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## **Idiomaticity of Animal Terms in English**

### **DIPLOMOVÁ PRÁCE**

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„Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto diplomovou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla úplný seznam citované a použité literatury.“

V Olomouci dne 14. 8. 2012

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

This master thesis will examine the meaning shifts that animal terms may undergo, sometimes called “metaphoric transfer” (Leech 1974, 223). More specifically, it will investigate which of these terms can be used in reference to humans. A systematic comparison of the metaphorical usage of these terms with similes containing animal terms might eventually shed some light on the often stated argument that a metaphor is a shortened simile (Čermák and Filipec 1984, 111).

In particular, this thesis will examine three main research questions. First, whether the animal terms differ in the stability of the similes in which they appear. Second, if a metaphor is a shortened simile (Čermák and Filipec 1984, 111). Then the metaphorical sense of the animal terms defined in the dictionaries should correspond with the characteristics of the animal terms presented in the similes using the terms. Third, whether the metaphorical transfer of the animal terms depends on the modification of the animal terms in the similes.

The structure of my work is as follows: in the first part of the thesis I will provide the theoretical background for the analysis conducted in the practical part. I will focus my attention on the views on metaphor in a broader context. The definitions of metaphor by Peprník (1998, 28) and Cruse (1986, 41), and types of metaphor distinguished by Galperin (1971, 137) and Leech (1974, 214) will be presented. Then I will summarise the definition of simile by Galperin (1971, 164), and types of simile recognized by Croft and Cruse (2004, 211). The formal structure of simile as opposed to the structure of metaphor will be discussed drawing on Lipka (2002, 138), Leech (1969, 151), Filipec and Čermák (1984, 217) as the principal sources. Consequently, the relation between metaphor and simile will be introduced, using Galperin (1971, 138), Croft and Cruse (2004, 211) as the fundamental views. Finally, the relation between metaphor and simile will be presented.

The first part of the data analysis will continue in the research conducted in Bakalová (2008). I will present similes containing expressions denoting

animals in contemporary British English. The aim will be to examine similes following the semantic structure comparandum – relator – (tertium comparationis) – comparator – comparatum (Čermák and Filipec 1984, 217), in which the “comparandum” refers to humans and “comparatum” to animals.

The objective will be to examine the frequency of the particular similes, to investigate the influence of the frequency of the particular simile on the overall frequency of the animal term in similes and to classify the animal terms according to stability or novelty of the similes in which they appear. For this purpose, methods of mathematics and mathematical statistics will be applied. More specifically, I will investigate the coefficients and the average tempo of growth of the number of similes using a particular animal term.

The second part of the analysis will examine the metaphorical usage of the particular animal terms. It will investigate definitions of the animal terms in English-to-English dictionaries. The metaphorical sense of the animal terms will be then compared to the similes retrieved from the BNC, and, in order to confirm or invalidate the hypothesis that a metaphor is a shortened simile, the correspondence between the metaphors and the similes will be evaluated.

Finally, I will present the influence of the number of modifiers of the animal terms in the similes on the metaphorical transfer of the animal terms, and tendencies in the usage of premodifiers and postmodifiers of the animal terms in the similes will be suggested.

## 2 THE THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Views on metaphor

Since Aristotle, metaphor has commonly been understood as a figure of speech, a stylistic device used solely in poetry and poetic language, distant from ordinary language. As Lakoff points out, in “classical theories of language, metaphor was seen as a matter of language, not thought. Metaphorical expressions were assumed to be mutually exclusive with the realm of ordinary everyday language: everyday language had no metaphor, and metaphor used mechanisms outside the realm of everyday conventional language” (1979, 202). However, with the publication of Ortony’s (1979) *Metaphor and Thought* in the late seventies and *Metaphor we live by* published by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) a year later, the view on metaphor was changing from a matter of language to a matter of thought. Since then, metaphor has been proved to be of considerable significance in relation to everyday conversation. As Crystal in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language* concludes, “metaphor plays a major role in structuring the way we think about the world, though most of these everyday metaphors go unnoticed” (1995, 421). Geary confirms the view of metaphor as a matter of thought, as he points out that we “utter about six metaphors a minute. Metaphorical thinking is essential to how we understand ourselves and others, how we communicate, learn, discover and invent. . . . Whenever we deal with anything abstract – ideas, emotions, feelings, concepts, thoughts – we inevitably resort to metaphor” (2009).

Therefore, metaphor has lately become of great interest not only to sociolinguists, e.g. Baider and Gesuato (2003), but also to cognitive psychologists, e.g. Coney and Lang (2006), Sommer and Sommer (2011), Haslam, Loughnan and Sun (2011) and social psychologists, e.g. Landau, Meier and Keefer (2010). However, anthropologists, e.g. Beck (1978), and psychologists, e.g. Vosniadou (1987), have been interested in metaphor even earlier.

For the sake of my research question, in the following section of the theoretical part of the thesis I will be interested in the traditional view of metaphor.

## **2.2 Metaphor**

### ***2.2.1 Definitions of metaphor***

According to the traditional view, metaphor is defined as “a transfer of meaning on the basis of exterior features” (Peprník 1998, 28), which includes the resemblance in shape, colour, function, location, extent. The transfer of meaning is understood as a type of changes of meaning, more specifically, as a change of referent. Besides metaphor, the transfer of meaning includes also metonymy and synecdoche (Peprník 1998, 27).

In his definition of metaphor, Cruse stresses the point that “a metaphor induces the hearer (or reader) to view a thing, state of affairs, or whatever, as being like something else, by applying to the former linguistic expressions which are more normally employed in references to the latter” (1986, 41).

Unlike a common statement about metaphor which reads that “in a metaphor the meaning of at least one term has changed, and a metaphor taken literally is false” (Cohen 1976, 249), neither of the definitions above mentions literal and figurative meaning of a metaphorical statement. However, Cohen, in accordance with Croft and Cruse (2004, 206), who use the terms anomalousness and deviance instead of falsity, disproves the formulation by the following account:

The statement ‘x is F’ is false. But this can be a sign that ‘F’ is being used figuratively, and we then realize that ‘F’ is not being used with its customary meaning (call that  $F_L$ ), but with a different, metaphorical, meaning ( $F_M$ ). Thus we come to understand ‘x is F’ not as meaning that x is  $F_L$ , which is false, but as meaning that x is  $F_M$ , which is true. (1976, 249)

However, it cannot be true that “ $F_L$  and  $F_M$  are only two different and unrelated meanings of ‘F’”. If we thought so, we would lose the distinction between terms



used metaphorically and terms which are ambiguous” (Cohen 1976, 249). Cohen (1976, 249) illustrates his point by examples stated in (1), where the term *bank* appears with two different meanings, as opposed to (2), in which  $F_L$  and  $F_M$  of the term *pig* are related:

- (1a) The First National is a bank.
- (1b) The side of the Mississippi is a bank.
  
- (2a) Porky is a pig.
- (2b) Smith is a pig.

### 2.2.2 *Types of metaphor*

Galperin classifies metaphors according to the degree of unexpectedness into *genuine* metaphors, which are absolutely unexpected and unpredictable, and *trite/dead* metaphors, which are “commonly used in speech and therefore are sometimes even fixed in dictionaries as expressive means of language” (1971, 137). The cases when the metaphoric use of a word expels the source meaning are described as dead metaphors. Sometimes, trite metaphors are “injected with new vigour, i.e. their primary meaning is re-established alongside the new (derivative) meaning . . . [by] supplying the central image created by the metaphor with additional words bearing some reference to the main word” (Galperin 1971, 138). These metaphors are called *prolonged* or *sustained*. As Galperin points out, “there is constant interaction between genuine and trite metaphors” (1971, 139). Through frequent repetition, genuine metaphors become predictable – trite, and trite metaphors regain freshness by prolongation of the metaphor.

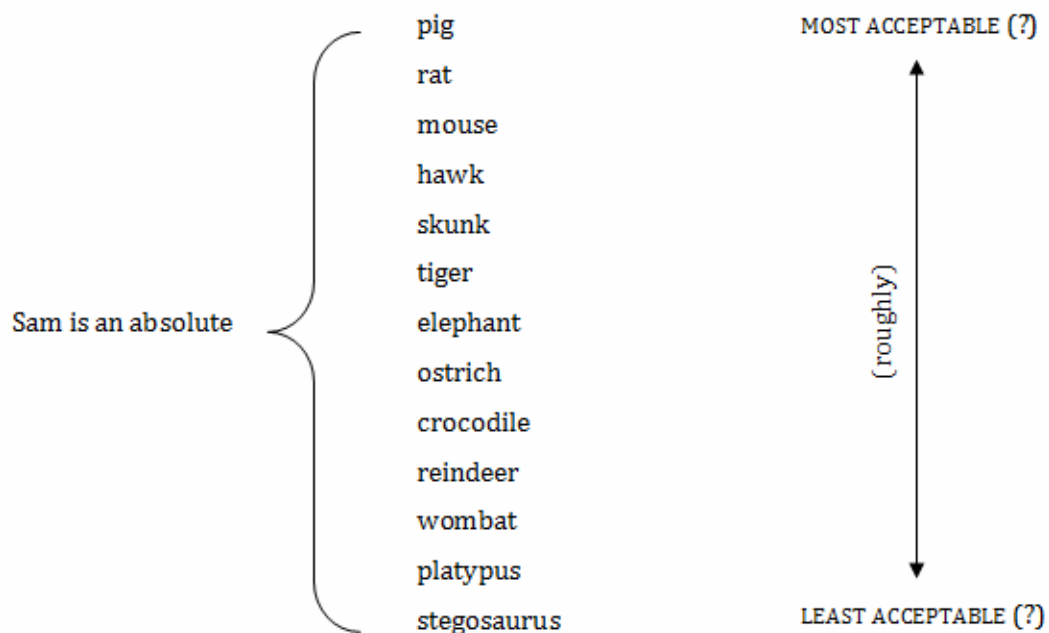
In accordance with Galperin, Leech (1974, 214) uses the term *dead metaphor* for metaphors which have assimilated as separate definitions of the particular words. He describes the process by which metaphor becomes dead as follows:

[T]he first stage . . . is that the reference and ground of the comparison become limited by convention; in that, for example, *a fox* is ‘a person who is like a fox in

*that he is cunning*' as opposed, say, to 'an animal which is like a fox in that it has a pointed nose'. A further stage is reached when the transferred definition loses its analogical feeling, so that *fox* is felt to be virtually synonymous with *a cunning man*. But even at this stage, a feeling of the link between the literal and transferred meanings may persist. The stage of absolute 'deadness' is reached only when the literal meaning has died out entirely . . . or else, when the literal and transferred meaning have diverged psychologically to the extent that no connection is felt between them any more. (Leech 1974, 227)

For the sake of my research question, Picture 1 seems especially interesting. It illustrates "degrees in the assimilation of a figurative meaning" of animal terms (Leech 1974, 214):

**Picture 1: Metaphorical application of animal terms to human beings**



(Leech 1974, 214)

## 2.3 Simile

### 2.3.1 Definitions of simile

Unlike metaphor, definitions of simile are relatively rare. Moreover, some linguists confuse simile with comparison, e.g. Rajevskaja (1957, 145), Swan (1980, 75), apparently because of the similar structure, in which the same formal elements are used, i.e. “connective words such as *like, as, such as, as if, seem*” (Galperin 1971, 165).

In my thesis, I employ Galperin’s approach to simile, which defines simile in relation to comparison as follows:

Comparison means weighing two object belonging to one class of things with the purpose of establishing the degree of their sameness or difference. To use a simile is to characterize one object by bringing it into contact with another object belonging to an entirely different class of things. Comparison takes into consideration all the properties of the two objects, stressing the one that is compared. Simile excludes all the properties of the two objects except one which is made common to them. (Galperin 1971, 164)

For example, sentence (3) is an instance of ordinary comparison, because *boy* and *mother* are both human beings, and so they belong to the same class of objects.

(3) *The boy seems to be as clever as his mother.*

However, (4) is an example of simile, because *maidens* and *moths* belong to different classes of objects<sup>1</sup>.

(4) *Maidens, like moths, are ever caught by glare.* (Byron)

Galperin stresses the point that “of the two concepts brought together in the simile – one characterized (*maidens*), and the other characterizing (*moths*) – the feature intensified will be more inherent in the latter than in the former.

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<sup>1</sup> Examples (3) and (4) are taken from Galperin (1971, 164).

Moreover, the object characterized is seen in quite a new and unexpected light, because the writer . . . imposes this feature on it" (Galperin 1971, 164).

Croft and Cruse (2004, 211) distinguish two types of similes – similes proper and statements of similarity. According to terminology adopted in the thesis, the latter type of similes should be called simply comparisons. The difference between the two types is in their transformation into metaphors. If an expression readily transforms into metaphor, it is an instance of simile (5), if not, it is a statement of similarity (comparison) (6).

(5a) John is like a lion.

(5b) John is a lion.

(6a) My house is like yours.

(6b) \*My house is yours.

(Croft and Cruse 2004, 211)

## 2.4 Metaphor and simile

### 2.4.1 The structure of metaphor and simile

As Leech points out, "every metaphor is implicitly of the form 'X is like Y in respect of Z', where X is the tenor, Y the vehicle, and Z the ground" (1969, 151). Lipka (2002, 138) illustrates the terms *tenor* (X) and *vehicle* (Y) by the following examples:

(7a) X            Y  
*Life is a walking shadow*

(7b) *A human elephant*  
X            Y

Reading (7b) so that *elephant* is figurative, the *ground* (Z) might be clumsiness or long memory.

According to Leech (1969, 151) quoted in Lipka (2002, 138), the major difference between metaphors and similes is the fact that in similes like (8), *tenor*, *vehicle* and *ground* are all explicitly mentioned:

(8) *His face was as white as a sheet*  
X                      Y              Z

As opposed to Leech and Lipka, Filipec and Čermák (1984, 217) describe the structure of similes as follows:

comparandum – relator – (*tertium comparationis*) – comparator – comparatum.

In this semantic structure, *comparandum* is the referent, *relator* is usually expressed by a verb, *tertium comparationis* is the feature which is similar for both the comparandum and the comparatum and which explicitly expresses the similarity, *comparator* is a formal sign of the similarity, and *comparatum* is the model which is being referred to.

For example, in (9) and (10), *he/she* is the comparandum, *to drink/to be* is the relator, *strong* is the *tertium comparationis*, *like/as* is the comparator, *a fish/a horse* is the comparatum.

(9) *He drinks like a fish.*

(10) *She is strong as a horse.*

#### **2.4.2 The relation of metaphor to simile**

Most linguists accept the statement that a metaphor is a shortened simile, e.g. Peprník (1998, 28). Pavelka (1982, 101) speaks of a ‘condensed’ simile, Galperin (1971, 138) uses the term ‘compressed’ instead. However, it seems that as soon as the linguists start to investigate the relation between metaphor and simile in detail, they find out that the statement is not precise. As Filipec and Čermák (1984, 111) point out, metaphor is sometimes understood

as a shortened simile. However, metaphor and simile concern two separate expressions of language creativity.

Even Galperin concludes that the definition of metaphor as a compressed simile “lacks precision. Moreover, it is misleading, inasmuch as the metaphor aims at identifying the objects, while the simile aims at finding some point of resemblance by keeping the objects apart. That is why these two stylistic devices are viewed as belonging to two different groups . . . They are different in their linguistic nature” (Galperin 1971, 138-139).

Croft and Cruse (2004, 211) present three theories of the relation between simile and metaphor. The classical view declares that metaphors are implicit similes:

To understand a metaphor (which is prototypically false on a literal interpretation) we first transform it into the corresponding simile, which, if the metaphor is valid one, will prototypically be true. On this view, the simile gives a more direct picture of the semantic structure of the expression; the metaphor is to be seen as a kind of shorthand. Otherwise there is no substantive difference between the two. (Croft and Cruse 2004, 211-212)

The second theory reads that similes are implicit metaphors:

Let us designate the literal meaning of a term as  $X$  and its supercategory  $X'$ . A metaphor then has the general form  $A$  is  $X'$ , while a simile has the general form  $A$  is like  $X$ . A simile is interpreted, on this view, by translating it into a metaphor, that is, interpreting  $X$  as  $X'$ , reconstructing the supercategory, and applying its defining features to  $A$ . (Croft and Cruse 2004, 212)

The third theory, similes and metaphors are distinct, claims that “metaphors and similes are prototypically distinct, even though both involve two distinct domains. However, the difference in meaning between a metaphor and its corresponding simile (in cases where there is an equivalent) varies according to context and according to type of both simile and metaphor” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 212).

According to the third theory, the first difference is in “propositional structure. An expression of the form *A is like B* asserts that there is a resemblance between A and B in some respect. An expression of the form *A is B*, on the other hand, predicates certain properties directly of A” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 212).

The second difference concerns “the scope of correspondence between the two domains” (Croft and Cruse 2004, 212). Croft and Cruse use the terms *restricted* and *open mapping* between the two domains. Restricted mapping relates especially to simile that is not prototypical, and is defined as “a specification of the respect in which the resemblance holds, without which a proper interpretation is not possible. . . . In contrast, in prototypical metaphors, the correspondences between the domains do not form a closed set, and cannot be exhaustively listed” (Croft 2004, 213). This is the case of open mapping between the two domains.

The third difference suggests that “in a prototypical metaphor, what is presented is a blend of two domains, whereas in a simile, the two domains are presented as separate. In a simile, we are certainly invited to consider the two domains together, but they are presented as distinct” (Croft 2004, 213).

### 3 DATA ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Similes in the BNC

##### 3.1.1 Frequency of the particular similes

Table 1 lists similes containing animal terms retrieved from the BNC in Bakalová (2008), in which the research was restricted to the structure *like* or *as* followed by nouns denoting particular animals in the singular and the plural form in the span of four words (*like/as* + determiner + adjective + animal term), preceded by a lexical verb (relator), e. g. *drink like a fish*, or by the verb *to be* followed by an adjective (tertium comparationis), e. g. *to be strong as a horse*, *to be poor as a church mouse*. By this method, 1936 similes were retrieved.

The similes are listed according to the frequency of their occurrence in descending order (with the minimum of 2 instances). The similes with the same number of occurrence are further ordered alphabetically according to the relator / tertium comparationis. For better clarity, the similes are colour-coded: those containing a lexical verb as the relator are violet, similes comprised of an adjective in the function of the tertium comparationis are blue.

