ABSTRACT

Metaphor has been widely discussed (Ahrens, Chung, & Huang, 2003; Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Tsau, Tsai, & Liu, 2001). There are actually metaphors used in meteorological expressions; however, these metaphors are rarely investigated. In order to observe what kinds of metaphors occur in Mandarin meteorological expressions and how people comprehend them, the researcher investigated 521 cyber weather reports in 2006 and conducted a Context Comprehension Task (CCT). There were two studies in this research. In study 1, the researcher employed Sinica BOW to categorize the collected metaphors, and the suggested results became the standard answers in Study 2 (CCT). The CCT consists of three purposes: (1) to assess people's awareness of metaphors used in communication; (2) to assess whether people comprehend the contexts created by the metaphorical expressions; and (3) to assess the correlation between people's metaphor awareness and their context comprehension, their metaphor awareness and comprehension of messages, and their context comprehension and message comprehension. The results of Study 1 show that the metaphors used in Mandarin meteorological expressions can be categorized in terms of personification and objectification, or as metaphors of abstraction. In addition, the researcher found that the forms of Mandarin metaphors are verbs or nouns, i.e. the verb 襲擊 (to attack) converts the weather into an aggressive person. An interesting phenomenon related to noun metaphors was found and it is defined as Partial Metaphor, which means that a two syllable Mandarin simple word (單詞) retains a semantic head and a source domain, and this simple word creates the visual or mental contexts to describe the head, i.e. 火苗 (a fire seedling).

Although the CCT results show that people have their metaphor awareness and they do actually understand the gist of the message, they cannot get the word context of the metaphors. Moreover, there is no correlation among people's metaphor awareness, context comprehension, and the comprehension of messages. One possible explanation rests on the idea that a native speaker may gain the gist of a message without comprehending the contexts created by the metaphor. In other words, the participants comprehend the literal meaning of the messages rather than going through a deep process.
REFERENCES


珍珠不見得會來 母親節豪雨難逃

2006年5月12日，輕颱珍珠侵襲菲律賓中部引發土石坍方斷電。

五月颱稀有 專門大轉彎 預報經驗少

巴基斯坦遭熱浪來襲 90死

巴基斯坦遭熱浪來襲，導致至少90人死亡。歐盟對抗氣候變化需要全球支持。

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北台灣無風雨 氣象局 地形幫的忙

台北35.2度! 中午12點36分創今年最高溫

台北35.2度! 中午12點36分創今年最高溫，氣象局表示是因為地形原因。

巴基斯坦遭熱浪來襲 90死

巴基斯坦遭到熱浪來襲，導致至少90人死亡。欧盟对对抗氣候變化需要全球支持。

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黃正誌 氣象專家 發言

黃正誌 氣象專家 發言，表示預報不準是因為氣象條件複雜。

黑潮逼近東海岸 形成陰陽海奇觀

黑潮逼近東海岸 形成陰陽海奇觀，水公司提醒民眾儲水。

東海岸的黑潮形成陰陽海奇觀，水公司提醒民眾儲水。

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