



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

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"A cognitive appraisal of lexical items ending in *-ful* and *-less*"

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Holmqvist and Pluciennik (1996) have observed that while some adjectival stems can take both *-ful* and *-less* endings, others can only end in one of these two suffixes. They further argue that this is not incidental, that it goes beyond their apparent terminological asymmetry. This phenomenon is crucially related to their entrenchment with either *the full-empty domain*, as they call it, or with the WHOLE-PART image-schema. We are for the most part concerned with the group which Holmqvist and Pluciennik label *adjectives with a mental meaning* since they are related to our object of study, lexical items which belong to the domain of emotions. We further develop this proposal in terms of the FULL-EMPTY and WHOLE-PART image-schemas and the theory of mental spaces as devised by Fauconnier (1994, 1997). For instance, the *-less* suffix makes the language user instantiate two mental spaces: one in which objective reality is represented and a second one in which an expected reality is focused on. In this connection, we even attempt to examine the connections between the FULL-EMPTY and WHOLE-PART schemas since in fact the contents which fill a container constitute a part of it.

REFERENCES

- Holmqvist, K. & Pluciennik, J. 1996. Conceptualized deviations from expected normality: a semantic comparison between lexical items ending in *-ful* and *-less*. *Nordic Journal of Linguistics* 19, 3-33.
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