

日常に散在する比喩表現と概念形成

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Figurative Expressions in Our Daily Lives and Concept Formation

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In this article, dealing with Japanese figurative expressions (especially, metaphorical and metonymic ones), I will argue that they are not only a matter of words and phrases but also a matter of thought and action (Lakoff and Johnson (1980), although lots of people assume that figurative language can only be found in literature or poetry. If we get an up-close look at our everyday expressions, we will find that metaphor and metonymy are more pervasive in our daily lives than we thought they would be. In fact, metaphor and metonymy are mental operations which play important roles in the process of concept formation. When we think or act, we do so using concepts. If concepts are formed, as we will see, through metaphor or/and metonymy, our thoughts and actions are necessarily governed and thus strongly influenced by those mental operations (especially, by the former for a particular reason mentioned in the discussion).