

Some metonymies in the use of cardinal numbers in Spanish and English: A corpus-based study

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The presentation will deal with the relationship between conceptual metonymy and the use of cardinal numbers in Spanish and English. Real instances of language use have been taken from the corpora used within the project “Researching conceptual metonymy in selected areas of grammar, discourse and sign language with the aid of the University of Córdoba Metonymy Database” in order to describe this conceptual relation. The metonymic mappings identified in the use of some cardinal numbers exhibit different levels of conceptual organization in terms of meaning and form. The two main metonymies at basic level that we observed in the semantics of the expressions analyzed in both languages are CARDINAL FOR CO-OCCURRING NUMERICAL ENTITY, which operates in expressions such as *100 veces/100 times, cardinal + de + noun/cardinal + of + noun*, and CARDINAL FOR CO-OCCURRING NON-NUMERICAL ENTITY like in *11-S, 9/11, en los + cardinal/ in the + cardinal* and *cardinal + derivative suffix*. Furthermore, the form of some of the expressions analyzed is motivated by the high-level metonymy SALIENT PART OF A FORM FOR THE WHOLE FORM. The results reveal a similar behavior of polysemic extensions of cardinals in Spanish and English.

Keywords: conceptual metonymy; cardinal number; functional domain; conceptual metaphor.