

Preface

Analysing metaphors helps to open windows onto the world. Metaphors mirror concepts, and changes in conceptualisation are often mirrored in changing metaphors. Many metaphors have their origin in basic bodily experiences. The existence of metaphorical expressions therefore does not only allow conclusions to be drawn about how we perceive our environment, but at the same time, about our system of sensual perception as such. That metaphors are ubiquitous is a view shared by most researchers in linguistics. But despite of, or maybe even due to this ubiquity, however, metaphors may pose a challenge in foreign language learning as well as in translation. The challenges of metaphor in intercultural or interlingual comparison constitute fields of research that have been tackled by an impressive number of authors in their contributions to *metaphorik.de* over the years.

This present issue number eighteen of *metaphorik.de*, too, mirrors the prevalent tendencies in metaphor research. Denis Jamet focuses on an area which has given rise to numerous research contributions over the last fifteen years: metaphors of the internet. In his microdiachronic study the author investigates how the change of the internet into an instrument of everyday communication has brought about a change of metaphorical concepts. Changes of media thus may result in changes of metaphors. In her contribution to L2 acquisition research, Corinna Koch analyses the role of lexicalised metaphors in foreign language teaching. Metaphorical competence is a key qualification for any learner of a foreign language. Despite the cultural closeness between source and target language, it is those everyday lexicalised metaphors which often cause particular difficulties, especially if their metaphoricity is perceived in different degrees. Finally, in her complementary investigation of German and English, Julia Salzinger picks out as her central theme, how adjectives of sensual perception are apt to create networks of synaesthetic metaphors. In addition to converging tendencies concerning in particular the basic principle of projections from one type of sensual perception to another, this study brings out clear interlingual differences concerning the metaphorical potential of certain adjectives.

In two reviews, two recent publications on metaphor research are discussed. First, Charo Herrero reviews a volume on metaphor and translation edited by Annette Endruschat and Martina Emsel, one of the first publications in

Spanish concerning this field. Then, Katrin Mutz reviews the introduction to metaphor authored by Helge Skirl and Monika Schwarz-Friesel.

Our thanks are due to the authors, but also to the Saarbrücken team of Kerstin Sterkel, Tanja Oberhauser and Katharina Leonhardt, as well as to Julia Richter in Essen. We thank the readers of *metaphorik.de* for their unflagging interest in those issues raised here, and for numerous suggestions as well as criticism. With our best wishes for the second half of 2010, we are looking forward to further productive cooperation!

Essen, July 2010

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