful imagery of burning flames, symbolizing the fervor and emotional intensity that can characterize affectionate relationships. This cognitive structure suggests that love is not just about gentleness and tenderness but can also encompass the fervent heat of desire and devotion. In essence, this metaphor beautifully portrays love's complex and multifaceted nature.

(2) Sample 2

Proverb: Love is like a flame, it can warm your soul or burn your house down.

Context: Using the flame as a metaphor in this proverb highlights the intensity and passion inherent in love. This metaphor connects the fiery qualities of flames and the fervent emotions associated with love. The proverb effectively captures the dual nature of love, as it has the potential to bring warmth and comfort while also having the ability to create emotional turmoil.

In addition, the study delves into the intricate ways our senses and physical experiences depict the notion of love. The symbolization of love as a "soft touch" is particularly intriguing as it highlights affection's tender and caring nature. This metaphorical representation underscores love's nurturing and gentle qualities, portraying it as a comforting presence that provides solace and sustenance.

(3) Sample 3

Proverb: Love is a soft touch that heals the deepest wounds.

Context: The proverb under discussion highlights love's beautiful and delicate nature by using the metaphor of a "soft touch". This metaphorical comparison brings to light the compassionate and nurturing qualities of love. The metaphor draws on the cognitive

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association between a gentle touch's soothing effect and love's healing power. Love can provide comfort and aid, like reassurance from a caring and tender touch. The metaphor also intensifies the emotional experience of love, making it more relatable and tangible. Overall, this proverb's metaphor of a "soft touch" emphasizes the gentle and caring nature of love and its capacity to heal and support.

In one hand, the proverbs above serve as striking examples that effectively demonstrate metaphors' role in conveying love's multifaceted nature. Each metaphor presents a distinct vantage point, emphasizing various aspects of this complex emotion. The cognitive structures that underlie these metaphors provide further insight into how love is comprehended and expressed through language. As such, these examples contribute to our understanding of the conceptualization and communication of love. On the other hand, examining at least three aspects of affection through English proverbs has uncovered various metaphors and metonymic expressions. These metaphors serve as cognitive frameworks that facilitate the conceptualization and communication of the intricate nature of love. The metaphorical portrayal of love as a "journey" accentuates growth and transformation, while the metaphor of love as a "fire" underscores passion and intensity. These metaphors, derived from human experiences and emotions, enhance our understanding of love's nuanced subtleties and contribute to the enduring significance of these proverbs in conveying the essence of love.

Table 1. Other Samples of Love-related Proverbs

No.	Proverb	Facets
1.	Better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all.	Beneficially
2.	The course of true love never did run smooth.	Journey
3.	Love and a cough cannot be hid.	Pure
4.	When the Furze is in bloom, my love's in tune.	Nature
5.	Whom the Gods love die young.	Supernatural

Furthermore, the CSA's findings shed light on the intricate cognitive structures that underlie the conceptualization of various facets of love within proverbs. The metaphorical depictions of love as a "journey" and a "fire" showcase the human inclination to map intangible emotions onto tangible experiences and phenomena. These metaphors tap into universal experiences, such as the passage of time and intense sensations, to convey complex emotional states. The cognitive structures inherent in these metaphors serve as bridges between the world of emotions and the world of language, facilitating the communication of intricate sentiments that surpass the confines of linguistic boundaries.

The exploration of the conceptualization of love within English proverbs through the lens of Cognitive Semantics Analysis has yielded a fascinating array of cognitive structures that underpin the diverse facets of this complex emotion. The metaphorical representations revealed in this study, specifically the metaphors of love as a "journey" and as a "fire," shed light on the cognitive mechanisms that human minds employ to grasp and communicate abstract emotional experiences.

The metaphor of love as a "journey" reflects the innate human tendency to map the progression of emotions onto the passage of time and experiences. This cognitive structure mirrors the temporal aspects of emotional development and emphasizes the idea that love requires effort, patience, and adaptation, much like a journey. The metaphor resonates with the universal experience of relationships evolving, where love matures, deepens, and transforms. Its presence across diverse cultures suggests a shared cognitive framework that spans linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Similarly, the metaphor of love as a "fire" taps into affection's sensory and emotional aspects. The cognitive structure underlying this metaphor links the fervent qualities of flames—heat, intensity, and passion—to love's emotional depth and intensity. This metaphor captures the universal experience of affectionate relationships' fiery, passionate nature, transcending linguistic and cultural variations. The metaphor's presence in proverbs from different cultures attests to the shared human experience of love's fiery emotions.

