

Semantics: Tutorial Five

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1. Consider the following English phrases:

- (a) walk quickly
- (b) spill the tea
- (c) green thumb
- (d) write an email
- (e) night sky
- (f) break the ice

Which ones have a non-compositional reading, and what is it?

e.g. *hit the sack* — non-compositional: “go to bed”;

hit the nail — compositional

2. Give an example of a multiword expression meaning the following in a language you speak.

- (1) become angry
- (2) die
- (3) get up early
- (4) do two things at once
- (5) rain heavily

3. Lakoff and Johnson (1980) proposed the following image schemas for love:

- LOVE IS A JOURNEY
- LOVE IS A FORCE (electromagnetic, gravitational)
- LOVE IS WAR

Organise the following metaphors into the above three schemas.

- (6) *They lost their momentum*
- (7) *There were sparks between us*
- (8) *Look how far we've come*
- (9) *We're at a crossroad*
- (10) *He overpowered her*
- (11) *I could feel the electricity between them*
- (12) *We'll just have to go our separate ways*

- (13) *We can't turn back now*
- (14) *His whole life revolves around her*
- (15) *She is besieged by suitors*
- (16) *They are uncontrollably attracted to each other*
- (17) *He is known for his conquests*

Can you think of other metaphors that do not fit into the above three schemas?

4. For any two languages that you know, discuss similarities and differences in conventionalized metaphors of body parts (e.g. *hand of a watch*, *kao-ga hiroi* "well-known (lit: face is wide)").