



(Non)metonymic designations for GOVERNMENT in Chinese

Weiwei Zhang, Dirk Speelman, Dirk Geeraerts



KULeuven

Quantitative Lexicology and Variational Linguistics

Overview

1. Theoretical background
2. Research question
3. Methodology
4. Results
5. Conclusion and Prospects

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Theoretical background

Previous research on PLACE-FOR-GOVERNMENT

(e.g. Markert & Nissim 2006, 2009; Brdar 2006; Brdar & Brdar-Szabó, 2009; Milić & Vidaković 2007; Zhang, Speelman & Geeraerts 2011)

Focus

- **semasiological** perspective (from linguistic form to conceptual variation)

e.g. *Beijing*: PLACE, CHINESE GOVERNMENT, EVENT, TEAM...

Underdeveloped

- **onomasiological** perspective (from concept to word choice)

e.g. GOVERNMENT: *government*, capital name, country name...

Theoretical background

The appeal of Cognitive Sociolinguistics

(Geeraerts 2005; Kristiansen & Dirven, 2008; Geeraerts, Kristiansen & Peirsman, 2010; Geeraerts 2011)

- incorporating **social variation** when we deal with certain linguistic/cognitive phenomena

Theoretical background

The appeal of Cognitive Sociolinguistics

(Geeraerts 2005; Kristiansen & Dirven, 2008; Geeraerts, Kristiansen & Peirsman, 2010; Geeraerts 2011)

- incorporating **social variation** when we deal with certain linguistic/cognitive phenomena

Research gaps

- ⇒ an **onomasiological** perspective
- ⇒ variation in language varieties, i.e. **lectal variation**
- ⇒ test with **multivariate analysis**

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Research question

An onomasiological study on metonymy

- Is there any variation in **metonymic** vs. **non-metonymic** designation of a concept, i.e. GOVERNMENT in Chinese?
- What **factors** may influence the preference for different (non)metonymic designations?

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Data collection

Data sources

	Mainland Chinese (MC)	Taiwan Chinese (TC)
Newspaper	People's Daily (Aug 17-22,2010) (376,084 characters)	United Daily News (Aug 17-22,2010) (309,313 characters)
Online forum	Tianya.cn (Aug 17,2010) (547,599 characters)	PTT.tw (Aug 17-Sep10,2010) (25,493 characters)

Data collection

Potential expressions for GOVERNMENT

- literal expression (e.g. 政府*government*, 当局*authorities*) (2)
- country name (e.g. 中国*China*, 日本*Japan*, 法国*France...*) (241)
- capital name (e.g. 北京*Beijing*, 华盛顿*Washington*, 巴黎*Paris...*) (209)
- official residence (e.g. 中南海*Zhongnanhai*, 白宫*White House*, 唐宁街*Downing Street...*) (25)

Data coding

Potential expressions for GOVERNMENT

- literal expression
- country name
- capital name
- official residence

⇒ manually identify observations for GOVERNMENT

Data coding

Potential expressions for GOVERNMENT

- literal expression
- country name
- capital name
- official residence

⇒ manually identify observations for ~~GOVERNMENT~~ NONLOCAL
GOVERNMENT

Examples

- Literal expression
美国**政府**的推力被认为是主要原因。
US **government**'s driving force is the main reason.
- Country name
韩国在此背景下提出征收"统一税", 很容易引起国民的反感。
Korea proposed the Unitary Tax in such a case, which is easy to rub people the wrong way.
- Capital name
政治谈判, **北京**不急
Beijing shows no anxiety on the political negotiation.
- Official residence
中**南海**牵挂着舟曲灾区。
Zhongnanhai is concerned about Zhouqu disaster area.

