Pedro J. CHAMIZO DOMÍNGUEZ, Carmen M. BRETONES CALLEJAS

MIND, LANGUAGE AND METAPHOR: EUROCONFERENCE ON CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE IMAGINATION. KERKRADE (THE NETHERLANDS), APRIL 20–24, 2002

The Mind, Language and Metaphor Euroconference took place thanks to the European Commission, Research DG, Human Potential Programme, and it was co-sponsored by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research.

Since the study of metaphor has become multidisciplinary, the meeting was a clear proof of the variety of interests and points of view in this field. Among attendants, we found linguists, psychologists, philosophers, computer scientists and even archeologists. For the most part they showed that metaphor is not only a linguistic phenomenon but a cognitive and cultural one. This conference went beyond other metaphor conferences insofar as it explored points of convergence between three major fields of contemporary research: figures of speech, imagination and consciousness.

The presentations delivered at the conference reached an impressively high scientific level and can be divided in three different blocks; first, the plenary sessions; second, the poster sessions; and third, the round tables and symposium sessions.

The plenary sessions included the following talks: Cristina Cacciari ("Do we really use perceptual information in understanding metaphors?", University of Modena, Italy); Zazie Todd ("Responding to the literary imagination", University of Leeds, United Kingdom); Wallace Chafe ("The pervasiveness of imagination in thought and language", University of California, United States); Brigitte Nerlich ("Metaphors and images in individual and popular consciousness and imagination", University of Nottingham, United Kingdom); Ray Gibbs ("What makes figurative language easy, or difficult, to comprehend?", University of California, United States); John Barden ("Metaphorically simulating (metaphorical simulating) self", Birmingham University, United Kingdom); Marie-Dominique Gineste ("Combining explanations in terms of activation and explanations in terms of phenomenal experience: the case of metaphors", University of Paris XIII,

France); Ann Dowker ("Young children's figurative language: how important are cultural and linguistic influences?", University of Oxford, United Kingdom); Steven Mithen ("The origin of metaphor and human culture", Reading University, United Kingdom); George Lakoff ("Metaphor, mind and brain", University of California, United States); Mark Johnson ("Embodied metaphor", University of Oregon, United States); Antonio Barcelona ("Metonymy as a multi-level phenomenon in usage events"; University of Murcia, Spain); Gerard Steen ("Metaphor in literary imagination and consciousness: foregrounding revisited", Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands); Maxim Stamenov ("'Visible' and 'invisible' in language structure: For whom the bell rings?", University of Göttingen, Germany); Ray Paton ("Systemic metaphors, collection concepts and biosystem modelling", Liverpool University, United Kingdom); Beatrice Warren ("Producing and interpreting metaphor and metonymy – An alternative cognitive account", Lund University, Sweden); and Rachel Giora ("Pleasure inducing utterances: Figurativeness vs. optimal innovation", Tel Aviv University, Israel).

The poster sessions included 63 posters that can be divided in the following thematic groups. Namely, (1), metaphor and discourse (i.e. A. Naciscione's "Extended phraseological metaphor in discourse: identification and interpretation", K. Corman's "Cognition and visual metaphor: incongruous person-thing, visual imagery, cross modal vision and touch in Dickens's *Our Mutual Friend*", S. Csabi's "Thomas Paine's common sense: a cognitive linguistic analysis", J. Desheriyeva's "The interplay of reality and imagination in drama/communicative aspect", K. Feyaerts' "Expressivity through compression: Metaphtonymic variation in German negative value judgements", B. I. Ibarretxe-Antuñano's "Motivation, imagination, and the lexicon: A model for the study of polysemy in perception verbs", H. Jakubowicz Batoreo's "Audio-visual imagination and metaphor translating: English filmic scripts and their Portuguese and Polish target versions. Is a wafer a biscuit?", C. Michaux' "Literary interpretation and cognitive processes", P. Rubio Fernández' "The inhibition of core features in metaphor interpretation", E. Semino's "Metaphor and mind style in narrative fiction", and Th. Smith's "Choice of mode in employing metaphors during dispute resolution"); (2), metaphor acquisition (i.e. K. Duvignau's "From a not-conscious use of 'metaphor' (2–3 years) to a deliberate one (adult): verbal metaphors as 'semantic approximations by analogy'", and A.D. Ionescu's "Flexible categorization in children – a necessary step toward metaphor comprehension?"); (3), metaphor and icons (i.e. E.D. Brouwer's "Reflection on metaphors: imagination and consciousness in aesthetic interpretation", C. Müller's, "Are dead metaphors alive? Metaphors, gestures, and consciousness", A. Niemeier's "Metaphorical projections of contextual elements in audiovisual texts", J.M. Pluciennik's "Iconicity of figures, empathy and consciousness", B. Scott's "Picturing metaphor", and M.A. Steenberg's "Perceptual metaphors: the aesthetics of language"); (4), metaphor and other figures of language (i.e. C.M.

