

**Metaphorical analogies in an online discussion forum for
relationship abuse survivors**
That analogy really works for me

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The language of betrayal



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Primary material

- Online discussion forum
 - relationship abuse survivors
 - 6-year period
 - 44.6 million words of discourse
 - 4561 individual informants

long story short,
i survived. 

Research focus

- Metaphorical frames
- Metaphorical scenarios
- Interaction among posters

Methods

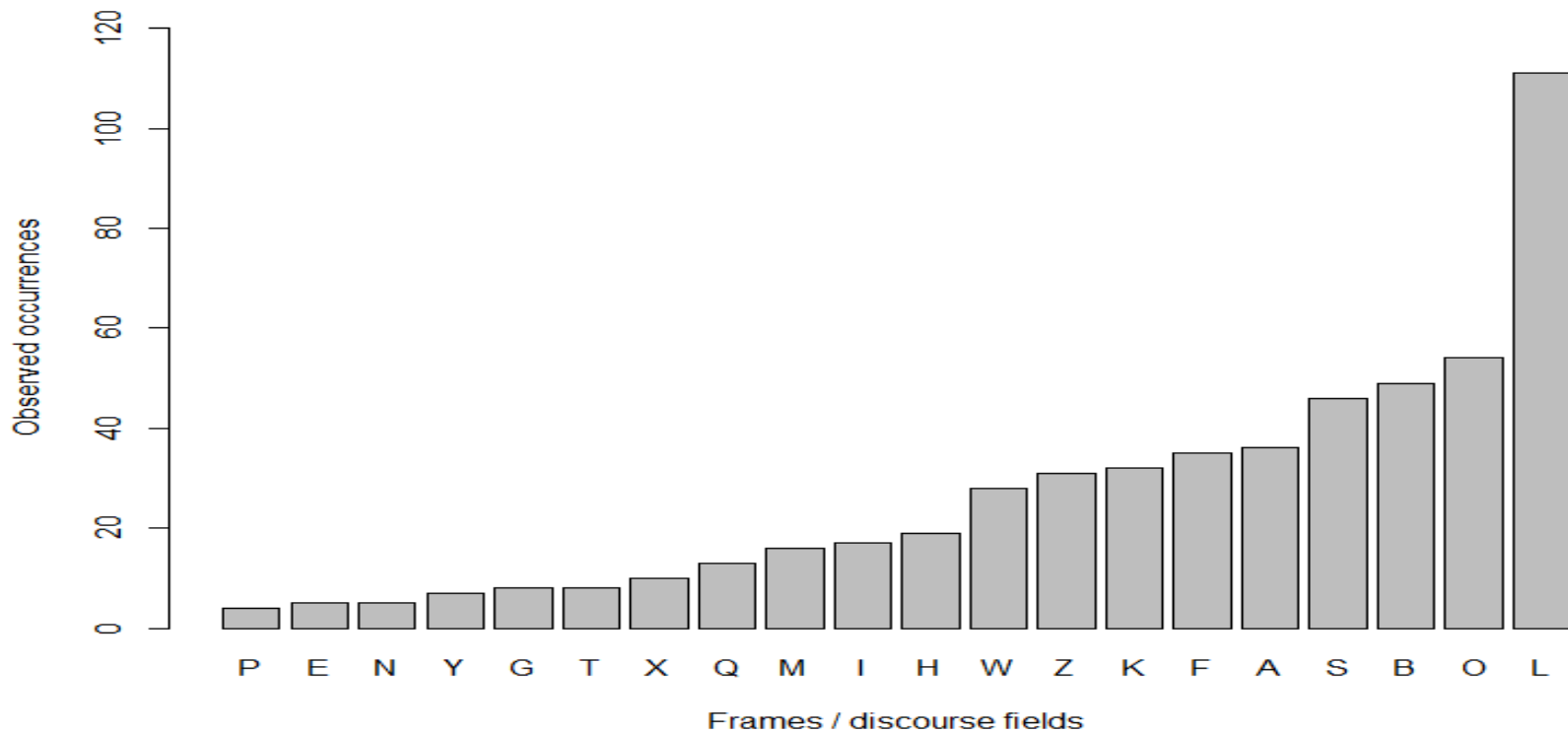
- Identify deliberate metaphor, flagged by lexeme ANALOGY
- Assign frame and scenario for each identified metaphor
- Flesh out mappings
- Explore the thread text around the metaphor



Data

- 598 occurrences of the lexeme ANALOGY
 - 413 threads
 - written by 358 individual posters
- 534 individual metaphors
 - written by 311 individual posters
 - 234 *my analogy is X*
 - 300 *my opinion of your X analogy*

Frames



Life and living things



Substances, materials, objects and equipment



Code	Scenario	Observed no.	Referential labels
W1	The universe	3	<i>moon, globe</i>
W2	Light	2	<i>light (x2)</i>
W2-	Darkness	1	<i>darkness</i>
W3	Geographical terms	15	<i>beach, boulder, cave, earthquake, iceberg, island, ocean (x5), pool, pothole, stream, waves</i>
W4	The weather	7	<i>cloud, fog, hurricane, tornado (x3), weather</i>
W5	Green issues	1	<i>nature</i>

'World and the environment' frame (W)

W4 The weather



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Interaction among posters: Function of analogies

- 245 Explanation
 - Individual experience
 - Collective experience
- 340 Support
- 13 Criticism

Resistance to metaphor

This is a great thread with really good posts. And I agree with your comment until this part. The **analogy** you are trying to make is **plain wrong and offensive** to parents and those persons on this site who work with children in their professional lives (teachers, therapists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, etc).

Concluding remarks

- Wide variety of frames
- Wide variety of scenarios
- Some rooted in literal experience
- Resonance, despite variety