Statistical model

Mixed effect logistic analysis

- response variable: Designation (**literal** vs. **meto**)

- literal expression \Rightarrow **literal**
- country name \Rightarrow **meto**
- capital name \Rightarrow **meto**
- official residence \Rightarrow **meto**

Statistical model

Mixed effect logistic analysis

- response variable: Designation (**literal** vs. **meto**)
 - literal expression \Rightarrow **literal**
 - country name \Rightarrow **meto**
 - capital name \Rightarrow **meto**
 - official residence \Rightarrow **meto**
- predictors: conceptual, grammatical/discursive, and lectal factors

Predictors

Predictors	Label	Value
Conceptual factors		
concept group	Con_gp	self, counterpart, gpb, indif, Asia
section	Section	globalview, crossstrait, politics, finance, social
Grammatical/discursive factors		
syntactic position	Syn	sb, nonsb
locus in the text	Locus	main text, title
Lectal factors		
lectal variety	Lect	MC, TC
style	Style	news, forum
Random effect		
verbs	Verb	是be, 宣布claim, 制定establish, 采取adopt...

Summary

Dataset of NONLOCAL GOVERNMENT

879 observations

Mixed effect logistic regression model

- response: Designation (literal (558) vs. meto (321))
- random effect: Verbs (387 levels)
- predictors

Summary: Predictors

Conceptual factors

- Con_gp: self(469), counterpart(104), gpb(150), indif(53), Asia(103)
- Section: globalview(423), crossstrait(123), politics(91), finance(50), social(192)

Grammatical/discursive factors

- Syn: sb(686), nonsb(193)
- Locus: main text(859), title(20)

Lectal factors

- Lect: MC(397), TC(482)
- Style: news(491), forum(387)

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Results

Fixed effects:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z)	
(Intercept)	-1.934906	0.481392	-4.019	5.83e-05	***
Con_gpcounterpart	2.516536	0.310721	8.099	5.54e-16	***
Con_gpgpb	1.126826	0.245647	4.587	4.49e-06	***
Con_gpindif	0.419628	0.393259	1.067	0.285947	
Con_gpAsia	0.943170	0.277212	3.402	0.000668	***
Sectionfinance	-2.148590	0.695483	-3.089	0.002006	**
Sectioncrossstrait	-0.007621	0.359373	-0.021	0.983081	
Sectionpolitics	-1.377977	0.427017	-3.227	0.001251	**
Sectionsocial	-0.936318	0.332809	-2.813	0.004902	**
Synsb	0.978515	0.449723	2.176	0.029569	*
Styleforum	0.815816	0.203090	4.017	5.89e-05	***
LocusTitle	1.378175	0.624010	2.209	0.027204	*
LectTC	-0.389995	0.284109	-1.373	0.169847	

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Results

Mixed effects logistic regression

- C: 0.869
- Dxy: 0.738

Compare with the fixed-effects logistic regression

- C: 0.809
- Dxy: 0.617
- (R-square: 0.34)

Compare with the random-effects regression w/o fixed effects

- C: 0.867
- Dxy: 0.735

Results

Compared to
reference value
(Con_gp: self)

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(Intercept)	-1.934906	0.481392	-4.019	5.83e-05	***
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Con_gppgb	1.126826	0.245647	4.587	4.49e-06	***
Con_gpindif	0.419628	0.393259	1.067	0.285947	
Con_gpAsia	0.943170	0.277212	3.402	0.000668	***
Sectionfinance	0.695483	0.695483	-3.089	0.002281	**
Sectioncross	0.359373	0.359373	-0.021	0.983081	
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Positive = more meto

Negative = more literal

<0.05=significant

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Results



Results

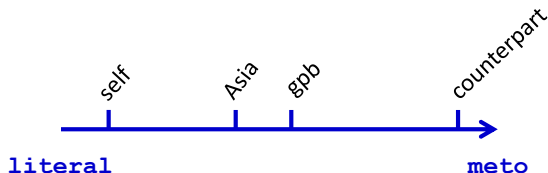
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Results

Con_gp



Corresponding to Brdar (2006), Brdar & Brdar-Szabó (2009):

- The majority of the instances of CAPITAL-FOR-GOVERNMENT makes mention of other countries' capitals.