**Table 1: Frequency of the particular similes**

<i>take to sth.</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	duck	19	<i>quiet</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	mouse	6
<i>poor</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	mouse	12	<i>shake oneself</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	6
<i>fight</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	11	<i>strong</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	ox	6
<i>grin</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	11	<i>behave</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	5
<i>die</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	9	<i>blind</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	bat	5
<i>drink</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	9	<i>buck</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	5
<i>swim</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	9	<i>cluck</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	hen	5
<i>treat sb./sth.</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	9	<i>drop</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	5
<i>sweat</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	8	<i>fight</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	tiger	5
<i>buzz</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	bee	7	<i>gentle</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	lamb	5
<i>howl</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	7	<i>howl</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	wolf	5
<i>run around</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	7	<i>pace</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	5
<i>strong</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	horse	7	<i>slippery</i>	<i>as a/an</i>	eel	5
<i>behave</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	6	<i>smile</i>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	5



<b>work</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	5	<b>kill</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	3
<b>act</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	4	<b>lick</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	3
<b>cling</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	limpet	4	<b>meek</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	lamb	3
<b>curl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	4	<b>nervous</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	kitten	3
<b>dress</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	lamb	4	<b>pack</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	sardine	3
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	4	<b>pack in</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	sardine	3
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	4	<b>pant</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	3
<b>fight</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	lion	4	<b>play</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	3
<b>float</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	butterfly	4	<b>play</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	3
<b>follow sb.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	4	<b>prowl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	panther	3
<b>follow sb.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	sheep	4	<b>rush</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bull	3
<b>go</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	lamb	4	<b>scream</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	3
<b>jump</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	4	<b>scuttle</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	3
<b>light</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	butterfly	4	<b>shake one's</b>			
<b>live</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	4	<b>head</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	3
<b>purr</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	4	<b>sit</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	3
<b>scurry</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	ant	4	<b>stare</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	3
<b>snug</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	bug	4	<b>sting</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bee	3
<b>treat sb./sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	4	<b>strong</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	bull	3
<b>weak</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	kitten	4	<b>stubborn</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	mule	3
<b>work</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	beaver	4	<b>swarm</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bee	3
<b>attract sb.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bee	3	<b>take sb./sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	lamb	3
<b>cling</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	leech	3	<b>truss</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	3
<b>eat</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	3	<b>uncoil</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	snake	3
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	3	<b>wriggle</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	eel	3
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	3	<b>cry</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>fuss</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	hen	3	<b>lash out</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>go together</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	3	<b>look about</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>grunt</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	3	<b>look around</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>hang</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	spider	3	<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>happy</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	pig	3	<b>turn</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	2
<b>hop</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	3	<b>crawl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	ant	2
<b>howl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	3	<b>swarm</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	ant	2
<b>hunt down</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	animal	3	<b>grin</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	ape	2
<b>jump</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	flea	3	<b>go</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bat	2
<b>jumpy</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	cat	3	<b>behave</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bear	2

<b>growl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bear	2	<b>go down</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	2
<b>act</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bull	2	<b>pin</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	2
<b>go at sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bull	2	<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fox	2
<b>charge</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	bull	2	<b>swell up</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	frog	2
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	butterfly	2	<b>butt sb.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	goat	2
<b>pin</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	butterfly	2	<b>climb</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	goat	2
<b>touch</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	butterfly	2	<b>leap</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	goat	2
<b>arch</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	goat	2
<b>come + adv</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	hare	2
<b>jump</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>act</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	hedgehog	2
<b>land</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>act</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	2
<b>lap sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>drink</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	2
<b>spit</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>eat</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	2
<b>spring</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>go through</b>			
<b>stretch out</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	2
<b>watch</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>shy away</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	horse	2
<b>yawn</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cat	2	<b>hang</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	2
<b>strut</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	cock	2	<b>hold sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	2
<b>scuttle</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	crab	2	<b>rush</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	2
<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	deer	2	<b>truss up</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	chicken	2
<b>attack</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>purr</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	kitten	2
<b>crouch</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>lead</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	lamb	2
<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>pace</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	lion	2
<b>shoot sb. down</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>feel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	moth	2
<b>smell</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>flit</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	moth	2
<b>snarl</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>sit</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	mouse	2
<b>trot</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>eat</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	2
<b>turn</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dog	2	<b>make a noise</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	2
<b>dive</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	dolphin	2	<b>squeal</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	2
<b>take to sth.</b>	<i>as a/an</i>	duck	2	<b>yell</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	pig	2
<b>hold sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	2	<b>whimper</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	puppy	2
<b>reel</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	2	<b>catch (pass.)</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	2
<b>take to sth.</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fish	2	<b>run</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	2
<b>breed</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	2	<b>stand</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	2
<b>brush</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	2	<b>stare</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rabbit	2
<b>buzz</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	fly	2	<b>behave</b>	<i>like a/an</i>	rat	2

<i>catch</i> (pass.)	like a/an	rat	2	<i>tense</i>	as a/an	cat	2
<i>feel</i>	like a/an	rat	2	<i>fit</i>	as a/an	flea	2
<i>scuttle</i>	like a/an	rat	2	<i>cunning</i>	as a/an	fox	2
<i>cram</i> (pass.)	like a/an	sardine	2	<i>sly</i>	as a/an	fox	2
<i>wind</i>	like a/an	serpent	2	<i>mad</i>	like a/an	hare	2
<i>grin</i>	like a/an	shark	2	<i>innocent</i>	as a/an	lamb	2
<i>bleat</i>	like a/an	sheep	2	<i>quiet</i>	as a/an	lamb	2
<i>go astray</i>	like a/an	sheep	2	<i>quick</i>	as a/an	monkey	2
<i>treat sb./sth.</i>	like a/an	sheep	2	<i>small</i>	as a/an	mouse	2
<i>drive</i>	like a/an	snail	2	<i>big</i>	as a/an	ox	2
<i>writhe</i>	like a/an	snake	2	<i>fat</i>	as a/an	pig	2
<i>sit</i>	like a/an	spider	2	<i>stubborn</i>	as a/an	pig	2
<i>purr</i>	like a/an	tiger	2	<i>helpless</i>	like a/an	sheep	2
<i>smug</i>	as a/an	cat	2	<i>blind</i>	like a/an	worm	2

As we can see, some similes containing a particular animal term are more frequent than others, e.g. the simile *to be poor as a mouse* was found twelve times, while *to be small as a mouse* just twice. Moreover, there are animal terms which appear in one simile only, but the simile appears several times, e.g. the animal term *beaver* is always connected with the relator *to work* in the simile *to work like a beaver*, which was retrieved in four instances. On the other hand, there are animal terms which are generally widely used in similes, even though the particular similes appear just once, e.g. the noun *elephant* appears in 15 different similes, but each of them is used only once<sup>2</sup>.

Since the similes using a particular animal term differ in the frequency of their usage, it follows that we can distinguish similes which are considerably stable and bound, and similes which are fresh, unstable, ad hoc.

To find out whether the overall frequency of the particular animal terms is influenced by the number of instances of the same simile in which the animal term occurs, I analysed the numbers presented in Table 2. Its first column shows the total number of tokens of the similes using a particular animal term which appear at least five times. The number in brackets presents the number of the particular similes which appear at least five times. For instance, there are

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<sup>2</sup> As there are 1123 similes which appeared just once, they are not stated in Table 1.

three similes using the animal term *cat* which appear in more than five tokens: *to fight like a cat* (11 tokens), *to grin like a cat* (11 tokens), *to smile like a cat* (5 tokens), which is 27 tokens altogether. The numbers in the following columns include the number listed in the preceding column. As there are 27 tokens of the similes which appear more than five times and 35 tokens of the similes which appear more than four times, the difference is 8 tokens. That means that there are 8 tokens of two similes which appear just four times: *to curl like a cat* (4 tokens), *to purr like a cat* (4 tokens). The last column presents the overall number of tokens with the particular animal terms. The highlighted animal terms are those which do not appear in the previous column. It follows that the similes containing the animal terms highlighted in bright yellow are not as stable as the similes using the animal terms from the previous column, however, they are used in a wide variety of similes.

**Table 2: The influence of the frequency of the particular simile on the overall frequency of the animal term in similes**

5 and more tokens of the same simile	4 and more tokens of the same simile	3 and more tokens of the same simile	2 and more tokens of the same simile	at least one token of the simile
cat 27 (3)	cat 35 (5)	cat 50 (10)	cat 74 (22)	cat 154 (102)
animal 20 (3)	animal 32 (6)	animal 47 (11)	animal 59 (17)	animal 136 (94)
duck 19 (1)	dog 26 (5)	dog 41 (10)	dog 57 (18)	dog 133 (94)
dog 18 (3)	duck 19 (1)	fish 24 (4)	fish 30 (7)	fish 64 (41)
fish 18 (2)	fish 18 (2)	duck 19 (1)	pig 28 (9)	horse 58 (41)
mouse 18 (2)	mouse 18 (2)	mouse 18 (2)	horse 25 (8)	rabbit 57 (43)
fly 14 (2)	fly 14 (2)	bee 16 (4)	lamb 25 (10)	fly 56 (39)
pig 13 (2)	pig 13 (2)	pig 16 (3)	fly 24 (7)	pig 52 (33)
horse 12 (2)	horse 12 (2)	horse 15 (3)	mouse 22 (4)	butterfly 40 (31)
bee 7 (1)	lamb 9 (2)	lamb 15 (5)	duck 21 (2)	duck 35 (16)
chicken 7 (1)	butterfly 8 (2)	fly 14 (2)	rabbit 21 (8)	mouse 34 (16)
ox 6 (1)	rabbit 8 (2)	rabbit 11 (3)	chicken 18 (6)	lamb 32 (15)

bat	5 (1)	bee	7 (1)	chicken	10 (2)	bee	16 (4)	bee	31 (19)
eel	5 (1)	chicken	7 (1)	butterfly	8 (2)	butterfly	14 (5)	snake	31 (28)
hen	5 (1)	ox	6 (1)	eel	8 (2)	bull	12 (5)	rat	28 (24)
lamb	5 (1)	bat	5 (1)	hen	8 (2)	sheep	12 (5)	sheep	27 (20)
tiger	5 (1)	eel	5 (1)	kitten	7 (2)	kitten	9 (3)	lion	26 (22)
wolf	5 (1)	hen	5 (1)	bull	6 (2)	ant	8 (3)	chicken	25 (13)
		tiger	5 (1)	sardine	6 (2)	eel	8 (2)	bear	23 (21)
		wolf	5 (1)	ox	6 (1)	goat	8 (4)	hen	23 (17)
		ant	4 (1)	bat	5 (1)	hen	8 (2)	bull	22 (15)
		beaver	4 (1)	tiger	5 (1)	ox	8 (2)	monkey	22 (21)
		bug	4 (1)	wolf	5 (1)	rat	8 (4)	bat	21 (16)
		kitten	4 (1)	ant	4 (1)	sardine	8 (3)	fox	21 (18)
		limpet	4 (1)	beaver	4 (1)	bat	7 (2)	puppy	21 (20)
		lion	4 (1)	bug	4 (1)	tiger	7 (2)	hare	19 (17)
		sheep	4 (1)	limpet	4 (1)	fox	6 (3)	tiger	19 (14)
				lion	4 (1)	lion	6 (2)	spider	18 (15)
				sheep	4 (1)	flea	5 (2)	wolf	18 (14)
				flea	3 (1)	snake	5 (2)	moth	17 (15)
				leech	3 (1)	spider	5 (2)	ant	16 (11)
				mule	3 (1)	wolf	5 (1)	eel	16 (10)
				panther	3 (1)	bear	4 (2)	goat	16 (12)
				snake	3 (1)	beaver	4 (1)	kitten	16 (10)
				spider	3 (1)	bug	4 (1)	ox	16 (10)
						hare	4 (2)	elephant	15 (15)
						limpet	4 (1)	limpet	14 (11)
						moth	4 (2)	dragon	13 (13)

leech	3 (1)	seal	13 (13)
mule	3 (1)	snail	12 (11)
panther	3 (1)	whale	12 (12)
ape	2 (1)	crab	11 (10)
cock	2 (1)	donkey	11 (11)
crab	2 (1)	sardine	11 (6)
deer	2 (1)	dolphin	10 (9)
dolphin	2 (1)	flea	10 (7)
frog	2 (1)	leech	10 (8)
hedgehog	2 (1)	panther	10 (8)
monkey	2 (1)	worm	10 (9)
puppy	2 (1)	serpent	9 (8)
serpent	2 (1)	squirrel	9 (9)
shark	2 (1)	wasp	9 (9)
snail	2 (1)	deer	8 (7)
worm	2 (1)	frog	8 (7)
		tortoise	8 (8)

<b>at least one token of the simile - continuation</b>	
bug	7 (4)
hedgehog	7 (6)
lizard	7 (7)
mule	7 (5)
shark	7 (6)
cock	6 (5)
cow	6 (6)
ferret	6 (6)
lemming	6 (6)
lioness	6 (6)
mole	6 (6)
slug	5 (5)
beaver	4 (1)
hamster	4 (4)
hyena	4 (4)
mare	4 (4)
piglet	4 (4)
porcupine	4 (4)
reptile	4 (4)
sow	4 (4)

stag	4 (4)
toad	4 (4)
turtle	4 (4)
ape	3 (2)
camel	3 (3)
kangaroo	3 (3)
octopus	3 (3)
oyster	3 (3)
poodle	3 (3)
porpoise	3 (3)
vixen	3 (3)
badger	2 (2)
boar	2 (2)
brute	2 (2)
cricket	2 (2)
crocodile	2 (2)
cub	2 (2)
fawn	2 (2)
giraffe	2 (2)
herring	2 (2)
hippopota mus	2 (2)
chick	2 (2)

lobster	2 (2)
mackerel	2 (2)
otter	2 (2)
ram	2 (2)
rattlesnake	2 (2)
rhinoceros	2 (2)
rooster	2 (2)
skunk	2 (2)
stallion	2 (2)
bitch	1 (1)
cockroach	1 (1)
duckling	1 (1)
fry	1 (1)
chameleon	1 (1)
mosquito	1 (1)
nit	1 (1)
nymph	1 (1)
pit bull	1 (1)
rodent	1 (1)
swine	1 (1)

As the order of the animal terms in the columns of Table 2 remains, with few exceptions, unchanged, in general it can be concluded that the order of the animal terms according to the frequency of their usage is preserved despite the decreasing number of occurrence of the particular similes.

However, it is worth pointing out that e.g. the animal terms *elephant*, *dragon*, *seal*, *whale*, *donkey* occur in more than 10 similes, even though each of the similes appears only once, which means that they are novel, fresh ad hoc or adjusted similes. On the other hand, the animal terms like *duck*, *ox*, *tiger*, *wolf* are included in the similes which are often repeated, but the total number of the similes in which these animal terms appear is not as high as we would expect on grounds of direct proportion of the number of tokens of the same simile to the overall frequency of the animal term in similes noticeable in other animal terms.

### 3.1.2 Frequency of animal terms in similes

Table 3 states the frequency of occurrence of particular animal terms in the similes (out of the total of 1,751 similes). The animal term which is the most frequently used in the similes – *cat* appears in 154 of them, which is 8.8%. *Animal* is included in 7.8%, *dog* in 7.6% of the similes.

**Table 3: The number of tokens of similes using the particular animal term**

cat	154	snake	31	tiger	19
animal	136	rat	28	spider	18
dog	133	sheep	27	wolf	18
fish	64	lion	26	moth	17
horse	58	chicken	25	ant	16
rabbit	57	bear	23	eel	16
fly	56	hen	23	goat	16
pig	52	bull	22	kitten	16
butterfly	40	monkey	22	ox	16
duck	35	bat	21	elephant	15
mouse	34	fox	21	limpet	14
lamb	32	puppy	21	dragon	13
bee	31	hare	19	seal	13



snail	12
whale	12
crab	11
donkey	11
sardine	11
dolphin	10
flea	10
leech	10
panther	10
worm	10
serpent	9
squirrel	9
wasp	9
deer	8
frog	8
tortoise	8
bug	7
hedgehog	7
lizard	7
mule	7
shark	7
cock	6
cow	6
ferret	6
lemming	6
lioness	6

mole	6
slug	5
beaver	4
hamster	4
hyena	4
mare	4
piglet	4
porcupine	4
reptile	4
sow	4
stag	4
toad	4
turtle	4
ape	3
camel	3
kangaroo	3
octopus	3
oyster	3
poodle	3
porpoise	3
vixen	3
badger	2
boar	2
brute	2
cricket	2
crocodile	2

cub	2
fawn	2
giraffe	2
herring	2
hippopotamus	2
chick	2
lobster	2
mackerel	2
otter	2
ram	2
rattlesnake	2
rhinoceros	2
rooster	2
skunk	2
stallion	2
bitch	1
cockroach	1
duckling	1
fry	1
chameleon	1
mosquito	1
nit	1
nymph	1
pit bull	1
rodent	1
swine	1

To classify the animal terms according to the stability or novelty of the similes in which they appear, I compared the total number of the similes using the particular animal term and the number of the different similes using the animal term (Table 4). The animal terms are listed in descending order from the most stable to the most novel, freshest, ad hoc ones. The X column states the total number of occurrence of the animal term in similes, the Y column presents the number of different similes using the animal term, the Y/X column states the ratio of X to Y, which is a value ranging from 0 to 1, where the lower the number, the more stable the simile.

**Table 4: Animal terms according to novelty of similes**

<b>animal term</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y/X</b>
beaver	4	1	0.25
duck	35	16	0.46
lamb	32	15	0.47
mouse	34	16	0.47
chicken	25	13	0.52
sardine	11	6	0.55
bug	7	4	0.57
bee	31	19	0.61
eel	16	10	0.63
kitten	16	10	0.63
ox	16	10	0.63
pig	52	33	0.63
fish	64	41	0.64
cat	154	102	0.66
ape	3	2	0.67
bull	22	15	0.68
ant	16	11	0.69
animal	136	94	0.69
fly	56	39	0.70
flea	10	7	0.70
dog	133	94	0.71
horse	58	41	0.71
mule	7	5	0.71
tiger	19	14	0.74
hen	23	17	0.74
sheep	27	20	0.74
goat	16	12	0.75
rabbit	57	43	0.75
bat	21	16	0.76
butterfly	40	31	0.78
wolf	18	14	0.78
limpet	14	11	0.79
leech	10	8	0.80
panther	10	8	0.80
cock	6	5	0.83
spider	18	15	0.83
lion	26	22	0.85
fox	21	18	0.86
hedgehog	7	6	0.86
rat	28	24	0.86
shark	7	6	0.86
deer	8	7	0.88
frog	8	7	0.88
moth	17	15	0.88
serpent	9	8	0.89
hare	19	17	0.89
dolphin	10	9	0.90
worm	10	9	0.90
snake	31	28	0.90
crab	11	10	0.91
bear	23	21	0.91
snail	12	11	0.92
puppy	21	20	0.95
monkey	22	21	0.95
badger	2	2	1.00
bitch	1	1	1.00
boar	2	2	1.00
brute	2	2	1.00
camel	3	3	1.00
cock			
roach	1	1	1.00
cow	6	6	1.00
cricket	2	2	1.00
crocodile	2	2	1.00
cub	2	2	1.00
donkey	11	11	1.00
dragon	13	13	1.00
duckling	1	1	1.00
elephant	15	15	1.00
fawn	2	2	1.00

ferret	6	6	1.00
fry	1	1	1.00
giraffe	2	2	1.00
hamster	4	4	1.00
herring	2	2	1.00
hippopo tamus	2	2	1.00
hyena	4	4	1.00
chame leon	1	1	1.00
chick	2	2	1.00
kangaroo	3	3	1.00
lemming	6	6	1.00
lioness	6	6	1.00
lizard	7	7	1.00
lobster	2	2	1.00
mackerel	2	2	1.00
mare	4	4	1.00

mole	6	6	1.00
mosquito	1	1	1.00
nit	1	1	1.00
nymph	1	1	1.00
octopus	3	3	1.00
otter	2	2	1.00
oyster	3	3	1.00
piglet	4	4	1.00
pit bull	1	1	1.00
poodle	3	3	1.00
porcu pine	4	4	1.00
porpoise	3	3	1.00
ram	2	2	1.00
rattle snake	2	2	1.00
reptile	4	4	1.00
rhino ceros	2	2	1.00

rodent	1	1	1.00
rooster	2	2	1.00
seal	13	13	1.00
skunk	2	2	1.00
slug	5	5	1.00
sow	4	4	1.00
squirrel	9	9	1.00
stag	4	4	1.00
stallion	2	2	1.00
swine	1	1	1.00
toad	4	4	1.00
tortoise	8	8	1.00
turtle	4	4	1.00
vixen	3	3	1.00
wasp	9	9	1.00
whale	12	12	1.00

However, as Table 4 reflects only the overall numbers of the similes and animal terms, I intended to investigate whether the changes in numbers are gradual and continuous or not. Therefore I calculated the coefficients and the average tempo of growth of the number of similes using a particular animal term.

