



GIVING IN TA: A COGNITIVE-SEMANTIC ACCOUNT

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What I will do in this talk

- **The act of giving is central to interpersonal communication (Halliday, 1994) and human experience (Newman, 1996, 1999).**
- **I propose a frame semantic analysis not of GIVE-type verbs, but of expressions including verb “to give” in Tunisian Arabic.**
- **I will refer to these expressions as simply GIVING.**
- **What is given will not be called THING as Newman (1996, 1999) calls it.**

LITERAL GIVING

- **Act of GIVING: GIVER - GIVEE - GIVEN;**
- **GIVER is the SOURCE of the force dynamics of GIVING/TRANSFERRING whose DESTINATION/BENEFACTEE is the GIVEE;**
- **GIVEE expected in restricted situations to reciprocate with the GIVER;**
- **GIVEN is always an OBJECT TRANSFERRED via space and time PATH;**
- **GIVEN undergoes force dynamics in favor of GIVEE.**

Oblique 'to' construction vs. ditransitive pattern

- 3aTayt I-karhaba I-MuHammad
[I] give-PERFECT the car to Muhamed
'I gave the car to Muhamed.'
- 3aTayt I-MuHammad I-karhaba
[I] give-PERFECT to Muhamed the car
'I gave to Muhamed the car.'
- *3aTayt I-karhaba MuHammad
[I] give-PERFECT the car Muhamed
'I gave the car Muhamed.'
- *3aTayt MuHammad I-karhaba
[I] give-PERFECT Muhamed the car
'I gave Muhamed the car.'

METAPHORIC GIVING

Newman (1996: 134) isolates 8 categories of figurative **GIVING** across languages:

- Interpersonal communication (e.g. give advice, opinion, etc.);
- Emergence/manifestation (e.g. give a scream, shout, etc.);
- Causative/purpose (e.g. give a cough, laugh, smile, etc.);
- Permission/enablement (e.g. give permission, right, etc.);
- Schematic interaction (e.g. give a sweep, shove, pull, etc.);
- Recipient/benefactive marking;
- Movement;
- Completedness.

METAPHORIC GIVING IN TA

GIVING in TA can be captured in 6 semantic domains of experience:

- **Interpersonal communication;**
- **Emergence;**
- **Enablement/permission;**
- **Schematic interaction;**
- **Human transaction; and**
- **Body part transaction.**

Interpersonal communication

- **COMMUNICATING IS GIVING**
- **Opinion, information, word, oath, kiss, advice, time, hug, spanking, lesson, idea, solution, direction, appointment, evidence, suggestion, peace, respite, smile;**
- **Communication is a form of give and take, with obvious expectation of reciprocation;**
- **As a form of metaphoric giving, communication does not entail losing what is given or sometimes, paradoxically, wanting to keep it.**

Emergence: Agricultural and food domains

- **EMERGING IS GIVING**
- **Food: Lunch/dinner giving off a nice smell;**
- **Animals: Cow giving out milk;**
- **Earth: Land giving a lot of produce;**
- **Trees: Olive tree giving oil each year;**
- **Units of measurement: 10 kilos of olives giving three liters of olive oil; One hectare giving 10 haystacks;**
- **Agency assigned to inanimate entities, with the benefactee never mentioned but understood to be HUMANS.**

Enablement/permission

- **ENABLING IS GIVING**
- **Permission, right, opportunity, freedom, value;**
- **The BENEFACTEE is seen as subservient to the GIVER;**
- **Is ENABLEMENT something TAKEN or GIVEN?**
- **The investigation of the language of enablement might be enlightening in explaining democratic and undemocratic practices in different cultures!!!**

Schematic interaction

- INTERACTING IS GIVING
- A brush, sweep, clean, punch, shake, polish, iron, coat of paint, push, swell;
- GIVEE: animate or inanimate;
- BENEFACTEE is ambiguous between the GIVER and the GIVEE.

Human transaction

- **INTERACTING IS GIVING A HUMAN AS A COMMODITY**
- **Giving one's daughter, sister, niece;**
- **Giving one's, maid, gardener, driver;**
- **Daughter, sister, niece are expected to remain with the GIVEE;**
- **Maid, gardener, driver are expected to return to the GIVER;**
- **These mercantile metaphors for humans may be diachronically seen as relics of slavery and enslavement!!!**

Body part transaction

- **INTERACTING IS GIVING A BODY PART**
- **Ear, heart, intellect, eyes, cheek, hand, side/flank, back;**
- **These are Body Part for Person metonyms;**
- **Punch/fist, elbow, shoulder, head, face.**

MOTIVATIONS OF GIVING SCENARIOS

- **Metaphor as a cross-domain mapping (Sweetser, 1990);**
- **Metonymy as an intra-domain mapping (Riemer, 2005).**

SEMANTICS OF THE METAPHORIC FRAME OF GIVING

- CONTROL: GIVER sometimes loses what is GIVEN to the GIVEE; some other times expects to remain in control of the GIVEN;
- AGENCY: Both animate and inanimate GIVER are enabled;
- RECIPIENCY: GIVEE is the benefactee/malefactee of the GIVER;
- BENEFACTOR vs. MALEFACTOR: GIVER is benefactor or malefactor.

SOME IMPLICATIONS

- **Studies of acts such as GIVING are important for communication at large, translational projects, and second/foreign language teaching;**
- **Such studies corroborate the link between metaphor, cognition, and culture, where metaphor links cognitive invariance with cultural variation;**
- **Cognitive invariance supports the concrete-abstract mapping;**
- **Cultural variation determines which category is to be conceptualized metaphorically in a given culture.**