Annotation Guidelines for Conventional Metaphor (Nouns)

1   OVERVIEW

Thank you for participating in this experiment. This task is about judging whether the definitions of a word are metaphorical or literal. Each word that you are treating has several senses (definitions) and you will be asked to judge each of them individually:

1. You need to determine for each sense whether it is metaphorical or literal, and annotate this. Literal senses are the most "basic" senses of a word; they are often concrete or physical. Metaphorical senses are often more abstract.

2. Our hypothesis is that every metaphorical sense of a word is related to one or more literal sense, by having something abstract in common. For each metaphorical sense, we ask you to find the literal sense it it related to, or, in cases where there are multiple, to choose the most relevant literal sense.

3. Finally, in these cases, we would like to know the abstract link that forms the connection. Please type in a keyword to describe the property it has in common with a literal sense.

Consider the example annotation for the word *leaf*, with the correct labelling shown in the "label" column, and the keyword in the "keyword" column:

Senses of *leaf*		Label	Keyword
leaf$_1$	(*leafage*, *foliage*) the main organ of photosynthesis and transpiration in higher plants	Literal	
leaf$_2$	(*folio*) a sheet of any written or printed material (especially in a manuscript or book)	Metaphorical	Thin
leaf$_3$	hinged or detachable flat section (as of a table or door)	Metaphorical	Thin

Note that you see similar words in slanted at the beginning of the definitions; these are synonyms of each sense.

The first sense, *leaf*$_1$ (plant), is literal. The other senses have something in common with this sense (the notion of 'flatness'). Sometimes, the similarity shared by a metaphorical and literal senses may be less clear. For example, consider the senses of *honey*:

Senses of *honey*		Label	Keyword
honey$_1$	a sweet yellow liquid produced by bees	Literal	
honey$_2$	(*beloved*, *dear*, *dearest*, *love*) a beloved person; used as terms of endearment	Metaphorical	Sweet

In this case, *honey*$_2$ (affection) is a metaphor, because it abstracts the 'sweet' property of *honey*$_1$ (nectar).

There are two additional labels it is possible to use. The first additional label is "other relation". It is used when a meaning is related to a literal meaning, but not by metaphorical similarity with a shared property. Consider the senses of *neck*:

Senses of *neck*		Label	Keyword
$neck_1$	(cervix) the part of an organism (human or animal) that connects the head to the rest of the body, e.g. "he admired her long graceful neck"; "the horse won by a neck"	Literal	
$neck_2$	a narrow elongated projecting strip of land	Metaphorical	Long
$neck_3$	a cut of meat from the neck of an animal	Other relation	
$neck_4$	a narrow part of an artifact that resembles a neck in position or form, e.g. "the banjo had a long neck"; "the bottle had a wide neck"	Metaphorical	Thin
$neck_5$	(neck opening) an opening in a garment for the neck of the wearer; a part of the garment near the wearer's neck	Other relation	

The first sense, $neck_1$ (between head and shoulders), is likely the most basic literal meaning of *neck*. The third sense, $neck_3$ (meat), is related to $neck_1$. However, the relation is not one of abstract similarity, and so it is not a metaphor. Similar applies to $neck_1$ (garment).

The second additional label you can use is the "mixed" label. Sometimes, a sense is unsuitable for this annotation task. This happens which a sense mixes literal and metaphorical senses. This should happen in rare cases, and is an error of the dictionary we use. In this case, you should use the "mixed" label. Consider the senses of the word *birth*:

Senses of *birth*		Label	Keyword
$birth_1$	the time when something begins (especially life), e.g. "they divorced after the birth of the child"; "his election signaled the birth of a new age"	Mixed	
$birth_2$	(nativity, nascency, nascence) the event of being born, e.g. "they celebrated the birth of their first child"	Literal	
$birth_3$	(parturition, giving birth, birthing) the process of giving birth	Literal	
$birth_4$	(parentage) the kinship relation of an offspring to the parents	Other relation	
$birth_1$	a baby born; an offspring, e.g. "the overall rate of incidence of Down's syndrome is one in every 800 births"	Other relation	

From its definition, it is clear that $birth_1$ covers both literal meanings of birth ("the birth of the child"), and metaphorical meanings ("the birth of a new age"). It is rare that a definition is mixed, so this label should be applied sparingly.

The following subsections provide specific guidance to help you label metaphors.

