



The Abstract / Concrete Divide

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Identification of factors of “foreign-soundingness” in learner writing

Identifying & studying linguistic metaphors produced in 2 sets of comparable texts



Computer Learner Corpora

- **Corpus linguistics & Second Language Acquisition (SLA)**
- **Interlanguage**
 - the extent of potential L1 influence
 - general learner strategies
 - phases of interlanguage development
 - possible overgeneralization of L2 features
 - genre/register influence
- **“Naturalistic” data**





International Corpus of Learner English (ICLE)

- **2 million word corpus**
- **19 subcorpora of approximately 200,000 words each**
- **Young adult EFL learners**
- **Advanced learners of English**
 - B2-C2 according to the CEFR scale





NICLE

- **Collected between 1999 and 2002**
- **Approximately 300 essays**
 - 212,000 words
 - Roughly 500 words in length
 - Unabridged



Argumentative essays

- **Crime does not pay. (12,235 words)**
- **Feminists have done more harm to the cause of women than good. (17,707 words)**
- **Most university degrees are theoretical and do not prepare students for the real world. They are, therefore, of very little value. (19,448 words)**
- **Marx once said that religion was the opium of the masses. If he was alive at the end of the twentieth century, he would replace religion with television. (20,484 words)**
- **Some people say that in our modern world, dominated by science, technology and industrialisation, there is no longer a place for dreaming and imagination. (55,978 words)**





The Louvain Corpus of Native English Essays (LOCNESS)

- **A reference corpus for ICLE**
- **324,304 words of argumentative essays**
 - British A-level pupils
 - British university students
 - American university students
- **Novice writers**



Topics

- **Computers and the human brain**
- **Problems facing the Monarchy**
- **In vitro fertilisation - genetic engineering**

- **A single Europe: A loss of sovereignty for Britain'**





<ICLE-ALEV-0006.6>

This point of view displays the computer as a substitute for a human brain which, once skilled in its use, is a major problem in its use by many people.

Therefore, I conclude that although the invention and development of the human computer has kept the brain on, full-time, its use has offloaded it, to a certain extent, into redundancy.





Definition of metaphor

A mapping between two domains from two different semantic fields, where certain perceived features of the source domain are mapped onto the target domain

We spend/save/run out of/invest time.

TIME IS MONEY conceptual metaphor



Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP)

- Read the entire text
- Demarcate lexical units
- Establish the contextual meaning of each lexical unit
- Establish the basic meaning of each lexical unit
- Contextual / Basic meanings distinct?
 - Similarity?



The student defended her thesis.

Macmillan English Dictionary

MACMILLAN English Dictionary  SECOND EDITION

Super Search Exercises Study Pages Help Quick View My MED Show Less

defend verb ★★★

defend /  dɪ'fend  / verb  ★★★

Menu

- 1 protect from attack
- 2 prevent something from failing
- 3 speak to support someone/something
- 4 in sport
- 5 try to win again
- 6 in law

 1 [transitive] to protect someone or something from attack
Thousands of young men came forward, willing to defend their country.
defend someone/something from/against something: Steps are being taken to defend the city against attack.
defend yourself: You have a right to defend yourself if you are being attacked.

 2 [transitive] to prevent something from failing, stopping, or being taken away
Hundreds of miners are fighting to defend their jobs.
We will defend their right to free speech.

 3 [transitive] to say things to support someone or something that is being criticized
Mr Rose defended the committee's decision to publish the report early.
strongly/strenuously/vigorously defend: He vigorously defended his party's record on human rights.
defend yourself against something: They must be given the opportunity to defend themselves against these allegations.

 4 [intransitive] to play in a team sport in a position in which you are trying to prevent the other team from getting points
The opposition defended brilliantly in the second half.

 5 [transitive] to attempt to win a competition that you won last time in order to keep your position as winner
She will be defending her Wimbledon title later this month.
successfully defend: Can Baxter successfully defend his heavyweight championship?

