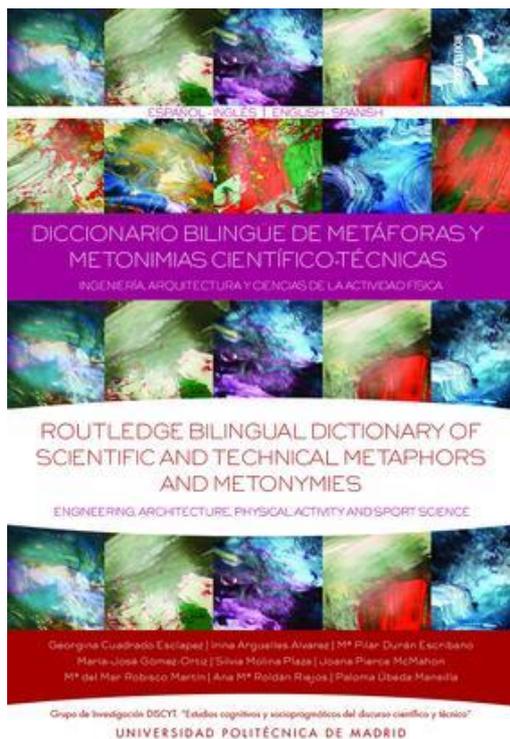


BOOK REVIEW



RESEARCHING METAPHORICAL LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH SPECIALISED DISCOURSE

Georgina Cuadrado-Escalpez, Irina Argüelles-Álvarez, Pilar Durán-Escribano, María-José Gómez-Ortiz, Silvia Molina-Plaza, Joana Pierce-McMahon, María-Mar Robisco-Martín, Ana Roldán-Riejos and Paloma Úbeda-Mansilla. BILINGUAL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL METAPHORS AND METONYMIES / DICcionario BILINGÜE DE METÁFORAS Y METONIMIAS CIENTÍFICO-TÉCNICAS (2016), Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. 510 pp., ISBN 978-1-138-86005-6.

265

In 1994, George Lakoff, probably one of the most prestigious researchers on metaphor, argued against the traditional division between literal and figurative language. As he explained, this division entailed that “what is literal is not metaphorical” and also that all everyday conventional language and all subject matter was literal or could be comprehended literally “without metaphor” (Lakoff, 1994: 206). Before that, Lakoff and Johnson (1980) demonstrated that metaphor was not a rhetorical device exclusively used by poets and exclusive of language, but that it was a pervasive device employed in the reasoning and understanding of the world around us. This Dictionary shows how metaphor impacts on the everyday discourse of the fields covered by the disciplines of science, engineering and physical activity and sports. It also helps to understand how experts in different disciplines make sense of their professional settings and convey their professional ideas through metaphorical expressions and metonymies (which happens to be “metaphor’s less spectacular sister”, in Forceville’s words – see Foreword).

The Dictionary opens with two forewords by two renowned scholars in the study of metaphor in English and Spanish: Francisco Ruiz de Mendoza (University of La Rioja, Spain) and Charles Forceville (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands). Then, the authors outline the work carried out and advise on how to use the Dictionary. Next is an introductory chapter (in Spanish first and then in English) in which the authors discuss the use of metaphorical and metonymic terms in the discourse of science and technology, provide practical definitions for the two target constructs “metaphor” and “metonymy” and sum up their main findings concerning their use in the target disciplines. As the authors themselves describe it, this introductory chapter is a “metaphorical journey” that looks at the different industries and human activities since the dawn of history (like agriculture or forestry) until today (telecommunications or aeronautics, for example); and this metaphorical journey shows how metaphorical thought has always been present in the evolution of mankind and the varied manifestations of human language. As a suggestion, this introduction would have been a good opportunity to describe in detail the methodology and procedure followed for the compilation and final selection of terms. This insertion would have helped to understand the magnitude of the work carried out and, at the same time, it could have provided a model for other researchers engaged in similar tasks.

After this chapter, the proper lexicographical work and the Dictionary come: Spanish-English in Part I, English-Spanish in Part II. The Dictionary offers a thorough English-Spanish-English compilation of relevant metaphorical and metonymic expressions within three broad disciplines or domains (engineering, architecture, and physical activity and sports). Stemming from these main disciplines are 185 fields or sub-domains (pp. xiv-xv) which accompany the terms in square and round brackets. The specificity of these fields is important because they help to narrow down the specialty of the metaphor or metonymy that is domain specific. They are also helpful to disambiguate meanings when source terms are common for different disciplines and fields, and also when the degree of metaphoricity of a discipline is very high. For the selection of the metaphorical and metonymic entries two sources have been used: (i) monolingual and bilingual specialised dictionaries pertaining to the target disciplines and fields (over 50 dictionaries and specific glossaries in all); and (ii) specialised research articles in English and Spanish.

A very interesting and original feature of this Dictionary is, to my understanding, the 33 illustrative short articles in both languages (18 in Spanish, 15 in English) that spread across the volume (see Table 1). These half a page to a page long metaphorical vignettes provide readers with information on a particular metaphor or metaphorical theme under which a series of metaphorical terms may be grouped. They are replete with examples that illustrate the explanations contained. The content of the short articles is usually of a technical nature although they may contain some less technical (even educational) content (like the case of “Ship launching is baptism of a person”). Nevertheless, these vignettes are highly

informative because readers can learn about some of the rationale underlying metaphorical behaviour in science and technology. They show the knowledge and experience gained by this group of scholars along their years of research and academic work because the authors are also ESP teachers in the degrees pertaining to the disciplines addressed in the book. Table 1 shows the list of short articles with the metaphor discussed in English or Spanish and the scholars who have authored them.