1.1 Concrete Metaphorical Senses

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Just because a sense is concrete does not mean it is literal. In some cases, both metaphorical and literal senses are concrete. Consider the senses of *mouse*:

Senses of *mouse*		Label	Keyword
mouse$_1$	any of numerous small rodents typically resembling diminutive rats having pointed snouts and small ears on elongated bodies with slender usually hairless tails.	Literal	
mouse$_2$	(shiner, black eye) a swollen bruise caused by a blow to the eye	Metaphorical	Small
mouse$_3$	person who is quiet or timid	Metaphorical	Quiet
mouse$_4$	(computer mouse) a hand-operated electronic device that controls the coordinates of a cursor on your computer screen as you move it around on a pad; on the bottom of the device is a ball that rolls on the surface of the pad), e.g. "a mouse takes much more room than a trackball"	Metaphorical	Shape

The only literal sense of *mouse* is *mouse*$_1$ (rodent). Although it is a physical object, *mouse*$_4$ (a computer mouse) is not a literal sense of *mouse*; it extends *mouse*$_1$ metaphorically.

1.2   Abstract Literal Senses

Similarly, just because a sense is abstract does not make it metaphorical. Consider the word *prosperity*:

Senses of *prosperity*		Label	Keyword
prosperity$_1$	an economic state of growth with rising profits and full employment	Metaphorical	Successful
prosperity$_2$	(successfulness) the condition of prospering; having good fortune	Literal	

Despite being abstract, *prosperity*$_2$ is literal, because is is the most basic meaning of the word. The other sense, *prosperity*$_1$, is a metaphorical extension of this meaning, into economics.

1.3   Archaic Senses

Sometimes, there might be senses of a word which have fallen out of common usage. You might know these senses, or you might have never encountered them. You should label these senses with respect to the literal sense(s) you identify, rather than trying to predict which came first. Consider the word *train*:

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Don't say 'rather than' for a new thought - say this might be the more obvious thing first THEN reject

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Senses of *train*		Label	Keyword
train$_1$	(railroad train) public transport provided by a line of railway cars coupled together and drawn by a locomotive, e.g. "express trains don't stop at Princeton Junction"	Literal	
train$_2$	(string) a sequentially ordered set of things or events or ideas in which each successive member is related to the preceding, e.g. "train of mourners"; "a train of thought"	Metaphorical	Sequence
train$_3$	(caravan, wagon train) a procession (of wagons or mules or camels) traveling together in single file, e.g. "they joined the wagon train for safety"	Metaphorical	Sequence
train$_4$	a series of consequences wrought by an event, e.g. it led to a train of disasters	Metaphorical	Sequence
train$_5$	a piece of cloth forming the long back section of a gown that is drawn along the floor, e.g. "the bride's train was carried by her two young nephews"	Metaphorical	Pulling
train$_6$	(gearing, gear, geartrain, power train) wheelwork consisting of a connected set of rotating gears by which force is transmitted or motion or torque is changed	Metaphorical	Sequence

Although *train*$_1$ (locomotive) is unlikely to be the earliest meaning of train, is it the literal meaning of *train* which most people today would think of. Therefore, other senses which share abstract commonalities, like *train*$_3$ (caravan), should be labelled as metaphorical instances of it, and not vice versa.

1.4 Borderline Cases

Sometimes, whether a sense should be considered metaphorical or literal is not so clear-cut. Consider the word *attack*:

Senses of *attack*		Label	Keyword
attack$_1$	[military] (onslaught, onset, onrush) an offensive against an enemy (using weapons), e.g. "the attack began at dawn"	Literal	
attack$_2$	an offensive move in a sport or game, e.g. "they won the game with a 10-hit attack in the 9th inning"	Metaphorical	Offensive
attack$_3$	(fire, flak, flack, blast) intense adverse criticism, e.g. "the government has come under attack"	Metaphorical	Heated
attack$_4$	(approach, plan of attack) ideas or actions intended to deal with a problem or situation, e.g. "an attack on inflation"; "his plan of attack was misguided"	Metaphorical	Targeted
attack$_5$	(attempt) the act of attacking, e.g. "attacks on women increased last year"	Literal	
attack$_6$	(tone-beginning) a decisive manner of beginning a musical tone or phrase	Metaphorical	Sudden
attack$_7$	a sudden occurrence of an uncontrollable condition, e.g. "an attack of diarrhea"	Metaphorical	Sudden
attack$_8$	the onset of a corrosive or destructive process (as by a chemical agent), e.g. "the film was sensitive to attack by acids"; "open to attack by the elements"	Metaphorical	Destroys
attack$_9$	strong criticism, e.g. "he published an unexpected attack on my work"	Metaphorical	Targeted

The first sense, *attack*$_1$ (military), is a clear example of a literal sense. The third sense, *attack*$_3$ (debate), is a clear example of a metaphorical extension. Although it describes a conflict, that conflict is non-physical. The second sense, *attack*$_3$ (sport), however, is borderline. While it is a physical act, it is within the confines of a game, and does not involve weapons. Borderline cases like this should be marked as metaphors.