

The role of metonymic constructions in the conceptualization of emotional category fear

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Question(s) and approach

What is the role of language in structuring (emotional) experience?

- Cognitive approach: language is essential for conceptualizing emotional categories, elicitation and communication of subjective affective experience (Lakoff 1987, Gendron et al. 2012, Lindquist & Barrett 2008)

Language enables meaningful expression of our mental states.

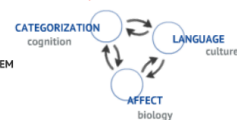
Problems of communicating the meaning of mental states:

- epistemological - intersubjectivity: HOW CAN WE RELATE/UNDERSTAND SUBJECTIVE FEELINGS OF OTHERS? (Zlatev et al. 2008)
- ontological - categorization: DO EMOTIONAL CATEGORIES/CONCEPTS REFER TO NATURAL KINDS OF ENTITIES? (Izard 2007; Feldman Barrett 2008)
- (inter/cross)cultural - contextualization: ARE EMOTIONAL CATEGORIES UNIVERSAL OR CULTURALLY CONSTRUCTED (Wierzbicka 1992)

Cognitive (Linguistic) approach:

- epistemological: WE UNDERSTAND OTHERS BY MEANS OF OUR OWN EXPERIENCE - **EMBODIED COGNITION, MENTAL SIMULATION, MIRROR NEURON, ToM** (Damásio 1999, Rizzolatti & Sinigaglia 2008, Bergen 2005)
- ontological: EMOTION **CATEGORIES** REPRESENT (COGNITIVE) CONCEPTUALIZATION OF **PROTOTYPICAL AFFECTIVE STATES (FUZZY)** (Rosch 1975, Lakoff 1987, Russel & Feldman Barrett 1999)
- (inter/cross)cultural: LEXICAL CONCEPTS REFLECT COGNITIVE/**CULTURAL MODELS, CONTEXTUALIZATION** (Kövecses 2005, Feldman Barrett et.al. 2011)

EMOTION IS CONSTRUCT OF DYNAMIC SYSTEM



CL Theory and LS Hypothesis

(Emotional) lexical concepts are EMERGENT ENTITIES (bottom up) and ACCES POINTS (top down) to a network of image schemas, conceptual domains, frames and cognitive models (Langacker 1987, Fillmore, Lakoff 1987) realized in neurobiological<->cognitive<->symbolic structures (Lakoff 2008).

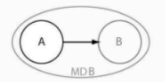


Semantic value of emotional concepts is constructed (primarily) via:

(Lakoff, Kövesces)

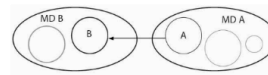
- CONCEPTUAL METONYMY

METONYMY (A FOR B)



- CONCEPTUAL METAPHOR

METAPHOR (B IS A)



The role of metonymy (and metaphor) in structuring emotional reality:

Affective experience is conveyed in symbolic constructions by activating conceptual profiling of PHYSICAL, SENSORY-MOTOR, BEHAVIORAL REACTIONS (A FOR B) and applying conceptual mapping of various other experiential DOMAINS (B IS A) onto TARGET DOMAIN EMOTION.

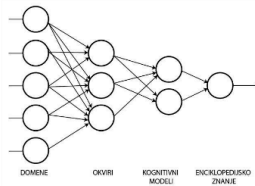


Study: Conceptualization of Fear

Corpus based analysis of the lexical concept FEAR "strah" in Croatian.

Goals:

- qualitatively and quantitatively describe salient domains, frames and cognitive models that structure lexical concept FEAR "strah" as well as their conventionality, cognitive entrenchment.



