Looking back in time
A corpus-based study of medieval Latin metaphors of TIME

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September 22, 2017
Motivation and Outline

Motivation

- specific: a corpus-based study of \textit{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. Late. \textit{tempus} ‘time’ and its metaphors
   - Time is Space
   - Moving Time
   - Agentive sense and its elaboration
5. Conclusions
Medieval Latin

Context

- **WHEN**: from the mid-VIII\(^{th}\) century AD (but major differences between countries: X\(^{th}\) 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 *Traditionsprache*

a complex mix of elements from different diachronic strata
Theoretical Framework

- historical dimension in the study of metaphor (Geeraerts & 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)
Methods

*Lat. tempus ‘time’*
- 135k occurrences in the corpus
- mostly in *ablative*

**Corpus**
- time: 1 AD - 13 AD
- size: 100M
- tools: NoSketchEngine

*tempus + V*
1. CQL search: \(~\approx 1,8k\) occurrences
   \[\text{[lemma} = "tempus"\text{][pos} = "V"]\]
2. manual annotation

**noun and adjective collocations**
1. window 1L-1R
   \(<\text{atque uno}^{1L}\text{ tempore}^{1L}\text{ necatis}^{1R}\text{ quo}\)
2. association strength
   \[
   \text{Dice: } \frac{2 \cdot f_{AB}}{f_A + f_B}
   \]
3. rough clustering with a DSM
No surprises

- dominance of spatial metaphors
  - **Time is Space**
  - **Moving Time**
  - Agentive sense
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’, breuis ‘short’, paruum ‘small’
- as adjunct / object in VPs
  - temporis spatium ‘space of time’, interuallum ‘interval’ (etym. ‘space between two walls’)
  - tempus abbreuiare ‘to shorten’, extendere ‘to extend’
- complex: temporis angustia ‘narrowsness of time’ (+ Difficulties Impede Movement?)
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’
**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’)

Krzysztof Nowak (LMILP)
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