The coefficient of growth is a term used especially in mathematical statistics and economics for measurement of relative growth. It expresses the percentage by which the value of a dynamic time series has increased at the point  $t_i$  in comparison to the value of a dynamic time series at the point  $t_{i-1}$ . However, for the research purpose, a dynamic time series  $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_t, \dots, y_n$  (briefly  $y_t$ ),  $t = 1, 2, \dots, n$ , in which  $n$  is the length of the series, is extended to a dynamic series. Then, the coefficient of growth is defined as

$$k_t = \frac{y_t}{y_{t-1}}, t = 2, 3, \dots, n.$$

Consequently, the average coefficient of growth is

$$\bar{k} = n^{-1} \sqrt[n]{\prod_{t=2}^n k_t} = n^{-1} \sqrt[n]{\frac{y_n}{y_1}}$$

and the average tempo of growth is stated as  $100\bar{k}$ .<sup>3</sup>

In Table 5, the animal terms are listed in descending order according to the degree of stability of the similes using these animal terms. The animal terms which appear only in similes retrieved in one instance are not included in Table 5, because it is not possible to define their coefficients of growth and the tempo of growth. However, we can find them in Table 4 as the animal terms with the Y/X ratio equal to 1.00

A – similes which appear in at least 5 tokens of the same simile (29 most frequent similes)

B – similes which appear in at least 4 tokens of the same simile (49 most frequent similes)

C – similes which appear in at least 3 tokens of the same simile (88 most frequent similes)

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<sup>3</sup> For further information, see Hindls (2007), Hindls (1999), Minařík (2009).

D – similes which appear in at least 2 tokens of the same simile (198 most frequent similes)

E – similes which appear at least once (1321 different similes)

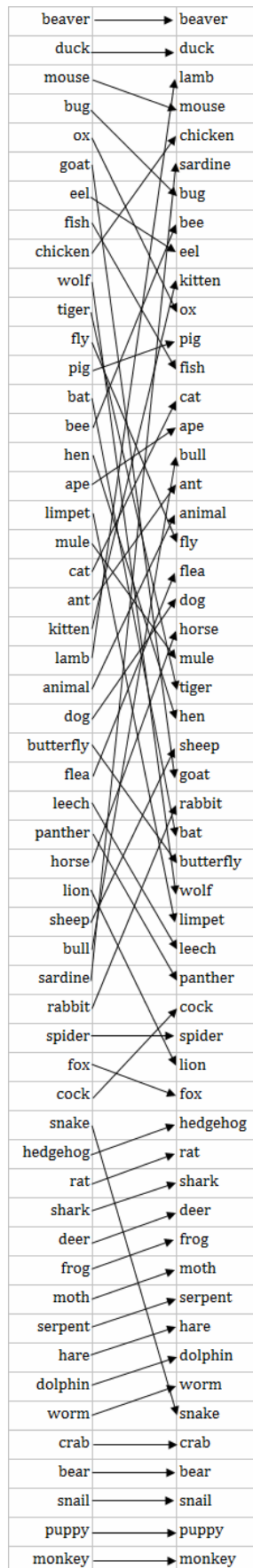
**Table 5: The average tempo of growth of the number of similes using a particular animal term**

animal term	A	B	C	D	E	coefficients of growth				average coefficient of growth	average tempo of growth (in %)
						B/A	C/B	D/C	E/D		
beaver		4	4	4	4		1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100.00
duck	19	19	19	21	35	1.00	1.00	1.11	1.67	1.17	116.50
mouse	18	18	18	22	34	1.00	1.00	1.22	1.55	1.17	117.23
bug		4	4	4	7		1.00	1.00	1.75	1.21	120.51
ox	6	6	6	8	16	1.00	1.00	1.33	2.00	1.28	127.79
goat				12	16				1.33	1.33	133.33
eel	5	5	8	8	16	1.00	1.60	1.00	2.00	1.34	133.75
sardine			6	8	11			1.33	1.38	1.35	135.40
fish	18	18	24	30	64	1.00	1.33	1.25	2.13	1.37	137.32
chicken	7	7	10	18	25	1.00	1.43	1.80	1.39	1.37	137.47
wolf	5	5	5	5	18	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.60	1.38	137.75
tiger	5	5	5	7	19	1.00	1.00	1.40	2.71	1.40	139.62
fly	14	14	14	24	56	1.00	1.00	1.71	2.33	1.41	141.42
pig	13	13	16	28	52	1.00	1.23	1.75	1.86	1.41	141.42
bat	5	5	5	7	21	1.00	1.00	1.40	3.00	1.43	143.16
bee	7	7	16	16	31	1.00	2.29	1.00	1.94	1.45	145.07
hen	5	5	8	8	23	1.00	1.60	1.00	2.88	1.46	146.45
horse	12	12	15	25	58	1.00	1.25	1.67	2.32	1.48	148.27
ape				2	3				1.50	1.50	150.00
limpet		4	4	4	14		1.00	1.00	3.50	1.52	151.83
mule			3	3	7			1.00	2.33	1.53	152.75
cat	27	35	50	74	154	1.30	1.43	1.48	2.08	1.55	154.54
ant		4	4	8	16		1.00	2.00	2.00	1.59	158.74
kitten		4	7	9	16		1.75	1.29	1.78	1.59	158.74
lamb	5	9	15	25	32	1.80	1.67	1.67	1.28	1.59	159.05

animal	20	32	47	59	136	1.60	1.47	1.26	2.31	1.61	161.48
dog	18	26	41	57	133	1.44	1.58	1.39	2.33	1.65	164.87
butterfly		8	8	14	40		1.00	1.75	2.86	1.71	171.00
flea			3	5	10			1.67	2.00	1.83	182.57
leech			3	3	10			1.00	3.33	1.83	182.57
panther			3	3	10			1.00	3.33	1.83	182.57
lion		4	4	6	26		1.00	1.50	4.33	1.87	186.63
sheep		4	4	12	27		1.00	3.00	2.25	1.89	188.99
bull			6	12	22			2.00	1.83	1.91	191.49
rabbit		8	11	21	57		1.38	1.91	2.71	1.92	192.43
spider			3	5	18			1.67	3.60	2.45	244.95
fox			8	21					2.63	2.63	262.50
cock			2	6					3.00	3.00	300.00
snake			3	5	31			1.67	6.20	3.21	321.46
hedgehog			2	7					3.50	3.50	350.00
rat			8	28					3.50	3.50	350.00
shark			2	7					3.50	3.50	350.00
deer			2	8					4.00	4.00	400.00
frog			2	8					4.00	4.00	400.00
moth			4	17					4.25	4.25	425.00
serpent			2	9					4.50	4.50	450.00
hare			4	19					4.75	4.75	475.00
dolphin			2	10					5.00	5.00	500.00
worm			2	10					5.00	5.00	500.00
crab			2	11					5.50	5.50	550.00
bear			4	23					5.75	5.75	575.00
snail			2	12					6.00	6.00	600.00
puppy			2	21					10.50	10.50	1050.00
monkey			2	22					11.00	11.00	1100.00

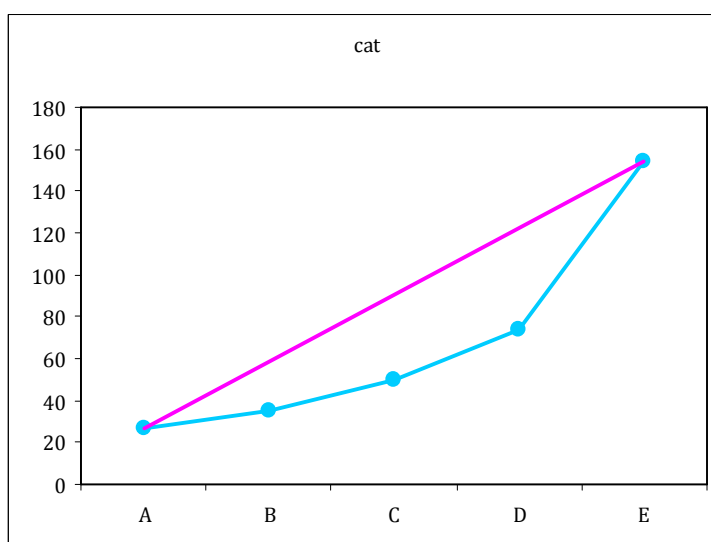
Chart 1 contrasts the order of the animal terms according to Table 4 (in the second column) and Table 5 (in the first column) and justifies the usage of two different approaches.

**Chart 1: Differences in the order of the animal terms according to Table 4 and Table 5**



Graphs 1 through 5 depict the data presented in Table 5. The regular growth of the number of similes is represented by the pink line, while the blue broken line stands for the actual growth of the number of similes. The graphs show whether the growth of the number of similes using the particular animal term is gradual or not. It is worth noticing that while the similes containing the terms *cat* (Graph 1), *chicken* (Graph 2) and *lamb* (Graph 3) are increasing regularly, in cases of the animal terms *duck* (Graph 4) and *wolf* (Graph 5) there is a very stable, several times repeated simile, but the other similes using the terms *duck* and *wolf* occur just once or twice at the most.

**Graph 1: Similes using the term *cat***



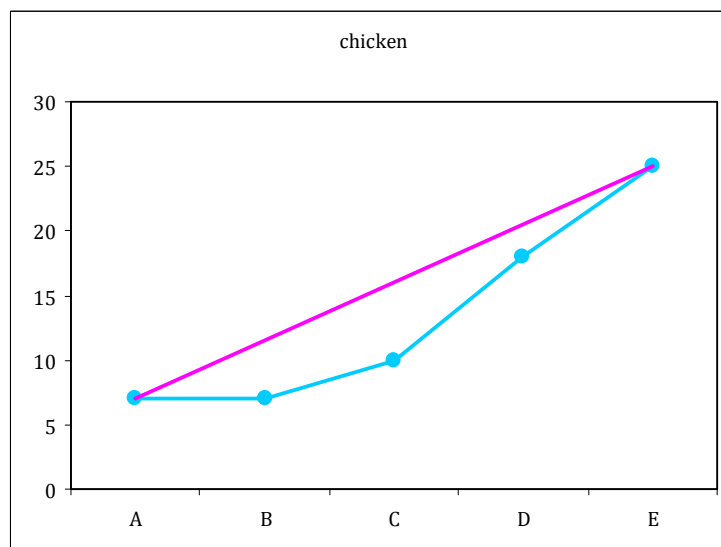
The animal term *cat* appears in 154 similes. Out of these, there are very strong and stable similes *to fight like a cat* (11 tokens) and *to grin like a cat* (11 tokens), stable similes *to smile like a cat* (5 tokens), *to curl like a cat* (4 tokens), *to purr like a cat* (4 tokens), *to feel like a cat* (4 tokens), *to hop like a cat* (4 tokens), *jumpy as a cat* (3 tokens), *to play like a cat* (3 tokens), *to stare like a cat* (3 tokens). Furthermore, there are 12 similes that appear in 2 tokens (*to arch like a cat*, *to come like a cat*, *to jump as a cat*, *to land like a cat*, *to lap sth. like a cat*, *to spit like a cat*, *to spring as a cat*, *to stretch out like a cat*, *to watch (sb.) like a cat*, *to yawn like a cat*, *snug as a cat*, *tense as a cat*) and 80 novel, ad hoc or adjusted similes appearing just once. The most interesting similes are to be found in (1).



- (1) (a) *You'd know when he was breaking loose: you'd see him **walking round t'mill like a cat wi' two tails**, and you'd say to yourself – There's something on.* (H9D 2855)
- (b) *He's **watching like a cat by a mousehole**.* (H9D 2130)
- (c) *She's **like a cat that's found a way to milk cows**.* (H9D 558)
- (d) *He **smiled at her like a cat smiling at a mouse**.* (FPX 2134)
- (e) *There he found Ann sweeping dirt out of the front door into the street, and inside, Sam Gristy, who was holding Martha's hand and **looking like a cat that's stolen the clotted cream**.* (EWH 166)
- (f) *Within 10 minutes I had found a suitable love-nest at the Glasgow Green, some 200 yards from the High Court. **Like a cat confronted by pigeons**, or a terrier face to face with a rodent, I was ready and eager to do battle.* (BN3 1864)
- (g) *A pig-headed brute who could **jump himself out of anything, like a cat**, but didn't always choose to, and didn't always take me with him.* (APR 1885)
- (h) *I was looking at them uncomprehendingly; they were **eyeing me like a cat watches a captured mouse that might yet try to make a dash for freedom**.* (AA8 833)
- (i) *The day after **feeling complete, replete, like a cat sleeping in the sun has all four paws buried under its furred belly**, sun too hot to move, tail wrapped over its sleeping nose, I went back to our bed to curl up next to where you had been.* (A0L 3114)
- (j) *Melford the killer was there, **lounging like an alley cat on a bench against the wall**, whilst the bastard Scawsby was mulling a glass of wine for his mistress.* (HU0 3191)
- (k) *She **squealed like a tabby cat** beneath the lecherous neighbourhood tom.* (FPX 2282)

- (l) *Nearby, **grinning like the cat who fell into a vast underground lake of cream**, Paterson's gangly 20-year-old sidekick Thrash – aka Kristian Weston – attempts communication.* (CK5 928)
- (m) *They made love all afternoon, and sometimes she was **creamy and calm and slow as a cat being stroked**, and sometimes the cat arched her back and revealed claws.* (C8S 181)
- (n) *If I was lying on that floor I'd be **as hungry as a cat outside a birdcage**.* (H8M 1830)
- (o) *The blue eyes studied her lazily in the mirror, and she had the strangest sensation he **was toying with her as a cat would a mouse before a kill**.* (HA9 251)

**Graph 2: Similes using the term *chicken***

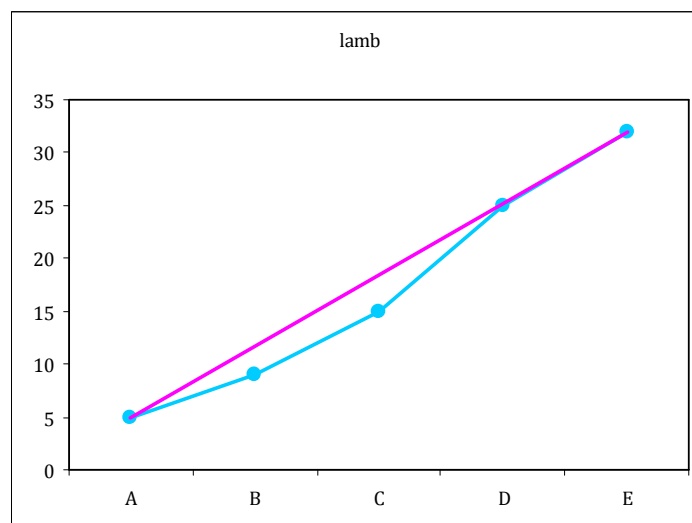


The term *chicken* is used altogether in 25 similes. As Graph 2 shows, the distribution of the similes according to their frequency is balanced, an increase in the number of less stable similes is gradual. Specifically, there is a stable simile *to run around like a (headless) chicken* (used in 7 tokens) and two very similar similes *to truss like a chicken* (3 tokens) and *to truss up like a chicken* (2 tokens), which could be regarded as one stable simile. Furthermore, there are similes *to be hanged like a chicken*, *to be held like a chicken*, *to rush like a chicken*

appearing in 2 tokens each, and 7 novel, modified similes. Examples in (2) illustrate the usage of modifiers in the similes.

- (2) (a) *Witness last October's petrol-price protests, when ministers **rushed around like headless chickens** because the boss was ill in hospital.* (ABE 1512)
- (b) *It was like a scene from the French Revolution with the gypsy ruffian and a bog-ridden Tumbleweed perched at the front and Swire Sugden **trussed like an oven-ready chicken at the back**, his hair singed, his face streaked with smut and his natty gents' suiting in disarray.* (ACK 2590)
- (c) *We're **like two chickens side by side trying to defrost**, she thought.* (CA0 1400)
- (d) *But halfway through the somersault she caught him by an ankle and **held him dangling upside-down like a plucked chicken in a shop-window**.* (CH4 3242)
- (e) *Its passengers **swing around like boxed chickens** in the back of a livestock lorry on a mountain pass.* (HH0 432)

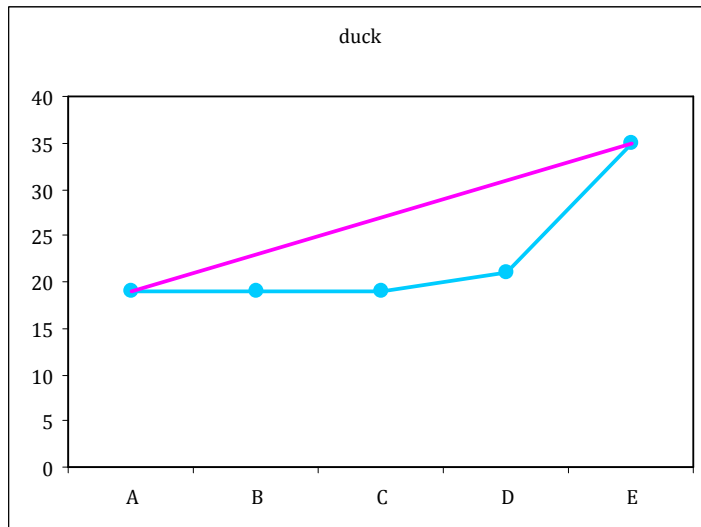
**Graph 3: Similes using the term *lamb***



Since the blue line in Graph 3 almost coincides with the pink line, it follows that the similes using the term *lamb* are perhaps the most balanced ones. *Lamb* appears in a stable simile *gentle as a lamb* (5 tokens), *to be dressed as a lamb* (4 tokens), *to go like a lamb* (4 tokens), *meek as a lamb* (3 tokens), *to take sb./sth. like a lamb* (3 tokens). Less stable similes using the term include *to lead sb. as a lamb* (2 tokens), *innocent as a lamb* (2 tokens), *quiet as a lamb* (2 tokens). Novel, adjusted similes were retrieved in 7 instances presented in (3).