- identify conceptual metonymies and metaphors, and their corresponding linguistic construction patterns
- explain epistemic, ontological and cultural role of embodied metonymic constructions in the process of structuring and further conceptualization of lexical concept FEAR



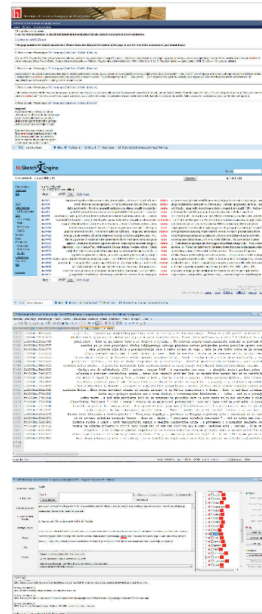
Methodology

Metaphorical-pattern analysis of corpus data for lemma **strah** "fear" (Stefanowitsch 2004, 2006)

- 1) **Definition** of source data: **texts**
 - Croatian language repository (**CLR**) (<http://riznica.ihjj.hr>): corpus of **85 Mw**
 - Croatian national corpus (**CNC**) (<http://www.hnk.ffzg.hr>): corpus of **46,8 Mw**

SUM (CLR+CNC) = **131,8 Mw**
- 2) **Extraction** of **concordances** for lemma «strah»
 - HJR- 12 050 appearances
 - HNK- 2825 appearances

SUM (HJR+HNK) = **14 875 concordances**
- 3) **Tagging and classification** of **metonymic and metaphoric domains**
 - CATMA software



- 4) **Scope: EMBODIED FRAME** of metonymic profiling
 - Body parts
 - Somato-sensory-motor processes



- 5) **Criteria: profiling** the entity/event lexicalized with lemma **strah** "fear"

Body domains

- 1) [WIDE EYES] > FEAR
U strahu su velike oči.
"Eyes wide with fear."
2nd person [EVIDENCE OF PH.R.] - surprise

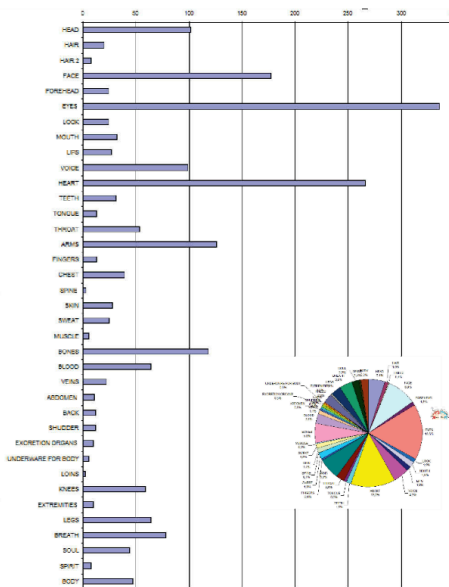
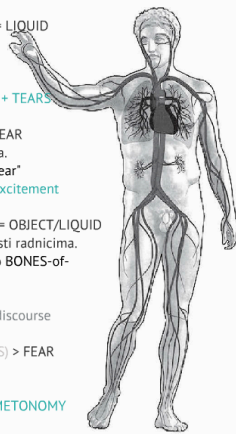
- 2) [EYES = CONTAINER] > FEAR = LIQUID
Oči mu se napune strahom.
"His eyes were filled with fear."
Framing
2nd person [EVIDENCE OF PH.R.] + TEARS

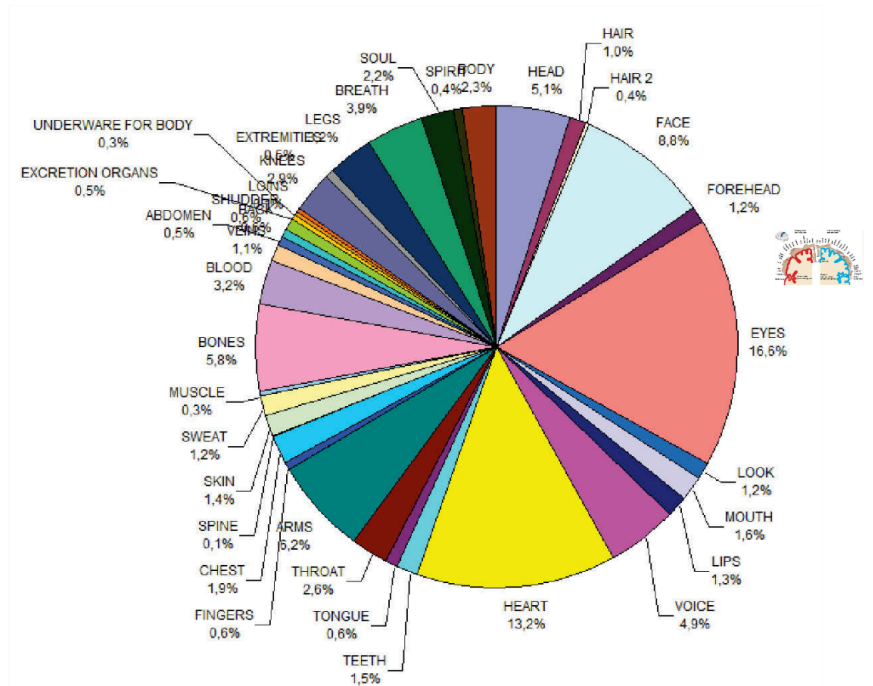
- 3) [CHANGE IN HEART RATE] > FEAR
Srce mi je burno kucalo od straha.
"My heart was pounding out-of fear"
? 1st p. NARRATION OF PH.R. - excitement