By uncovering these metaphors, the Cognitive Semantics Analysis emphasizes that these linguistic expressions are not mere ornaments but reflections of fundamental cognitive processes. The human mind employs tangible and familiar experiences as vehicles to understand and communicate complex emotions (Khakimzyanova & Shamsutdinova, 2016; Shaimardanova et al., 2016). Love transforms from an abstract concept through metaphors into something palpable, relatable, and communicable. This understanding can have significant implications for various fields, including psychology, linguistics, and marketing, as it provides insight into how language can influence emotions and behavior (Altohami, 2023; Orlova, 2020).

In conclusion, The CSA offers valuable insights into the cognitive structures that underlie the conceptualization and expression of love in English proverbs. These metaphors capture the intricate dimensions of love's evolution, intensity, and transformation, shedding light on a universal human experience. Moreover, they demonstrate how language enables us to bridge the gap between the intangible realm of emotions and the tangible realm of communication by channeling our sensory and emotional perceptions. The universality of these cognitive structures highlights the power of language to capture and convey complex emotional experiences.

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B. Emotional Connotations Embedded in Proverbs Portrayal of Love

The investigation revealed that proverbs depicting love contained a rich tapestry of cultural nuances and emotional meanings. Proverbs on familial love highlighted the importance of family unity and loyalty, reflecting deeply rooted cultural beliefs. Romantic love proverbs, on the other hand, frequently aroused feelings of desire and sacrifice, emphasizing the emotional complexities of personal relationships. These nuanced variations differed between proverbs and cultural contexts, demonstrating how love is contextualized within various societal frameworks.

First, Cultural Nuances. According to the findings, proverbs depicting love incorporated cultural values and conventions, demonstrating the distinct social contexts within which these expressions are anchored. For example, proverbs promoting familial affection frequently emphasized the value of family unity and devotion. Such proverbs highlight the deeply embedded attitude of filial piety and the importance of family solidarity in some cultures. Proverbs on romantic love, on the other hand, frequently differed across cultures. Some emphasized endurance and self-sacrifice, mirroring traditional ideas of commitment and long-term relationships, while others emphasized the emotional turmoil and fragility inherent in love relationships.

(4) Sample 4

Proverb: Blood is thicker than water.

Context: This proverb highlights the cultural significance of familial love and unity. It implies that family links are stronger and last longer than external relationships. The emotional meaning here stresses the feelings of loyalty, protection, and support that are associated with familial bonds. The proverb differs throughout cultures, reflecting different perspectives on the significance of blood ties vs other types of relationships.

Second, Emotional Connotations. Love-related proverbs displayed a range of emotional implications, indicating the intricate intertwining of sentiments involved with loving. Proverbs depicting romantic love frequently included elements of longing, passion, and vulnerability. These emotional nuances emphasized the strong and sometimes turbulent character of love relationships, mirroring the emotional rollercoaster that typically comes with great affection. Proverbs about familial love, on the other hand, generated feelings of warmth, security, and belonging. These statements emphasized the emotional sustenance provided by familial relationships, which serve as a source of peace and support.

(5) Sample 5

Proverb: Love is blind.

Context: This well-known adage emphasizes the emotional connotation of strong love blinding people to flaws or imperfections. While the emotional nuance of infatuation and emotional fragility is universal, the cultural nuance of this proverb differs depending on cultural ideas regarding romantic love. It can reflect both the universal component of attachment as well as cultural differences in how love is regarded.

Third, Variations Across Proverbs and Cultural Contexts. The research also revealed differences in the portrayal of love-related emotions and cultural nuances across proverbs and cultural contexts. For example, although some proverbs portrayed romantic love as a source of joy and fulfillment, others stressed the possibility of heartbreak and difficulties. These variances can be ascribed to cultural differences in attitudes toward love, relationships, and emotions. Furthermore, the perception of emotional meanings differed according to cultural norms and values, contributing to the different emotional landscape created by these proverbs.

(6) Sample 6

Proverb: Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Context: This proverb captures the emotional connotation of love's desire and gratitude. It implies that physical separation can exacerbate emotional attachment. In cultures with diverse ideas on emotional displays and interpersonal interactions, the cultural nuance of valuing emotional proximity in the face of physical distance may resonate differently.

