

Exploring THINKING linked to BODY PARTS using two approaches: The Conceptual Theory of Metaphor and the Expressions of States of Mind

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In this paper we explore how the abstract concept of THINKING and other states of mind in Indonesian can be linked to the more concrete concept of BODY PARTS. We base our analysis on written literary texts taken from the figurative language database of the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, Jakarta Field Station whose objective is to explore the universalities and diversities across languages and cultures in the use of figurative language. The paper applies two approaches: first, the Contemporary Theory of Metaphor, which claims that the mind is embodied, (meaning that the MIND is conceptualized as a BODY) with its correlated subsystems: THINKING IS PHYSICAL FUNCTIONING (MOVING, PERCEIVING, MANIPULATING OBJECTS and EATING), IDEAS ARE ENTITIES WITH AN INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE, THINKING OF AN IDEA IS FUNCTIONING PHYSICALLY WITH RESPECT TO AN INDEPENDENT EXISTING ENTITY (Lakoff/Johnson 1999: 235ff, Sweetser 1990: 23-48). Second, we apply the analysis of emotions and states of mind according to Santangelo's classification, whose project aims to collect and analyse materials concerning emotional perception and representation of states of mind in different cultural traditions (Santangelo 2004). In order to give insight to the weight of embodiment and analyze how the human body functions in the perception and conceptualization of the world, thus providing the basis for our understanding of most abstract concepts, a metaphorical pattern analysis (Stefanowitsch, 2006) is applied using, inter alia, the following lexical items from BODY PARTS as search words: OTAK (BRAIN), KEPALA (HEAD), HATI (LIVER), MATA (EYE) as well as lexical items from abstract domains: AKAL (MIND/INTELLECT/REASON), PIKIRAN (THOUGHT/IDEA). For the analysis of emotions and states of mind, the list of lexical items shall be extended into other body parts, such as: TANGAN (HAND), KAKI (FOOT/LEG), TUBUH (BODY), BADAN (BODY), KENING (FOREHEAD), MULUT (MOUTH), LIDAH (TONGUE), GIGI (TOOTH), WAJAH (FACE), MUKA (FACE), BIBIR (LIPS). A detailed analysis of the instances containing body parts conveying a conceptual metaphor or an emotion or a state of mind is carried out on the database with the final aim to ascertain which body parts are more likely to embody THINKING or other states of mind and whether this is a universal pattern or, conversely, if the Indonesian expressions are culturally bound. Initial findings show that e.g. the body part HATI 'liver' has a very high recurrence in the database to embody THINKING and different emotions and states of mind; we will expand our exploration in the conceptualization of all the other body parts as representations of abstract notions.

Example (1) is an instance of a conceptual metaphor (THE BRAIN IS A PERSON) and at the same time represents a cognitive state of mind. In example (2) the facial expression of the wrinkling of one's forehead is the representation of the intense thinking expressing a cognitive state of mind.

(1) Metaphor: THE BRAIN IS A PERSON (WHO WORKS HARD)

<i>Otakku</i>	<i>bekerja</i>	<i>keras</i>	<i>menyerap</i>	<i>gagasan-gagasan</i>	<i>gemerlap</i>
brain=1SG	BER-work	hard	MEN-absorb	RED-idea	brilliant
<i>yang</i>	<i>datang dari</i>	<i>langit</i>			
REL	come from	heaven			

My brain is working hard to absorb brilliant ideas which may have come from heaven.

