

An Embodied and Environmentally Embedded Perspective on Metaphor

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Abstract

Metaphors form a web-like structure; they are experientially grounded in the basic actions we perform. The systematic presence of metaphor in linguistic expressions as uncovered by Lakoff and Johnson reflects not just the internally represented structure in the mind of individuals, but the settings of the external props that frame and sustain our embodied and metaphorically mediated actions. Lakoff and Johnson emphasize conceptual aspects of metaphorical activities. The present study is an attempt to show that metaphorical activities, viewed from an action-oriented and environmentally embedded perspective, are deeply supported by the external props that frame our individual and collective actions.

Key Words: action-oriented, environmentally embedded, metaphor, source domain, target domain