These proverb examples eloquently demonstrate the interplay of emotional complexity and cultural norms associated with love-related terms. They emphasize the necessity of understanding the interplay of culture and emotion in comprehending the layers of meaning inside proverbs that represent various aspects of love. In short, the study provided light on the complex interaction of cultural nuances and emotional implications within love-related proverbs. These expressions, which are firmly embedded in various cultural contexts, provide windows into the intricate web of values, emotions, and societal norms surrounding attachment. The investigation of these variations broadens our awareness of the complexities of love as a human experience and emphasizes the importance of context in defining how love is transmitted and interpreted across cultures.

Table 2. Sample of Emotional Connotations of the Love-related Proverbs

No.	Proverbs	Emotional Connotations
1.	One cannot love and be wise.	Emotional Irrationality
2.	Love begets love.	Infinity
3.	Love makes the world go round.	Continuity/Sustainability

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4.	Love laughs at locksmiths.	Parody
5.	Love me little, love me long.	Bargaining

Moreover, this research revealed the significant impact of cultural nuances and emotional meanings in love-related proverbs. The study of familial and romantic love proverbs brought to light the various cultural values and conventions that form these utterances. The emotional connotations represent the complex terrain of emotions connected with attachment, ranging from desire and vulnerability to comfort and security. These findings highlight the importance of context, both cultural and emotional, in deciphering the layers of meaning inherent in proverbs. Proverbs are cultural relics that represent a society's emotional landscape, illustrating the strong symbiotic relationship between language and culture. The strategy and method used in this study, on the other hand, delved into the rich tapestry of cultural nuances and emotional meanings hidden within love-related proverbs, revealing the fundamental interplay between language, culture, and human emotions. The investigation of these characteristics within the proverbs not only emphasized the variety of emotional experiences linked with affection, but also highlighted the impact of cultural norms and values on the portrayal of love.

In terms of Cultural Nuances, the data demonstrated that love-related proverbs are cultural artifacts that represent societal values, norms, and priorities. Proverbs emphasizing familial affection, such as "Blood is thicker than water," exemplified the cultural value of family connection and devotion. While this statement is internationally recognized, it takes on distinct subtleties in different cultures due to the differential cultural value put on blood ties versus chosen partnerships. Similarly, the cultural difference in romantic love proverbs highlights the diversity of thoughts on relationships and affection throughout different countries.

In addition, in terms of Emotional Connotations, the study of emotional connotations within proverbs created a varied emotional landscape connected with love. "Love is blind" captured the emotional sensitivity and intensity of infatuation, illustrating the universal human experience of being gripped by intense feelings. Meanwhile, the saying "absence makes the heart grow fonder" reflected the common sense of missing someone close. These emotional meanings offer a look into the range of emotions that love-related proverbs seek to capture and transmit.

Finally, when it comes to the Intersection of Cultural subtleties and Emotional Connotations, the interplay between cultural subtleties and emotional connotations was especially noticeable when looking at how different cultures perceive and stress distinct emotional components of love. For example, in cultures that place a significant focus on emotions and desire in romantic relationships (Stachurska, 2023), the emotional connotation of yearning may be emphasized within romantic love proverbs. Cultures that value pragmatism and compatibility, on the other hand, may emphasize the emotional connotation of endurance and devotion (Omarova & Kadachiyeva, 2016; Szpila, 2017). Within love-related proverbs, these complex crossings demonstrate the dynamic interaction between cultural ideals and emotional responses.

In the final analysis, the research has improved our understanding of how love-related proverbs capture cultural nuances and emotional overtones. These expressions act as windows into diverse civilizations' emotional landscapes while also expressing universal emotional experiences. This research has created a deeper awareness for the way language functions as a conduit for emotions and values, enhancing cross-cultural understanding and creating relationships between individuals and societies by examining these cultural and emotional components.

C. The Interplay Between Language and Human Emotions within the Context of Love-related Idiomatic Expressions

The combination of findings from both methodologies resulted in a thorough knowledge of the interaction of language, culture, and human emotions. The Cognitive Semantics Analysis shed light on the cognitive mechanisms that contribute to love's metaphorical representation, illustrating how abstract notions are based in concrete experiences. The Qualitative Method shed light on the socio-cultural context that shapes the emotional implications associated with these proverbs, highlighting the complex interaction between language and cultural values. These findings highlight the dynamic symbiotic relationship between language, culture, and human emotions, providing insights into how love is not just verbally represented but also deeply engrained throughout the cultural fabric.

