N. S. Ilyushenko
Belorussian State University

REALIZATION OF THE METAPHORIC BACKGROUND OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL THEORIES: DIALOG BETWEEN DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

1. Metaphor is not just a method of a text decoration, it is also a method of cognition. A metaphor is usually associated with an expressive means of language as it is often distinguished in poetics or rhetoric. Such approach reduces its functions only to one, that of a text decoration. This idea is explained by the assumption that metaphors make philosophical categories ambiguous. But today the attempts to avoid metaphors in philosophical dis-

course are recognized as invalid ones. Because even the philosophers who deny fruitful use of metaphors in the process of cognition make use of them. For example, Francis Bacon used such metaphors as "idols of theatre" in his investigation of different obstacles in the way of attainment of truth. This metaphor helped him to explain the nature of these obstacles.

2. The main categories of philosophical schools have metaphorical nature and work in accordance with a principle of analogy. Every philosophical theory is based on a set of its main categories. The way the categories become existing is the way of searching for analogies between our actual and past experience. If we face something that is unknown to us, we look back over our past experience for some analogous situations which might be applicable to the problem. So we search for explanatory analogies and based on them produce some hypothesis. If the explanatory analogies prove successful, they start working as main categories of a philosophical school.

3. The realization of the metaphoric background of philosophical categories can help organize the dialog between different philosophical schools. After explanatory metaphors become categories, the philosophers of the school begin to perceive the reality as it is structured by them. That's why it's hard for representatives of different philosophical approaches to understand each other. They will always explain their experience in the terms constructed by way of producing their analogies and extrapolating them to all reality. And very often different philosophical schools can't understand each other because of different metaphors they are based on. The realization of the metaphoric background of the philosophical theories might be fruitful for finding a common existential background for different schools, stopping the useless arguments and claims to hold the absolute truth and building an integrative model of reality in dialog of all philosophical approaches.