Event metonymies

Günter Radden
Hamburg University
raddeng@yahoo.com
Structure

1. Associative links and metonymies
2. Referential metonymies
3. Event metonymies
4. Puzzles waiting to be solved
"Your mind automatically assumed a temporal sequence and a causal connection between the words bananas and vomit, forming a sketchy scenario in which bananas caused the sickness. As a result, you are experiencing a temporary aversion to bananas (don't worry, it will pass)."
Metonymic reasoning in the banana story

**bananas** = I ate bananas: PART FOR WHOLE: THING/PARTICIPANT FOR EVENT AFFECTING THE PARTICIPANT

**vomit** = I vomited (the contents of my stomach): PART FOR WHOLE: PREDICATE FOR AN EVENT

**I ate bananas. I vomited.** = I first ate bananas and then vomited.

JUXTAPOSED EVENTS FOR SUCCESSIVE EVENTS FOR CAUSAL SCENARIO

**bananas** = bad: THING FOR A PROPERTY OF THE THING

**I ate bananas** = EVENT FOR CAUSE (in the scenario)

**I vomited** = EVENT FOR EFFECT (in the scenario)

**vomit** = aversion: EVENT FOR A PROPERTY OF THE EVENT

*All these metonymies are event metonymies.*
Referential metonymies

Event metonymies
Typical referential metonymies

The kettle is boiling.
The milk tipped over.

The whole town showed up.
The British host the games.

Bush invaded Iraq.
The buses are on strike.

I have a flat tire.
She married money.

That's a Picasso
susu 'breast'

That's me (on the photo).
I like Monet's water lilies.

live under my roof
book a hotel

pikinini 'child'
Boys will be boys.

Have a beer.
I smell skunk.

A lion has a bushy tail.
(genericness)

a tax return
(reification)

container

place

controller

possessor

producer

image

external

Containment

Location

Control

Possession

Production

Representation

internal

part

property

constitution

type

relation, event

2013-07-15
Characteristics of referential metonymies

- Referential metonymies may relate to referent-internal or referent-external entities.
- **Referent-internal** metonymies constitute a small, well-defined set.
- The majority of referential metonymies relate to **referent-external** entities.
- Referential metonymies are predominantly **bidirectional**.
- The **target** of referential metonymies tends to be easily and uniquely accessible.
- Referential metonymies tend to be **noticeable** to the language user.
Situational/event metonymies
Comparing referential and event metonymies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referential metonymies</th>
<th>Event metonymies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metonymic relationships:</td>
<td>well-defined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of metonymy:</td>
<td>limited set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal relationships:</td>
<td>very few</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External relationships:</td>
<td>many</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual distance:</td>
<td>great</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversability:</td>
<td>mostly bidirectional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metonymic target:</td>
<td>uniquely accessible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perceptibility:</td>
<td>noticeable</td>
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</tbody>
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2013-07-15
THING-EVENT metonymies

THING FOR PROPERTY:  
*I am just a student*

THING FOR EVENT:  
*We’ve always had a nose for the very best.*

OBJECT FOR EVENT INVOLVING THE OBJECT:  
*Mary began the book.*

THING FOR THE USE OF THE THING:  
*The treadmill burns 200 calories an hour.*

OBJECT INVOLVED IN ACTION FOR AGENT:  
*couch potato*
PROPERTY metonymies

PROPERTY FOR A THING: You’re insulting my intelligence.

EVENT FOR PROPERTY OF A THING FOR THE THING: pick-up truck
MEANS and MANNER metonymies

MEANS FOR ACTION: *He sneezed the napkin off the table.*

MANNER OF PERFORMING AN ACTION FOR THE ACTION:  
*I’ll be brief.*

MANNER OF PERFORMING AN ACTION WITH A THING  
FOR A PROPERTY OF THE THING:  
*Our investors are more interested in long-term, stable, reliable returns than in the fast buck. / fast car*

TIME FOR MANNER: *permanent talk*
CAUSAL metonymies

CAUSE FOR EFFECT: beautify the garden.
CAUSE FOR PURPOSE: donate money for a good cause
EFFECT FOR CAUSE: happy hour ‘times when restaurants reduce their prices on alcoholic beverages’
PRECEDENCE FOR CAUSE: Who started the fight?
SITUATION-TYPE metonymies

STATE FOR EVENT: Paolo Soleri is dead at 83.
SEEING FOR MAKING SURE: Can you see to it.
HABIT FOR SPECIFIC EVENT: Would you care for something to drink? – I never drink.

