

THESES

In my dissertation I attempt to analyze and systematize figurative language. The major interest behind the analysis is to see whether a comprehensive approach to various components of figurative language shows a unified picture or not. Though Borne of them have already been analyzed successfully, no one that I know of has attempted to examine several of them with the same tools in one book.

Another aim is to find out whether English and Hungarian figurative expressions are completely different, or they reveal certain signs of resemblance. Though the database examined is of rather limited size, it may allow insight into tendencies of language development. The analysis is based on cognitive semantics, which has elaborated various theories and tools for efficient language analysis, and was the first linguistic discipline to take on the task of processing figurative language in a promising and comprehensive way.

The analysis comprises various components of figurative English, searches for links between various domains, and seeks an answer to how spatiality has contributed to the evolution of figurative language. The various components are, to some extent, paralleled with each other by reason of the fact that spatial schemata are operational in them all, and that part of the conceptual system linking them is detectable.

After the Introduction, Chapter 2 examines different aspects of cognitive semantics which are important for the analysis, and it describes why they can be effective means of a semantic approach. This chapter highlights those elements of cognitive grammar that are vital in analyzing metaphorical extension and thereby the extension of the lexicon.

Non-compositional approach is a precondition of the analysis. Metaphorical extension is motivated by image schemata, which reflect the coarse-grained features of linguistic transformations as opposed to prototype, whose manifestations are instantiations of the schema (Langacker, 1999:129). The roles of schemata and prototype in metaphorization are highlighted, and related senses are shown to have developed from prototypical features.

Chapter 3 focuses on word compounds, a category broken down into the main components of figurative language examined in this paper; Collocations (3.1), Phrasal verbs (3.2), Idioms

(3.3), Metaphor (3.4) and Metonymy (35). This comprehensive chapter outlines various semantic, syntactic and other features of each component, and it provides several examples which may clarify how the conceptual system of idiomatic language has emerged. The components are not supposed to be completely different from each other as they overlap to some extent. The conceptual systems they have developed may demonstrate what semantic alternatives figurative language can offer.

Chapter 4 provides a practical approach to the use of adverbial particles. A large number of examples are analyzed to support the theoretical background. The particles chosen are supposed to exhibit cross-domain mapping through schematic analyses, and to reveal a variety of particle senses:

In the final part of the paper (Chapter 5), traces of spatiality and of conceptuality are searched for. This part offers a contrastive analysis of English and Hungarian spatial and figurative expressions. The two languages, which do not belong to the same language family are presumed to share an amazingly high number of similarities in figurative language. It is assumed that they are a result of the common cultural, social and other factors that the languages spoken in Europe have shared for a long time. The aim of the analysis is to prove the relevance of the assumption mentioned above, and to demonstrate it through several examples.

The dissertation is based on extensive reading and contains quotations from authors who have contributed to the completion of my work a lot by supporting or contradicting my assumption