

## A new conceptualization system for time

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Up to date in Cognitive Linguistics, the concept of TIME has been classified as an abstract domain that needs the conceptual structural support of other categories in order to be cognitively configured. This is so because time does not apparently have sufficient structure of its own and the lexicalizations related with the concept rely on its relationships with other notions (SPACE, MOVEMENT, etc.) (Lakoff 1987, Evans 2004).

However, this may not be the case in other situations in which the experience of time is perceived differently and so the concept is represented in a way which seems unconventional for the lay observer. Time vocabulary properly speaking may seem limited; however, it is a fact that, for example, the discrete units for measuring time are also part of the temporal lexicon. By these we mean any lexical item connected with the segmentation of time (e.g. in terms of seasons, hours, months, divisions of the day...). Therefore, time is not only that vague concept which is difficult to conceive. In fact, the mechanical aspects of temporality associated with temporal discernment and measuring can give shape to other domains which are more abstract (for example, when we talk about lightyears, we express distance and not time although the word itself has a time-related lexeme).

The research presented here will involve a novel approach to the conceptual architecture of time as we examine unique construals of TIME modelled cognitively through image schema, metaphor and/or metonymy. The idea that transpires from this new approach is that certain abstract concepts (or target domains, technically speaking) can be articulated through temporal frames of reference relating to time segmentation, that is to say, that the concept of TIME can be elaborated further into new complex meaning trajectories (Guerra 2001).

This inversion of the conceptual system of temporal cognition whereby time is now the departure point of conceptual projection is a discovery that will be illustrated with examples from literature (e.g. T. S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, a poem about time, according to critics, but in our view, elaborating the concept of time to develop the meaning of LIFE) but also from ordinary language (for instance, English or Spanish common uses of time-related words in which the concept acts as the source domain of such ideas as CHANGE or SOCIETY).

### References

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