- (3) (a) *While others were being lionised he **conducted himself like a lamb** or even a mouse. (AA9 717)*
- (b) *Benjamin, who had been walking for a month, found himself less welcome in his mother's room and **followed** Ruth around the house **like a pet lamb**. (CB5 55)*
- (c) *Of course our Rona – ‘Peggy pulled a long face and assumed a refined tone as she went on, ‘She’ll be sweeping the counter with those eyelashes of hers in that demure virgin-like way, and the poor bods’ll **rush like lambs to the slaughter**. (CFY 1620)*
- (d) *The impression of IBM Corp, Digital Equipment Corp and their ilk **lining up like lambs to the slaughter** may seem hard to credit for customers that have been driven to accept very hard bargains . . . (CNL 351)*
- (e) *Even so, we would have **taken her back, like the lost lamb that went astray**, but she spurned our forgiveness. (FPM 458)*
- (f) *On April 10th in the year nineteen hundred and eighty five – the legions again marched on Royal Bath – well, fifty of us by coach, car and rail – we had come from all over the country to **join** a contingent of local enthusiasts **like lambs to the slaughter** at Bath University for the Medau Easter Course. (KAF 57)*
- (g) *Kilmarnock **arrived** at Ibrox **as sacrificial lambs**, but left bursting with pride after recording a sensational victory. (K2D 2665)*

**Graph 4: Similes using the term *duck***

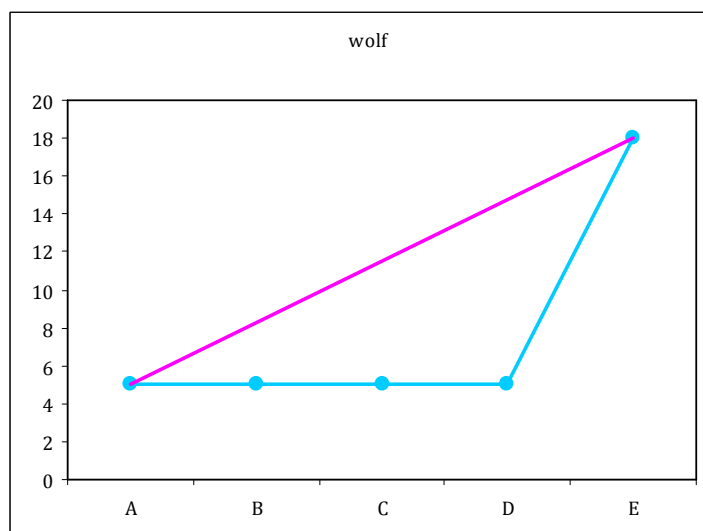


The animal term *duck* appears in the most stable simile in the BNC – *to take to sth. like a duck (to water)*, which was retrieved in 19 instances. Moreover, there are two examples of the same simile with a minor modification of the conjunction *like* into *as*. Otherwise, there are no more similes using the animal term which would appear repeatedly. However, *duck* appears in 14 instances of novel, adjusted similes. The most interesting examples are listed in (4).

- (4) (a) *The Ford 'Edsel', unveiled as the car that had everything in the way of advanced engineering, **flopped like a dead duck** with the public which presumably was little interested in engineering. (ACS 169)*
- (b) *It was true that photographers **swarmed around** surfers **like ducks around a crust of bread**. (ASV 1524)*
- (c) *I spun into the spotlight with arms raised, smile flashing, galloped down the stairs, trying not to look down, across the stage, **bowing like a courting duck** to the boxed panel en route, along the promontory jutting out into the midst of the wildly cheering audience and, as the extravagant applause began at last to subside, heard myself say: (CA9 1412)*
- (d) *It was a strange experience and I **felt out of place, like the old duck out of water**. (CDX 1346)*

- (e) *If we put our heads over the top they'll **pick us off like ducks in a shooting gallery**.* (F9X 652)
- (f) *I particularly remember old Hoyle's solicitor, a great fat, brewsy fella from Leeds who **drank whisky like a duck**.* (G39 736)
- (g) *He **walks like a constipated duck**.* (H9D 1530)
- (h) *And Richie was no longer **treating him like a lame duck**.* (HTJ 1481)
- (i) *Now since I **take to water like a duck does to orange sauce** I enlisted the help of Suzanne here because if there's any fooling in the water to be done I'd rather she did it and not me.* (J3X 10)
- (j) *He suddenly became aware of a volley of shots from behind him, and all three bodies **fell back like tin ducks on a rifle range**.* (K8T 1083)
- (k) *Floating there, it could have been a bath toy duck, daintily hand-painted by some artistic genius, plaything of a princess, if it weren't for its air of fragility, and slim – needle-slim – bill. **Buoyant as a duck**, slender as a sandpiper, small as a dunlin.* (F9H 1158)

**Graph 5: Similes using the term *wolf***



In the case of the animal term *wolf*, there is a stable simile *to howl like a wolf*, which appears in five tokens. Examples under (5) show all the tokens of this simile.

- (5) (a) *Max took an instant dislike to her and from then on, when she tried to speak, he would **howl like a wolf** and I got a dreadful fit of the giggles!* (A17 452)
- (b) *Caspar **was howling** now, long howls **like** they said **wolves did to the moon.*** (ABX 3044)
- (c) *Cried my eyes out. **Howled like a wolf.*** (EEW 575)
- (d) *'Giles, Giles,' cried Liz, 'don't shout so, it's nearly the New Year, we can't bring in the New Year **howling like wolves.**'* (FB0 597)
- (e) *They walked on all fours, preferred a diet of raw meat, they **howled like wolves** and lacked any form of speech.* (FB6 118)

Graph 5 shows that the above mentioned simile is the only recurrent simile with the animal term *wolf*, even though there are 13 more similes using the term. However, each of these similes appears only once. The most interesting ones are presented in (6).

- (6) (a) *Unlike the Obersturmfuhrer, who appeared to have a streak of kindness in his Gestapo soul, these women were **as hungry for cruelty as wolves for their prey.*** (FPX 2308)
- (b) *And Lucier followed with that same loping, economical, elegant stride, and now **as grey-haired, too, as a wolf.*** (HTN 2982)
- (c) *With your stomach nicely fibre-full from other meals you should not, at least, arrive at the restaurant table **like a ravenous wolf.*** (C94 869)
- (d) *Back was outstanding for the Midlands against South West two weeks ago and **tore into the Barbarians like a wolf at a flock of sheep.*** (CBG 2952)
- (e) *They fell on the children of the Everqueen **like wolves on newborn lambs.*** (CM1 403)

- (f) *The wounded Elf Lord **fought like a blood-mad wolf**.* (CM1 2197)
- (g) *She stalked, **stiff-legged like a wolf**, into the darkling garden and **like a wolf** she **sniffed the air**.* (G0X 2662)
- (h) *It made her forget her past sorrows, but she knew they were **waiting like wolves for their moment to attack**.* (GW8 1548)

So far I have mentioned examples of animal terms in which stable similes combine with novel ones. However, there are also animal terms which are used exclusively in stable similes, or exclusively in novel, adjusted, modified similes. As Table 2 shows, the animal term *beaver* appears only in one stable simile – *to work like a beaver*. All the tokens of the simile are listed in (7).

- (7) (a) *Actually, the delay was part of Themistokles' plan; at Athens men, women and children were **working like beavers** on the walls, using stones from the ruins that lay everywhere, and not inquiring whether any particular piece came from a sacred edifice.* (G3C 1011)
- (b) *She's **working like a beaver** and improving in leaps and bounds.'* (JXT 3860)
- (c) *Apart from the penalty he **worked like a beaver**.* (K2D 2991)
- (d) *He **works like a beaver** for Darlington.* (K52 9029)

On the contrary, the group of animal terms which appear only in novel, ad hoc or adjusted similes includes *elephant* (15 similes)<sup>4</sup>, *dragon* (13 similes), *seal* (13 similes), *whale* (12 similes), *donkey* (11 similes), *squirrel* (9 similes), *wasp* (9 similes), *tortoise* (8 similes), *lizard* (7 similes), *cow* (6 similes), *ferret* (6 similes), *lemming* (6 similes), *lioness* (6 similes), *mole* (6 similes), *slug* (5 similes), *hamster* (4 similes), *hyena* (4 similes), *mare* (4 similes), *piglet* (4 similes), *porcupine* (4 similes), *reptile* (4 similes), *sow* (4 similes), *stag* (4 similes), *toad* (4 similes), *turtle* (4 similes), *camel* (4 similes), *kangaroo* (3 similes), *octopus* (3 similes), *oyster* (3 similes), *poodle* (3 similes), *porpoise* (3

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<sup>4</sup> The number in brackets states the number of similes in which the animal term appears.



similes), *vixen* (3 similes) and 11 more animal terms which appear only in one simile. Examples presented in (8) illustrate novelty and originality of the similes using the terms *elephant*, *dragon*, *seal*, *whale* and *donkey*.

- (8) (a) *And having been backed for the classic at long odds before his Newmarket introduction, Cordoba became clear favourite for the 2000 after **treating his six opponents like seaside donkeys**. (A2S 19)*
- (b) *Well I was just tidying myself up, och just a week lick of lipstick and a puffa blusher basically when I noticed that my mascara was on its last legs so I had to remind myself to stop by at Frazers Innox counter as any other tearproof bar theirs brings me out in lumps, so to cut a long story short I just nicked in the sidedoor — honest to god I was **festooned with carriers laden down like a workhouse donkey** — and I'd to cut through the shoe department. (B38 1498)*
- (c) *The same applies to Scrash, although they're about **as glamorous as a donkey** on Skegness beach and marginally less attractive. (CAE 2252)*
- (d) *He becomes as soft and nervous as a cow; he feels **as worn out as a donkey**; yet still he splashes in the Seine like a porpoise. (G1A 34)*
- (e) *In some areas you're **as blinkered as a donkey**. (HA6 2700)*
- (f) *The doctor had a mother-in-law who **guarded his surgery like a fire-breathing dragon**. (AMC 249)*
- (g) *Wilcox fumbled for a cigarette, lit it, and **exhaled smoke through his nostrils like an angry dragon**. (ANY 2507)*
- (h) *'I hear stories of machines which **smoke like the dragons in the tales**,' Jotan said. (G17 2719)*
- (i) *A terrible him, perhaps, and **old and wounded, like a dragon that had come here for one last final sleep**. (HTH 729)*

- (j) *By eleven that morning she had **installed** herself **as the cleaning dragon** and there were twenty-seven earthenware bowls soaking in a strong solution of bleach. (HGF 52)*
- (k) *Then, spontaneously, Changez pushed himself up and danced with them, **lifting each foot ponderously from the floor like a performing elephant**, and sticking his elbows out as if he'd been asked, in a drama class, to be a flamingo. (C8E 2114)*
- (l) *Offshore centres, even the landlocked ones like Luxembourg and coastal ones like Dublin and Gibraltar, **are, like the elephant, difficult to define but easy to recognise**. (CBY 2585)*
- (m) *Four men were needed to hold down the steering oars, which **bucked in their harnesses like panicked elephants**. (FEP 1596)*
- (n) *My oldest daughter, poor girl, **swelled up like an elephant**. (GUM 1808)*
- (o) *I am a standard, no-frills Earthling, but Goodney, in his white suit, suntan and sliding blond hair, **stood out like a pink elephant** among the sin-sick funeral directors lurking and cruising against the blood-coloured walls. (HOM 94)*
- (p) *He **danced like a bloody elephant!** (KCP 10595)*
- (q) ***Uplift yourself from your lower self, even as an elephant draws himself up from a muddy swamp**. (CA5 1686)*
- (r) *She felt about **as poised as a baby elephant taking his first steps**, she thought miserably. (H9V 2598)*
- (s) *Her bows plunged, shouldering aside streaming seas upon which the galleys slid and swooped and **plummeted like seal pups caught in the wash of a bear**. (BP0 3041)*
- (t) *Even as he did so six glistening, shiny black figures came over the railing, **rolling and flopping** on to the deck, **like excited seals**. (BPA 2757)*

- (u) *Take a week of the cottage in Aglesey: just one afternoon to speak of when we **flopped like synchronised seals** into Red Wharf Bay. (FBG 103)*
- (v) *She **floundered like a seal** in the greasy mess, and when he threw himself on top of her, the battle began. (FPX 2085)*
- (w) *She limped into the air-conditioned hall of the hotel **like an awkward seal plunging into a pool**, and sank on to a leather sofa. (HDC 1838)*
- (x) *Alice sighed, **turned over** in bed **like an old seal**, and plumped up her pillow. (HH9 1109)*
- (y) *The two Nordic girls he had seen two days before were now **basking like seals** outside another cafe. (HTT 2717)*
- (z) *You could pick out individual families: that old Grandma who had fallen asleep in her deckchair, legs apart, showing a formidable pair of bloomers; the fat baby next to her pushing candy-floss into its chubby face with both hands, trying to find its mouth; the Dad **lying on his back like a stranded whale**, great white beer belly rising majestically into the air. (ACB 554)*
- (aa) *The weather's not improving, and with us **wallowing around like a drunken whale** we've taken heavy seas over the stern. (BPA 1389)*
- (bb) *It can **leave you like a stranded whale**, feeling breathless, helpless and useless. (EFG 1740)*
- (cc) *Still, Adolf Galland would not be thrown by minor details such as that. **Still like a whale**, now a silken one, he returned to the small office and put the call through to Galland's unit in the Netherlands. (HWA 178)*
- (dd) ***Sprawled** on a long-suffering double-bed **like a beached whale**, she dissected with witty, worldly sarcasm a series of clips from films and television which showed love being suspected, pursued, required and*

*abandoned by performers as disparate as Frank Finlay and Sid James.*  
(K5C 301)

(ee) ***Solid as a bull whale in his confidence*** and peering through eyes that suggest he is not lacking in a little magic himself, Hugh Smith calmly rebuts every argument that London is in decline. (EDT 952)

## 3.2 Animal metaphors<sup>5</sup>

### 3.2.1 *Figurative sense of animal terms in the dictionaries*

I studied the figurative senses of animal terms listed in five most commonly used English-to-English dictionaries, namely in Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary (Cambridge), Collins COBUILD Advanced Learner's English Dictionary (COBUILD), Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (Longman), Merriam-Webster's Advanced Learner's English Dictionary/Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Webster), Oxford English Dictionary (OED). Table 6 shows relevant passages of dictionary entries of the animal term *dog* in English-to-English dictionaries.

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<sup>5</sup> Complete data is to be found in file "Animal metaphors in the dictionaries.xls" on the enclosed CD.

**Table 6: A sample of dictionary entries**

	OED	Cambridge	COBUILD	Longman	Webster
dog	<p>1b. fig. In phrases with of-complement (now freq. after the dogs of war at Phrases 14), denoting a person or personified thing likened to a dog, esp. in being vicious, watchful, subservient, or ravening.   II. Extended uses.</p> <p>5. Denoting a person or thing (with varying degrees of contempt or admiration). a. As a term of reproach or abuse: a worthless or contemptible person; a wretch, a cur. Now chiefly literary. b. With modifying adjective (in playful reproof, congratulation, or commiseration): a fellow, a chap. Also: (without adjective) a lively or rakish person. c. slang (chiefly U.S., Austral., and N.Z.). A person who betrays his or her associates; an informer. Freq. in to turn (also play) dog. h. slang (derogatory, usu. considered offensive). orig. U.S. An unattractive woman or girl. Also (occas.): an unattractive man.</p>	<p>1 slang a man who is unpleasant or not to be trusted He tried to steal my money, the dirty dog.   2 offensive an unattractive woman</p>	<p>If someone calls a man a dog, they strongly disapprove of him.</p>	<p>3 woman informal not polite an offensive word meaning an unattractive woman   6 dishonest informal not polite an offensive word for an unpleasant or dishonest man: • You dirty dog! // 12 like a dog with two tails British English informal very pleased and happy because something good has happened   13 feet dogs [plural] American English informal feet: Boy, my dogs really hurt.</p>	<p>2a: a worthless or contemptible person b: fellow, chap &lt;a lazy dog&gt; &lt;you lucky dog&gt;   9 an unattractive person; especially : an unattractive girl or woman // 2 [count] informal a : a person who is regarded as lucky, unlucky, etc. ▪ You lucky dog! — see also top dog b: a person who is lazy or who is not liked ▪ He's a lazy dog. ▪ He's a worthless dog. [=bum] c offensive: an unattractive girl or woman ▪ They say she's a real dog.   (as) sick as a dog informal: very sick ▪ I'm sick as a dog.</p>

Since the objective of the thesis is to find out whether a metaphor is a shortened simile or not, it is essential to evaluate the correspondence between the metaphorical sense of the animal term as stated in the dictionaries and the constituents of the similes, particularly the verb phrases and adverbs functioning as relator and tertium comparationis respectively.

The figurative sense of 26 animal terms was mentioned in the dictionary entries of all five consulted dictionaries. These animal terms include: *ass, bear, bird, bitch, brute, bull, cow, dog, dove, duck, fox, frog, hawk, hog, horse, chicken, lamb, leech, mole, monkey, pig, rat, shark, sheep, tyke, wolf*. Table 7 indicates the frequency of occurrence of the figurative sense of each particular animal term in the dictionaries. The animal terms are alphabetically ordered and colour-coded according to the number of dictionaries in which their figurative sense is defined.

Colour coding for the number of dictionaries:



**Table 7: Frequency of the figurative sense of animal terms in the dictionaries**

adder	boar	cock	dove
animal	brute	cockroach	dragonfly
ape	buck	colt	drone
ass	bug	conger	duck
baboon	bull	coot	duckling
badger	bulldog	cougar	eagle
basilisk	bunny	cow	earwig
bat	butterfly	crab	eel
bear	buzzard	crocodile	elephant
beast	calf	crow	ewe
beaver	camel	cub	fawn
bee	canary	cuckoo	ferret
beetle	carnivore	daw	filly
bird	cat	dodo	finch
bitch	caterpillar	dog	fish
blackbird	cattle	donkey	fledgling

fly	ladybird	pelican	squirrel
fowl	lamb	penguin	stag
fox	leech	pet	stallion
frog	lemming	pig	stoat
fry	limpet	pigeon	stork
gadfly	lion	pit bull	swallow
gander	lioness	polecat	swan
gelding	lizard	poodle	swine
goat	lobster	porcupine	tadpole
goldfinch	locust	pup	tapeworm
goose	louse	puppy	termite
gorilla	maggot	pussycat	thrush
gosling	magpie	rabbit	tick
greyhound	mammoth	ram	tiger
grub	mare	rat	tigress
grunter	midge	rattlesnake	tit
hare	mink	raven	titmouse
hawk	mite	reptile	toad
hedgehog	mole	rhinoceros	tomcat
heifer	monkey	rodent	tortoise
hen	moose	rook	tup
hog	moth	rooster	turkey
horse	mouse	sardine	turtle
hound	mule	scorpion	tyke
hyena	mutton	sea lion	viper
chameleon	nightingale	serpent	vixen
chick	nit	shark	wagtail
chicken	nymph	sheep	wasp
insect	otter	skunk	weasel
jay	owl	slug	whale
jellyfish	ox	snail	wolf
kangaroo	oyster	snake	wolfess
kit	panther	sow	worm
kitten	parrot	sparrow	wren
kitty	peacock	spider	yeanling

### 3.3 Comparison of similes and metaphors

There are 15 animal terms commonly used in the BNC similes which are not defined in the dictionaries in their figurative sense. Namely, these animal terms include: *ant, cricket, deer, dolphin, flea, giraffe, hamster, herring, hippopotamus, mackerel, mosquito, octopus, piglet, porpoise, seal*. Table 8 presents the number of the similes in which the above mentioned animal terms occurred.

