Metonymy and metaphor in Bulgarian compounds

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Objectives

- Discussion of the role of metonymy and metaphor in lexicogenesis - "to provide more comprehensive and consistent descriptions of individual word-formation phenomena" (Ungerer 2007: 651).

- Consistent cognitive linguistics analysis of verbocentric compounds in Bulgarian - “meaning is language-specific to a considerable extent. It is this imagery that has to be described, not the presumably universal cognitive representations that these conventional images construe” (Langacker 1987: 47).
Outline

- Metonymy in lexicogenesis
- Metonymy and frames
- Metonymy, metaphor and frames in Bulgarian verbocentric compounds
Metonymic processing of language vs. processing metonymic language

- Processing metonymic language as *Paris has dropped hemlines this year* vs. metonymic processing of language which is a general cognitive strategy for filling out “gaps by inferring some rich source of information”, like a FRAME, “from the simple mention of some salient part of that knowledge” (Gibbs 1999: 69).

- The operation of metonymy in lexicogenesis (LG) belongs to METONYMIC PROCESSING OF LANGUAGE.

- Metonymy in WF: a) greater diversity than lexical metonymy (Janda 2011); b) distinct from lexical/referential, speech act, illocutionary and discourse metonymy.
Previous studies on metonymy in WF in terms of:

- event schema conceptual derivations in conversion (Dirven 1999);
- category shifts in conversion (Farrell 2001);
- the conventional metonymy SALIENT PROPERTY FOR CATEGORY/PROPERTY FOR REFERENT in so-called bahuvrihi compounds (as in English: red neck, pick pocket; Huddleston and Pullum 2002);
- creativity in compounding (Benzecs 2006);
- figure-ground alignment in conversion (Ungerer 2007);
- a general SOURCE FOR TARGET pattern in affixation (Janda 2011).
The nature of metonymy in LG

- LG metonymy - onomasiology-based metonymy, guiding the creation of a new symbol for a target concept.
- LG metonymy - a formal cognitive operation.
Cognitive operations

Cognitive operation - “any mental mechanism whose purpose is to contribute to the inferential processes that are necessary to derive a full semantic representation out of a linguistic expression” (Fransico Jose Ruiz de Mendoza Ibanez 2011: 104).
Formal cognitive operations (FCO) vs. content cognitive operations (CCO)

- **FCO** – *cuing, selection, integration and abstraction* – higher-level operations preparing the conceptual material for the successful accomplishment of lower-level inferencing processes.

- **CCO** – *metaphor, metonymy, etc.* – lower level processes that people use to make inferences and construct meaning on the basis of linguistic cues.
Lexicogenesis

i) grammatical schematization, or the establishment of instantiated and elaborated schemas;

ii) an interface phenomenon of an onomasiological (Stekauer 1998) nature actualized in constructions with different degrees of schematicity on the basis of analogical creations based on an exemplar or ‘leader word’ (as Ykaov Malkiel 1966, in Adams 2001);

iii) establishing an analogy and constructing a new naming unit with some of the same properties, creating a neologism, as well as the initial use and comprehension of established/entrenched words.
Lexicogenesis of VCCs

- invariably associated with a verbal frame which underlies the processes of constructing associated concepts as a generalized reflection of perceived reality in human consciousness and the realization of these concepts in language in accordance with the available naming means (Štekauer 2005: 49);
- frame-based metonymic manipulation of internal constituency.
“Frames, which are relevant not only to metonymies but also to certain types of word formation, can - and in fact, should - be defined onomasiologically, so that even cross-over links within one and the same frame realized in different languages, concepts which have not yet been expressed, senses of a given word which do not yet exist, and new words which have not yet been fanned can all be provided for” (Koch 2005: 153).

