

Review of the dissertation by *Ciro Porcaro*

[PhD in Germanic and Slavic Studies, XXXVI cycle]

Metonymie zwischen Theorie und Empirie: eine kognitiv-linguistische Untersuchung des deutschen Migrationsdiskurses (Theoretical and empirical perspectives on metonymy: A cognitive linguistic analysis of German migration discourse)

The dissertation investigates the role of metonymy in German-language migration discourse within the field of German linguistics, utilizing cognitive linguistics as the theoretical framework, primarily drawing from American scholars such as Lakoff and Johnson. The study focuses on the current migration discourse as portrayed in German press texts.

A notable gap in research is identified, highlighting the limited attention given to metonymy compared to metaphor, particularly within the context of figurative language usage, and predominantly in relation to English. This interdisciplinary work combines cognitive theory with discourse analytic linguistics, providing a comprehensive approach.

The dissertation, comprising approximately 300 pages, is meticulously structured. Following the introduction, Chapter 1 critically reviews the existing literature on metonymy, offering insightful comparative analyses between German and English. Chapter 2 delves further into metonymy in German, emphasizing its relationship with word formation, particularly converbs and composites, areas previously overlooked in research.

Chapter 3 explores the role of metonymy in migration discourse, focusing on ideological and linguistic-pragmatic implications. It not only surveys research on cognitively oriented discourse analysis but also examines how stereotypes, metonymies, and metaphors interact within migration discourse semantics.

Chapter 4, the central and most extensive section, conducts qualitative and quantitative analyses of press texts sourced from *Bild* and *Der Spiegel*. It begins with an overview of initial hypotheses, methodology, and corpus selection, followed by specific analyses of referential metonymies in each publication, culminating in a discussion of underlying metonymic models and the interplay between metaphors and metonymies.

The dissertation yields significant theoretical and empirical insights. It contributes to the theoretical discourse on metonymy by elucidating German-specific linguistic phenomena, challenging the dominance of English-centric perspectives. Empirically, the study demonstrates the prevalence of metonymies in migration discourse, their covert operation, and their potential for manipulation, as evidenced in *Bild* and *Der Spiegel*, each reflecting distinct political and ideological stances. Furthermore, the analysis underscores the intricate interaction between metaphors and metonymies, enhancing our comprehension of metonymy's broader functioning.

While the thesis adheres to the conventions of scientific writing in German, it requires linguistic review for minor errors. In conclusion, it represents an outstanding scholarly contribution deserving unequivocal recommendation for acceptance as a dissertation.

Romę 3 March 2024
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Prague, 4 March 2024
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