

## Figurativity in English Perception Language

**keywords:** perception; figurative language; corpus linguistics; sensory modalities.

In light of the theory of embodiment, scientific interest in the language of Perception has increased sensibly in recent years (Baicchi et al. 2018, Speed et al. 2019, Caballero and Diàz-Vera 2013, among others), an approach often referred to as Sensory Linguistics (Winter 2019a). Research in this field has a pivotal role in the study of figurativity and grounding of metaphorical expressions. The concrete nature of the senses allows Perception language to intervene as Source Domain in metaphorical expressions; at the same time, the ineffability of particular bodily sensations often requires figurative mechanisms to be communicated. Items in the lexicon of Perception may also transfer between different modalities, giving rise to cases of synaesthetic metaphors (Strik-Lievers 2015), although this account has been challenged by Winter (2019b).

The present workshop aims at investigating the conceptual elaboration of the lexicon of the senses in English, by bringing together five scholars (one for each sensory modality), whose research focuses on the Figurativity of Perception Language. Each speaker will be allotted 30 minutes, and there will be 30 minutes at the end for a general discussion. Speakers will give a general presentation of “their” sense, then concentrate on specific aspects of the topic. Attendees will gain an overview of current research in Sensory linguistics and in each sensory modality; and will engage in discussion and interactive activities. The Research Questions that will be tackled include: How do speakers of English use perception language? What are the cognitive mechanisms that intervene in the conceptual elaboration of bodily sensations? What are the semantic domains that either structure or are structured by the lexicon of the senses? Furthermore, the workshop will tackle theoretical issues that will help move the field of Sensory Linguistics forward, such as directionality of metaphorical transfer and a proposed typology of sensory metaphors.

WORDCOUNT: 300

### References

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- Speed L., O’Meara C., San Roque L. Majid A. (Eds.) (2019). *Perception Metaphors*. John Benjamins.
- Strik-Lievers, F. (2015). Synaesthesia. A corpus-based study of cross-modal directionality. *Functions of Language*, 22(1), 69-95.
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- Winter, B. (2019b). Synaesthetic metaphors are neither synaesthetic nor metaphorical. In L. Speed, C. O’Meara, L. San Roque & A. Majid (Eds.), *Perception Metaphor* (pp. 105-126). Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

## Speakers and Talks

Nina Julich is Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Leipzig; her research interests include Conceptual Metaphor Theory, fictive motion and metonymy. For this workshop, she explores the motivation of figurative expressions in descriptions of classical music pieces. She proposes a two-layer model of analysis of figurative perceptual language, *descriptive* and *interpretative*, that might be applied to other sensory domains.

Rémi Dignonnet is Lecturer in English linguistics at the University of Saint-Étienne (France). His research centres on discourse analysis and various linguistics processes focused on the sense of smell. In the workshop, he aims at showing that sensations and emotions are closely related, and that they share common linguistic patterns in English and French, with reference to the domain of Smell. His results question directionality in perception metaphors.

Marco Bagli is Researcher in English linguistics at the University of Genova. His research focuses on the relationship between language, culture and cognition with specific attention to the conceptualization of Taste in English. During this workshop, he presents data on the metaphorical usage of the constructions 'a *taste of X*' and 'a *flavour of X*', integrating his results with empirical data coming from online questionnaires.

Marcin Trojszczak is Research Assistant at the University of Białystok, and Senior Lecturer at the State University of Applied Sciences in Konin. His research focuses on cognitive semantics, translation studies and the evolution of language. For the workshop, he reviews the extent of the figurative use of Touch and tactile properties in English and Polish corpora, adopting the theoretical perspective of Theory of Objectification, which elaborates on CMT.

Jodi L. Sandford is University Researcher - Adjunct Professor in English Language and Linguistics at the University of Perugia. Her research interests are in Cognitive Semantics, more specifically in the theories of embodiment and Conceptual Metaphor. In the workshop, she analyses the domain of color in terms of Forces and Causes, in combination with highly entrenched metaphors such as Events Are Actions, States Are Locations, and the Event-Structure metaphor.

Each speaker will be allotted 30 minutes, plus a 30 minutes general discussion at the end of the talks.