Frame – conceptual-onomasiological base; a gestalt anchored into an actional core.
“Human knowledge appears to be frames all the way down” (Barsalou and Hale 1993: 131)

A frame is a “system of concepts related in such a way that to understand any one of them you have to understand the whole structure; ....when one of the things in such a structure is introduced all of the others are automatically made available” (Fillmore 2006: 373)

A frame is “the structured way in which the scene is presented or remembered, […] [T]he frame structures the word-meanings, and the word ‘evokes’ the frame” (Fillmore 2006: 378)
Frame semantics necessarily involves the study of the unidirectional back/foregrounding relations between concepts and the lexical items evoking and evoked by them, as well as between a concept’s frame and any component thereof.

A lexical concept is “a unit of semantic structure, a bundle of different types of highly schematic content” (Evans 2009: 11), a dynamic ad hoc piece of conceptual content which operates by referencing richer conceptual frames, which according to Koch (2005) are non-accidental networks of contiguities. By manipulating these contiguities on the principle of metonymy as FCO and adjusting focal granularity we create compound verbs and verbo-centric nominal compounds.
Metonymies in LG source-in-target but highlighting?

- Highlighting and domain reduction – reserved for target-in-source metonymies (Ruiz de Mendoza 2011) BUT the mechanism of establishing a second focal element in the profile of a verbocentric compound involves the emancipation of a value-specified background component, i.e. zone-activation is at play, but instead of reduction expansion occurs.

- Expansion and enrichment – the foregrounding of a frame constituent is followed by its integration in the resultant profile.
Metonymy in VCC revisited I

VCC metonymy - a FCO involving cuing (the emancipation of the running commentary ((Barsalou, Wenchi, Luka, Olseth, Mix and Wu 1993)), selection (the choice of a frame element for value specification), integration (the onomatological explication of the specified element as a secondary focal point in the profile of the lexical concept) and possible abstraction (further cognitive operations).

VCC metonymy - source in target, operating through expansion via frame element highlighting and foregrounding.

VCC metonymy - an interrelation of entities that results in a complex meaning, which can be captured in the notation “X PLUS Y” instead of the standard “X FOR Y” (Radden and Kövesces 1999: 18–19).
Metonymy as a frame-based analytical tool

Frame-based VCC

“a. A word sense’s semantic frame (what the word ‘means’ or ‘evokes’) = profile + background frame;
b. A word sense’s profile: what the word designates, asserts;
c. A word sense’s background frame: what the word takes for granted, presupposes (Goldberg 2010: 40).
Bulgarian compounds

- Root compounds – exceptionally rare (borrowing of patterns);
- VCCs – i) onomatological realizations of metonymic relations triggered, guided and constrained by the qualia structure (Pustejovský 1991) of the verbal source concept; ii) categorically right-headed (for inflectional purposes), but display wide variability in terms of semantic endo/exocentricity.
Bulgarian verbocentric compounds (645 nouns + 77 verbs)

\[
[X_{+-v} Y_{+-v}] Z \quad - \quad \text{formal-operational frame-based metonymy (cuing, selection, integration via explication and +/- abstraction)}
\]

\[
[X V] N \quad \text{[-dyn; -rel]} \quad [X V] V \quad [+\text{dyn}; +\text{rel}]
\]

\[
[V N] N \quad [N V] \quad -/+\text{suff} N
\]
Onomasiological metaphoronymy nominal verbocentric compounds I

въртиопашка
(vartiopashka, ‘twist/wag-tail’, coquette)

frame-based THEME /TWISTEE core component metonymic explication

HUMANS ARE ANIMALS

INTENTIONS ARE PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

SALIENT PROPERTY FOR CATEGORY
Onomasiological metaphoronymy nominal verbocentric compounds II

загори тенджера [zagoritendzhera, ‘burn-pan’, a person with no sense of time]

frame-based THEME / BURNEE core component metonymic explication

cultural script WOMEN ARE HOUSEWIVES/ COOKS

ACTIVITY FOR TIME OF ACTIVITY

SALIENT PROPERTY FOR CATEGORY
Onomasiological metaphonymy nominal verbocentric compounds III