- 4) BONES = CONTAINER + FEAR = OBJECT/LIQUID
Predsjednik je utjerao strah u kosti radnicima.
[X_Agent put/pour FEAR_Pat into BONES-of-Y_Location]
3rd p. CAUSATION
frequency driven by newspaper discourse

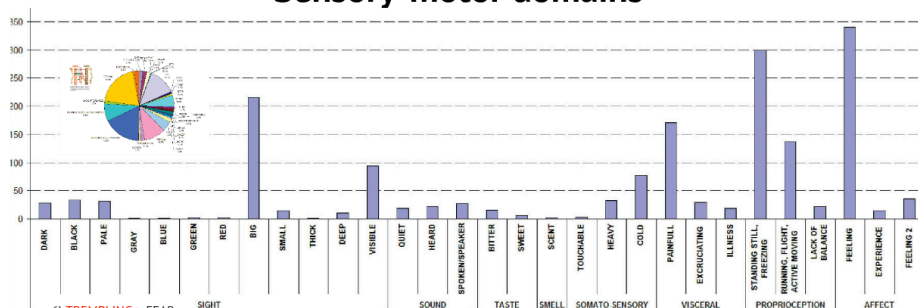
- 5) PANTS > EXCRETION (ORGANS) > FEAR
Gaće mu se napune strahom.
"He filled his pants (with FEAR)"
Tabu/Genre driven euphemism METONOMY

- (EXPRESSOR) BODY PART > FEAR
- epistemic: enables interpersonal simulation
 - ontological: conveys quality of AFFECT
 - (i/c)cultural: profiles pragmatic inference





Sensory-motor domains



6) **TREMBLING > FEAR**
Tijelo mi se treslo od straha.
"I was trembling (out of fear)."
Framing [Lack of control]

7) **FLIGHT > FEAR**
Supruga je u strahu pobjegla.
"Wife fled (in fear)."
Framing [Fight or flight reaction]

8) **COLD > FEAR**
Hladan strah ovlada njime.
"He was taken over by cold fear."
COLD FEAR < metaphonymy FEAR = COLD OBJECT