**Table 8: The number of the similes using the animal terms which are not defined in the dictionaries in the figurative sense**

ant	16
seal	13
flea	10
dolphin	10
deer	8
piglet	4
hamster	4
porpoise	3
octopus	3
mackerel	2
hippopotamus	2
herring	2
giraffe	2
cricket	2
mosquito	1

As there are 82 of them, altogether 4.73% of the similes based on the figurative sense of animal terms are not covered in the dictionaries. It is surprising, because some of these animals are quite common and well known.

On the contrary, there are 10 animal terms which are defined in their figurative sense in the dictionaries, but they are not used as part of similes in the BNC. Furthermore, the figurative sense of 6 out of these 10 animal terms is mentioned in at least 2 of the consulted dictionaries (*hog* even in all of them).



These animal terms are: *bunny, fledgling, hog, kit, mink, mite, pup, tadpole, termite, weasel*. For further information, see Table 9.

**Table 9: The number of dictionaries in which the animal term occurs in the figurative sense**

animal term	number of dictionaries
bunny	2
fledgling	3
hog	5
kit	1
mink	1
mite	3
pup	2
tadpole	1
termite	1
weasel	2

Table 10 presents characteristics of animal terms based on the dictionary entries, and constituents of the similes retrieved from the BNC. The animal terms are ordered alphabetically, the order of the characteristics in the second column is based on the frequency of occurrence in the individual dictionary entries. Verb phrases, adjectives and adverbs in the function of relator and tertium comparationis in the similes are roughly grouped according to the similar meaning and colour-coded (verb phrases are violet, adjectives and adverbs are blue), premodifiers and postmodifiers of the animal terms in the similes are ordered alphabetically. The characteristics and modifiers in separate columns are not related.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Due to practical constraints, this thesis cannot provide a comprehensive review of premodifiers and postmodifiers ordered according to their occurrence in the similes.

**Table 10: The metaphorical sense of animal terms and their usage in similes**

<u>animal term</u>	<u>metaphorical sense</u> of the animal terms defined in the dictionaries	<u>constituents of the similes</u>		
		<b>relator,</b> <b>tertium comparationis</b>	<b>premodifiers</b> of the animal term ( <b>intensifying/specifying a fact not common for the animal term</b> )	<b>postmodifiers</b> of the animal term
<b>animal</b>	unpleasant cruel violent rude behaves badly, in a wild, aggressive way nonrational <i>a social animal</i> <i>a political animal</i> <i>a party animal</i>	behave, act, treat sb., hunt down live, feel pace, run crawl, curl, jump eat, grunt, howl, scream, cry, growl abused, desperate, alert, doubtless, frustrated fight	beautiful bulky burrowing butchered caged circus clumsy contented cornered dangerous dead doped circus dumb dying ferocious fockin'	about to attack along the wall at bay at the beginning of a race, a hunt, a battle at the slaughter avoiding a hunter being crooned out of its last redoubt bothered by gnats burrowing for cover dragging a great trap dying in awful, bellowing pain in a trap in distress

			<p>frightened  great big  hibernating  huge  hungry  hunted  imprisoned  injured  instinctive  laboratory  little  mad  mistreated  muzzled  nocturnal  pain-maddened  political  ravenous  restless tied  shepherded  small  sore  stealthy</p>	<p>in mortal pain  in pain  in severe affliction  in unknown territory  in zoo  poised for flight  running round without a  head on  scenting the air  seeking an escape  set free from a cage  shot in the chest  sliding away from an  unwelcome  confrontation  that had suddenly found  the confines of its cage  far too small for  comfort  that knows instinctively  how it can be cured  that suddenly intuits a  reason for fear</p>
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			stricken trapped trusting wary wild wounded zoo	twitching before a predator unhappy in its imprisonment who trust the vet
<b>ant</b>	0	scurry, crawl, bustle, dart, move, run, stream swarm feel, live busy	black fucking soldier	disturbed on a dirty tablecloth over an anthill over their nest
<b>ape</b>	an imitator, mimic to copy badly a large uncouth person a large stupid or rude person	grin swing		
<b>badger</b>	a person who participates in the badger game	bald striped black and white		
<b>bat</b>	a prostitute a promiscuous woman a foolish woman or girl <i>an old bat</i> - unpleasant old	blind, short-sighted go, drive, run flap, flit, take off	bloody giant	across the dark country bogs in a panic out of heaven

	woman			out of hell with its eyes shut
<b>bear</b>	a policeman (AmE) a rough, unmannerly, uncouth person a burly, shambling person a large man <i>a bear with a sore head</i> (BrE) – becomes angry or annoyed very easily <i>to play the bear</i> – to behave rudely and roughly <i>a smokey bear</i> stock market: sells shares when prices are expected to fall to make a profit by buying them back again at a lower price - BULL	behave growl, cough, cry, roar, rage feel, live lie, lumber huge crunching loudly	angry baited caged friendly friendly, silly, strong great grizzly injured koala polar Pooh sleeping stuffed	breaking into a seal's den clinging to its mother in his skin in its cave pretending to be spiders saying it loves snow with a sore arse with a sore head
<b>beaver</b>	a person who works very hard vulgar: the pudenda of a woman <i>an eager beaver</i>	work	eager	
<b>bee</b>	a busy worker	buzz, hum, sing	hot island	around a honey jar

	<p>active (enjoys being busy and active)</p>	<p>attract sb., lure in sting swarm, congregate around, cluster, have sb./sth. round sb. whoosh, flit</p>	<p>soft swarming</p>	<p>around a honey pot at a honeypot buzzing up and down my window pane from a hive disturbed from flower to flower in a foxglove in a swarm into the mouths of flowers on a rosebush on heat round a honey pot round honey round the jam pot scatter widely to collect nectar from many flowers seeking pollen that has sat on its own sting to a honey pot to the proverbial honeypot with broken wings</p>
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<b>bitch</b>	a woman: lewd, sensual, malicious, treacherous, offensive, unkind, unpleasant, immoral, spiteful used humorously between friends: "Ooh, you're such a bitch!"	touchy		in heat on heat
<b>boar</b>	applied to persons	dangerous sweat hatred	angry slumbering wild	had been sick in sth.
<b>brute</b>	a man: disapproving, rough, violent, insensitive, cruel animal nature in man	feel treat sb.	mere	
<b>bug</b>	an enthusiast a person obsessed by an idea a prominent person a crazy person	snug, cosy stick to sb./sth.	dead	in a bed in a rug in rug
<b>bull</b>	a policeman (AmE) stock exchange: someone who buys shares because they expect prices to raise	rush strong act, charge, behave built feel fight, rage, storm	angry mad pit raging runaway stamping	about to charge at a gate charging sb. in a herd in a china shop in full charge

		dangerous	two wild young	
<b>butterfly</b>	<p>a vain, gaudily, attired person</p> <p>a light-headed, inconsistent person</p> <p>a giddy trifler</p> <p>a person occupied with the pursuit of pleasure</p> <p>seasonal, transitory workers</p> <p>moves on quickly from one activity or person to another</p> <p><i>a social butterfly</i> – goes to many parties and social events</p>	<p>float, flit, flutter, fly, flighty</p> <p>light, fragile, come apart, burst forth</p> <p>feel, touch, live</p> <p>dance</p> <p>harmless, helpless, pinned, imprisoned</p> <p>kiss</p> <p>shiver, drift about</p>	<p>aimless</p> <p>immense</p> <p>multi-hued</p> <p>rare</p> <p>vampire</p> <p>warm</p>	<p>alighting and flitting away among moths</p> <p>brushing its wings against the sweet, soft petal of a flower</p> <p>brushing my lips, softly, quickly</p> <p>emerging from the pupa</p> <p>impaled against the wood</p> <p>in a case</p> <p>in a whirlwind</p> <p>landing on the only flower left in a field</p> <p>on summer days</p> <p>over a flowerbed on a day of hot summer</p> <p>pinned on a specimen board</p> <p>pinned on paper</p> <p>trapped and doomed to</p>



				die under the warm sun whose wings had been pinned behind its back
<b>camel</b>	a great, awkward, hulking fellow	frown sway yoke	irritated	and ass to the plough
<b>cat</b>	a spiteful, backbiting woman a malicious woman a man (old-fashioned slang) a guy an itinerant worker a prostitute (AmE) an expert in jazz a fashionable person <i>a fat cat</i> – a lot of money <i>a pussy cat</i> – surprisingly gentle <i>a hepcat</i> <i>a scaredy-cat</i> a person in charge of a company	fight grin, spit smile, yawn curl, purr feel, behave hop, jump, jumpy, spring play stare arch, stretch out lazy, relaxed, unhurried, slow	Abyssinian alley angry bloody contented fierce tom frightened green-eyed hungry hunting Cheshire lazy little long-haired meticulous mischievous	on a merlon on broken glass on heat on hot bricks on padded feet on the prow on the prowl outside a birdcage playing with a bird playing with a mouse plays with a mouse presenting a dead mouse sleeping in the sun has all four paws buried under its furred belly sleeping with one eye

			mother pet scalded spitting squealing stalking startled starveling stray tabby troubled two two strange	open, watching everything that went on smiling at a mouse stalking a bird staring at a mousehole tests its claws on the obliging furniture that had seen its prey that has licked the cream that is let out of the bag that's found a way to milk cows that's got the cream that's stolen the clotted cream waiting for a mouse waiting to be petted waiting to spring watches a captured mouse that might yet try to make a dash for freedom who fell into a vast
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				<p>underground lake of cream</p> <p>who'd stolen the cream</p> <p>who's got the cream</p> <p>wi' two tails</p> <p>with a mouse</p> <p>with its prey</p> <p>would a mouse before a kill</p>
<b>cock</b>	<p>a man</p> <p>arouses slumberers</p> <p>a watchman of the night</p> <p>ministers of religion</p> <p>a leader, head, chief man</p> <p>ruling spirit</p> <p>a person of spirit and often of a certain swagger or arrogance</p> <p>used by some people when talking to a man they know well (old-fashioned BrE)</p> <p><i>a cock of the walk</i> – proud, successful</p>	<p>strut</p> <p>aggressive</p> <p>behave</p> <p>fight</p>	<p>barnyard</p> <p>fighting</p>	<p>crowing</p> <p>in a barnyard</p>

<b>cockroach</b>	an affectionate form of address by a man talking to another man	lie on one's back	inverted	
<b>cow</b>	a timid, faint-hearted person a coward a coarse, degraded woman any woman – a coarse form of address an objectionable person an unkind, unpleasant, stupid woman (chiefly BrE)	breed, raise churn out sth. feel nervous soft	Jersey	at the sea shore being fattened to produce full-cream milk, then stuck on a milking machine every spring time for the slaughter makes cream with the crumpled horn
<b>crab</b>	unhappy person who complains a lot, becomes annoyed easily about unimportant things (AmE) a midshipman, a naval cadet	scuttle, edge forward huddle defenceless skulk poised	de-shelled softshelled	about to scuttle
<b>cricket</b>	0	fit gay		
<b>crocodile</b>	a line of people (children) walking in pairs (BrE) a person who weeps or makes	grin slither		

	show of sorrow hypocritically or with a malicious purpose			
<b>cub</b>	a young person an undeveloped, uncouth, unpolished youth an apprentice, beginner a boy scout an inexperienced newspaper reporter an apprentice pilot on a steamboat	fight	fox young lion	in front of the Quorn hunt
<b>deer</b>	0	run, fast, fleet, leap, race	cornered	before a hunter
<b>dog</b>	an unpleasant, dishonest man an offensive, unattractive woman, girl a vicious, watchful, subservient, ravening person a worthless, contemptible person fellow, chap <i>like a dog with two tails</i> (BrE) – very happy and pleased	howl shake oneself follow sb. treat sb. kill, shoot sb., die attack lick, gulp, slurp, hungrily pant, snarl, groan, growl sit, crouch smell, fart, stink	aged beaten bereaved bloody blooming dangerous eager gun faithful fucking gay	with a rag with freshly stolen meat with its tail on fire with pain in its ears with two dicks worrying his sheep you keep chained up in a dark room

	<i>dogs - feet (AmE)</i>	<p>trot</p> <p>alert</p> <p>carefully</p> <p>chase, jump</p> <p>obey, trusting, loyal,</p> <p>dependant</p> <p>happy</p> <p>never give up</p> <p>sick, ugly</p> <p>squeal, scream, sound,</p> <p>wheeze, whimper, yelp</p> <p>wait, watch</p> <p>cringe, creak, crane, pull,</p> <p>stiffened</p> <p>bare one's teeth</p>	<p>gentle</p> <p>good natured sheep</p> <p>guilty</p> <p>gypsy's</p> <p>hound</p> <p>hungry</p> <p>hunting</p> <p>impatient</p> <p>incontinent old sheep</p> <p>injured</p> <p>lame</p> <p>little</p> <p>little puppy</p> <p>mad</p> <p>moulting</p> <p>neglected</p> <p>obedient</p> <p>old</p> <p>penitent</p> <p>pet</p> <p>pup</p> <p>rabid</p> <p>ravenous</p>	
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			sheep starving terrier thirsty well-trained well-trained guard wet whipped willing wounded puppy young	
<b>dolphin</b>	0	dive, dip, wallow act agile draw, plunge, splash	beach rosy young	in clouds of foam on the shores of Abu Dhabi
<b>donkey</b>	a stupid, silly, obstinate person	act, treat sb., mistreat bray despise blinkered festoon, glamorous laugh, play	seaside tortured workhouse	
<b>dragon</b>	a violent, combative, strict person	big exhale smoke	angry cleaning	in the tales into the allotted corners

		fully armoured mighty guard	fire-breathing little tame	that had come here for one last final sleep
<b>duck</b>	a term of endearment <i>a lame duck</i> – unsuccessful <i>a sitting duck</i> – easy to attack, cheat, take advantage of a person who you think is lucky, unusual darling, to woman in a friendly way (BrE) to address someone you love (BrE) a fellow, customer (AmE) <i>take to sth. like a duck to water</i> – very easily	take to sth. buoyant drink flap, flop, fall, slide walk	mother old pregnant proverbial tin tufted	out of water takes to water to water with her duckling after her
<b>duckling</b>	a term of endearment <i>ugly duckling</i>	pick up sth.		gobbles worms seeking protection and domination of their mother
<b>eel</b>	slippery a nickname for a New	slippery, sleek slide, slip	jellied moray	coming out from behind a rock



	Englander (AmE)	wriggle, supple swim		
<b>elephant</b>	a man of huge stature uncommonly large, hard to manage <i>a white elephant</i>	big, heavy, strong immobile, solid built buck poised trumpet lift each foot	baby bloody panicked performing pink proverbial stone white	draws himself up from a muddy swamp taking his first steps
<b>fawn</b>	kid	gentle timid		
<b>ferret</b>	an active, persistent searcher	belligerent, mean, pinching sly, paw tough	rabid	
<b>fish</b>	a person whom it is desirable to catch or hook <i>an odd, queer fish</i> – a strange, crazy person (BrE) <i>a cold fish</i> – no strong feelings a fellow person a sucker	pack in, swarm restrained sail silvery, sleek, slippery squirm	big biting cooked deepwater helpless landed odd pilot	around around a whale barrelling upstream caught by the curlew caught out of water from water in a fine mesh net in a gilded age

			stranded tropical	in a net on a line on the fishmonger's slab out of water swimming about in a vast and sometimes inaccessible ocean to the sunlight
<b>flea</b>	0	jump, hop fit, nimble niggle	but demented little squat white	half a trillion times in a room filled with dogs in air in the hide of a rhinoceros off a dog on a dog's back on a mangy dog on the camel of eternity on their backs that stayed still or suddenly hopped about and often fell over
<b>fly</b>	<i>a fly on the wall</i> – an unperceived observer a policeman	die, kill drop breed, multiply, spread		trapped in amber whirs its wings

	the person who takes the sheets from the press	swipe buzz, whir, whine circle, cluster, gather		
<b>fox</b>	a crafty person a clever person good at deceiving people an attractive woman sexually attractive (AmE) a good-looking young man, woman	cunning, tricky sly, grin crazy run, leap gobble, gnaw	hungry petite scared	among chickens caught in a trap forced to bite off its leg coming to the dustbin for food did to poor Chicken-Licken guarding a chicken coop in a deserted kitchen yard laying a foil slipping the hounds
<b>frog</b>	a French person (BrE)	swell up, puff up clap croak, shout	mantelpiece	and a princess in Aesop's fable swelling its neck
<b>fry</b>	a young, insignificant person	come + adv	small	
<b>giraffe</b>	0	stumble tall		
<b>goat</b>	a licentious man a fool, dupe a man who is sexually very active or makes it obvious	butt sb. climb, leap, run cranky polygamous	angry little mountain sacrificial	rammed down a foghorn

	<i>an old goat</i> – an unpleasant old man, annoys women in a sexual way a person who is blamed for a loss or failure (AmE)	rumpled stingy smell	goddamned spancelled hairy wild old bad-tempered	
<b>hamster</b>	0	anxious small store food stuff sth. into one's cheeks		
<b>hare</b>	to a person in allusive sense	mad, daft run, fast, quick, race, swift freeze, motionless horrendous	Baldersdale-bred cornered fleeing hunted mad running trapped	caught by a harvest scythe frozen in a last effort to battle the enemy picked up by its ears
<b>hedgehog</b>	a person regardless of other's feelings	act bristle curl snore friendly still	jerking	eating all that we can to fill ourselves up for the coming months for a flea in hibernation

<b>hen</b>	a fussy, middle-aged woman Scottish: a woman or a girl that you like a hen-hearted person of either sex	cluck fuss beady-eyed coop up gather, settle, sit excited flustered, fear for sth. guard	angry barking battery broody jealous mother old silly	for her only chick gathers her chicks under her wings laying eggs on a hot griddle on eggs gone gold on hot griddles takes chicks under its wings walking on hot coals with a chick with one chick
<b>herring</b>	0	dead slump about	filleted	
<b>hippopotamus</b>	0	grey wrinkled		
<b>horse</b>	a man (contemptuously, playfully) a woman an athlete whose performance is consistently strong and reliable (AmE) <i>a clothes horse</i> – a person	strong buck act, behave, feel, treat sb. work, run, stand, sleep, stare drink, eat, fart go through sth., come in	balking brilliant broken cart crazy fallen fretful	after a battle and carriage bewildered by lightning blowing in a steeplechase of a Russian sleigh on a summer's day