хвалипръцко [hvalipratsko, ‘brag farter’ windbag]

frame-based TOPIC/ REASON core component metonymic explication

ironic evaluative markedness reversal – assigned value to the TOPIC – farting

SALIENT PROPERTY FOR CATEGORY
Frame metonymy suffixless nominal compounds I (endocentric)

i) кукловод [kuklovod, ‘doll-lead’, *пuppeteer*]

frame-based THEME/LEADEE core component metonymic explication

ii) гроздобер [grozdober, ‘grapes-pick’, *wine harvest*]

frame-based THEME/PICKEE core component metonymic explication
Frame metonymy suffixless nominal compounds II (exocentric)


frame-based THEME/EDIBLE core component
metonymic explication

PRINTED LETTERS ARE EDIBLES

PEOPLE WHOSE HUNGER CAN BE SATIATED BY LETTERS ARE PRIGS.
Frame metonymy suffixal nominal compounds I (endocentric)

Suffix - the categorial head. Assigns the onomasiological type of the whole via inferential metonymy.

мореплавател [moreplavatel, ‘sea-sailer’, seafarer/sailor]

frame-based PATH core component metonymic explication

suffix-triggered inferential metonymy
Frame metonymy suffixed compounds II (exocentric)

рогоносец [rogonostes, ‘horn-wearer’, cuckold]

*nosets - not a legitimate lexical item

frame-based THEME/THING WORN
core component metonymic explication

HUMANS ARE ANIMALS

suffix-associated inferential metonymy
Frame metonymy suffixed compounds II (exocentric)

чревоугодник [chrevougodnik, 'intestine-fawner/toady, glutton] – a person who indulges in eating and drinking high quality foods and drinks, lit. a person who panders their intestines

frame-based BENEFICIARY/FAWNEE core component explication

HUMAN ORGANS ARE HUMANS

suffix – triggered inferential metonymy
a) semantically endocentric - pure metonymy - cuing, selection, integration via explication – кръводарявам [kravodaryavam, ‘blood-donate’, donate blood]; водоснабдявам [vodosnabdyavam, ‘water-supply,’ supply with water];
Frame metonymy compound verbs I (endocentric)

i) водоснабдявам [vodosnabdyavam, ‘water-supply’, supply with water]

frame-based THEME/SUPPLY core component explication

ii) бракосъчетавам [brakosachetavam, ‘marriage-unite’, marry/wed]

frame-based WHOLE core component explication
Frame metonymy compound verbs II (exocentric i)

ръкополагам [rakopolgam, ‘hand-place’, ordain]

frame-based THEME/PLACEEE core component explication

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ARE SYMBOLIC ACTS

Novel unperspectivized frame is created – ORDAIN, with core frame elements: Member, Object, Instrument, Guardian, Leader, Desired State and New Status
Frame metonymy compound verbs II (exocentric ii)

главоблъскам се [glavoblaskam se, ‘head-jostle self’, strain one’s brain/worry]

frame-based THEME/JOSTLEE core component explication

EMOTIONS ARE PHYSICAL SENSATIONS /ACTIVITIES

Novel frame is created – WORRY, with core frame elements: Experiencer, Topic, Manner, Degree, Means, Result
Summary I

- Irrespective of the fact whether and to what extent metaphor is involved in the meaning of verbocentric compounds in Bulgarian, frame element foregrounding based on conceptual contiguity is always involved as a formal cognitive operation.

- “Coming now to the conceptual level, we can claim that every concept designated by a given lexical item appears as a figure in relation to (at least) another contiguous concept that - for the time being - remains the ground within the same frame. [...] certain pragmatic, conceptual or emotional factors may highlight the ground concept so that figure and ground become” (Koch 2005: 152) integrated in the profile of the new lexical concept and start to designate the specific event/referent.
Bulgarian verbocentric compounds:

A) pure frame-metonymies (cuing, selection and integration via explication) – semantically endocentric;

B) frame metonymy + abstraction (content metaphors, metonymies, irony, etc.) – semantically exocentric.
Selected References I


Selected References II


Selected References V