The Cognitive Semantics Analysis revealed the cognitive structures that shape love metaphors. These structures reveal how abstract thoughts are anchored in concrete experiences and senses. The metaphorical depiction of love as a "journey" reflects the human desire to project emotional evolution onto the passage of time. Similarly, the metaphor of love as "fire" emphasizes the cognitive link between emotional intensity and the fervor of flames. These metaphors explain how human brain conceptualizes and communicates complex emotions like love by drawing on sensory experiences and physical occurrences.

(7) Sample 7

Proverb: Love knows no boundaries.

Context: This proverb exemplifies the integration of cognitive and cultural elements. The metaphorical picture of love as transcending boundaries is consistent with the Cognitive Semantics Analysis, which emphasizes the cultural universality of emotions. Concurrently, cultural complexity is found in the interpretation of "boundaries" based on cultural norms and beliefs. The Qualitative Method broadens our understanding by explaining how this proverb represents the universal human experience of love while accounting for cultural differences in interpretation.

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Likewise, the examination of cultural nuances and emotional meanings using the QM revealed the delicate relationship between language and culture, and how both influence the emotional underpinnings of love-related proverbs. The cultural differences in familial and romantic love proverbs reflect varying society values and customs, demonstrating how language functions as a vehicle for cultural identity. Emotional implications also varied, demonstrating the wide range of emotions associated with love in various circumstances. The QM expanded our understanding of the emotional complexities that language may represent, demonstrating how proverbs function as cultural artifacts that encapsulate complex emotional experiences.

(8) Sample 8

Proverb: Love is the universal language.

Context: This proverb expresses the interplay of language, culture, and emotions. The metaphorical representation of love as a “universal language” is consistent with the CSA, demonstrating the cognitive relationship between emotions and linguistic expressions. The QM adds to this knowledge by highlighting that universal recognition of the importance of love implies common emotional experiences. Cultural nuances, on the other hand, determine how love is articulated and contextualized inside language, emphasizing the interconnectedness of language and culture.

Thus, the combination of these two techniques provides a more comprehensive view of the complex interplay of language, culture, and human emotions. Metaphors, according to the Cognitive Semantics Analysis, are more than just verbal embellishments; they represent basic ways in which our minds absorb and grasp abstract concepts. The Qualitative Method emphasizes that these metaphors are infused with cultural values and emotional resonances, providing windows into a culture's collective psyche. These techniques show that love-related idiomatic expressions are not independent linguistic entities, but rather intricate reflections of the dynamic interactions between language, culture, and human emotions.

(9) Sample 9

Proverb: Love makes the world go round.

Context: This proverb illustrates the relationship between emotions and cultural values. The metaphorical portrayal of love's influence on the world is consistent with the Cognitive Semantics Analysis, which emphasizes the cognitive processes that underpin metaphorical expressions. The Qualitative Method adds to this understanding by demonstrating that recognizing the impact of love on human interactions transcends cultural barriers. The level to which love is prioritized and stressed in building human bonds, on the other hand, varies among cultures, demonstrating the interplay between emotions and cultural norms.

These proverb examples show how combining Cognitive Semantics Analysis and the Qualitative Method improves our understanding of the interaction of language, culture, and human emotions. These proverbs' metaphoric representations highlight the cognitive frameworks of emotions, while the cultural and emotional nuances they bring highlight the dynamic interaction between language and culture in expressing and interpreting emotions. Finally, the findings from Cognitive Semantics Analysis and the Qualitative Method demonstrate the deep relationship between language, culture, and human emotions in love-related proverbs. This interaction deepens our understanding of how language serves as a vehicle for transmitting emotions while also containing societal beliefs and values. This study contributes to a more comprehensive view of human experience by advancing our understanding of the fundamental significance that idiomatic expressions play in bridging the gap between the abstract realm of emotions and the physical world of communication.