	<p>employed to wear expensive and fashionable clothes / a woman who is fashionable and thinks a lot about her clothes, but has little intelligence or no other abilities</p> <p><i>a dark horse</i> – a politician who wins a competition although no one expected them to (AmE) / someone who does not tell people much about themselves, but who has surprising qualities or abilities (BrE)</p> <p><i>a stalking horse</i> – someone who has no chance of winning and is used by a group of politicians to compete for a position in order to divide the opposition or to take attention away from another</p>	<p>shy away  blow, laugh, rear, snore  disciplined, need a firm hand  heave  jerk, baulk, quiver  pant, prop up</p>	<p>frightened  hobbled  hypnotised  little  nervous  nonchalant  over-worked  restive  stalking  startled  terrified  thundering  tired  winded  young</p>	<p>outside a saloon bar  righting itself  shying at a pheasant  that had had a fuss made of him all his life  that hasn't been broken  that smells blood  to be saddled and bridled  trotting  under the stirrup  with blinkers on  with croup</p>
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	<p>person who they really want to win</p> <p><i>a Trojan horse</i> – a person that joins and deceives a group or organization in order to attack it from the inside</p>			
<b>hyena</b>	<p>a cruel, treacherous, rapacious person with repulsive habits</p> <p><i>a laughing hyena</i> – a person who is laughing in a loud or foolish way</p>	<p>bark</p> <p>grin</p> <p>move subtly, gently</p>		at a symphony concert
<b>chameleon</b>	<p>an inconsistent, variable person</p> <p>a person who changes their opinions or behavior to please other people, to fit different situations, to succeed</p>	adapt	political	adapting its colour to its environment
<b>chick</b>	<p>a human offspring</p> <p>a term of endearment</p> <p>a girl, young woman (AmE) – sometimes considered offensive</p>	<p>surround</p> <p>vulnerable</p>	flimsy	

<b>chicken</b>	a human offspring a child a youthful person, young and inexperienced <i>(to be) no chicken</i> – no longer young a girl, young woman (AmE) a person who is as timorous or defenseless as a chicken a coward a young male homosexual <i>(to play) chicken</i> – physical hazard testing the courage <i>chicken-hearted</i>	run around, rush, truss (up), bind up hang, swing around twitch	rooting	
<b>kangaroo</b>	a native of Australia a person who advances by fitful jumps	bounce along, bound along, leap		in its death throes
<b>kitten</b>	a young girl, implication of playfulness or skittishness a girlfriend, young woman – a form of address <i>a sex kitten</i> – a sexually attractive young woman	weak nervous purr desperate for sb.'s touch lap sth., run up and down, reach out		



	(old-fashioned)	nip snuggle up suck		
<b>lamb</b>	<p>a young member of a flock, esp. of the church</p> <p>a meek, gentle, innocent, weak, unfortunate person</p> <p>a term of endearment</p> <p>a lovable person, esp. a child</p> <p>a simpleton</p> <p>a person who is cheated, esp. one who speculates and loses his money</p> <p><i>a sacrificial lamb</i> – a person who is given to people in authority and is expected to be destroyed or harmed, esp. in order to prevent other people from being harmed or destroyed</p>	<p>gentle, meek</p> <p>innocent</p> <p>quiet</p> <p>helpless</p> <p>rush, draw, lead</p> <p>follow sb., join sth.</p> <p>conduct</p>	<p>little</p> <p>lost</p> <p>pet</p> <p>sacrificial</p>	<p>following a mother sheep that went astray to the slaughter</p>
<b>leech</b>	<p>a person who uses other people for personal gain</p> <p>a physician, surgeon (archaic)</p>	<p>cling, stick, adhere, fasten onto sb.</p> <p>clam up</p>	<p>thirsty</p>	<p>in a bottle</p>

		focus on suck wriggle		
<b>lemming</b>	a person bent on a headlong rush towards disaster a person following others into an action without thinking about it	follow sb., plunge race, rush throw oneself off the cliff, suicidal	lovesick	looking for a cliff to the water's edge who have smelt the sea with a cause
<b>limpet</b>	officials alleged to be superfluous but clinging to their offices	cling, hang (on), stick on, stick to sb./sth. close	huge	in a cave in its shell on the peerless blue waters
<b>lion</b>	a strong, courageous, fiercely brave person a fiercely cruel, tyrannical, devouring person an important, successful or powerful person	fight, defend pace big dangerous hunt for raise one's head reign roam, roar treat sb. go around, prowl, walk about, wallow around,	angry caged fat mummy restless roaring sea sleepy starving veritable wounded	after slumber apologising to a gazelle balancing a ball on its snout her cubs in his forest looking for victims he could devour seeking his prey seeking water on a drought-ridden veldt

		recline with dignity		seeking whom he would devour waiting to be fed with her cubs
<b>lioness</b>	a female celebrity	behave female pace strong	caged	in a cage with cubs
<b>lizard</b>	a slothful person	creep through loung motionless, unmoved wary	giant	needs the heat of the sun through the forest
<b>lobster</b>	a slow-witted, awkward, gullible person, a fool, dupe, bore (AmE) a British soldier a policeman	glow keep sb. awake	fresh-cooked	
<b>mackerel</b>	0	fish for sb. mute		
<b>mare</b>	a woman an effeminate man (derogatory)	feel see sb. smile	bossy brood	
<b>mole</b>	a person who works	blind, short-sighted	bloody	that can't get underground

	<p>underground, in darkness or in secrecy</p> <p>a spy (double agent) who works inside an organization and gives confidential information to another organization or country</p> <p>a person with poor vision</p>	<p>burrow</p> <p>grubby</p>	<p>flayed</p> <p>wounded</p>	
<b>monkey</b>	<p>a child who behaves badly or is very lively and naughty, likes to play tricks</p> <p>a foolish, ludicrous person, a dupe</p> <p>a mimic, a person who acts comically, a mischievous person, a rascal, a scamp</p> <p>a person engaged in any of various trades and professions, esp. one performing a subordinate or menial task</p> <p>a stranger</p> <p>a man, a fellow, a guy</p>	<p>quick</p> <p>agile</p> <p>breed</p> <p>clever</p> <p>climb, cling, swing</p> <p>feel</p> <p>grin</p> <p>hide</p> <p>chatter</p> <p>laugh</p> <p>leap, run</p> <p>nimble</p> <p>topsy-turvy</p>	<p>bloody</p> <p>circus</p> <p>dirty</p> <p>frightened</p> <p>little</p> <p>wise</p> <p>wizened</p>	<p>in a cage</p> <p>in a zoo</p> <p>in flight</p> <p>that has sat on a bunsen burner</p>

	<p>an associate</p> <p>a non-white or dark-skinned person (offensive, AmE)</p> <p>a person who is less important or powerful than another, a subordinate</p> <p>a press photographer, a paparazzo, a journalist (BrE)</p> <p><i>a grease monkey</i> – a person whose job is repairing car or aircraft engines</p> <p><i>a cheeky monkey</i></p>			
<b>mosquito</b>	0	perch		
<b>moth</b>	<p>a parasite, a person who lives at the expense of another</p> <p>a person who is insignificant, fragile, who hovers around temptation and is liable to be drawn to destruction</p> <p>a prostitute</p>	<p>feel</p> <p>flit, flutter, reel</p> <p>cling, cluster</p> <p>flock</p> <p>foolish</p> <p>fragile, frail</p> <p>pitiful, surrender to death</p>	demented	<p>about a bundle of bunsen-burners</p> <p>around a light bulb</p> <p>in front of some anti-lighthouse</p> <p>in spring</p> <p>in the light</p> <p>round a candle flame</p> <p>that had been sucked in to a candle flame</p>

				to light to the flame
<b>mouse</b>	<p>a quiet, nervous, timid, weak, small, insignificant, frightened person</p> <p>a timid, retiring person</p> <p>a darling, sweetheart</p> <p>a term of endearment for a woman</p> <p>a prostitute (outdated, police slang)</p> <p>a young woman, girlfriend (AmE)</p> <p>an informer (criminal's slang)</p>	<p>poor, modest</p> <p>quiet, still</p> <p>small</p> <p>emerge</p> <p>feel</p> <p>obtrusive, throw out</p> <p>scurry, weave</p>	<p>dead</p> <p>frightened</p> <p>harvest</p> <p>church</p> <p>white-haired</p>	<p>answering a lion</p> <p>out of soiled linen</p> <p>sensing a cat about to pounce</p>
<b>mule</b>	<p>a stubborn person</p> <p>a stupid, obstinate, physically tough person</p> <p>a person who agrees to carry illegal drugs to another country (hiding them on or in their body)</p> <p>a promiscuous woman, a mistress (outdated)</p>	<p>stubborn</p> <p>arch</p> <p>intelligent</p> <p>treat sb.</p> <p>work</p>		in a hailstorm

	a person who is hybrid in some way <i>mulish</i> (adj.) – someone who is determined and refuses to change their plans for anyone else			
<b>nit</b>	an insignificant, contemptible person a foolish, stupid, silly, incompetent person (BrE)	<i>stick to sb., sth.</i>		in sb.'s hair
<b>nymph</b>	a prostitute a beautiful young woman, a maiden, a damsel	<i>emerge</i>	mayfly	evolved in harmony with its stream
<b>octopus</b>	0	<i>lewd</i> <i>wind round</i> <i>wrap</i>		
<b>otter</b>	a sailor (outdated)	<i>gleam</i> <i>perch</i>	scrawny	in pursuit of a fish
<b>ox</b>	a fool (archaic) a person of strength, brawn, fortitude, obstinacy	<i>strong</i> <i>big, heavy</i> <i>built</i> <i>clumsy, dumb</i> <i>treat sb.</i>	bogged felled	to be bargained for with powerful shoulders and a big constantly-grinning face

		wallow work		
<b>oyster</b>	a reserved, uncommunicative, extremely taciturn person	have a hard shell slippery solitary		
<b>panther</b>	a fierce, powerful, elusive person	prowl, crouch black, dark lithe glide, pursue, walk	caged solitary	caged in a pet shop
<b>pig</b>	an unpleasant, unattractive, greedy, lazy, fat, dirty, gluttonous person a boorish, coarse, obstinate, disagreeable person a lecherous or a sexist man a woman (in early use – a term of endearment, in later use – derogatory, AmE) a female prostitute, a promiscuous, unattractive, immoral woman a policeman an informer (AmE)	sweat behave, treat sb. happy, rich eat fat make a noise, squeal, yell stubborn bald bleed selfish, sick degraded, helpless drink, drunk grin, groan, rear, scream, snort	castrated foraging mother old stuck	at a trough at the trough in a cart in a safari suit in a trough in an ague in poop in shit in shit in the mire



	a pressman (outdated)			
<b>piglet</b>	0	squeal wiggle	greasy suckling	
<b>pit bull</b>	an aggressive and tenacious person	heavily muscled		
<b>poodle</b>	a person who is obsequiously or unquestioningly willing to follow or obey another a person willing to support or be controlled by someone in authority (BrE)	act, behave, treat sb.	kept trained	on a lead
<b>porcupine</b>	a person prickly difficult to deal with	bristle, prickle, prickly make a noise		shouldering its way through gorse
<b>porpoise</b>	0	flounder rise splash		after mackerel
<b>puppy</b>	a playful way to refer to a person (AmE) a foolish, conceited, impertinent young man, an inexperienced young person a sexually promiscuous woman (outdated)	whimper, groan, pant bouncy, eager, devoted clomp nuzzle, sweet plunge push off buffet sb., roll, romp about,	angry beloved deranged lost new overgrown spurned	spoiling for a game

	a person's feet (AmE) a woman's breasts a baby	scamper, tumble over trail	two young untrained whipped young	
<b>rabbit</b>	a timid, ineffectual person a poor or novice player a weak batsman in cricket	feel jump, run, scuttle stand caught	bleeding bolted buck bunny dead demented doomed frightened hunted hypnotised jackpot milk-soaked nervous paunched poor radioactive scared startled terrified	before a snake caught in a trap caught in headlights at night for shelter from a hat having to choose between the jaws of the fox and the talons of the eagle in a snare in the glare of juggernaut halogens in the headlights looking at a snake on a long country road on a nudist beach running ahead of the hounds staring into the headlights

			young	testing the wind that had been run over by a lorry trembles in every whisker and hair trying to climb a wire fence in a panic who had escaped the human cordon with a rattlesnake with myxomatosis with the clap
<b>ram</b>	a lecherous or sexually voracious man a sexually aggressive or domineering man	skip smell	unwashed	on the high hills
<b>rat</b>	a dishonest, contemptible, worthless person an unpleasant person who deceives others or is not loyal a man who is deceitful or disloyal in a romantic	behave caught, hunt down feel scuttle, crawl, scurry, startled bedraggled bite	big caged dead drowned half-drowned jelly-livered murdered	from a sinking ship in a burning barn in a cellar in a trap in an overcrowded cage in the barren cell of the prisoner

	<p>relationship</p> <p><i>a love rat</i></p> <p>a person who is arrested for disorderly conduct (outdated)</p> <p>a pirate (outdated)</p> <p><i>a water-rat</i></p> <p>a person who deserts his or her party</p> <p>a person who gives information, an informer in a prison</p> <p>a person who refuses to strike, a scab (AmE)</p> <p>a non-union worker</p> <p>a new student, cadet, freshman (AmE)</p> <p>a person who spends much time in a specified place</p>	<p>blind</p> <p>die, kill</p> <p>drag oneself</p> <p>flee</p> <p>gnaw, squeak</p> <p>stream</p> <p>wet</p> <p>work</p>	<p>poisoned</p> <p>shit-house</p> <p>water</p> <p>witless</p>	<p>leaving a sewer that has learned its way through a maze towards an unguarded hen coop</p> <p>trapped in a barn up a drainpipe</p>
<b>rattlesnake</b>	<p>a dangerous, malevolent, despicable person</p> <p>a person who moves quickly or fluidly</p>	<p>crafty</p> <p>screw</p>		

<b>reptile</b>	a mean, groveling, despised, contemptible person a loathsome, repulsive person an unpleasant person who cannot be trusted	bask fight flick one's tongue over lips invade sb.	real slow-moving steely two great	devouring its prey or copulating with a passive mate whose rock had been taken away
<b>rhinoceros</b>	a thick-skinned person	graceful lurch	pain-maddened	
<b>rodent</b>	a despicable, contemptible, worthless person	feel	protectionless	
<b>rooster</b>	a violent, disorderly person a powerful, important, boastful person a man a fellow, a bloke (orig. AmE, now N. Z.) a cocky, vain man an informer (outdated)	strut about sure		in the chicken run
<b>sardine</b>	<i>to be packed like sardines</i> – confined tightly together as sardines in a tin	pack (in) cram (pass.) lay out oiled swim	despondent	in a tin
<b>seal</b>	0	bark, laugh	awkward	in the surf

		<p>bask</p> <p>crash through sth.</p> <p>feel</p> <p>flap, flop, flounder</p> <p>limp, plummet</p> <p>roll, turn over</p> <p>sleek</p>	<p>clubbed</p> <p>excited</p> <p>old</p> <p>synchronised</p>	<p>plunging into a pool</p> <p>pups caught in the wash of a bear</p>
<b>serpent</b>	<p>devil</p> <p>a treacherous, deceitful, malicious, envious person</p>	<p>wind</p> <p>dangerous</p> <p>green-gold</p> <p>slide, sneak</p> <p>smoothly</p> <p>undulate</p> <p>wise</p>	<p>legendary</p> <p>sea</p>	<p>still in the egg, whih, when hatched, will become deadly</p>
<b>shark</b>	<p>a person who enriches himself by taking advantage of the necessities of others</p> <p>a rapacious usurer</p> <p>an extortionate landlord</p> <p>a financial swindler</p> <p>a customs officer</p> <p>a lawyer</p> <p>a highly intelligent or able</p>	<p>grin</p> <p>behave</p> <p>circle</p> <p>prowl</p> <p>rise</p> <p>twist</p> <p>vulnerable</p>	<p>hammerhead</p> <p>hooked</p> <p>loan</p> <p>young</p>	<p>eating all before it seeking its supper</p> <p>testing the boundaries of a tank</p> <p>to a bucket of entrails</p>

	<p>student (AmE)</p> <p>a person who excels greatly in a particular field</p> <p>a parasite</p> <p>a dishonest person, esp. one who persuades other people to pay too much money for something, giving bad advice about buying, selling or investments (disapproving)</p> <p><i>a pool/card shark</i> – uses their skill at pool or cards to cheat other players out of money</p> <p><i>a loan shark</i> – lends money at very high rates of interest and will often use threats or violence to get the money back</p>			
<b>sheep</b>	<p>a timid, defenseless, docile, easily influenced person</p> <p>a stupid, poor-spirited person</p> <p>a group of people – if one person does something and</p>	<p>follow sb.</p> <p>bleat</p> <p>go astray</p> <p>helpless</p> <p>treat sb., see sb.</p>	<p>anxious</p> <p>black</p> <p>dead</p> <p>errant</p> <p>frightened</p>	<p>flying before the wolf in a truck</p> <p>leaves its wool on a fence</p> <p>streaming down the mountain side</p>

	<p>all the others copy that person</p> <p><i>a black sheep</i> – a person who has done something bad which brings embarrassment or disrespect to their family, the person who is considered bad or worthless by other people in that family</p> <p><i>a lost sheep</i> – one who has strayed from the right way</p> <p>as collective plural – persons (the Church, mankind) in correlation with the Good Shepherd (Christ)</p>	<p>behead, slaughter</p> <p>flee</p> <p>gentle</p> <p>leave sb.</p> <p>quiet</p> <p>ride down, run down</p> <p>shear, shoo out</p> <p>trundle sb. in a wheelbarrow</p> <p>usher sb.</p>	<p>little</p> <p>lost</p> <p>old</p>	<p>without a shepherd</p>
<b>skunk</b>	<p>a thoroughly mean, contemptible person (also in playful use)</p> <p>an obnoxious, disliked person</p> <p>a very bad, unpleasant person (AmE)</p>	<p>drunk</p> <p>feel</p>		



<b>slug</b>	a slow, lazy, slothful fellow (mainly AmE) a sluggard a contemptible person a fat person	drag oneself lay a trail, make marks lie wriggle	burgundy filthy	trying to eat their own trails
<b>snail</b>	a slow or indolent person a sluggard	drive crawl drag oneself leave shiny, slimy tracks nervous shrivel slip slow vulnerable	salted tired trampled	in a drought in a slime of blood in its shell into his shell under a mushroom with its shell off without a shell
<b>snake</b>	a worthless, treacherous fellow a bad person who tells lies and betrays other people (AmE) a dangerous, suspicious person <i>a snake in the grass</i> a contemptuous person a poor, needy, humble person	uncoil, coil, lay coiled writhe cold-blooded crash sb. crawl dangle direct distort get rid of sth.	angry banded barbed demented flirty little greasy hissing charmed ten-foot	between jungle trees its prey moving through grass rustling through dry grass sheds his skin waiting whose coils seem to be lying motionless even as they flow past your

	a drudge	hiss, point one's tongue out lie mad rear roll around, twist, stretch oneself seethe slither tricky weave whip up wind	venomous waking wide-eyed	eyes and are gone in their own filth
<b>sow</b>	a fat, clumsy, slovenly person a term of abuse, opprobrium, reproach to a man or a woman	stink, sweat run lie about	fat	
<b>spider</b>	to persons as an opprobrious, vituperative term	hang, cling sit, step crawl, slide squat, crouch, flatten go, scamper hateful	clammy crooked dark demented dying great	at the centre of the web from a dragonfly from a strand in a bath running across a very sensitive microphone