EVENT FOR STATE: Please fasten seatbelt while seated.
MOTION FOR STATE: The poplar is after the oak.
PROCESS FOR ACTION: The door opened ‘someone opened the door’
RESULT FOR ACTION: Have another cookie.
ACTION FOR RESULT: He is catching a bird./ dermatologically tested

on.
the test.)

And it doesn't even mean that They PASSED
POTENTIALITY, ACTUALITY, REALITY

POTENTIAL FOR ACTUAL:  
I can see your point./
I must admit you are right.

ACTUAL FOR POTENTIAL:  
Do you play the piano?/
He is an angry person.

ACTUAL FOR ASSIGNED:  
Is someone sitting here? –
No, the seat is empty.

SUBJECTIVITY FOR REALITY:  
That was a penalty.

APPEARANCE FOR REALITY:  
He looked puzzled.
TIME metonymies

Time-internal:

PAST FOR PRESENT: *What was your name?*/*This was the supermarket.*

POINT IN TIME FOR PERIOD: *At the moment there is no news available.*

PASSING TIME FOR PRESENT: *currently* ‘presently’

PROXIMATE TIME FOR DISTANT TIME:

> *Today's syntax is tomorrow's morphology.*

Time-external:

EVENT FOR TIME: *Christmas*; Tok Pisin: *yu gat hamas krismas?*

THING FOR EVENT FOR TIME: *I explained a few classes ago.*

THING FOR ACTIVITY FOR TIME TO DO THAT ACTIVITY:

> *She left about two beers ago.*

TIME FOR EVENT: *9/11*
PLACE metonymies

PLACE FOR EVENT:  

*Greece* was not supposed to happen. /  
Not longer after, Hutton was on the plane./  
Jack is on the phone.

EVENT FOR PLACE:  
*He drove through a red light.* /  
*bus stop*

TIME FOR DISTANCE:  
*From Cologne to Vienna it is ten hours by train.*
WHOLE EVENT – SUBEVENTS

whole event

co-present subevent Successive subevents

Salient

Concomitant

Peripheral
**CO-PRESENT SUBEVENTS:**

**SALIENT and CONCOMITANT SUBEVENTS**

Event ICM comprising two co-present subevents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Subevent Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTION</td>
<td>SOUND</td>
<td>SOUND FOR ACTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVE</td>
<td>SOUND</td>
<td>SOUND FOR MOTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVE</td>
<td>MANNER</td>
<td>MANNER FOR MOTION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERBAL</td>
<td>NON-VERBAL</td>
<td>NON-VERBAL FOR VERBAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example sentences:

- *The shop assistant rang up the purchase on the cash register.*
- *The train roared over the mountain tracks.*
- *The airplane bounced its way to a halt.*
- *The queen raised an eyebrow yesterday when she was told of a play about a man who has a passionate affair with his pet goat.*
Event ICM comprising several co-present subevents

LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE:

speaking, understanding, writing, reading

SALIENT SUBEVENT FOR SET OF SUBEVENTS

My wife speaks Finnish = ‘she speaks, understands, writes and reads Finnish’
but: I don’t read Hebrew.

EVENTS IN FALL 1989:

fall of the Berlin Wall, opening of the borders, visa-free travel, freedom of speech, free elections, etc.

SALIENT SUBEVENT FOR COMPLEX OF EVENTS

When the wall came down = ‘unspecific sum of cooccurring events’
CO-REPRESENT SUBEVENTS:

Playing a musical instrument

The ICM of ‘playing a musical instrument’ comprises the following aspects:

1. a musical instrument
   
   4 types of instrument according to the means of sound production: brass, woodwind, percussion, and string instruments

2. the production of a sound

3. the production of music by a musician playing a tune on a musical instrument
Playing a musical instrument in different languages

English: production of music: you *play* an instrument

Finnish: production of sound: you *sound* an instrument

Japanese: different means of sound production:
you *pluck, blow, beat, or sound* an instrument

Hausa: one means of sound production: you *hit* an instrument
Playing a musical instrument in Japanese

String instruments (guitar, violin, viola, harpsichord, piano, organ, accordion, etc.) are ‘plucked’ (*hiku*).

Brass and woodwind instruments (trumpet, trombone, flute, oboe, recorder, harmonica, etc.) are ‘blown’ (*fuku*).

