# Metaphors in Emotional Antonyms

Kohei Suzuki
*Mie University*

In this paper, I demonstrate a corpus-based approach to the investigation of metaphor. I discuss the distribution of English opposite concepts SADNESS and HAPPINESS, specifically a pair of antonyms: *sorrow* and *joy*. From the property of a metaphorical mapping, we expect that these emotional antonyms are expressed by the inverse metaphorical expressions. However, this study suggests, 1) emotional antonyms have strong word-specific preferences on their co-occurring metaphorical expressions and 2) emotional antonyms hold virtually the same metaphorical mappings in a conceptual metaphor.

This study uses two subcorpora of Wordbanks Online; ukbooks and usbooks. Each subcorpus contains more than five million words. We use the Key Word In Context concordance. The key words are *sorrow* (188), *sadness* (203), and *grief* (412) for SADNESS, and *happiness* (332) and *joy* (416) for HAPPINESS. Their tokens are normalized to 200 hits in Table 1. All collocates are manually classified on the basis of conceptual metaphors.

**Table 1 Frequencies of conceptual metaphors**

| Keyword | Lavel of Conceptual Domain | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ⟨Liquid⟩ | ⟨Transferring obj⟩ | ⟨Visible obj⟩ | ⟨Solid obj⟩ | ⟨Space⟩ | others |
| sorrow | 19 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 150 |
| joy | 11 | 15 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 149 |
| SUM | 30 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 13 | 299 |

Table 1 shows *sorrow* and *joy* have particular preferences on co-occurring conceptual metaphors. Further, our result shows *joy* tend to be expressed through BOUNDED OBJECT metaphors such as <transferring obj>, <visible obj>, and <soled obj>, whereas *sorrow* is described through UNBOUNDED concepts like <Liquid> and <Space> ($\chi^2_{(1)}$= 5.18, p<.05). On the other hand, *sorrow* and *joy* have the same metaphorical mappings within a metaphor.

**Table 2 Metaphorical expressions in <Space> metaphor**

| Emotional Word | Metaphorical Expressions |
|---|---|
| joy | deep (depth of) X (3), distant X, entry into X, go in X, midst of X, profound X |
| sorrow | deep X (3), approach X, burst into X, compass X, initiate into X, reach X, turn to X, tap into X, uplifting X |

Table 2 demonstrates co-occurring metaphorical expressions that are yielded by <Space> metaphor. Importantly, these expressions are produced by the same mappings: "Emotions Are Locations" and "Changes Are Movements" (cf. Lakoff 1993). However, we find few metaphorical expressions for opposite concepts. The only clear example is "uplifting joy" in the <Transferring obj> metaphor.

Previous studies have not analyzed antonyms that engage in the opposite conceptual mappings. Contrary to the expectation, our result demonstrated that emotional antonyms are described through particular conceptual metaphors whereas each conceptual metaphor holds the same metaphorical mappings.

**References**

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