		<p>lurk</p> <p>speak</p> <p>suspend</p>	<p>impeccable</p> <p>silent</p> <p>white</p>	<p>snarled up in its own web</p> <p>waiting for a juicy fly</p>
<b>squirrel</b>	<p>to persons (contemptuous)</p>	<p>blithe</p> <p>climb, move</p> <p>eat</p> <p>hide</p> <p>chatter</p> <p>sway</p>		<p>who had moved off to eat</p> <p>nuts in a different hazel</p> <p>tree</p> <p>with a nut</p>
<b>stag</b>	<p>a person who attends a dance or party without a companion</p> <p>a man who attends a social function without a female party (AmE)</p> <p>a person who buys shares in a company which is being sold to the public with the intention of selling them immediately for profit (BrE)</p> <p>a big, romping girl</p> <p>a bold woman</p> <p>an informer</p>	<p>assert one's masculinity</p> <p>pant</p> <p>roar</p> <p>strong</p>	<p>hunted</p> <p>young</p>	<p>in rut</p> <p>in the rut</p>

<b>stallion</b>	a man of lascivious life a tall, good-looking girl or woman (AmE, among US black people) a courtesan (outdated)	<b>proud</b> <b>strain</b>	regimental young	on a halter
<b>swine</b>	a sensual, degraded, coarse person a contemptible person a person whom you consider to be extremely unpleasant and unkind (old-fashioned)	<b>feel</b>		
<b>tiger</b>	a fierce, daring, aggressive, cruel, rapacious, blood-thirsty person a person of great activity, strength, courage a person who has an insatiable appetite for sth. (Austral., N. Z.) a sportsman, climber of outstanding skill and confidence an outdoor boy-servant	<b>fight</b> <b>purr, prowl</b> <b>become</b> <b>cunning</b> <b>dangerous, merciless</b> <b>guard, protective</b> <b>hungry</b> <b>mould sb.'s body</b> <b>move about</b> <b>smile</b>	<b>amused</b> Bengal caged contented enraged mother prowling stalking wounded	at bay in the steel jungle of her cubs on mescaline springing on a tethered goat trapped in a too small cage

	<i>a paper tiger</i> – a person who seems powerful, strong, dangerous, but does not really have any power, is weak and harmless			
<b>toad</b>	an extremely unpleasant man, esp. one who is physically very unattractive a contemptible person a child <i>a toad-eater</i> <i>a toad under a harrow</i> – a person under constant persecution or oppression	bask have an ugly voice settle in sick	great	in a stone
<b>tortoise</b>	a very slow, laggard person	squat, go kick, poke slowly tip up, turn one's head	bloody giant hibernating rutting upturned	coming out from its shell without a shell
<b>turtle</b>	a term of endearment to lovers or married folk, in allusion to the turtle-dove's affection for its mate	armour-plated emerge flip over raise one's head	giant	from his shell poking out of its shell
<b>vixen</b>	a shrewish, ill-tempered,	behave	naughty adolescent	

	quarrelsome, unpleasant woman a sexually attractive woman a shrew, a termagant a child or a man (outdated)	cunning scream		
<b>wasp</b>	an irascible, malignant person	attract sb. buzz, make noise clamber dart draw gnaw shake sb. off sting	angry bloody	at a timber on a sunny day round a jampot to a jampot to jam jars trying to get out of a jam jar
<b>whale</b>	a person impressive in size, very big, important, good	big blow break the surface leave sb. lie (on one's back) rise, roll solid, still sprawl, wallow around	beached bull drunken humpbacked smooth dark stranded	from a misty sea in his confidence riding in a flat sea rising to breathe
<b>wolf</b>	a fierce, rapacious, cruel,	howl, bay	blood-mad	at a flock of sheep

	<p>ferocious, destructive person</p> <p>a man forward, direct, zealous in amatory attentions to women</p> <p>a man who habitually tries to have sex with the women he meets (disapproving)</p> <p>a male homosexual seducer or one who adopts an active role with a partner (AmE)</p> <p>a person that should be hunted down like a wolf (outdated)</p> <p><i>a lone wolf</i> – a person who prefers to be alone</p>	<p>eat, grin, hungry</p> <p>fall</p> <p>fight, tear</p> <p>grey-haired</p> <p>lope along</p> <p>sniff the air</p> <p>stiff-legged</p> <p>treat sb.</p> <p>wait</p>	<p>caged</p> <p>ravening</p> <p>ravenous</p> <p>white</p>	<p>for their moment to attack</p> <p>for their pray</p> <p>on newborn lambs</p>
<b>worm</b>	<p>a miserable person</p> <p>a person who is an object of contempt, loathing, pity</p> <p>a person who is not liked or respected, a very bad person</p> <p>a policeman</p> <p>a term expressing tenderness, playfulness, commiseration</p>	<p>blind</p> <p>burrow</p> <p>crawl, curl, wriggle</p> <p>emerge, extrude, turn</p> <p>hang</p>	<p>broken</p> <p>giant</p> <p>proverbial</p>	<p>in a nut</p> <p>on a hook</p> <p>out of an apple</p>

I classified the animal terms into the following classes:

Class A – the metaphors are shortened similes,

Class B – the metaphors predominantly are shortened similes,

Class C – the metaphors rarely are shortened similes,

Class D – the metaphors are not shortened similes.

Class A is comprised of the animal terms for which the metaphorical sense defined in the dictionaries corresponds with the constituents of the similes in the BNC. Specifically, this class includes the terms *beaver*, *bitch*, *chameleon*, *kangaroo*, *lemming*, *limpet*, *oyster*, and *porcupine*.

The metaphorical sense of the term *beaver* is characterized as *a person who works very hard*, and appears, for example, in the following similes:

- (9) (a) *She's **working like a beaver** and improving in leaps and bounds.* (JXT 3860)
- (b) *Fred Klepner had been in and out of both Mark's and Pat Muldoon's offices, which were only a few yards apart, **like an eager beaver**.* (AC2 185)
- (c) *Apart from the penalty he **worked like a beaver**.* (K2D 2991)

The metaphorical sense of the term *bitch* is defined as *a lewd, sensual, malicious, treacherous, offensive, unkind, unpleasant, immoral, spiteful woman*, which can be used humorously between friends. The examples illustrate the usage of this term in similes:

- (10) (a) *The twinges she felt in all her tender places were sending lewd, suggestive signals to her loins. She **was like a bitch on heat**.* (FPX 2217)
- (b) *Lately he's been **as touchy as a bitch on heat**.* (G3E 411)



The term *chameleon* is metaphorically defined as *an inconsistent, variable person, a person who changes their opinions or behaviour to please other people, to fit different situations, to succeed*. The usage of the term in similes is illustrated by the instances below:

- (11) (a) *I was discussing business contracts with my husband and waiting for a call from my own children who would rock with laughter if I prescribed a dose of warm camels' milk and clove for a poor stomach and headache. **Like a chameleon**, I absorbed and reflected the place where I was.* (CDX 954)
- (b) *Everyone finds something congenial about this life. People **are like chameleons**: they can adjust themselves to any environment so long as they've no alternative.* (B0U 1505)
- (c) *Asking him to deliver **is like expected a chameleon to stay the same colour whatever its environment**.* (HD7 663)

The metaphorical sense of the term *kangaroo* is characterized as *a person who advances by fitful jumps*, which is confirmed by the following examples:

- (12) (a) *Billy's short legs kept getting tangled in the heather, so he **bounced along like a kangaroo** through the springy tufts.* (EWB 631)
- (b) *Above the chugging [there was an air raid in progress] came a kind of rhythmic panting — screeching... a kind of **dragging-hopping, like a kangaroo in its death throes**.* (H83 896)
- (c) *Signe **leaped** across the room **like a rubber kangaroo** and landed flat upon the sofa.* (HR7 2691)

The term *lemming* is metaphorically defined as *a person bent on a headlong rush towards disaster, a person following others into an action without thinking about it*. In the similes, the term is used in the same sense:

- (13) (a) *Even as the world developed its enormous appetite for our end-products and chemical building blocks, we had this habit of building capacity faster than demand. **Like lemmings**, we **raced each other to leap over the cliff**.* (ALV 554)
- (b) *I'm sorry to say but I think that we're talking about this education day at the beginning of October and I mean god knows we've known this is coming for, it's almost as if we've got to the brink of, you know **like lemmings** just about to **throw ourselves off the cliff** and we don't know why we're going to do it.* (F7J 877)
- (c) *She loved him so very much that if he suggested they take hands and spurt to the cliff-edge and **plunge off the edge together like lovesick lemmings** she would do it.* (JY4 2186)

The animal term *limpet* is metaphorically used for *officials alleged to be superfluous but clinging to their offices*. Its usage in similes is illustrated by the instances below:

- (14) (a) *As the slopes grew steeper people **clung to us like limpets** in the hope of a drink.* (FEM 1108)
- (b) *'I might have expected you to **hang on** in there **like a limpet**,' Rourke said with a tight grimace.* (HA6 2704)
- (c) *'I'm **sticking to you, close as a limpet**.* (FPB 319)

The metaphorical sense of the term *oyster* is characterized as *a reserved, uncommunicative, extremely taciturn person*, which is confirmed by the following similes:

- (15) (a) *She **had a hard shell like an oyster**.* (HGK 260)
- (b) *Hard and sharp as a flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and **solitary as an oyster**.* (BOY 2934)

The last animal term in Class A, *porcupine*, is metaphorically defined as *a person prickly difficult to deal with*. Its usage in similes is illustrated by the example below:

- (16) (a) *Her own feelings swung so violently between attraction and a very real fear and hate of what he'd forced her to do that she was still **as prickly as a porcupine** in his presence, unless they were talking about work.* (HGM 1649)

Class B includes the animal terms appearing in similes which correspond with the metaphorical sense of these animal terms in the majority of cases. The class consists of the terms *bear, butterfly, eel, elephant, lamb, lizard, moth, ox, rabbit, sardine, sheep, snail, tiger, tortoise, and vixen*.

For instance, the following definitions of the metaphorical sense of the term *lamb* are confirmed by the usage in similes: *a young member of a flock, esp. of the church, a meek, gentle, innocent, weak, unfortunate person, a person who is cheated, esp. one who speculates and loses his money, a sacrificial lamb – a person who is given to people in authority and is expected to be destroyed or harmed, esp. in order to prevent other people from being harmed or destroyed*. However, there are also definitions of the metaphorical sense of this term which do not correspond with the usage in similes: *a term of endearment, a lovable person, esp. a child, a simpleton*. The term *lamb* appears in similes comprising of the words *gentle, meek, innocent, quiet, helpless* in the function of tertium comparationis, and *rush, draw, lead, follow sb., join sth., conduct oneself* in the function of relator. Examples of the similes are presented below:

- (17) (a) *He felt he had **taken** his only child **like a lamb to the slaughter**.* (CR6 1088)
- (b) *The training officer, who endorsed all this had picked up his standards from his dealing director, who was later to claim of him: He **was like a lost lamb** when he started.* (EUU 924)

- (c) *Even so, we would have taken her back, **like the lost lamb that went astray**, but she spurned our forgiveness. (FPM 458)*
- (d) *She is **as gentle as a lamb** and while most people are cautious when meeting her, they soon think she's wonderful. (C8U 1425)*
- (e) *He made himself **as meek as a lamb**, hoping perhaps that they would give him an extra morsel of food or some other favour. (FP3 945)*
- (f) *He looks **as innocent as a lamb** standing before me. (HH0 3779)*

Class C includes the animal terms for which the metaphorical sense of the term rarely corresponds with the similes. The class is comprised of the following terms: *animal, boar, brute, bug, bull, cat, cock, dog, dragon, duck, fish, fox, goat, hare, hen, horse, hyena, kitten, leech, lion, lioness, monkey, mouse, mule, pig, puppy, rat, rooster, slug, snake, stag, toad, whale, wolf.*

For example, the only definitions of the metaphorical sense of the term *rat* which correspond with the usage of this term in similes are *a person who deserts his or her party* and *a non-union worker*. The corresponding similes are presented below:

- (18) (a) *They have **fled like rats** from a sinking ship. (HAF 869)*
- (b) *Most of his enemies **worked quietly like rats in a cellar**, but some did not. (B7K 1220)*

The metaphorical definitions of the term *rat* which differ from its usage in similes include: *a dishonest, contemptible, worthless person, an unpleasant person who deceives others or is not loyal, a man who is deceitful or disloyal in a romantic relationship, a person who is arrested for disorderly conduct (outdated), a pirate (outdated), a person who gives information, an informer in a prison, a person who refuses to strike, a scab (AmE), a new student, cadet, freshman (AmE), a person who spends much time in a specified place.* The following words function as relator or tertium comparationis in the similes using the term *rat* which do not correspond with the metaphorical sense of the term: *behave, caught, hunt down,*

*feel, scuttle, crawl, scurry, startled, bedraggled, bite, blind, die, kill, drag oneself, gnaw, squeak, stream, wet.*

Class D, the last and most numerous class of animal terms, comprises the terms for which the metaphorical sense does not correspond with the usage in similes. Besides the above mentioned animal terms which appear either only in the dictionaries or only in the BNC similes, the class includes the following terms: *ape, badger, bat, bee, camel, cockroach, cow, crab, crocodile, cub, donkey, duckling, fawn, ferret, fly, frog, fry, hedgehog, chick, chicken, lobster, mare, mole, nit, nymph, otter, panther, pit bull, poodle, ram, rattlesnake, reptile, rhinoceros, rodent, serpent, shark, skunk, sow, spider, squirrel, stallion, swine, turtle, wasp, worm.*

The following examples illustrate the differences between the metaphorical sense of the terms and their usage in the similes.

While the metaphorical sense of the term *ape* is defined as *an imitator, mimic, to copy badly, a large uncouth person, a large stupid or rude person*, the usage of the term in similes includes mainly *swinging* and *grinning*:

- (19) (a) *One swung from a chromed pole like an ape.* (ALJ 2489)  
(b) *He came to the door with Foggerty the games master, who was grinning like an ape.* (AT4 289)  
(c) *'What on earth are you doing? Grinning like an ape with your eyes shut?'* (EFJ 206)

Unlike the usage in similes, the metaphorical sense of the term *bat* is characterized as *a prostitute, a promiscuous woman, a foolish woman or girl, an old bat – unpleasant old woman.*

- (20) (a) *He's as short-sighted as a bat with its eyes shut, but with his goggles on he is a lousy attacker and without them a serious threat to our defence!* (FR9 63)

- (b) *The Headmaster still had on his gown and he **flapped in the wind like a bat** as he charged across the grass. (AMB 982)*
- (c) *And under the deepened dusk he felt the thoughts and desires of the race to which he belonged **flitting like bats across the dark country bogs**. (KRH 4730)*

While the metaphorical sense of the term *bee* is defined as *a busy worker, someone who enjoys being busy and active*, the usage of the term in similes concentrates on *buzzing, humming, being attracted to sth. and swarming*:

- (21) (a) *In Norway in winter the smell of freshly baked bread, and the warmth from the containers, are great attractions, and visitors seem to **congregate around the bakery like bees around a honey pot**. (A77 1730)*
- (b) *The girls from the office had **swarmed about him like bees around a honey jar**, jockeying for position, anxious to be noticed. (H7W 3050)*
- (c) *This is a guy who speaks little English, but he **buzzes round us like a bee on a rosebush**. (H8M 591)*

The metaphorical sense of the term *camel* is defined as *a great, awkward, hulking fellow*. However, the similes using the term comprise of the verbs *to frown, to yoke, to sway*:

- (22) (a) *Mr Venables was overseeing the bran-bin, **frowning like an irritated camel**. (A0D 794)*
- (b) *When they drew water, they climbed the banks on beaten paths, **swaying like camels**, with the full jugs on their heads. (FEM 1238)*

Unlike the metaphorical usage of the term *cockroach* as an affectionate form of address by a man talking to another man, in similes the term is used in reference to a woman:

- (23) (a) *She can **lie on her back like an inverted cockroach** while wagging her legs in the air.* (CH6 8727)

While the metaphorical sense of the term *cow* is defined as *a timid, faint-hearted person, a coward, a coarse, degraded woman, any woman – a coarse form of address, an objectionable person, an unkind, unpleasant, stupid woman (chiefly BrE)*, in similes the term is used with a different meaning:

- (24) (a) *I felt like a cow being fattened to produce full-cream milk, then stuck on a milking machine.* (H07 775)
- (b) *I mean young women, strong enough to **breed like the cows** every spring time and dig the fields in between — isn't that what they want in Australia, for all those men?* ( H7P 370)
- (c) *Have I **raised you like a cow, for the slaughter?*** (HTN 1831)
- (d) *The film is so dull and wordy that it bears out in every frame Powell's assertion that Pascal '**knew as much about directing as a cow does about playing the piano.**'* (A7L 925)
- (e) *Stansfield's own personal antipathy to medical involvement in the contagious diseases acts, together with his ignorance of scientific matter she **knew as much of science as a cow does of conic sections**, according to one contemporary — may have exacerbated Simon's problems at the board.* (G0D 556)

In comparison to the metaphorical sense of the term *ram* as *a lecherous or sexually voracious man, a sexually aggressive or domineering man*, in similes the term is used without connotations of aggression:

- (25) (a) *Another day or two and I'll be **skipping like a ram on the high hills.***  
(CKF 2339)
- (b) *'But will my lady allow me to share her bed tonight if I **smell like an unwashed ram?**'* (HH1 2991)

The metaphorical sense of the term *rhinoceros* is characterized as *a thick-skinned person*. However, in similes the term is used in a different meaning, which is illustrated by the examples below:

- (26) (a) *When you're drunk you check everything eight times, **lurching like a pain-maddened rhinoceros.*** (A0L 3239)
- (b) *Wearing the suit, she weighed three hundred kilos and felt **as graceful as a rhinoceros**; as soon as she was outside she'd feel almost weightless, and the suit's systems would give her the strength of a robot while hardly affecting the speed and ease of her movements.* (F9X 2698)

Furthermore, I distinguished the animal terms in which the metaphorical sense is broader than the characteristics in the similes (M), e.g. *vixen* is metaphorically used for *a shrewish, ill-tempered, quarrelsome, unpleasant woman, a sexually attractive woman, a shrew, a termagant, a child or a man (outdated)*, but the similes characterize the person by the verbs *scream, behave* and adjectives *cunning* and *naughty adolescent*. (S) stands for the animal terms in which the variety of relator and tertium comparationis used in the similes is broader than the metaphorical sense, e.g. the characteristics of *elephant* mentioned in the similes include *big, heavy, strong, immobile, solid, built, buck, poised, trumpet, lift each foot, baby, bloody, panicked, performing, pink, proverbial, stone, white, draws himself up from a muddy swamp, taking his first steps*, but the dictionaries define the metaphorical sense of *elephant* only as *a man of huge stature, uncommonly large, hard to manage*. D – M – 0 denotes the animal terms which are not covered in similes, even though they are defined as



metaphors in the dictionaries. D – S – 0 stands for the animal terms which are used in similes, but their metaphorical sense is not mentioned in the dictionary entries.