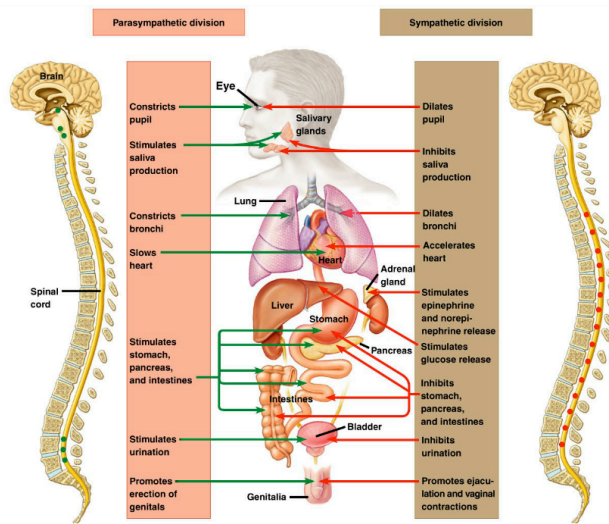
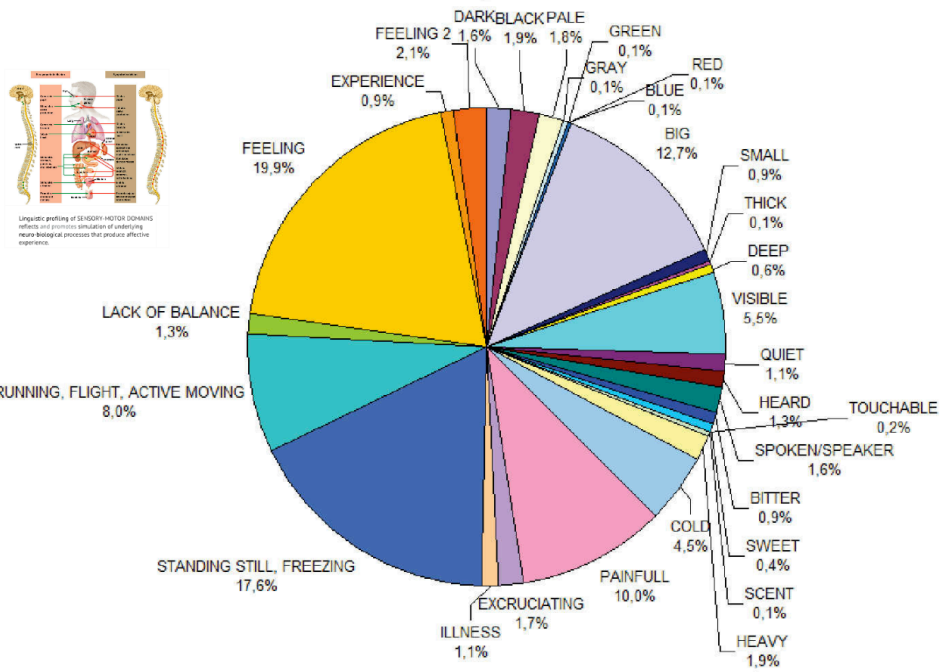
9) **PALE > FEAR + FEAR IS COLD WIND**
Pobledni u licu i strah je zaogrme kao studeni vjetar.
"She became pale and fear wrapped around her like cold wind".
1st person SOMATIC > 2nd person VISUAL evidence

Category	Sub-category	Value	
SIGHT	DARK	20	
	BLACK	30	
	PALE	30	
	GRAY	30	
	BLUE	30	
	GREEN	30	
	RED	30	
	BIG	220	
	SMALL	20	
	THICK	20	
SOUND	DEEP	20	
	VISIBLE	100	
	QUIET	20	
	HEARD	20	
	SPEAKERS	20	
	BITTER	20	
	SWEET	20	
	SCENT	20	
	TOUCHABLE	20	
	HEAVY	20	
TASTE	COLD	70	
	PAINFUL	170	
	EXCITATING	20	
	ILLNESS	20	
	SMELL	STANDING STILL, FREEZING	300
		RUNNING, FLIGHT, ACTIVE MOVING	150
		LACK OF BALANCE	20
		FEELING	350
		EXPERIENCE	20
		FEELING 2	20

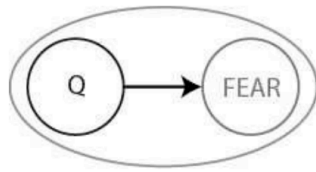
(BODY) + PHYSICAL REACTION > FEAR

- epistemic: enables simulation
- ontological: conveys quality of AFFECT
- (i/c)cultural: profiles pragmatic inference, framing, cognitive-cultural model



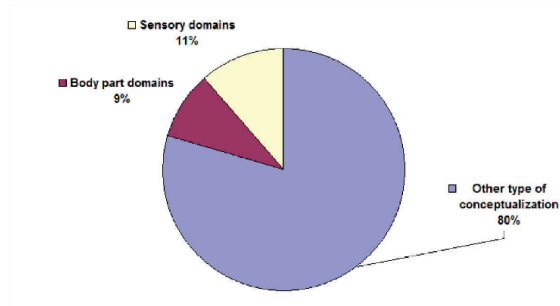


Linguistic profiling of SENSORY-MOTOR DOMAINS reflects and promotes simulation of underlying neuro-biological processes that produce affective experience.



