Workshop “Topics in metonymy”

Introduction

Organisers: Antonio Barcelona, Olga Blanco and Marfa Isabel Hernández Gomáriz (University of Córdoba, Spain)

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Introduction (extracted from the Call for Papers):

Research on metonymy in cognitive linguistics and beyond has grown remarkably since the publication of Panther and Radden’s collection of essays (1999) and Kövecses and Radden’s (1998) seminal paper. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) had already recognized its primarily conceptual nature, and Lakoff (1987) had shown its important role in the structuring of cognitive models and categories. Metonymy has been shown to be a fundamental, ubiquitous cognitive process (Barcelona 2002, in press, in preparation) motivating the emergence and extension of numerous conceptual prototypes (Lakoff 1987), a great many metaphors (Goossens 2002, Barcelona 2000, Radden 2002); numerous grammatical phenomena and constructions (for some important recent surveys, see Brdar (2007b), Langacker (2009), Panther, Thornburg and Barcelona, eds. (2009), Ruiz de Mendoza and Otal Campo (2002)), pragmatic inference patterns and discourse understanding (Gibbs 1994: Chapter 7; Panther and Thornburg 2003), and iconic symbols and other types of iconicity (Barcelona 2002). Metonymy, on the other hand, has long been recognised to underlie innumerable lexical senses (Darmesteter 1932, Goossens 1990, Goossens et al. 1995, Stern 1931, Taylor 1995: 127ff). A consequence of this ubiquity is that metonymy often operates simultaneously at various analytical levels (Barcelona 2005; 2009). Language, especially its grammar, is essentially metonymic (in a broad sense; see Langacker 2009), since it tends to underspecify, i.e. to provide a blue-print, not only for intended meaning, but very often also, for form.

The workshop focuses on two main topics.

One of them is the discussion of the difficulties affecting a detailed description of metonymy and the development of a typology of metonymy. This topic is the object of the first section of the workshop, during which the organiser and two members of the research group he heads at the University of Córdoba will present and discuss some of the results of their ongoing research project on this topic.

The other topic is a very broad one (“Metonymy at, under and above the lexicon”) and it is open to contributions from any interested scholars; it has been chosen precisely because of its breadth with the purpose of bringing together metonymy researchers with a wide variety of interests and because it underscores the multilevel use of metonymy in language. Presentations on the operation of metonymy in any area are
welcome, but those which are additionally relevant for any of the following issues will be given preference:

- Metonymy across languages
- Metonymic chaining (in lexical semantics and / or discourse)
- Metonymy in grammatical theory

Structure and schedule (revised June 3, 2011)

9:00 a.m.: Brief presentation of the workshop by the organiser

9:05 a.m.: Section 1. Problems in the characterization of metonymies and in the creation of a detailed typology of metonymy.

This is a joint presentation by three researchers in the University of Córdoba’s metonymy project (FFI2008-04585/FILO); each of them will talk for 20 minutes on various aspects of the above topic.
- Antonio Barcelona (University of Córdoba, Spain). Presentation of the research project and database entry model; discussion of database entry fields (I): hierarchies, prototypicality, and taxonomic domains.
- Olga Blanco Carrion (University of Córdoba, Spain). Discussion of database entry fields (II): conventionality, and linguistic domain / level involved (grammatical rank, meaning, form).
- María Isabel Hernández Gomáriz (University of Córdoba, Spain). Discussion of database entry fields (III): triggers, chaining and interaction with metaphor and other metonymies.

10:05 a.m. Discussion with audience (10 minutes)

10.15 a.m: Section 2. Metonymy at, under and above the lexicon

Four 20-minute presentations:
- Rossella Pannain (Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale”, Italy). Metonymy in number word formation.
- Margarida Basilio (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Metonymy in word-formation: derivation and compounding.
- Karina Ivett Verdín Amaro (Autonomous University of Queretaro and Autonomous University of Nayarit). Metonymic processes as ways of cultural organization in categorization of Wíxáríka people’s diseases.
- Andrea Coles-Bjerre (University of Oregon, U.S.A.). The role of metonymy in a legal concept’s maturation.

11.35 a.m.: Discussion with audience (10 minutes)

11.45 a.m.: Break

12.00 p.m. Section 2. Metonymy at, under and above the lexicon (continued)

Four 20 minute-presentations:
- Ingrid Lossius Falkum (University of Oslo, Norway). Metonymy as a form of naming.

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1 Due to the large number of high-quality submissions, this section was enlarged to accommodate eight slots for presentations instead of the four slots announced in the call for papers.
- Susan Ryland (University for the Creative Arts, UK). Distinguishing metonymy from synecdoche in creative thought

13.20: Discussion with audience (10 minutes)

13.30 p.m.: End

References