<i>Metaphor</i>	<i>Language</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Page</i>
Steel is a person	Spanish	Pilar Durán-Escribano	5
Water is a living being	Spanish	Pilar Durán-Escribano	9
An aircraft is a bird	Spanish	María-Mar Robisco-Martín	13
An aircraft is a human being	Spanish	María-Mar Robisco-Martín	25
A human body is a building	Spanish	María-José Gómez-Ortiz	29
A building is a container	Spanish	Paloma Úbeda-Mansilla	43
An electric current is a traffic circuit	Spanish	Irina Argüelles-Álvarez	54
Dormant seeds and trees	Spanish	Georgina Cuadrado-Esclapez	74
A ship is a person	Spanish	Silvia Molina-Plaza	85
A civil engineering structure is a living being/person	Spanish	Ana Roldán-Riejos	92
Handling metals is handling food	Spanish	Pilar Durán-Escribano	107
Human anatomy metaphors in mining	Spanish	Joana Pierce-McMahon	121
A building is a human being	Spanish	Paloma Úbeda-Mansilla	148
Magnetic/electric forces are couples	Spanish	Ana Roldán-Riejos	167
Rocks are human beings	Spanish	Pilar Durán-Escribano	185
A gearing system is a planetary system	Spanish	Georgina Cuadrado-Esclapez	196
Zoomorphic metaphors in mining	Spanish	Joana Pierce-McMahon	208
Wine-related metaphors based on the character of human beings	Spanish	Georgina Cuadrado-Esclapez	224
The building is a ship	English	Paloma Úbeda-Mansilla	243
Technology image metaphors from natural sciences	English	Irina Argüelles-Álvarez	249
The sport strategy is the war strategy	English	María-José Gómez-Ortiz	255
Civil engineering techniques are medical techniques	English	Ana Roldán-Riejos	261
Ship launching is baptism of a person	English	Silvia Molina-Plaza	282
Visual and verbal metaphors in earth sciences	English	Pilar Durán-Escribano	308
Horse apparel metaphors in architecture	English	Paloma Úbeda-Mansilla	355
A mine has a life	English	Joana Pierce-McMahon	376
The airspace is a container	English	María-Mar Robisco-Martín	405
Rocks are social entities	English	Pilar Durán-Escribano	411
A river is a person	English	Pilar Durán-Escribano	438
A ship is a woman	English	Silvia Molina-Plaza	453
Metaphors for soil	English	Georgina Cuadrado-Esclapez	461
Traffic circulation is a body circulatory system	English	Ana Roldán-Riejos	485
Metaphors for plants based on the human body	English	Georgina Cuadrado-Esclapez	495

Table 1. List of metaphorical vignettes

In short, this Dictionary is unique for a number of reasons:

- A metaphorical approach, and not the relevance, keyness or frequency in a field as is usually the case, has guided the compilation of terms;
- It includes not only metaphorical expressions, but also metonymic;

- It is a bilingual publication from start to finish (not only the list of terms);
- It is not focused on one particular scientific or technical discipline but comprises a variety of domains pertaining to science, engineering (mining, geology, agriculture, forestry, civil, naval, aeronautics and telecommunication), architecture and physical activity and sports. If appropriate, the metaphorical use of a term is assigned to more than one discipline, therefore stating the connection and interrelationship among the various scientific and technical domains;
- The 33 illustrative short articles or metaphorical vignettes are an asset to the Dictionary as they function as short studies that investigate and illustrate the many faces of particular metaphorical expressions;
- Content colleagues have participated as expert advisors in the disambiguation of meanings and final selection of terms;
- It is the joint outcome of a research group made up of nine researchers, all of them senior lecturers at the Polytechnic University of Madrid. This Dictionary is, thus, the result of years of fruitful work and collaboration around a common research target: metaphor;
- Last, working languages are English and Spanish with their corresponding subvarieties – i.e. American and British English on the one hand, Spanish from Spain and Latin America on the other.

To the best of my knowledge, there is no other Dictionary which contains the English and Spanish metaphorical and metonymic terms that are fundamental across several scientific and technical disciplines. Indeed, this work might be enhanced in the near future with the inclusion of other disciplines, like health science or economics, which have not been considered here for obvious reason (e.g. they are beyond the scope of the authors' expertise and this would yield a two or three-volume publication). As pointed out by Charles Forceville in his foreword to the volume, this Dictionary is "an exciting and impressive testimony to the growing appreciation of the role of metaphor and metonymy in specialised discourses" (p. xviii). I highly recommend it to any linguist interested in metaphorical language but, particularly, to translators, researchers of specialised discourse and expert professionals who need to communicate in English and Spanish at their research or workplace settings.

[Review submitted 19 Sep 2016]
[Accepted for publication 25 Sep 2016]

Reviewed by **ANA BOCANEGRA-VALLE**
Department of French and English Philology
University of Cádiz
Spain
ana.bocanegra@uca.es

References

- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors we live by*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lakoff, G. (1994). What is metaphor? In J. A. Barnden, & K. J. Holyoak (Eds.), *Advances in connectionist and neural computation theory: Analogy, metaphor and reminding* (pp. 203-258). Norwood, NJ: Ablex Publishing.