BODY PART AND/OR SENS.-MOT.
 QUALITY OF EXPERIENCE > FEAR
 Sav drhtim.
 "I'm shaking."
 Simulating embodied Quality

Embodied metonymic constructions



? Quantifying embodied frame of domains



QUALITY > F and F is OBJECT
 Osjetila je hladan dodir straha.
 "She felt the cold touch of fear."

Simulating embodied Quality +
 Mappings physical OBJECT domain

Metaphonimic constructions

FEAR IS (SCHEMATIC PHYSICAL) OBJECT
 [STRAH + V_ONTOLOGICAL ("be", "become" ...)(+N/Adj)]

a) Nestalo je straha.
 "There is no fear."

Schematic REPRESENTATION OF AFFECTIVE EXPERIENCE >
 EXISTENCE

b) Sanju je strah.

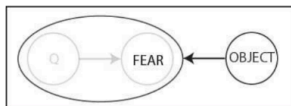
Sanju_Nacc. is_V_3sg.(BE) fear_Nnom.

"Sanja has_(HAVE) fear."

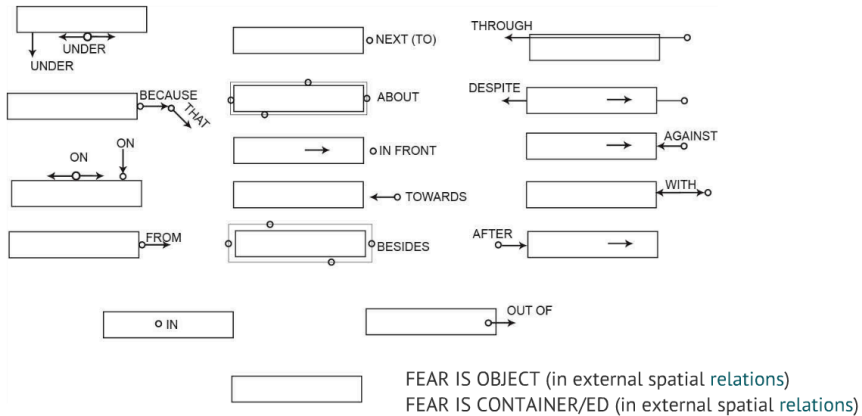
FEAR AS CATEGORY > PARTICIPANT OF EVENTS

c) Strah je velik. "Fear is great" > Velik strah "great fear"

Equation > Attribution



Ontologic constructions



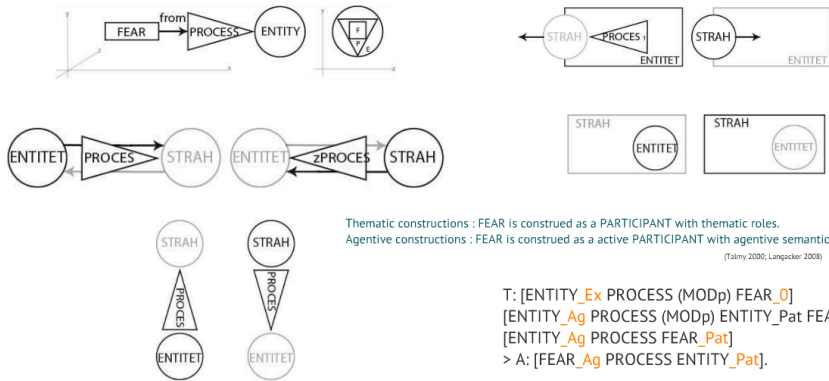
Spatial constructions

Participant in different spatial relations: locality, suprality, sublocality, extralocality, intralocality, translocality

CASE: locative, ablative, adlative, perlative
Framing causal relations, priming action verbs



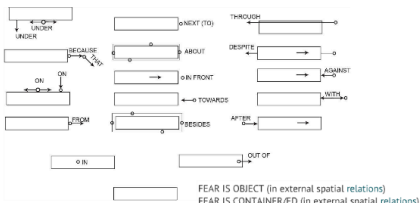
FEAR IS (SCHEMATIC PHYSICAL) OBJECT
[STRAIN + "ONTOLOGICAL (NOT "because", "y")N(AGE)]
#Nostalgia (p. 107)
"There is no fear."
Schematic REPRESENTATION OF AFFECTIVE EXPERIENCE = EXISTENCE
[I (subject) (p. 107)]
[I (subject) (p. 107)]
"Strah je velik." "Fear is great."
FEAR AS CATEGORICAL PARTICIPANT OF EVENTS
[I (subject) (p. 107)]
"Strah je velik." "Fear is great." - Veles (strah "great fear")
[I (subject) (p. 107)]
[I (subject) (p. 107)]



