Iconicity, Arbitrariness, Metaphor, Metonymy

Week 5
Arbitrariness

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/ðɔg/ /mɨbwa/
Arbitrariness

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/dog/  /mbwa/
Arbitrariness

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/dog/   /mbwa/

/
Arbitrariness

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/dɔg/    /mˈbwa/

/dʒʌmp/    /-ruka/
Iconicity
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/pyon–pyon (suru)/
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Iconicity

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/pyon–pyon (suru)/
More sign-language iconicity

- A JSL (日本手話) example
- An LSC (Lengua de Señas Colombiana) example
More sign-language iconicity

- A JSL (日本手話) example

- An LSC (Lengua de Señas Colombiana) example
Systematic form-meaning relationships: iconicity

- Correlation between one or more form dimensions and one or more meaning dimensions
  - Form pitch and meaning pitch
  - Form pitch and meaning smallness
  - Form and meaning size
  - Form direction of movement and meaning direction of movement
“Relative” (vs. absolute) iconicity

- The relationship between particular forms and meanings may be arbitrary.
- But similar forms often have similar meanings.
Iconicity and learning

- For an iconic language, there is less to learn.
Arbitrariness and learning
Lexicon size and form-meaning overlap

- As the size of the lexicon grows, undesirable form-meaning overlap (ambiguity or synonymy) becomes more likely.
Lexicon size and iconicity

- As the size of the lexicon grows, undesirable form-meaning overlap (ambiguity or synonymy) becomes more likely.
- For iconic languages, because the range of possible forms for a given meaning is restricted, overlap is more likely for a newly created form-meaning association.
Creating a new association in an iconic language
Creating a new association in an iconic language
Creating a new association in an arbitrary language
Creating a new association in an arbitrary language
Comprehension and arbitrariness

• The advantage of arbitrariness over relative iconicity within a given semantic domain
  
  - Arbitrariness in the domain of household tools
    • Go out to the garage and get the... rake, shovel, hoe, axe, hose
    • Even if H mishears, he is likely to retrieve the right tool.
  
  - Iconicity in the domain of household tools
    • Go out to the garage and get the... rake, prake, rike, rafe, lape
    • If H mishears, he is likely to retrieve the wrong tool.
Comprehension in an iconic language
Comprehension in an iconic language
Comprehension in an arbitrary language
Comprehension in an arbitrary language
Learning categories in an arbitrary language
Learning categories in an iconic language
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

- Learning
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

- Learning
  - For an iconic language, there is less to learn.
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

- Learning
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- Lexicon size
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

- **Learning**
  - For an iconic language, there is less to learn.

- **Lexicon size**
  - Form-meaning overlap increases with lexicon size; the effect should be worse for iconic languages.
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

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- **Comprehension**
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

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  - Iconic languages allow meanings to be guessed in the presence of noise, but they can lead to confusion when nearby competitors have to be distinguished in a given domain.
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- **Categories**
Iconicity vs. arbitrariness

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• **Comprehension**
  - Iconic languages allow meanings to be guessed in the presence of noise, but they can lead to confusion when nearby competitors have to be distinguished in a given domain.

• **Categories**
  - Iconic languages make it harder to keep categories separate during learning.
Iconicity in sign language
(日本手話, ASL, Русский Жестовый Язык)
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(日本手話, ASL, Русский Жестовый Язык)
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Iconicity in sign language
Iconicity in sign language
Iconicity in sign language
Iconicity in sign language
Iconicity in sign language: relational nouns
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Iconicity in sign language: 

time and space
Iconicity in sign language: time and space
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Iconicity in sign language: time and space
Iconicity in sign language: time and space
Iconicity and deixis in sign language
Iconicity and deixis in sign language
Metonymy
Metonymy

- Productive, creative uses
Metonymy

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  - Ohio played a decisive role in the election.
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- Semantic extension (conventions)
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• Semantic extension (conventions)
  - paper
Metonymy

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  - paper
  - chair
Metonymy

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- Semantic extension (conventions)
  - *paper*
  - *chair*
  - *orange* (1300, 1542)
Metonymy

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  - paper
  - chair
  - orange (1300, 1542)
  - color
Metonymy

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- Semantic extension (conventions)
  - paper
  - chair
  - orange (1300, 1542)
  - color
  - blockhead
Metaphor and analogy
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- Productive, creative uses
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  - Like a **hall of mirrors**, our political debate is, in every way, designed to perpetuate the status quo. But no hall of mirrors can withstand the impact of a big enough **tidal wave**, which is why those inside the hall are freaking out.
Metaphor and analogy

- **Productive, creative uses**
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- **Semantic extension**
Metaphor and analogy

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- **Semantic extension**
  - Conventional
    - **kiwi**(fruit), the Web, spam, network
  - Semi-conventional
    - the twisted moral **compass** that governs him and his buddies
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

- Idioms
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

- Idioms
  - I spilled the beans.
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

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Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

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Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

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  - Touch base with me before you leave.
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

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- **Creative mappings**
Metaphor, analogy, frames, mappings

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  - She didn’t get to first base with him.
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- **Creative mappings**
  - They are fat and happy and putting the pedal to the metal in their sleek sports car on the great American highway overpass - and anyone who tries to slow them down, run them off the road or make them just glance at the blight below gets the big, road-raged middle finger. (Sirota)
Metaphor and iconicity up close
Metaphor and iconicity up close
Metaphor and iconicity up close
Metaphor and iconicity up close
Metaphor and iconicity up close
Metaphorical extension up close
Metaphorical extension up close
Metaphorical extension up close
Metonymic extension up close

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Metonymic extension up close
Metonymic extension up close
Metaphor, analogy, framing (Lakoff)
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- Systematic mapping between a source (often more concrete) and a target (often more abstract) domain
Metaphor, analogy, framing (Lakoff)

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- Time as Space
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- Taxation as Burden
Metaphor, analogy, framing (Lakoff)

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- Taxation as Burden
- Taxation as Responsibility
Metaphor, analogy, framing (Lakoff)

• Systematic mapping between a source (often more concrete) and a target (often more abstract) domain
• Time as Space
• Love as War, Nutrient, Insanity, Journey, ...
• Taxation as Burden
• Taxation as Responsibility
• Many more
Framing up close
Framing up close
Framing up close
Framing up close