

## Hierarchies, prototypicality, and taxonomic domains in a metonymy database

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This presentation is the first of three presentations making up the first section of the theme session, where we will present some results of a major goal in our current project on metonymy, namely the compilation of a detailed database of metonymy. We have already developed and included in the database a rich set of criteria to describe metonymy, and we have applied them so far to 200 metonymies registered in the literature on metonymy. In the section we will discuss the design and functioning of the database, and the application of its various fields to a sample of the metonymies included in the database up to early June 2013, the problems encountered, etc.

In my own presentation I will first briefly describe the research project and the database entry model, whose fields deal with the position of the metonymy under analysis in a metonymic hierarchy, its degree of prototypicality, its conventionality, the linguistic domains where it operates, the factors triggering it, its chaining to other metonymies, or its interaction with metaphor, among other aspects. Next I will discuss three issues addressed by four of the entry fields and the problems involved. The first issue is the hierarchical level at which the metonymy under analysis should be located (fields 2 and 10), a problematic issue. One of the criteria established for this field is that these hierarchies have to be purely taxonomic ("kind-of") and not meronymic ("part-of"): If the source and target of DEGREE OF FULLNESS FOR QUANTITY OF CONTENT (Barcelona 2009), are scalar properties of two co-occurring entities, the right hierarchy has SCALAR PROPERTY OF ENTITY FOR SCALAR PROPERTY OF CO-OCCURRING ENTITY at a higher level. Other problems, such as the number of levels to be considered, are also discussed.

The second issue (field 3) is the position of each metonymy on the prototypicality continuum proposed by Barcelona (2003, 2011).

The third issue (field 4), is the "taxonomic domain" (see e.g. Barcelona 2011) activated with the metonymic target, e.g. PEOPLE/WORKERS/BUS DRIVERS in *The buses are on strike* (OBJECT USED FOR USER). Fields 3 and 4 have not been problematic.

The discussion of the three fields will be illustrated with entries for some of the metonymies included in the database and with searches combining these fields with other fields (e.g. types of taxonomic domains activated by the high level metonymy OBJECT USED FOR USER: drivers, musicians, restaurant customers, etc.).

**Keywords:** Metonymy, metonymy database, metonymic hierarchies, metonymic prototypicality, taxonomic domains in metonymic targets.

### References

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