 6 [intransitive/transitive] LEGAL to be the lawyer in a court case who tries to prove that someone is not guilty

defendant /  dɪ'fendənt  / noun [countable]  LEGAL ★★★

 someone who has been accused of a crime and is on trial

Start Inbo... 4 Mi... UCL/... locness EndN... Cacer... Macmi... 12:03

Fil Rediger Vis Sett inn Format Poster Verktøy Vindu Hjelp Skriv spørsmål for hjelp

MS Sans Serif 10 **F** **K** **U**

Search entry: Idnr

Entry Part of speech Grammatical type

Basic meaning

Contextual_meaning	Type	Dictionary	Entered_by	Comment
used for stating what possessions, qualities, or features someone or something has: a girl with red hair (MM2a)	<input type="text" value="not-M"/>	<input type="text" value="MM"/>	<input type="text" value="Anna"/>	We used to take this as M, because of QUALITIES = POSSESSION. However, we have decided that, since some qualities, like eyes, hair, etc. are concrete, they are literally used. If the feature or quality is abstract, it is M.
towards or concerning someone/something: Why are you angry with me? (MM4)	<input type="text" value="M"/>	<input type="text" value="MM"/>	<input type="text" value="Anna"/>	This use is creating a sense of 'togetherness' although this does not literally have to be there.
working with: I am working with Carnega	<input type="text" value="M"/>	<input type="text" value="MM"/>	<input type="text" value="Anna"/>	This is a form of MM1, but since a company is abstract, this becomes M. Susan: literal through metonymy ? Is a company abstract?
sex with someone	<input type="text" value="not-M"/>	<input type="text" value="MM"/>	<input type="text" value="Lettie"/>	for now we say that you both have to be present in the same place in order to have sex so metonymy rather than metaphor - though in the case of phone sex or cybersex this is probably a WIDLII
in a particular way (MM7), e.g.: "Pencil skirts and batwing sweaters and spiky stilettos, tottering with their hard little behinds sticking out, and all that red lipstick" (fet-01)	<input type="text" value="M"/>	<input type="text" value="MM"/>	<input type="text" value="Anna"/>	action is abstract

Post: av 6

av 923

navising NUM



Word	POS	Text ID	Corpus	Lexical Unit				
spectre	NN1	ICLE-NO-AC-0001	NICLE	Word				
Mrw	M_Cat	Phraseology	Phraseological unit					
Met	Novel							
ID comments	Dead Conventional Novel Func. conv							
Cat comments	Func. novel D/C C/N							
Usage comments	wrong word. Spectrum							
Gram error	Prep	Word(s) missing	Sig spelling	Insig spelling	Lexis	Punct error	Metonymy	CLAWS overrule
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suggested prep correction								
Prep meaning								
ID	292							

Basic meaning

Basic meaning = most concrete, human-oriented, and precise. Often the historically oldest.

Mapping from the concrete to the abstract sometimes serves to sufficiently differentiate the contextual meaning from the basic meaning of the lexical unit.





accept

Go

accept verb ★★★

Alphabetical Index

[accept](#)
[acceptability](#)
[acceptable](#)
[acceptably](#)
[acceptance](#)
[accepted](#)
[access](#) noun

Search Result (3)

accept verb
 accept/face the consequences
 accept someone/something at face value

accept / aksept / verb ★★★

Menu

- 1 take something offered
- 2 agree to a suggestion
- 3 believe something is true/right
- 4 recognize a bad situation
- 5 let someone join/be part of something
- 6 consider good enough
- 7 take a form of payment

[Get it Right!](#)
[Exercise](#)

