

明喻和暗喻的 认知动态研究

郭爱萍 著

The discussion above indicates that the prototypical simile and metaphor are distinct, but their distinction is not sharply cut. The distinct features between them, as I have pointed out, are only the typical or extreme characteristics, not the essential ones, which I prefer to use "Prototypical" to refer to. The term is borrowed from prototype theory in cognitive linguistics. Those sharing these typical features are called prototypical similes and metaphors separately. The prototypical simile is concrete-concrete pairing characterized with the fewest common features, the least similarities, the least familiarity and the most symmetry and reversibility, whereas the prototypical metaphor is abstract-concrete pairing characterized with the most common features, the most similarities, the most familiarity and the most asymmetry and non-reversibility.

However, a different degree and content in the cross-domain mappings and topic-vehicle pairing demonstrate that there are still some intermediate levels between the two extremes with the prototypical simile as

A Cognitive Study of Simile-Metaphor Continuum



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郭爱萍

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However, a different direction and content for the cross-domain mappings of abstract-concrete pairings demonstrate that there can be a prototypical metaphor.

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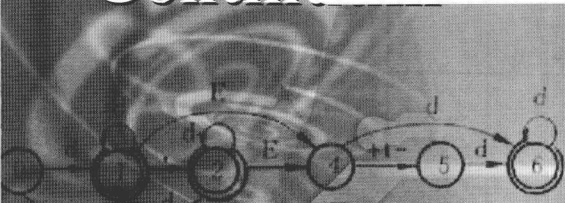
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序

在我们使用的语言中“比较”几乎无处不在，“明喻”和“隐喻”正是学者们赋予“比较”这一极为普通的语言现象的两个学名。对明喻和隐喻的研究历史悠久，在欧洲可以追溯到古希腊时代，甚至更早。不过对一般的语言使用者来说，在进行比较时用明喻还是用隐喻完全是一个自发的，可以说是无意识的选择，很少有人会在使用前先认真想一想该用明喻还是隐喻，只有学者们才会设法对这种看上去是无意识的选择作出合理的解释。在我的学生时代，老师对这两者的区别所给的解释是“用 like 或 as 的就是明喻，否则就是隐喻”，当然这只是个高度简单化的、最最表层的识别方式。在这两个学名下面隐藏着许多亟待有识之士去挖掘和发现的真理。本书的作者郭爱萍女士便是其中之一。

对于明喻和隐喻的异同，学界存在两种相反的观点，即两者或同或异，但本书作者却赞同异同论。不过这并不是折中主义的立场，作者认为对明喻或隐喻的选择是语言使用者心理活动的结果，而影响这个心理活动过程的是一系列相关因素，包括语言的和使用者个人的心理认知方面的因素。为了给自己的论点寻找支持，作者对三百多名大学生进行了问卷调查，并做了定量分析以证明这些因素的存在以及它们对比较方式的选择所起的作用。

当然，明喻和隐喻两者绝非是非此即彼的绝对对立的两元体。实际上，在两者之间存在灰色地带，两者的选择并非是绝对



的,有时甚至是可以互换的。郭女士所做的调查和研究对于揭示这两种比较形式的实质、它们之间的异同和关系,以及人们在选择它们时的心理过程的确提供了一个新的视角、一种新的思维方式,具有一定的理论价值,对于今后这方面的进一步研究无疑具有借鉴意义。

上海外国语大学 何兆熊

2011年4月

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Abstract

Different from the dominant theories of metaphor comprehension, the comparison view, the categorization view and the conceptual metaphor theory, the present study first claims that simile and metaphor are not equivalent, but their distinction is not mediated by one key factor, as argued by the conventionality hypothesis or the aptness model, but by multi-factors such as different types of predicates, similarities, the role of vehicle, familiarity, and semantic meanings of topic-vehicle pairing. Then based on the experimental results, it proposes an alternative non-equivalent model.

In order to explore how the two figurative expressions are related to or distinct with each other psychologically, the research employed 50 matched sets of metaphors and similes as stimuli, their very basic and common form: A is (like) B in the isolated context. Three hundred and thirty-two freshmen of non-English majors from Taiyuan University of Technology participated in the four questionnaire surveys but with uneven numbers in each. They were asked to perform such tasks as choosing simile-metaphor preference, listing share-features, rating holistic similarity, discrete-point similarity, familiarity, the role of vehicle in property-attribution and comprehensibility of reversed orders of topic-vehicle pairs.

The experiments show that simile is preferred if topic and vehicle



are both realized by concrete nouns. They share fewer common features, less familiarity, more symmetry in property-matching and more reversibility in topic-vehicle order. Besides, attributive property is more easily mapped in simile. On the contrary, metaphor is preferred if topic and vehicle are realized one by an abstract noun and the other a concrete noun. They have more common features, more familiarity and more asymmetry and less reversibility. The property easily mapped in metaphor is relational.

