METAPHOR AND ITS RELATED CONCEPTS AS LEXICAL INDICATOR OF POSTCOLONIAL TRAUMA IN *THE CALCUTTA CHROMOSOME*

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**Suvin’s Chronotope**
- Metaphor’s relationship to science fiction through possible worlds
Lexical indicators of theme = ontological metaphors via medical terminology (i.e. experiment, malaria, etc.)

Micrometaphor ➔ Malaria is opportunity
  ➔ “malaria”
  - Opportunity for colonial expansion
  - Opportunity for colonized/postcolonial experiments to cure death

Megametaphor ➔ Science is truth

“I guess it’s because malaria isn’t just a disease. Sometimes it is also a cure.”
--Murugan
_The Calcutta Chromosome_ (54)
TECHNOLOGY THEME

- Lexical indicators of theme = personification via Ava (AVA/Ile system)
- Micrometaphor ➔ Ava is boss/authority
  - Ava the machine and Antar the human
  - Machine/resource exercises agency
- Megametaphor ➔ Technology is agent
  - Colonial perspective: Ava is technology
  - Postcolonial/colonized perspective: Antar is technology

“Once she’d wrung the last, meaningless detail out of him, she’d give the object on her screen a final spin, with a bizarrely human smugness, before propelling it into the horizonless limbo of her memory.”

---on Ava
The Calcutta Chromosome (4)
Lexical indicators of theme = metonymy

Micrometaphor ➔ Language is identity
- Laakhan’s use of language vs. Grigson’s lexical taxonomy

Megametaphor ➔ Subaltern is Silence
- Colonial perspective: silence is absence
- Postcolonial/Colonized perspective: silence is resistance

“By this time it’s not just Lutchman’s retroflex dentals that Grigson’s interested in: he’s developing a personal interest in getting behind his labials.”

--Murugan
The Calcutta Chromosome (91)
APORIA IN TCC’S THEMATIC METAPHORS

- Representation
  - Binary significations related to historical perspective (Colonial vs. Postcolonial/Colonized)
- Belatedness
  - Realization or rationalization of historical significance is pushed to a later chronological time
- Repetition
  - Repetitive use of limited vocabulary within a theme
REFERENCES