Thematic constructions : FEAR is construed as a PARTICIPANT with thematic roles.
Agentive constructions : FEAR is construed as an active PARTICIPANT with agentive semantic roles.
(Talmy 2000; Langacker 2008)

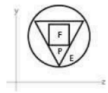
T: [ENTITY_Ex PROCESS (MODp) FEAR_0]
[ENTITY_Ag PROCESS (MODp) ENTITY_Pat FEAR_0]
[ENTITY_Ag PROCESS FEAR_Pat]
> A: [FEAR_Ag PROCESS ENTITY_Pat].

Thematic and agentive constructions

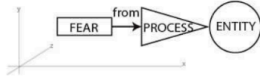


EXISTENCE OF EMOTION IS POSSESSION OF AN OBJECT
EMOTION IS CONTAINER/ BEING IN A BOUNDED SPACE
EMOTION IS A LIVING ORGANISM / NATURAL FORCE / SOCIAL SUPERIOR / OPONENT / ANIMAL / BURDEN / ILLNES
FEAR IS A HIDDEN ENEMY
(Kovecses 2000)

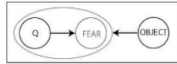




[FEAR AG VERB_TRANSITIVE (SHAKE / TREMBLE? / FREEZE / PARALYZE / GET STIFF? ...) ENTITY_PAT]
 AGENTIVE CONSTRUCTION
 Ivana je protresao strah.
 Fear is shaking /???trembling John.



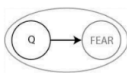
[ENTITY_PAT VERB_NONTRANSITIVE (SHAKE / TREMBLE / FREEZE / PARALYZE / GET STIFF ...) FROM_ABL FEAR]
 THEMATIC CONSTRUCTION
 Trese se od straha.
 He is shaking/trembling out of fear.



[FEAR IS OBJECT THAT CAUSES LACK OF CONTROL OVER MOVEMENTS, STANDING STILL, FREEZING]
 METAPHONY > CAUSALITY BY REACTION
 She felt shaking fear.



[FEAR IS OBJECT]
 METAPHOR (ONTOLOGICAL)
 Strah ga je.
 He has fear.



[LACK OF CONTROL OVER MOVEMENTS, STANDING STILL, FREEZING > FEAR]
 METONYMY
 Trese se.
 He is shaking/trembling.

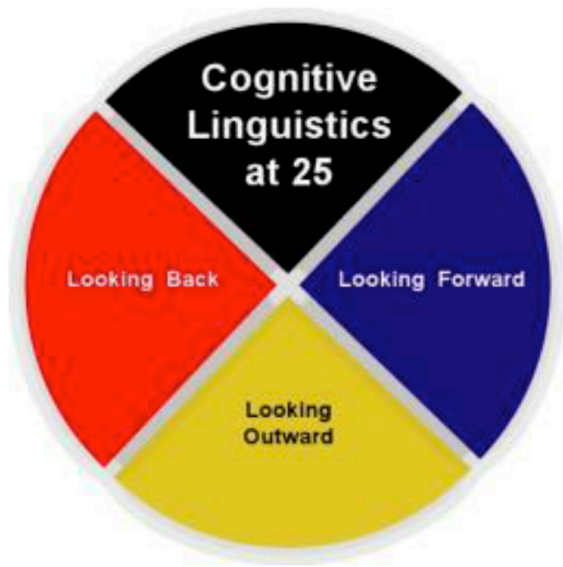


Conclusion

Semantic value of the emotional lexical concept strah 'fear' is constructed from metonymic and metaphoric connections forming a neural, conceptual and linguistic framework of cognitive domains and models.

Metonymic profiling of the embodied domains is essential for the activation of appropriate quality of meaning and structure of the emotional lexical concept.





Thank you !