Review of *The Routledge Handbook of Metaphor and Language*

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Abstract

The Routledge Handbook of Metaphor and Language co-authored by Elena Semino & Zsófia Demjén (2017) comprehensively outlines the most recent advancements on research on metaphor and language from an interdisciplinary and multidimensional perspective. This article first makes an introduction of the book, then comments on its strengths and limitations.

Keywords: metaphor, language, strengths, limitations

This is a themed collection of articles on the latest developments of metaphor. It well threads the important findings of metaphor studies after the publishing of *The Cambridge Handbook of Metaphor and Thought* (Gibbs, 2008). The theories, methodologies and practice in metaphor studies are presented by scholars in varying disciplines, not only mirroring the current state of metaphor research but also anticipating the directions of future researches.

The book is structured into six parts. Part I has four chapters on the theoretical approaches to metaphor and language. Kövecses outlines the key notions of CMT (Conceptual Metaphor Theory) and its latest development by taking interlocking metaphor hierarchies as examples. Dancygier discusses similarities and differences between CMT and CBT (Conceptual Blending Theory), and considers conceptual metaphors as single-scope blends. Based on 'Relevance theory', Carston addresses the following claims like "metaphor as a kind of loose use" and "pragmatically inferred word meaning as ad hoc concepts". Gibbs employs the Dynamical Systems Theory to explain multiple causes and complex interacting forces for metaphorical behaviors like metaphor use, verbal metaphor interpretation and metaphor understanding.

Part II includes six chapters on methodological approaches to metaphor and language. Steen discusses Metaphor Identification Procedure, called MIP (Pragglejza Group, 2007) and the crucial methodological issues of its latest developments in MIPVU. Maslen examines another powerful tool to identify metaphors in discourse, that is, systematic metaphor analysis. Deignan introduces Steen's (1999) five-step method of extracting conceptual metaphors from linguistic metaphors and explores the way to tackle problems of the five steps by using corpus owing to its high speed of data retrieving, high research replicability and quick access to statistics (p. 117). Tissari demonstrates the strength of corpus through a case study on the HOPE words in four English corpora. Cienki presents a set of metaphor identification guidelines for gesture (MIG-G). Finally, Refaie reports methodologies in analyzing metaphors in multimodal texts.

Part III covers eight chapters about the formal variation of metaphor in language. Krennmayr illustrates the practical relevance between metaphor and parts-of-speech through the experimental and corpus-linguistic approaches. Dorst demonstrates the main metaphor patterns like repetition, recurrence, clustering, extension and so on in discourse. Caballero incorporates the notion of genre (architectural reviews) into research. Caracciolo touches upon the literary metaphor and proposes that future research should focus on the relation between metaphorical paranarratives and other dimensions of literary narrative (p. 215). Philip discusses conventionality and novelty of metaphors. Anderson focuses on the diachronic variation related to metaphor including the nature of semantic domains and the directionality of metaphor. Shäffner addresses metaphor in translation. She believes that translation process studies should include think-aloud protocol studies, keystroke logging, and eye-tracking,

sometimes in combination (p. 259). Kaneko and Sutton-Spence end this part by discussing basic formational features of sign language.

Part IV involves six chapters on the functional variation of metaphor in language. Littlemore examines the role of metaphor and its variation across different genres and registers within education. Koteyko and Atanasova discuss the importance of metaphors in climate debates. Musolff analyzes metaphors in immigration debates and emphasizes the multi-dimensional function of metaphor in political persuasion. Hidalgo-Downing and Kraljevic-Mujic address the importance of metaphors in the persuasive function of commercial advertising. Ritchie demonstrates the function of metaphor in story-telling. Finally, Demjén and Hardaker explain the pragmatic role of metaphor and metonymy on impoliteness and offence in online communication.

Part V includes six chapters on using metaphor for problem solving. Tay examines metaphor use in healthcare-mental health. Demjén and Semino focus on metaphor use in physical health. Greve adopts metaphor as a management tool to understand the organizations and describes the ways in which it can be employed. MacArthur applies metaphor to second and foreign language teaching and stresses the importance of learners' deep engagement with the metaphorical senses of the words and phrases. Cameron highlights three functions of metaphor use in conflict including peace-building, empathy, and reconciliation. Grady investigates how metaphor use benefits public perceptions and policy.

Part VI has four chapters on the relation between metaphor and cognitive development. Colston and Gibbs illustrate how empirical research of metaphor processing is recognized as contextual, communicative, multimodal, and thoroughly embodied (p. 468). Katz reviews psycholinguistic approaches to metaphor acquisition and use. Rundblad further investigates individual's metaphor acquisition and use with neuro-developmental disorders including specific language impairment (SL1), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), Down's syndrome (DS), Williams syndrome (WS), and schizophrenia. Nacey concludes the part by introducing the concept of 'metaphoric competence' and discussing its problems in metaphor comprehension and production.

The book comprehensively introduces the most recent advancements on metaphor and language. We'll highlight three important features of this book.

First, all the contributors of the book are authoritative scholars in various disciplines, including linguistics, literature, sociology, psychology, pedagogics, neuroscience, and cognitive science. They take an in-depth exploration of the relation between metaphor and language from their own perspectives, adding new strands and methodologies to metaphor studies including 'Dynamical System' view of metaphor and language (Chapter 4), metaphors on climate change (Chapter 20), management (Chapter 27), psychotherapy (Chapter 25) and neurodevelopment (Chapter 33), and metaphor in big data (Chapter 8). The wide scope of strands and methodologies examined in the book suggests the sophisticated nature of metaphor and offer us an interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective on metaphor research.

Second, the book is well structured. Each part follows from theory to application in the order of theoretical approaches, methodological approaches, formal variation of metaphor, functional variation of metaphor, application and intervention and cognitive development. Each chapter is arranged in the order of literature review, current issues, examples, up-to-date researches, debates and future directions. The logic arrangement of the book makes it an easy read.

Third, a complement to the preceding comprehensive handbook of metaphor research by Gibbs (2008), the book looks into the diversity of data, making the research results more convincing. For example, the book not only discusses metaphor in English, but also examines other languages (e.g., Chinese in Chapter 25; Swedish and Russian in Chapter 20). The book also deals with metaphors in spoken form (Chapter 19) and in multimodal data (Chapter 9) in authentic contexts. In addition, the book accents the importance of doing comparative studies on metaphors in large corpora. For instance, Chapter 8 compares metaphors of hope in two representative Early Modern English corpora (450,000-word CEECS, 1418-1680 and 551,000-word HCE, 1500-1710) with two representative Present Day English corpora (1,000,000-word FLOB, 1991 and FROWN, 1991).

Despite these merits, limitations exist. Firstly, the book fails to examine the role individual factors, such as gender, intelligence or working memory, play in metaphor comprehension and production. Secondly, metaphor has its experiential basis on human embodiment. However, the book fails to include relevant research in this regard. Thirdly, the book fails to explore metaphor in an evolutional process view, emergent in recent metaphor research. For example, the eco-evolutional theory of metaphor by Domínguez (2016) explains how metaphors change as a result of the variations in the communicative niche so as to become more efficiently communicative.

Overall, the book makes an important contribution to metaphor study. It's highly recommended to scholars and

newcomers who are interested in exploring the theories, methodologies and application of metaphor and language from multi-dimensions.

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