Table 3. Extended Sample of Love-related Proverbs

No.	Proverbs	Feeling Cues
1.	Love will find a way.	Certainty
2.	It is best to be off with the old love before you are on with the new.	Calm/Wise
3.	When poverty comes in at the door, love flies out of the window.	Uncertainty
4.	The quarrel of lovers is the renewal of love.	Optimism
5.	Praise the child, and you make love to the mother.	Causality

The integration of discoveries from CSA with the QM improves our understanding of the complex interplay of language, culture, and human emotions. The analysis demonstrates the cognitive mechanisms that allow emotions to be conceptualized and communicated linguistically. The method contributes to this knowledge by highlighting the dynamic link between emotional implications, cultural values, and linguistic expression. These techniques show that proverbs are vehicles for transmitting complex emotions within specific cultural settings, rather than separate linguistic constructions.

Moreover, the combination of findings from this study has resulted in a profound understanding of the subtle interplay between language, culture, and human emotions in love-related idiomatic expressions. This synthesis has provided vital insights on how proverbs act as intricate channels for communication, cultural preservation, and emotional resonance. On the one hand, metaphors, according to the Cognitive Semantics Analysis, are more than merely poetic devices; they encompass the cognitive structures behind

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emotion conceptualization. Because of shared cognitive frameworks that link abstract feelings to real events, metaphors of love as a "journey" and a "fire" resonate globally. These cognitive processes traverse linguistic and cultural boundaries, indicating that particular metaphors reflect features of human emotional experience that are universally understood across cultures.

On the other hand, the study indicated that cultural norms, values, and beliefs enrich and contextualize the universal emotional resonances found in these metaphors. Proverbs depicting love originated as cultural mirrors, reflecting nations' emotional priorities and relationship aspirations. The cultural variance in familial and romantic love proverbs highlights the dynamic connection between emotional emotions and cultural context. By recording emotions within culturally relevant contexts, this strategy showed how language both preserves and changes cultural identity (Spellerberg, 2022). The combination of these approaches has revealed how idiomatic expressions transcend language boundaries, acting as intricate portals to the common human experience of emotions (Phuong, 2023). The analysis discloses the cognitive architecture of emotions, but the method reveals the cultural and emotional nuances that add richness to these expressions. They highlight that language, culture, and emotions are inextricably linked, with each affecting and enhancing the others.

In the end, the interplay of language, culture, and emotions, as shown by the merger of CSA and the QM, provides a lens through which to examine the depths of human experience. These discoveries deepen our understanding of how love-related idiomatic expressions bridge the gap between abstract feelings and real communication, exposing the delicate fabric that connects us as humans across linguistic, cultural, and emotional boundaries.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study delves into the intricate interplay between language, culture, and human emotions, as in love-related idiomatic expressions within English proverbs. The integration of CSA and the QM has provided a comprehensive and enriched understanding of the cognitive structures, cultural nuances, and emotional connotations that shape the portrayal of affection within these linguistic artefacts. The study's findings underscore the enduring significance of idiomatic expressions in communicating complex emotions. The analysis has revealed the cognitive underpinnings that enable humans to conceptualize abstract emotions through tangible experiences. At the same time, the method has showcased how culture imbues these expressions with distinct values, norms, and emotional resonances. The integration of these methodologies underscores that love-related proverbs transcend mere linguistic constructs, serving as portals into the human experience of emotions and the diverse ways they are contextualized.

It is essential to acknowledge the limitations of this research, however, as interpretations of metaphors and emotional connotations may be subjective to some degree. Furthermore, the scope of the study has been limited to English proverbs, and the findings may need to fully capture the nuances of emotions and cultural values present in other languages and cultural contexts. Building upon the foundation laid by this study, several intriguing avenues for future research emerge: (a) extending the analysis to other languages and cultural contexts would offer a comparative lens, revealing how love is conceptualized and represented across diverse linguistic landscapes; (b) longitudinal studies could explore how the portrayal of love in proverbs evolves, reflecting shifting cultural norms and emotional priorities; and (c) investigating the impact of these proverbs on contemporary society's perception of love could shed light on the enduring relevance of these linguistic expressions.

This study contributes to linguistics, cultural studies, and emotion research by unravelling the intricate relationship between language, culture, and human emotions. Interdisciplinary approaches are crucial in gaining a holistic understanding of complex human phenomena. Through the lens of idiomatic expressions, we are reminded of how language serves as a vessel for the essence of human emotions, enabling connections across time, culture, and geographic boundaries. In conclusion, this study highlights that idiomatic expressions are not mere linguistic curiosities but reflections of our shared humanity, encapsulating the diverse facets of love and its intricate connection to language, culture, and the human heart. Exploring idiomatic expressions remains a captivating journey that enriches our understanding of the essence at the core of human connection—love.

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