

Review of: "Conceptual oxymoron, oxymetaphor, and oxymetaphonymy: inclusive border and violent inclusion in close-up"

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This is an interesting paper that attempts to analyse conceptual oxymoron, an understudied cognitive mechanism, by scrutinising two oxymorons: inclusive *border* and *violent inclusion*. The phrases *inclusive border* and *violent inclusion* are categorised as indirect oxymorons, adopting Shen's (1978) classification of oxymorons, later adopted by Gibbs and Kearney (1994) to judge the importance of conceptual knowledge to people's understanding of oxymorons. Oxymorons necessitate that individuals access pertinent world knowledge to limit their creative interpretations of seemingly contradictory concepts (Gibbs & Kearney, 1994).

The relation of opposition here is a semantic relation between the meanings of two lexical items and so is handled within a lexical framework (Shen, 1978). An oxymoron can be construed based on various semantic features with a hierarchical structure. The lowest semantic feature bears most of the semantic load in separating the lexical item in question from its neighbouring item. Employing a componential analysis framework, the primary sense relations important for studying the semantic structure of opposition are antonyms and hyponyms (Lyons, 1977; Shen, 1978; Leech, 1981). The analysis is very beneficial at the linguistic level; however, it does not show how a conceptual oxymoron may motivate surface or linguistic oxymorons. Suppose the researcher intends to use both componential and cognitive linguistic theories. In that case, it is recommended that the theoretical framework be elaborated in the beginning so that readers can perceive the conceptual process of oxymora.

In the same vein, sticking to the syntactic structure of oxymorons (e.g., Adj-N) also represents the linguistic level rather than the conceptual level. Though redefining an indirect oxymoron as "a structure that involves terms belonging to different grammatical classes, such that the second term is a hyponym of its superordinate, that superordinate being a recategorised antonym to the oxymoron's first term" will add more details to the definition of an oxymoron, it keeps it at the linguistic level. So, this definition does not reflect an oxymoron as a cognitive mechanism.

The expression "conceptual, indirect oxymora" combines two different analyses. As the author bases his oxymoron analysis on the lexical level, the activation of oxymorons along with conceptual metaphor and metonymy is not workable. Unlike image schemas, conceptual metaphor, and conceptual metonymy, the definition and scope of conceptual oxymorons has yet to be determined despite their indisputable existence, given the limited studies on conceptual oxymorons. For instance, abundant research shows how conceptual metaphor and metonymy underpin some figurative

expressions like idioms. In contrast, very few studies mentioned how people conceptualise their experience in figurative terms via oxymorons. The question is what and how expressions are motivated by conceptual oxymoron. And how related is an oxymoron to other figures of contradiction like irony and paradox? For instance, is it a form of phrasal irony? (Partington, 2011) or is it a kind of “essentially oxymoronic concept” to use Neuwirth’s (2018) expression like enantiosis and paradox? Therefore, an exhaustive review of the literature on oxymorons will help provide a relevant framework for development.

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