



METAPHOR & METONYMY

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Abstract: Metaphor and metonymy are both significant cognitive mechanisms, claims cognitive linguistics. We can infer that metaphor and metonym are intimately related to one another and that these two form a continuum through an investigation of the similarities, differences, and relationships between them.

Key words: Metaphor, Metonymy, Interrelation, Cognitive

INTRODUCTION

For many years in history, poets and authors have used metaphor as one of their ongoing research topics. To master metaphor, in Aristotle's opinion, was magnificent. While in his view metonymy is merely a linguistic aid. Metaphor has drawn more and more attention from the academic community in recent decades. Cognitive linguists view metaphor as a psychological defense mechanism. However, it is only hinted at when metaphor is being explored. Metonymy research has only recently become popular. This article makes the case that metaphor and metonymy, which have both played significant roles in human cognition and thought, are interconnected in such a way that they really form a continuum by exhibiting their traits and interrelations.

DEFINITION OF METAPHOR AND METONYMY

Metaphor and metonymy are widely understood to be two distinct cognitive processes. Through the use of a familiar and well-known object from a different domain, individuals can understand an unfamiliar or unknown object from one domain through the use of metaphor. A structural mapping between two cognitive domains is a metaphor. According to Crowther (ed),

1992:264, metaphor is the usage of a word or phrase to indicate something different from (though **related** in some way **to**) the literal meaning, as in *I'll make him eat his words* or *She has a heart of stones*. A metaphor is an implicit or indirect comparison in which no function word is used. Something is described by stating another thing with which it can be compared. For example,

1. She has a heart of stone. (= she has a pitiless and unfeeling nature.)
2. He was a lion in the fight. (= He fought bravely and successfully just like a lion.)

Similarly, metaphor is based on the associated similarity shared by the two things implicitly compared. In other words, only if A and B are similar to each other in some way can the name commonly referred to A be metaphorically used to refer to B. However, metonymy does not depend on such similarity. Metonymy is the substitution of the name of one thing for that of another to which it is related with which it is associated. The mappings of the same domain or mental structure make up a metonymy. Currently, it is widely acknowledged that metonymy occurs when a conceptual subject offers another a psychological channel during the cognitive thought process. In general, a portion can be used to refer to the whole, and a prototype can be used to refer to the entire class. For instance,

- (3) The man is a demon for work.
- (4) When the White House called, the ambassador went at once.

Example (3) is a metaphor which means the man is an energetic person who works very hard. While in example (4), *The White House*, which is [+sign], is a metonymy meaning the US President, which is [+person].

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN METAPHOR AND METONYMY

Beginning with their primary commonalities, this section discusses some of the primary contrasts between metonymy and metaphor. Metonymy and metaphor are highly prevalent in language, which is one commonality between the two. There is linguistic proof for both the frequent usage of metonymy and metaphor (Stern 1931, Levin 1977, Reddy 1979, Lakoff and Johnson 1980, Van Eynde 1982, and Yamanashi 1987). The importance of metonymy and metaphor in language change, particularly in the expansion of word sense, is a second commonality them (Stem 1931; Wal 1967). Metonymy and metaphor are both non-literal and structural, not random. For example, when I talk about Shakespeare, I am not only thinking of this man, but also his masterpiece, accomplishments, point of view, and other things related to him. I might also contrast him with other artists of the same era due to our perception and

behavior. Furthermore, metaphor and metonymy are both founded on people's everyday experiences. Because they have comparable or analogous experiences in their lives, they are able to grasp the world around them through metaphor or metonymy. Metaphor and metonymy actually have their roots in how people feel their bodies and interact with the outside world. As a result of their interactions with their physical and cultural surroundings, people can understand the metaphor and metonymy. Humans primarily understand concepts based on their prior knowledge of and experiences with their bodies. Thought is a product of bodily experience, and innovation in thought can aid in a person's understanding of their surroundings. In other words, the body, the brain, and the experiences of the world have generated concepts.

