

## **Irene Renau (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso)**

### **Title**

Patterns and metaphors. A study of metaphorical patterns in the Verbario database of Spanish verbs

### **Abstract**

In this proposal, we present a study of metaphorical patterns of some very frequent verbs in Spanish. As source of data, we take the Verbario database (<http://www.tecling.com/verbario/>; cf. Renau et al., 2019), containing around 250 Spanish verb entries, each of the pattern linked to corpus annotation. Our theoretical and methodological framework is Corpus Pattern Analysis, CPA (Hanks 2004a, 2004b, 2008, 2013, among others), according to which each meaning of a lexical item is mapped onto a syntagmatic pattern. A pattern can be defined as “a semantically motivated and recurrent piece of phraseology” (Ježek and Hanks 2010: 8), that is, a coherent structure of syntactic, argumentative and semantic information of the verb in a given sentence. Each verb pattern can be found in a variety of contexts of usage that are unique instances of that pattern, which is an abstract way of representing such instances.

Metaphor plays an essential role in the construction of the semantic structure of verbs (Hanks 2006, 2013; Renau, 2021). Hanks (2006) distinguishes conventional metaphors and exploitations as two poles of metaphoricity, with a gradable differentiation (Hanks 2006). Only conventional metaphors, associated with normal, frequent patterns of words, should appear as meanings of dictionary entries. Thus, in our proposal, we will focus on this type of normal metaphors as they are described in Verbario. In this first analysis of metaphors in the database, we are interested, first of all, in identifying the metaphorical pattern (or target pattern of the metaphor) and the source pattern, which are associated with the target domain and the source domain of the metaphor (cf. Lakoff and Johnson 1980). Second, we need to analyse and classify the conceptual domains associated with the source or target domains. Finally, we want to examine “the grammar of metaphor” (Deignan 2006: 145-167), that is, which formal features of the pattern can be traced in those with a metaphorical meaning—if any.

This study is a twofold contribution. First, we will provide scientific evidence for the theory of conceptual metaphor, whose postulates are not always explicitly based on empirical data (Deignan, 2005: 27). Second, the study allows us to reflect on how to order and connect the meanings of pattern-based dictionary entries—or dictionaries in general—in a more useful and informative way than the classical list of meanings.

### **References**

Deignan, A. (2005). *Metaphor and Corpus Linguistics*. John Benjamins.

- Hanks, P. (2004a). Corpus Pattern Analysis. In G. Williams & S. Vessier (Eds.), *11th Euralex International Congress* (Vol. 1, pp. 87–97). Université de Bretagne-Sud.
- Hanks, P. (2004b). The syntagmatics of metaphor and idiom. *International Journal of Lexicography*, 17(3), 245–274.
- Hanks, P. (2006). Metaphoricity is gradable. In A. Stefanowitsch & S. Gries (Eds.), *Corpus-Based Approaches to Metaphor and Metonymy* (pp. 17–35). De Gruyter Mouton.
- Hanks, P. (2008). Lexical Patterns: From Hornby to Hunston and beyond. In E. Bernal & J. DeCesaris (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 13th EURALEX International Congress* (pp. 89–129). Institut Universitari de Linguística Aplicada.
- Hanks, P. (2013). *Lexical Analysis: Norms and Exploitations*. The MIT Press.
- Ježek, E., & Hanks, P. (2010). What lexical sets tell us about conceptual categories. *Lexis*, 4.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press.
- Renau, I. (2021). Using verb patterns to find recurrent metaphors in corpus. In Z. Gavriilidou, L. Mitits, & S. Kiosses (Eds.), *Lexicography for Inclusion: Proceedings of the 19th EURALEX International Congress* (pp. 673–682). Democritus University of Thrace.
- Renau, I., Nazar, R., Castro, A., López, B., & Obreque, J. (2019). Verbo y contexto de uso: Un análisis basado en corpus con métodos cualitativos y cuantitativos. *Revista Signos*, 52(101), 878–901.