Metonymic triggers, metonymic chaining and patterns of interaction with metaphor and with other metonymy domains in a metonymy database

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This presentation is the third of three presentations making up the first section of the theme session which we have organized for ICLC 12. This section will present part of the results of our current project on metonymy, funded in part by two grants from the Spanish government. The main objective of this project is to investigate the functioning of conceptual metonymy across a variety of authentic discourse samples in oral and sign languages. As a consequence, we are developing a detailed web-hosted digital database of metonymy, which may constitute a useful research tool for the academic community, and in which a complex set of criteria are applied to each particular example, intending to characterize one particular metonymy from different perspectives. We have already developed a rich set of criteria to and applied them so far to 200 metonymies registered in the specialized literature on metonymy. In this section we will discuss the design and functioning of the database, each of its 11 fields (some of them fairly complex), their application to a sample of the metonymies (in English, Spanish, American and Spanish sign language) included in the database up to early June 2013, the problems encountered, and some of the descriptive and theoretical findings that have so far resulted from the multiple searches allowed by the database.

My presentation is concerned with the discussion of the fields devoted to *metonymic triggers, metonymic chaining*, and *patterns of interaction with metaphor and with other metonymies*.

We have labelled as "metonymic triggers" all those factors that lead to the operation of the metonymy. The nature of these factors may be, basically, of two different types: co-textual and contextual (other than co-textual). They are dealt with by two sub-fields. The first one is devoted to "co-textual triggers" (all of those that are actually present in the discourse portion surrounding a metonymy). "Contextual (other than co-textual) triggers" (Barcelona 2005) are, on the other hand, more difficult to identify. In our analysis, nevertheless, we have so far identified some of them, which are already included in the entry model: grammatical knowledge, frames / ICMs, etc.

The second field discussed here inquires on the pattern of chaining of the metonymy under analysis with other metonymies (Barcelona 2005), as suggested by the researcher who proposes the metonymy analyzed in the database entry.

Finally, the last field studies the patterns of interaction of the metonymy under analysis with a metaphor or with other metonymies. This field is divided into three sub-fields. The first one registers the interaction resulting in the conceptual motivation of metaphor or metonymy. The second field registers those cases in which the interaction can be seen as the conceptual motivation of the conventional form or meaning of a construction (Barcelona 2009). The last sub-field registers the patterns of interaction observed in discourse understanding.

As in the two previous presentations, the discussion will be illustrated with entries applied to several metonymies proposed in the literature and supplemented with searches combining these fields with other fields, followed by the discussion of the corresponding findings.

Keywords: Metonymy, metonymy database, metonymic chaining, interaction patterns of metonymy

References

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