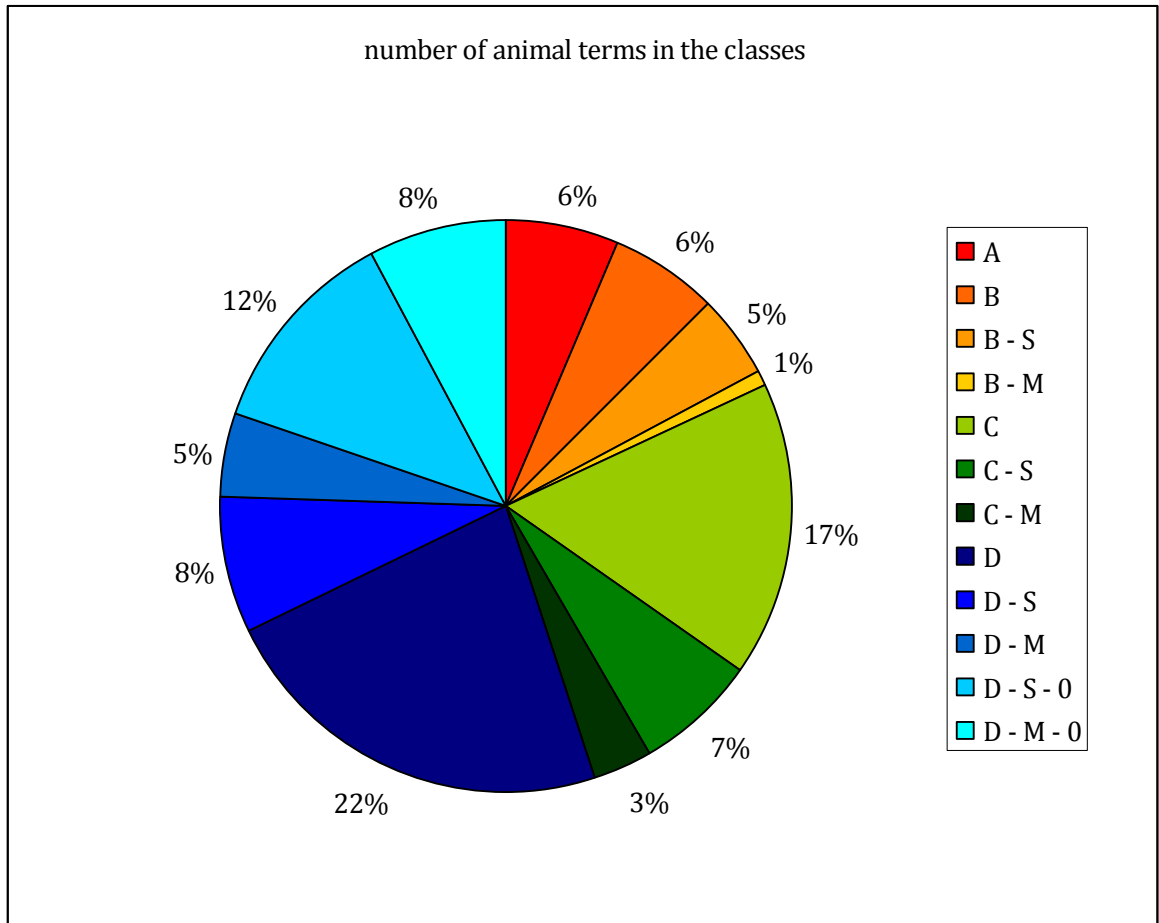
**Table 11: The classification of the correspondence between the metaphors and the similes**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B – M</b>	<b>B – S</b>
beaver	bear	vixen	eel
bitch	butterfly		elephant
chameleon	lamb		lizard
kangaroo	moth		sardine
lemming	ox		snail
limpet	rabbit		tortoise
oyster	sheep		
porcupine	tiger		

<b>C</b>	<b>C - M</b>	<b>C - S</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D - M</b>	<b>D - M - 0</b>	<b>D - S</b>	<b>D - S - 0</b>
brute	bug	animal	camel	ape	bunny	badger	ant
cat	monkey	boar	cockroach	fry	fledgling	bat	cricket
cock	rooster	bull	cow	shark	hog	bee	deer
dragon	stag	dog	crab	skunk	kit	frog	dolphin
duck		hare	crocodile	stallion	mink	hedgehog	flea
fish		hen	cub	swine	mite	serpent	giraffe
fox		lioness	donkey		pup	spider	hamster
goat		snake	duckling		tadpole	squirrel	herring
horse		whale	fawn		termite	turtle	hippopot
hyena			ferret		weasel	wasp	amus
kitten			fly				mackerel
leech			chick				mosquito
lion			chicken				octopus
mouse			lobster				piglet
mule			mare				porpoise
pig			mole				seal
puppy			nit				
rat			nymph				
slug			otter				
toad			panther				
wolf			pit bull				
			poodle				
			ram				
			rattlesnake				
			reptile				
			rhinoceros				
			rodent				
			sow				
			worm				

The percentage of the animal terms in the individual classes is presented in Diagram 1.

**Diagram 1: The percentage of the animal terms in the classes**



As only 18% of the animal terms confirm the statement that a metaphor is a shortened simile and remaining 82% disprove it, it is obvious that the statement was invalidated.

### 3.4 Modifiers of animal terms in similes

I also attempted at an analysis of dependence of the metaphorical transfer of animal terms on the number of modifiers of the animal terms in the similes. Therefore I counted the premodifiers and postmodifiers of the particular animal terms, the total number of the similes in which the animal term appears and the percentage of premodifiers, postmodifiers and modifiers in the individual classes.

**Diagram 2: The percentage of modifiers in the total number of the similes**

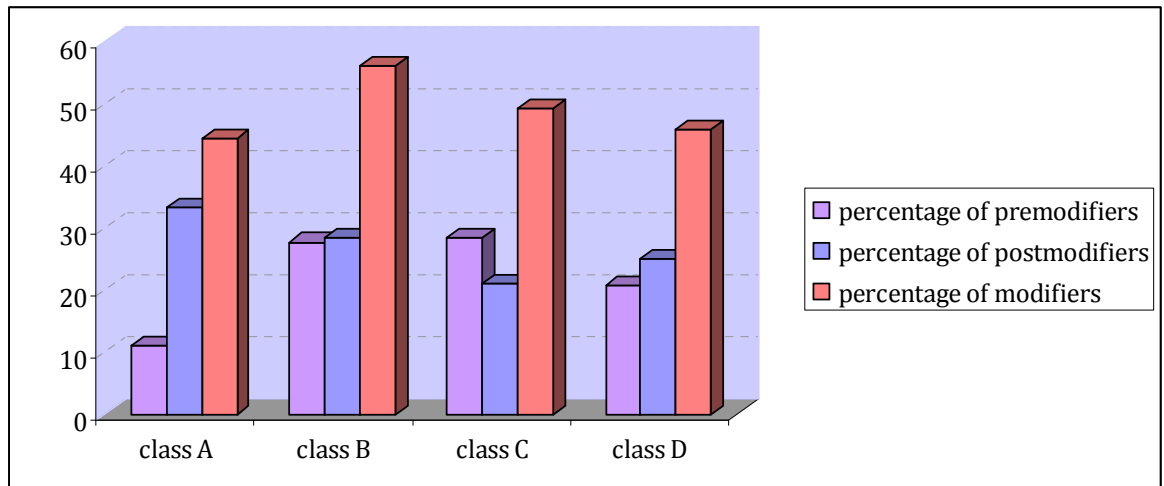
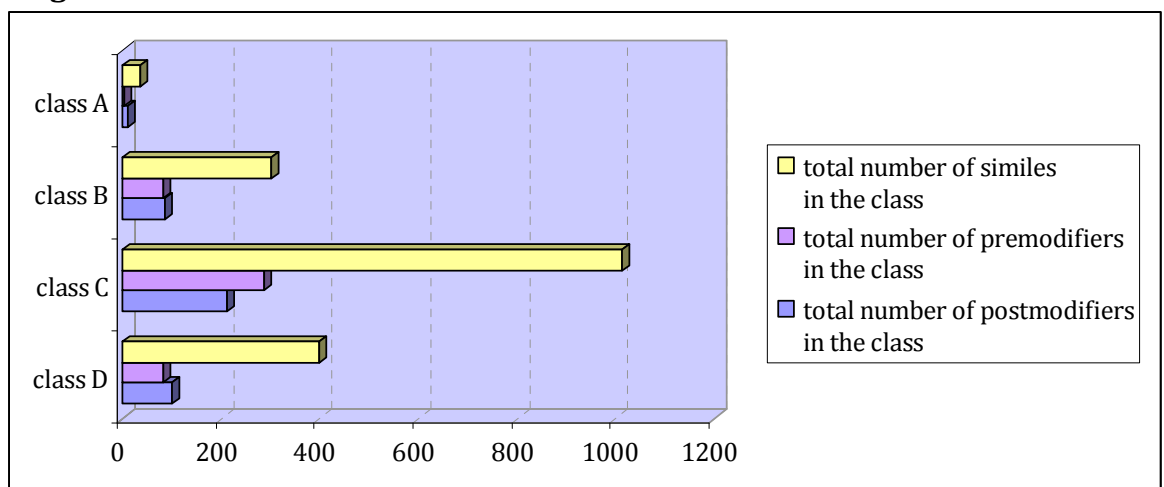


Diagram 2 compares the percentage of premodifiers, postmodifiers and modifiers in the total number of the similes in the individual classes. It shows that the highest percentage of modifiers is found in the class B. However, it is interesting that while in the class of the highest degree of correspondence between the metaphors and similes (Class A) postmodifiers prevail over premodifiers, in the class of the lower degree of correspondence (Class C) it is vice versa.

Unlike Diagram 2 which shows the percentage of modifiers in the particular classes, Diagram 3 depicts the actual number of the similes and modifiers in the classes.

**Diagram 4: Total numbers of the similes in the classes**



It shows that the highest amount of premodifiers, postmodifiers and similes falls into the class C, the classes B and D are almost equal and the lowest number of similes and modifiers is to be found in the class A.

Diagrams 2 and 3 indicate that the decreasing degree of correspondence between the animal metaphors and the similes containing the particular animal terms is compensated by the usage of premodifiers and/or postmodifiers of the animal terms in the similes. However, when the degree of correspondence is too low (Class C), the number of modifiers falls. It could be caused by the development of novel, fresh similes and metaphors (Class D), in which case it is not the issue of falling numbers, but actually rising out of nothing.

## 4 CONCLUSION

In the thesis I examined the metaphoric transfer of animal terms, especially their usage in reference to humans.

The purpose of the thesis was to answer the following research questions. First, whether the animal terms differ in the stability of the similes in which they appear. Second, if a metaphor is a shortened simile (Čermák and Filipec 1984, 111). Then the metaphorical sense of the animal terms defined in the dictionaries should correspond with the characteristics of the animal terms presented in the similes using the terms. Third, whether the metaphorical transfer of the animal terms depends on the modification of the animal terms in the similes.

In order to answer the first research question, I examined similes containing expressions denoting animals in contemporary British English presented in Bakalová (2008). The similes comply with the semantic structure comparandum – relator – (tertium comparationis) – comparator – comparatum (Čermák and Filipec 1984, 217), in which comparandum refers to humans and comparatum is expressed by animal terms.

I counted the frequency of the particular similes, which suggested that similes using the same animal term differ in their stability/novelty. Therefore, the order of the similes according to the frequency of their occurrence is at the same time the order of the similes according to their stability considering the absolute numbers.

Subsequently, I was interested in the influence of the frequency of the particular similes on the overall frequency of the animal term in similes. I determined the animal terms which appear exclusively in novel, fresh, ad hoc or adjusted similes (e.g. *elephant, dragon, seal, whale, donkey*), and, on the contrary, the animal terms which are used specifically in often repeated, bound and stable similes (e.g. *duck, ox, tiger, wolf*).

In order to classify the animal terms according to stability or novelty of the similes in which they appear, I counted the total number of the similes using the particular animal term and the number of the different similes using the animal term. The ratio of these two figures suggested novelty of the similes

using the particular animal term, where the lower the number, the more stable the simile. However, this approach reflected only the final state and numbers of the similes and animal terms. Therefore I investigated whether the changes in numbers are gradual and continuous or rather random. I analyzed the coefficients and the average tempo of growth of the number of similes using a particular animal term.

In the second section of the practical part I analysed the metaphorical usage of the particular animal terms in five most commonly used English-to-English dictionaries.

To decide whether a metaphor is a shortened simile, I investigated the relation between the animal metaphors covered in the dictionaries and the similes containing animal terms retrieved from the BNC, as presented in the third section of the practical part of my thesis. I evaluated the correspondence between the metaphorical sense of the animal terms presented in the dictionaries and the constituents of the similes, particularly the verb phrases and adverbs in the function of relator and tertium comparationis respectively.

I disproved the argument in my second research question claiming that a metaphor is a shortened simile, because only 18% of the animal terms confirm the argument and remaining 82% disprove it.

Finally, in the fourth section of the practical part of my thesis, I attempted at an investigation of the third research question, whether the metaphorical transfer of the animal terms depends on the modification of the animal terms in the similes.

I compared the percentage of premodifiers, postmodifiers and modifiers in the total number of the similes in the individual classes. I discovered that the highest percentage of modifiers is found in the class of the rather high correspondence between the metaphors and similes. I suggested that while in the class of the highest degree of correspondence between the metaphors and similes postmodifiers prevail over premodifiers, in the class of the lower degree of correspondence it is vice versa.

I investigated the total numbers of the similes in the classes, which suggested that the highest amount of premodifiers, postmodifiers and similes falls into the class of the low correspondence between the metaphors and

similes. On the contrary, the lowest number of similes and modifiers is found in the class of the highest correspondence between the metaphors and similes.



## Resumé

Tématem mé diplomové práce *Idiomatičnost výrazů označujících zvířata v angličtině* je přenos významu, kterému tyto výrazy mohou podléhat. Soustředila jsem se především na takové výrazy, které jsou používány pro označení lidí.

Záměrem práce bylo zodpovědět tři hlavní otázky. Zaprvé, jestli se výrazy označující zvířata liší ve stabilitě svých přirovnání. Zadruhé, jestli je metafora zkrácené přirovnání. Pokud by toto tvrzení bylo pravdivé, pak by přenesený význam výrazů, které označují zvířata, definovaný ve slovnících odpovídal přirovnáním, která obsahují tyto výrazy. Zatřetí, jestli metaforický přenos termínů označujících zvířata závisí na modifikaci těchto výrazů v přirovnáních.

V první sekci praktické části této práce jsem navázala na svou bakalářskou práci (Bakalová 2008). Analyzovala jsem taková přirovnání užívaná v současné britské angličtině, která obsahují výrazy označující zvířata a zachovávají sémantickou strukturu comparandum – relátor – (tertium comparationis) – komparátor – comparatum (Čermák a Filipec 1984, 217), přičemž comparandum odkazuje k lidem a comparatum je vyjádřeno výrazem označujícím zvíře.

K zodpovězení první výzkumné otázky bylo nezbytné srovnat četnosti výskytu jednotlivých přirovnání, z čehož vyplynulo, že výrazy označující zvířata se liší ve stabilitě či originalitě přirovnání, ve kterých se vyskytují. Uspořádání přirovnání podle četnosti jejich výskytu je zároveň také pořadí podle jejich stability s ohledem na absolutní počty.

Dále jsem se zajímala o vliv četnosti jednotlivých přirovnání obsahující daný výraz na celkovou četnost tohoto výrazu v přirovnáních. Zjistila jsem, které výrazy se vyskytují výhradně v neutřelých, upravených přirovnáních nebo těch, která vznikají ad hoc, a naopak výrazy, které se používají převážně v často opakovaných, vázaných a stabilních přirovnáních.

Pro porovnání výrazů označujících zvířata podle stability a originality přirovnání, ve kterých se vyskytují, jsem využila podíl celkového počtu

přirovnání, která obsahují daný výraz, a počtu konkrétních přirovnání s daným výrazem. Platí, že čím nižší je tento podíl, tím stabilnější jsou přirovnání obsahující daný výraz. Tento přístup však zohledňuje pouze konečné počty přirovnání. Protože mě zajímalo, jestli změny v počtech přirovnání jsou postupné a průběžné, nebo spíše nahodilé, spočítala jsem koeficienty růstu a průměrné tempo růstu počtu přirovnání obsahující daný výraz.

Ve druhé sekci praktické části této práce jsem zkoumala metaforické použití jednotlivých výrazů označujících zvířata. Konkrétně jsem se zaměřila na definice těchto výrazů v pěti nejrozšířenějších anglických výkladových slovnících.

Pro zodpovězení druhé výzkumné otázky, jestli je metafora zkrácené přirovnání, bylo třeba ohodnotit vztah mezi konkrétními metaforami a přirovnáními, což jsem provedla ve třetí sekci praktické části této práce. Porovnála jsem charakteristiky metafor využívajících výrazy označující zvířata, které byly definovány ve slovnících, a příslušná přirovnání získaná z korpusu. Výrazy označující zvířata jsem následně rozdělila do čtyř tříd podle míry korespondence mezi metaforou a přirovnáním. Z grafu zobrazujícího výsledky třídění vyplývá, že pouze v 18% případů platí, že metafora je zkrácené přirovnání. Zbývající 82% toto tvrzení vyvrací.

Ve čtvrté sekci praktické části této práce jsem se pokusila o zodpovězení třetí výzkumné otázky, tedy jestli metaforický přenos termínů označujících zvířata závisí na modifikaci těchto výrazů v přirovnáních. Zkoumala jsem závislost metaforického přenosu na počtu modifikátorů výrazu označujícího zvíře v přirovnáních. Porovnála jsem procentuální zastoupení premodifikátorů, postmodifikátorů a modifikátorů výrazů označujících zvířata v celkovém počtu přirovnání v daných třídách. Zjistila jsem, že nejvyšší procento modifikátorů se vyskytuje ve třídě výrazů, u kterých existuje korespondence mezi většinou metafor a přirovnání. Zatímco ve třídě s nejvyšší mírou korespondence mezi metaforou a přirovnáním převládá postmodifikace nad premodifikací, ve třídě s nízkou mírou korespondence můžeme vysledovat opačnou tendenci.

Zajímala jsem se také o absolutní počty přirovnání v jednotlivých třídách. Ty ukazují, že nejvyšší počet přirovnání, ale také premodifikátorů a postmodifikátorů, spadá do třídy s nízkou mírou korespondence mezi

metaforou a přirovnáním, a naopak nejnižší počet přirovnání a modifikátorů se nachází ve třídě, kde je míra korespondence nejvyšší.

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## Anotace

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**Klíčová slova:** metafora, přirovnání, srovnání, metaforický přenos, přenesený význam, metaforický význam, modifikace, premodifikace, postmodifikace, korpus, slovníky, idiomaticita, frazeologie.

**Charakteristika:** Práce se zabývá přenosem významu termínů označujících zvířata na člověka. Analýza a následné systematické porovnání zvířecích metafor a přirovnání, která obsahují výraz označující zvíře, vyvrací často zmiňovaný pohled na metaforu jako zkrácené přirovnání.

**Key words:** metaphor, simile, comparison, metaphorical transfer, figurative sense, metaphorical sense, modification, premodification, postmodification, corpus, dictionaries, idiomaticity, phraseology.

**Characteristics:** The thesis examines the meaning shifts animal terms may undergo, sometimes called a metaphoric transfer. It investigates which of these terms can be used in reference to humans. A systematic comparison of the metaphorical usage of these terms with similes containing animal terms shed light on the often stated argument that a metaphor is a shortened simile.