On the other hand, while metonymy is founded on the concepts of adjacency and prominence, metaphor is based on the principles of similarity and coherence. For instance,

(5) Her home was a prison.

(6) The disease has cut off his breath.

In example (5), we can understand that her home had some of the characteristics of a prison. Mainly, we image that she couldn't leave her home. She was trapped inside. We don't know what happens to her. Maybe she was afraid of outside, maybe her husband asked her to stay at home. What is important here is that in five simple words we know a lot about her life/environment, how she felt and how she behaved. Thus, "*prison*" is a metaphor. In example (6), the most prominent feature of someone's life is his/her breath. So, people can easily figure out what it refers to when the phrase "*his breath*" is mentioned. It adheres to the prominence principle and is what we refer to as metonymy. The most noticeable aspect of something or someone can apply to either their entire being or themselves.

While metaphor refers to the mapping of a notion between distinct domains, metonymy is the expansion of a concept within the same domain. For examples,

(7) I live on my pen.

(8) Time is money.

Example (7) is a typical metonymy. *Pen* refers to a job which related to *Writing*, so they obviously belong to the same domain. Thus, metonymy happens in the same domain with the concept *Pen* extended. In example (8), we may understand value of money because of our real experiences. The experience is literally being mapped from one domain to another through this metaphorical knowledge. This will help us comprehend the world more clearly and properly, especially its abstract concepts.

Metonymy emphasizes the salient quality or particularity of the thing being referred to more than metaphor does. For instance, we can easily figure out the phrase “the whole class” in the sentence (9) “As the teacher enters the room, the whole class stand up” refers to all students in the class. In addition, the knowledge of metaphor and metonymy is based on experience. However, because it incorporates the direct body or causal relationship between the two objects, metonymy has a more direct and unambiguous grounding in experience than metaphor. Looking at this sentence (10) “I like longhairs.”, longhairs refer to the people with long hairs, or “an ear for music” in example (11) “He has an ear for music.” refers to the talent for learning, appreciating music.

INTERACTION BETWEEN METAPHOR AND METONYMY

In reality, a huge number of studies have demonstrated that metonymy and metaphor interact. The relationship can be rather complex at times. According to Goosens, there are four different ways that metonymy and metaphor interact. Metaphor derived from metonymy B. a metonymy-containing metaphor, C. a metonymy-containing metaphor, and D. a non-metonymy in a metaphor. For example,

(12) Each time he was caught stealing, he would beat *his breast*.

(13) She caught *her son's ear*.

(14) He *got up on his hind legs* to argue.

A metonymic metaphor is found in Example 12. The expression "beat one's breast" is a metaphor that means "feel sorry or guilty of what one has done," but it is derived from a metonymy, indicating that a person had to beat his breast when confessing his guilt during a religious ceremony. A metaphor with metonymy is Example 13. The metaphorical term "caught her son's ear" means "caught one's attention." In the target domain, the term "ear" refers to the listener's attention, which is an organ with a listening function in the source domain. (metonymy). In the context of metaphor, Example 14 is non-metonym in the context of metaphor. Animals must use more energy to stand up than to lie down, as is common knowledge. This implies that the man is having difficulty arguing.

The examples above demonstrate how closely related metonymy and metaphor are, making it occasionally difficult to tell them apart. Consider the phrase "I am in low spirits," which is typically thought of as a metaphor but which can also be read as a metonymy, because

the influence of emotion is clearly demonstrated in this sentence. The category of emotion includes the emotional effect. Thus, it belongs to a metonymy. With diverse points of view, we occasionally use both metaphor and metonymy in the same situation.

CONCLUSION

Although there are typical differences between metaphor and metonymy like above, we can infer from the study above that metonymy and metaphor are not mutually exclusive. Instead, they have intimate ties to one another. A single continuum connects metaphor and metonymy. In actuality, both metonymy and metaphor are significant cognitive processes in our lives that influence our thinking and behavior. But sometimes we like to think metaphorically, and other times we will think metonymically.

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