- 1 [transitive] to take something that someone gives you
 It gives me great pleasure to accept this award.
 Saunders has been convicted for accepting bribes.
- 1a. [intransitive/transitive] to say yes to an invitation or offer
 They offered her a job, and she accepted without hesitation.
- 2 [transitive] to agree to do what someone asks or suggests
 Our clients will never accept this proposal.
 Most of the report's recommendations have been accepted by the government.
- 3 [transitive] to recognize that something is true, fair, or right
 Sam accepted her explanation without question.
 This argument is unlikely to be accepted by the court.
accept that: Most scientists accept that climate change is linked to pollution.
generally/widely accepted (=believed by most people): His views on genetics are not now widely accepted.
- 3a. to recognize that you are responsible for something
accept blame/responsibility/liability: We cannot accept liability for items stolen from your car.
 The media must accept their share of the blame.
- 4 [transitive] to recognize that a bad situation exists and cannot be avoided or changed
 I know it's not fair, but you'll just have to accept it.
 They found it hard to accept defeat.
accept that: For a long time, he simply could not accept that she was dead.
- 5 [transitive] to allow someone to join an organization
 Under the new law, gay people will be accepted in the armed forces.
accept someone as something: Mexico was accepted as a member of the OECD in 1994.



this

this adverb, determiner, pronoun ★★★

Alphabetical Index

- this
- thistle
- thistledown
- thither
- THNQ
- tho'
- thong

Search Result (40)

- this adverb, determiner, pronoun
- on this/that account
- it/this was always going to be...
- this/that baby
- I don't need this crap
- in this day and age
- to this day
- to this/that effect
- to this end
- it's/that's/this is not funny
- don't try this at home
- to what do we owe this honour/the honour of your presence?
- the/this House
- this instant
- at this juncture
- blow/sod etc this/that for a lark
- this lark
- this is the life
- like this/like so
- not long for this world
- you're/he's etc going to love this

this / ðɪz / adverb, determiner, pronoun ★★★

Summary

This can be used in the following ways:

as a **determiner** (followed by a noun): [He gave me this diamond ring.](#)

as a **demonstrative pronoun** (without a following noun): [This is the photograph you asked for.](#)

as an **adverb** (before an adjective, adverb, or 'much'): [It's a long time since I felt this good.](#)

- 1 (plural **these** / ði:z ði:z /) **the one that is known** used when you are referring to a particular person, thing, fact etc that has just been mentioned, or when it is obvious which one you are referring to
[Sometimes there's flooding, and this is why no one wants to live here.](#)
[Based on Edith Wharton's novel, this latest film stars Gillian Anderson.](#)
[Robbery, rape, drug dealing – these are just some of the crimes that are on the increase.](#)
- 2 **what you are going to say** MAINLY SPOKEN used for referring to the particular thing that you are going to talk about
[Now, this is what I want you to do, so listen carefully.](#)
- 3 (plural **these** / ði:z ði:z /) **the one that is here**
 - 3a. used for referring to something that you are wearing, holding, or showing
[I've brought this book to show you.](#)
[I bought these shoes in Italy.](#)
 - 3b. used for referring to the place that you are in
[This large room where we're standing now is the banqueting hall.](#)
[This is where I catch the bus.](#)
 - 3c. used for referring to the thing that is nearest to you, especially when you are pointing to it
[This is my towel and that's yours.](#)
[These oranges are really expensive.](#)
- 4 (plural **these** / ði:z ði:z /) **the present one**
 - 4a. used for referring to the present time
[I don't get much spare time these days.](#)
[Why haven't you phoned me before this?](#)
[I'm going to be away the whole of this week.](#)
this morning/afternoon/evening (=the morning/afternoon/evening of today): [Benson was late again this morning.](#)
 - 4b. plural **these** used for referring to something that is happening or to something that you are doing



