

The challenge of metonymy-hunting in derivational morphology

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The aim of this presentation is to show some of the issues involved and results of the data collection process in Córdoba's project. First of all, I will provide the basic theoretical background, by revising some of the most relevant definitions of metonymy in general and, more specifically, by discussing the locus of morphology when dealing with morphologically complex words. I will then show some of the examples of our corpus data. Among other cases, I will focus on the following Spanish data: denominal verb formation illustrating the metonymy BODY PART FOR ACTION (e.g., *codearse*, 'to rub elbows', Lit. "to elbow"), deadjectival noun formation illustrating the metonymies TEXTURE FOR FOOD (e.g., *crujiente de arroz*, 'crispy rice', Lit. "crispy of rice"), RESULT FOR FOOD (e.g., *envueltos de salmon*, 'rolled salmon', Lit. "rolled of salmon"), COOKING METHOD FOR FOOD, (e.g., *asado de ternera*, 'roast beef', Lit. "roasted of beef") and compound nouns formation such as those based on the metonymy ACTION FOR ENTITY (e.g., *saltamontes* 'grasshopper', Lit. "hop-hills"). The corpus selection was based on the belief that, when deciding on the metonymic nature of linguistic expressions, some limits must be set, unless we want to render the notion of metonymy vacuous. My examples will thus be shown to conform to some of the most well-known definitions and approaches in the linguistic literature, such as Barcelona (2007), Brdar (2017), Panther (2005), Ruiz de Mendoza (2000), among others.

References:

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