

Looking back in time

A corpus-based study of medieval Latin metaphors of TIME

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Motivation and Outline

Motivation

- specific: a corpus-based study of TIME metaphors in Medieval Latin
- general: towards framework for cross-linguistic and computational study of metaphor

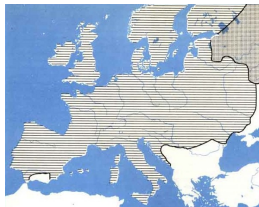
Outline

- 1 Medieval Latin and its Sociolinguistic Situation
- 2 Theoretical Framework and Previous Research
- 3 Corpus and Data
- 4 Lat. *tempus* 'time' and its metaphors
 - TIME IS SPACE
 - MOVING TIME
 - Agentive sense and its elaboration
- 5 Conclusions

Medieval Latin

Context

- WHEN: from the mid-VIIIth century AD (but major differences between countries: Xth c. in Poland etc.)
- WHERE: in the majority of European countries



Medieval *diglossia* and language contact

- no native speakers
- extensive use in formal contexts
- normative pressure on vernacular languages
- deep interference between high- and low-prestige languages

ML as a *Traditionssprache*

a complex mix of elements from different diachronic strata

Theoretical Framework

- historical dimension in the study of metaphor (Geraerts & Grondelaers 1995)
- creativity in metaphor production (Lakoff & Johnson 1989)
- thinking and arguing through metaphors (Lakoff & Johnson 1999)
- contextual factors in metaphor creation and comprehension (Kövecses 2016)



- analytical framework for the study of the lexeme *time* (Evans 2006)
- spatial Frame of Reference (Evans 2013)
- metaphorical expression → lexical concept
- focus on formal and semantic selectional “tendencies” (Evans 2006, 2013)

No surprises

- dominance of spatial metaphors
 - TIME IS SPACE
 - MOVING TIME
 - Agentive sense

TIME IS SPACE: DURATION IS LENGTH

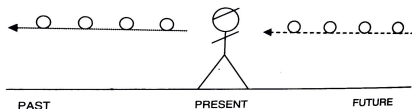
- DURATION sense (Evans 2006, 2013: “magnitude of duration”)
- formal tendencies: mainly in NPs (as a head or an adjunct), but also as object in VPs; in most cases: singular
- semantic tendencies
 - “length” adjectives: *tempus longum* ‘long’, *brevis* ‘short’, *paruum* ‘small’
 - as adjunct / object in VPs
 - *temporis spatium* ‘space of time’, *interuallum* ‘interval’ (etym. ‘space between two walls’)
 - *tempus abbreviare* ‘to shorten’, *extendere* ‘to extend’
 - complex: *temporis angustia* ‘narrowness of time’ (+ DIFFICULTIES IMPEDE MOVEMENT?)

TIME IS SPACE: philosophical speculation

- EVENT sense (Evans 2006: “time references a particular set of events which are indicative of a particular event-sequence in history”)
- formal tendencies: NP (as an adjunct); plural
- semantic tendencies
 - linear sequence of events considered as unity
 - in Medieval Christian philosophy: *in fine* ‘in the end’, *post finem* ‘after the end’ *temporum* ‘of times’

MOVING TIME

- EVENT / MOMENT sense: time for some action / event to happen
- formal tendencies
 - subject in a NP
 - motion verb: towards the Ego
 - explicit: *ad* 'to, towards' compounds: *ac-cedo*, *ad-venio*, *ap-propinquo*
 - implicit: *uenio* 'to come'
 - motion verb: past the Ego
 - *praeter-eo* 'go by, pass by', *trans-eo* 'pass over, pass by'



TIME-SUBSTANCE and creative elaborations

TIME-SUBSTANCE variation (Lakoff & Johnson 1999)

- motion verb: *fluo* 'to flow', *de-fluo* 'to flow down, to disappear', *ef-fluo* 'to flow out, to vanish'
- quantifier: *aliquantum* 'some', *multum* 'much' etc.

Contextual factors (Kövecses 2016)

- negative OR positive prosody: *immineo* 'to project towards', *insto* 'to stand upon'
 - *tempus resurrectionis* ↑ 'resurrection time'
 - *tempus depopulationis* ↓ 'devastation time'
- only negative prosody: *ingruo* 'to fall down'
 - *faminis* ↓ 'famine'
 - *persecution* ↓ 'prosecution'
 - *destruendi* ↓ 'destruction'

AGENTIVE sense and metaphorical creativity

Time is a measure of change and of being changed (ARISTOTLE, *Physics* IV 12, 220b32)



TIME IS A CHANGER

- permits to do sth (*admitto*, *concedo*, *permitto* 'to allow, to permit')
- prevents from doing sth (*excludo* 'to prevent')
- urges (*admoneo*, *adurgeo*, *urgeo*), dictates (*dicto*), requires (*exigit*) to do sth
- favours actions (*arrideo*, *faveo*, *indulgeo* 'to be favourable')

Conclusions and Perspectives

- ML is understudied as a source of Western conceptualizations
- genre variation: example of the ML charters
 - TIME IS RESOURCE: *deduco* 'to spend', *redimo* 'to gain', *expendo* 'to use', *tero* 'to waste', *constituo* 'to attribute'
 - MOVING TIME: *labi* 'to glide, pass away' *et sim.* express the idea of time being a destructive factor of oblivion (Nowak 2016)

- detection and diachronic comparison of metaphorical mappings