OK
Search

this ¹ *determiner, pronoun*

W1 S1
Menu | Usage note | Word origin | Verb form | Word set

plural these

- 1 used to refer to a person, thing, idea etc that has just been mentioned or to something that has just happened
 - *We must make sure this doesn't happen again.*
 - *Is there any way of solving these problems?*
 - *If young Daly continues to improve at this rate, he'll soon be in the A Team.*
 - *This will be discussed in the next chapter.*
 - *This boyfriend of yours - how old is he?*
- 2 used to talk about the present time or a time that is close to the present
 - *There will be another meeting later this week.*
 - *This has been the worst year of my life.*
 - *I thought he would have been back before this.*
 - *We'll be seeing Malcolm this Friday (=on Friday of the present week).*
 - *I'm sorry I was late this morning (=today in the morning).*
 - *Everyone seems to be in a hurry **these days** (=at the present period).*
 - *I want to see you in my office **this minute** (=immediately).*
- 3 used to talk about the present situation
 - *I hate this cold damp weather.*
 - *Things have never been as bad as this before.*
- 4 *spoken* used to talk about a thing or person that is near you, the thing you are holding, or the place where you are
 - *These are your gloves, aren't they?*
 - *You have to park on this side of the road.*
 - *I can't bear the atmosphere in this house much longer.*
- 5 *spoken* used to refer to something that you are going to say or that is just about to happen

Phrase bank

Dictionary phrases:

- **these days**
- **this is it**
- **this minute**
- **this, that and the other**
- **what's (all) this?**

Examples bank

Extra dictionary examples

- Add **this** mixture to the cranberry sauce.
- In **this** chapter of the book, we look at a number of new economic theories.
- Steve's going to Miami **this** Thursday.

Activate your language

when you meet someone for the first time
this is

Lakoff & Johnson

Because so many of the concepts that are important to us are either abstract or not clearly delineated in our experience (the emotions, ideas, time, etc.), we need to get a grasp on them by means of other concepts that we understand in better terms (spatial orientations, objects, etc.)



- **Love**
- **Time**
- **Ideas**
- **Understanding**
- **Arguments**
- **Happiness**
- **Health**
- **Morality**
- **Physical orientations**
- **Objects**
- **Substances**
- **Seeing**
- **Journeys**
- **War**
- **Madness**
- **Food**

Kövecses

An important generalization that emerges from these conceptual metaphors is that conceptual metaphors typically employ a **more abstract concept** as target and a **more concrete or physical concept** as their source. Argument, love, idea, social organization are all more abstract concepts than war, journey, food, and plant.

Grady

- **“the slippery nature of the term”**
- **Image content: related to bodily sensory and sense input in any modality.**
- **Abstract concept: Lacks image content. “less strongly associated with specific sensory experiences”**



Danesi

- A ***concrete concept*** is one that is demonstrable in a direct way
- An ***abstract concept*** is one that cannot be demonstrated or observed directly
- “...many layers of concreteness and abstraction...”
- “..the debate on concrete concepts is an ancient one and it is still largely unresolved”



Danesi

- **Concrete referents**
 - *blue, red*
- **Concrete conceptual domain**
 - *color*
- **Associative concrete concepts**
 - *light + sight = vision*



Abstract or concrete?

- with an enormous cost
- it is the job of scientists
- a demand for this work

- the death of his colleagues
- the lives of individual human beings
- the gender of the child

- this term (expression)
- with this information

- either together with other children or with fantasy friends

- new types of plants
- higher harvest yields...and this is important for...
- in a high majority of cases





Macmillan English Dictionary

death= MED1 the state of being **dead**

dead= MED1 no longer **alive**

alive= MED1 **living** and not **dead**

living= MED1 **alive** at the present time

Longman Contemporary English

death= LM1 the end of the **life** of a person or animal

life= LM1 the period of time when someone is **alive**, LM2 the state of being **alive**

alive= LM1 still **living** and not **dead**

dead= LM1 no longer **alive**

living= LM1 **alive** now



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Corpus-based metaphor typology

- **Vehicles= prototypically concrete**
- **Topics= prototypically abstract**
- **A coreness-dependency relationship**
 - Resulting in conventional or innovative metaphors
- **Concrete-concrete and abstract-abstract mappings exist, but are less central.**
 - Concrete-concrete mappings result in dead metaphors

