



the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor

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RaAM Workshop: Issues in Researching Metaphor in Discourse

Date: 22-Mar-2007 - 23-Mar-2007

Location: University of Castilla-La Mancha (Ciudad Real, Spain)

Contact: Rosario Caballero

This is the first workshop of the recently founded international association RaAM (Researching and Applying Metaphor) where approaches, methods and issues relevant to the study of figurative language in discourse contexts will be discussed by experts in the field.

Programme

Thursday 22 March

11.30 Opening

12.00 - 1.30 Identifying Patterns of Metaphor in Discourse: Lynne Cameron (The Open University) and Graham Low (U. of York). Workshop and discussion.

Description: Metaphor researchers working with real world discourse often need to find systematic patterns of metaphor use that condense and summarise large amounts of spoken or written data. This workshop demonstrates how linguistic metaphors in transcribed talk can be grouped together to identify systematic patterns of use. We begin with an overview of the procedure applied to reconciliation conversations, showing how systematic metaphor patterns emerge and evolve. Participants will then be taken through the stages of the procedure using data from a focus group interview: grouping metaphor vehicles, identifying and grouping topic domains, labelling groups of connected metaphors, and making sense of their role in the talking and thinking of interviewees. We will discuss methodological issues, such as identification decisions, precautions in data interpretation, and choosing accurate labels for groups of metaphors.

13.30 - 16.00 PhD students meeting. Anna Kaal (Vrije Universitet Amsterdam)

Lunch

16.00 - 16.40 Metaphor and Artificial Intelligence: John Barnden (U. of Birmingham, U.K.)

Description: The presentation will explain why AI and other modern areas of Computer Science need to concern themselves with metaphor, and what distinctive ideas and methods AI can bring to the issue of how metaphor works and how (even) people deal with metaphor. In fact, AI considerations about metaphor highlight the need to take proper account of discourse issues, rather than considering metaphorical utterances in isolation. Particular issues to be addressed in the presentation, and potentially the discussion, include: how exactly to use context in metaphor interpretation; the question of how much meaning one should seek to extract from an utterance; the question of whether each utterance has a meaning by itself or rather whether meaning is more at discourse level; and the issue of whether it can be useful to transfer information from target to source in metaphor as well as from source to target. The presentation and discussion will not assume any prior knowledge of AI or computer science.

16.40 - 17.30 Workshop and discussion.

17.30 - 18.00 Break

18.00 - 19.30 RaAM 1st Annual General Meeting (open to all RaAM members)

Dinner

Friday 23 March

9.00 - 11.00 Corpus-based approaches to the study of metaphor: Alice Deignan (U. of Leeds) and Elena Semino (Lancaster University). Workshop and discussion.

Description: In recent years, corpus-based techniques have been increasingly applied to the study of metaphor. General-purpose corpora have been used to study systematic metaphorical patterns in particular languages, with important implications for metaphor theory, and particularly for claims about underlying conceptual metaphors. Specialised corpora have been used to investigate the role of metaphor in particular genres and discourses, and to study the ideological dimension of metaphor. In this workshop we will demonstrate a number of techniques for the exploitation of corpora for metaphor research. We will consider the choice of corpora and reference corpora, and the use of software for the production of concordances and the extraction of keywords. We will also demonstrate the potential of semantic annotation software for the investigation of metaphorical patterns. Throughout, we will reflect on the potential and limitations of a corpus methodology for metaphor researchers

11.00- 11.30 Break

11.30-13.00 ROUND TABLE Issues in Researching Metaphor in Discourse: Lynne Cameron, Graham Low, Fiona MacArthur, Jeannette Littlemore, Alice Deignan, Elena Semino, John Barnden. Chair: Rosario Caballero.

Lunch

16.00- 16.40 Researching Metaphor and Language Learning: Fiona MacArthur (U. de Extremadura) and Jeannette Littlemore (U. of Birmingham, U.K.).

Description: In this workshop we look at the use of metaphor by language learners and at ways of teaching metaphor to foreign language learners. We examine and evaluate several different approaches to researching metaphor in the language classroom, and outline the areas in need of further research. We incorporate a number of hands-on activities to allow participants to apply some of the research techniques. We then suggest sample research projects that could be conducted by research students. Areas covered will include: (a) Classroom-based observation, (b) Introspection, interview and think aloud techniques, (c) Discourse analysis, (d) Corpus studies, and (e) Intervention studies. During the workshop, we will identify key resources and references for those who are interested in conducting their own research into metaphor in the language classroom.

16.40 - 17.30 Workshop and discussion

End

Registration fees:

Non students: 20 Euro

Students: 10 Euro