Results

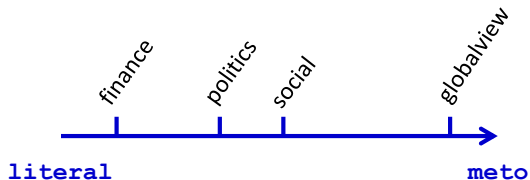
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Results

Section



⇒ globalview: multilateral affairs (juxtaposed metonymies)

Results

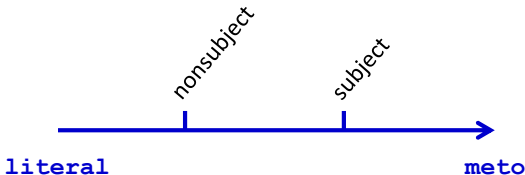
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Results

Syn



Supplement to the findings of semasiological research:

- "metonymically used names of capitals seem more natural as subject" (Brdar & Brdar-Szabó 2009)
- place metonymies occur more often in subject position (Markert & Nissim 2009; Zhang, Spelman & Geeraerts 2011)

Results

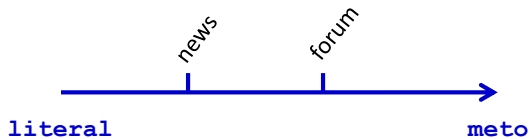
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Results

Style



⇒ "reply post" in online forums

Results

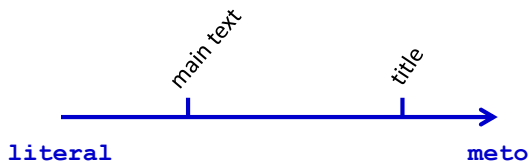
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Results

Locus



⇒ the effective and economical communicative function of metonymy (Papafragou 1996)

Results

Fixed effects:

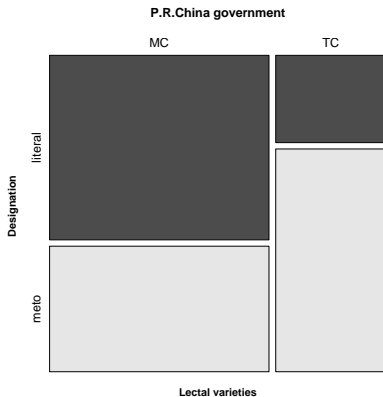
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Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Results

Lectal variation

Concept: MAINLAND CHINESE GOVERNMENT (308 observations)



Results

Lectal variation

Concept: MAINLAND CHINESE GOVERNMENT (308 observations)

Fixed effects:

	Estimate	Std. Error	z value	Pr(> z)	
(Intercept)	-3.6269	0.9790	-3.705	0.000212	***
Sectionfinance	1.2044	2.1105	0.571	0.568216	
Sectionglobalview	2.2779	0.7763	2.934	0.003342	**
Sectionpolitics	0.7622	0.9300	0.820	0.412434	
Sectionsocial	0.6204	0.5506	1.127	0.259867	
Synsb	0.9349	0.5685	1.645	0.100026	
Styleforum	0.5775	0.3008	1.920	0.054865	.
LocusTitle	1.7055	1.2261	1.391	0.164212	
LectTC	3.0844	0.6993	4.411	1.03e-05	***

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

C: 0.856; Dxy: 0.711

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Conclusion and Prospects

The choice of (non)metonymic designation for GOVERNMENT

- highly contextualized
- a result of intricate interplay of a number of conceptual, grammatical/discursive and lectal factors

Prospects

- the potential expressions for GOVERNMENT (Word-Space Model)
- other influencing factors
 - topic continuity (sequence of (non)metonymic designation)
 - stance (critical, neutral, or empathic attitude)
 - author-idiocratic style



Thank you!

For more information:

weiwei.zhang@arts.kuleuven.be