Bretones Callejas' "Synaesthesia in language and thought: physiological basis for synaesthetic metaphors", P. J. Chamizo Domínguez's "Some theses on euphemisms and dysphemisms", M. Nissim & K. Markert's "A scheme for annotating metonymies: the case of location names", and Y.B. Popova's "Synaesthesia: A views from cognitive linguistics"); (5), metaphor, philosophy, and ideology (i.e. M.E. Botha's "No metaphor without ideological (and ontological) freight", C. De Landtsheer's "Metaphors and the socialization of nationalism through soccer reporting", L. Tarnay's "Revisiting representation: a philosophical approach", M. Tendahl's "Relevance theory and metaphor: A hybrid model", and K. Wiejak's "Proverb understanding and the structure of intelligence"); (6), metaphor in science and arts (i.e. R. Caballero's "Thinking and talking in images: the role of image metaphor in the discourse of architects", and M. Zawislawska's "To describe the indescribable. Metaphors in the language of science"); (7), contrastive studies of metaphor (i.e. Al-Harrasi's "Metaphors of morality in Arabic culture", M. Azuma's "Networking and mapping in understanding and use of English metaphorical expressions performed by native English and non-native English speakers", E. Chamis' "Metaphor usage in description of other nations in multicultural regions of Russia (Russians, Chuvash and Tatar people). Reality or not?", L. Degand's "Towards automatic retrieval of idioms in Dutch and French newspaper corpora", H. Obeidat's "My belly swells with anger: The anger metaphor in Arabic and English a comparative study", J. Ryhänen's "On metaphors of time in Finnish and Russian languages", C.M. Soriano Salinas' "The HEAT metaphor in the expression of anger in English and Spanish. Cognitive submappings", and E. Wande's "Metaphor and bilingualism"); (8), body, mind, and metaphor (i.e. K.L. Allan's "Illuminati and hulver-heads: intelligence metaphors through time", H. Duczak's "Hidden metaphors: detecting the secrets", A.M. Kovacs' "More languages, theories of minds, and executive functions. Influences and interactions", A.M. Rapp's "Brain activation during processing of metaphors: an eFMRI-study", F. Rousset's "Cognitive and sensory grounds for metaphor comprehension", and J. Zinken's "Body and text: Situated experience as the basis of literary imagination"); and (9), metaphor in advertisements (i.e. R. Rocamora Abellán's "Metaphor and metonymy in tourist advertising", and A. Szokolszky's "Pretend object play and metaphor production").

The round tables and symposium sessions were divided in two parts. The first one, led by Gerard Steen, consisted of the presentations of the Pragglejaz Group, which is an informal ensemble of metaphor researchers from various disciplines in linguistics, who have joined to achieve progress in the reliable and valid identification of metaphor in natural discourse (for further information see http://www.let.vu.nl/pragglejaz). The second one, led by Brigitte Nerlich, was on metaphor, science and media, and included the following speakers: Pedro J. Chamizo Domínguez (University of Malaga, Spain), Iina Riikka Hellsten

(University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands); Rafael Rocamora Abellán, (University of Murcia, Spain); and Magdalena Zawislawska (University of Warsaw, Poland). The main conclusion reached at the symposium was that scientific language in media is a particular case of "translation" from the language of science into ordinary language.

Regarding the organization of the conference, both the technical and the scientific aspects have been impressive. The technical support before, during and after the conference has been possible thanks to Anne-Sophie Gablin (the conference organiser). As for the scientific aspects there are two important facts that built up the conference as it was. Firstly, Zazie Todd and John Barden (chair and vice-chair, respectively) recruited (with the help of Brigitte Nerlich) the participation of both established researchers and young researchers who have recently finished or still work on their dissertations on metaphor and other related topics such as metonymy, euphemisms, synaesthesia, and so on. Secondly, the multidisciplinary views from which metaphor (both theoretical and practical) has been studied made the conference profitable for every attendant.

On the other hand, presentations on diachronic aspects of metaphor, as well as traditional theories of metaphor were missing. The main paradigm from which metaphor was studied was the cognitive one, though perhaps for future conferences or research we should include or discuss other alternative paradigms as well.

Finally, we would like to stress the special support that young scientists have received from the organization of the conference, and also inform here that this conference will be followed by a second conference. The sequel will take place in Granada (Spain) in 2004.