



IZKUNTZALARI GAZTEEN ELKARTEA ASOCIACIÓN DE XOVES LINGÜISTAS
ASSOCIACIÓ DE JOVES LINGÜISTES ASOCIACIÓN DE JÓVENES LINGÜISTAS

XIX ENCUENTRO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN DE JÓVENES LINGÜISTAS (AJL)
UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA, 10-12 MARZO 2004

“A cognitive construal of metaphorical cases of domain ascription”

M. Sandra Peña Cervel

In this proposal we attempt to analyze some metaphorical expressions which deserve some explanation in terms of domain ascription. Our analysis is embedded within the Cognitive Linguistics framework, where metaphor is defined in terms of a set of correspondences between a source and a target domain (Lakoff and Johnson, 1999; Lakoff, 1993). The domain of emotions has been found to be metaphorically conceptualized (Kövecses, 2000). For instance, in the example *Her own intense excitement had given way to a hollow feeling in her stomach*, a hollow feeling is not a feeling which merits no attention, but a feeling which has the property of causing a feeling of hollowness. The adjective makes reference to a subdomain of the parent domain of feelings. A superficial analysis of the example can mislead us into believing that it is the metaphorical system EMOTIONS ARE CONTAINERS that allows for the largely intangible domain of feelings to be reconceptualized in image-schematic terms. In this light, a hollow feeling is perceived as if it were lacking importance since it is devoid of any content inside. However, a more refined examination leads us to conclude that the subdomain which is profiled by the adjective calls for a different metaphor in order to be felicitously interpreted: A PERSON IS A CONTAINER FOR EMOTIONS. If an emotion causes someone to feel as if hollow, the person is seen as a container empty of emotions. Finally, the phrase *in her stomach* makes us refine our analysis further and take the metaphor DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BODY ARE CONTAINERS FOR EMOTIONS as the underlying motivating device. Moreover, the tendency of blending theory research to often focus on novel and idiosyncratic conceptualizations leads us to think that all these examples could be analyzed within this framework (Fauconnier, 1994).

REFERENCES

- Fauconnier, G. 1994. *Mental Spaces*. 2nd ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Kövecses, Z. 2000. *Metaphor and Emotion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Lakoff, G. 1993. The contemporary theory of metaphor. *Metaphor and Thought*. Ed. Andrew Ortony. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 202-251.
Lakoff, G. and Johnson, M. 1999. *Philosophy in the Flesh. The Embodied Mind and its Challenge to Western Thought*. New York: Basic Books.