Percussion instruments (drum, castanets, tambourine, xylophone, etc.) are ‘beaten’ (*tataku*).

Percussion instruments that are shaken (maracas, handbell, etc.) are ‘sounded’ (*narasu*).

Playing any musical instrument in a performance is expressed as ‘musical.performance-do’ (*ensoo-suru*).
Whole event – subevents

Whole event

Co-present subevent

Successive subevents

Precondition

Initial

Central

Final

End

Salient

Concomitant

Peripheral
SUCCESSIVE SUBEVENTS FOR WHOLE EVENT

“Getting to a place” ICM (Lakoff)

“How did you get to the party?”

Precondition: “I have a car.”
Embarkation: “I hopped on a bus.”
Center: “I drove.”
Finish: You park and get out.
End point: You are at your destination
### Means of getting to a place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means</th>
<th>Establishing Precondition</th>
<th>Precondition</th>
<th>Embarkation</th>
<th>Center</th>
<th>Final</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by bus</td>
<td>They opened a new bus line.</td>
<td>There is a bus stop close by.</td>
<td>I hopped on the bus.</td>
<td>I took the bus.</td>
<td>I came by bus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walking</td>
<td>I love walking.</td>
<td>This is within walking distance.</td>
<td>I put on my walking shoes.</td>
<td>I walked over.</td>
<td>I came on foot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>by car</td>
<td>I just bought a new car.</td>
<td>I have a car.</td>
<td>I jumped into the car.</td>
<td>I drove.</td>
<td>I came by car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I borrowed Dad's car.</td>
<td>Friends always lend me their cars.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I passed the driver's test.</td>
<td>I now have a driver's license.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>They have built a new road.</td>
<td>You can get here in no time.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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SUCCESSIVE SUBEVENTS FOR WHOLE EVENT: focus on different subevents

whole event

- precondition
- initial
- central
- finish
- end

**Phoning ICM:**

- There is the phone.
- Just pick up the phone.
- *I made a phone call.*
- I slammed down the phone.
- We are cut off.

**Doctor's visit ICM:**

- My wife was sick.
- You went to see the doctor.
- The doctor examined her.
- The doctor prescribed green pills.
- She is feeling better now.

**Paper-grading ICM:**

- There was a pile of papers waiting to be graded
- I read the papers.
- I marked all the mistakes.
- *I graded the papers.*
- I returned the papers.
Booking ICM (in soccer games): Caution and removal from the game

Yellow card:
A playing card-sized card that a referee holds up to warn a player for dangerous or unsportsmanlike behavior; also called a caution.

Red card:
A playing card-sized card that a referee holds up to signal a player's removal from the game, presented for violent behavior or multiple law infractions.
The referee gives a card to a player

Referee Peter Frojdfeldt, right, from Sweden, gives a yellow card to Italy's Luca Toni, second left, during the group C match between the Netherlands and Italy in Bern, Switzerland, Monday, June 9, 2008, at the Euro 2008 European Soccer Championships in Austria and Switzerland.
SUCCESSIVE AND CO-PRESENT SUBEVENTS in the booking ICM

Precondition: A player displays dangerous or violent behavior.

Initial, preparatory subevents:

a) The referee walks over to the player.
b) The referee dips/ reached into his pocket/ fumbles in his pocket.
c) The referee pulls out a red card/ fishes a red card out of his pocket.

Central subevents: performative booking act:

a) The referee holds up/ brandishes/ waves the red card.
b) The referee shows/ gives/ wields/ issues the player the red card.
c) The player is shown/ sees/ receives/ gets the red card.
d) The player picks up/ earns/ draws a red card.

Final, ensuing subevents: the player is booked:

The player is sent off/ banished from the field/ removed from the game.
Some unresolved, thorny problems surrounding event metonymies

1. **What is the target** of event metonymies?
   If the metonymic target is taken to be the **central subevent**, e.g. *I drove* in the ‘getting to a place’ ICM, then *I hopped on the bus* would be metonymic, but *I drove* would not.
   If the metonymic target is taken to be the **ICM**, then all subevents including the central one (*I drove*) would metonymically stand for the ‘getting to a place’ ICM.

2. If the central subevent is taken to be the metonymic target, **what counts as a central event**? (e.g. *holding up/ showing/ giving* a card?)

3. Are event metonymies **language dependent** or **conceptual**, or both? E.g., is the English expression *play an instrument* metonymic even when there are no alternative expressions available?