The experiments also show that the distinctions between simile and metaphor are not clear-cut, though they are distinct. They are overlapping and often interchangeable to some extent. Based on the discussion of different factors, an alternative theoretical model is proposed to explain their non-equivalence, i.e. the distinction between simile and metaphor is not a dichotomy, but a continuum. It is not a dichotomy since both are concerned with the same cross-domain mappings, and it is a continuum since the increase of one characteristic in one trope means the corresponding decrease in the other.

For those strongly preferred similes or metaphors, they can be considered as the best examples of each category because they have the prototypical characteristics, which gradually fade into their marginal examples. The prototypical simile is a concrete-concrete attribution-mapped pairing characterized by the fewest similarities, the least familiarity and the most symmetry and reversibility, whereas the prototypical metaphor is an abstract-concrete relation-mapped pairing characterized by the most similarities, the most familiarity and the most asymmetry and non-reversibility. Between the two prototypes is the overlapping area of peripheral or marginal simile and metaphor,

the intermediate level. Whether the peripheral simile or metaphor can turn into its prototype is related to the increase or decrease of its prototypical characteristics. They are in the dynamic process along the same continuum.

The dynamic model proposed here offers a different perspective to the non-equivalent view, which can not only reasonably explain the distinction between simile and metaphor, but also their interchangeability. It is instructive to a better and comprehensive understanding of the two.

Key words: simile; metaphor; prototype; distinction; continuum

摘 要

明喻和隐喻的异同，一直是心理学界争论的焦点。比较论、范畴论和概念隐喻论认为它们二者并无差异，而习俗论和适宜论却强调两者存在不同。本书赞成异同论，但与习俗论和适宜论不同的是，认为两者的异同是多元素共同作用的结果。这些因素包括：谓词的类型、本喻体之间的相似度和它们之间的意义组合、喻体对共性特征的贡献、人们对本喻体之间搭配的熟悉度等。本书首先通过实证方法证明明喻和隐喻的选择与这五个方面相关，并在实验的论证基础上提出了一种全新的异同观。

为了探究两者之间的差异，本研究选取了 50 对本体和喻体，就明喻和隐喻的最基本形式——A 是（像）B 展开讨论。太原理工大学非英语专业一年级的学生参与了四个问卷的调查，四次调查的人数累计达 332 人。调查的内容包括：本喻体的倾向性形式表达，两者共性特点描述及相似度和显著性判断，喻体在相似性形成中的作用，两者搭配的熟悉度以及句子的理解难易程度判断。

结果表明：当本体为具体名词，喻体也为具体名词，且两者之间相似度较小、熟悉度不高，本喻体对喻底的贡献基本均衡，且两者的顺序在某种程度上具有一定的逆转性，其喻底大多呈现出属性类特点时，被试更倾向于选择明喻；而当本体为具体名词，喻体为抽象名词，且两者之间相似度较大、熟悉度较高，两者的顺序具有较强的不可逆转性，喻底的意义主要源自喻体，且喻底大多呈现出关系类特点时，被试更倾向于选择隐喻。



这一结果也表明：明喻和隐喻呈现出不同的特点，但两者之间的界限却比较模糊，它们之间具有一定的互换性。这说明它们两者都涉及跨域投射，即本体和喻体属于两个不同的领域，只是在投射过程中，相关量的大小不同而已。基于此，本书对明喻-隐喻异同论作出了新的理论阐述，即两者之间的对立并非一种非此即彼的二元对立，而是一种共处同一连续体中的对立，它们分别为该连续体的两个方面。

借用认知语言学的“原型”术语，本书提出具有明喻典型特征的为原型性明喻，而具有隐喻典型特征的为原型性隐喻，原型性明喻和原型性隐喻分别处于明喻-隐喻这个连续统一体的两端，在原型性明喻向原型性隐喻或原型性隐喻向原型性明喻发展过程中，会分别出现边缘性明喻和边缘性隐喻这个中间地带，而边缘性明喻和边缘性隐喻是否会向其原型转变，取决于相关特征程度的增减。

明喻-隐喻动态观的提出是对现有异同论的必要补充和完善，它为我们进一步理解两者的异同提供了一个新的视角，具有一定的理论价值。

关键词：明喻；隐喻；原型；对立；连续统一体

Contents

Abstract	(i)
摘要	(i)
Chapter 1 Introduction	(1)
1.1 Impetus of the study	(1)
1.2 Assumptions about simile and metaphor	(4)
1.3 Purpose and rationale of the study	(8)
1.4 Theoretical foundation of the study	(12)
1.5 Research methodology	(13)
1.6 The organization of the dissertation	(14)
Chapter 2 Definitions of Simile and Metaphor and Some Related Notions	(17)
2.1 Definitions of simile and metaphor	(17)
2.1.1 Simile in relation to metaphor	(18)
2.1.2 Simile as a version of metaphor	(19)
2.2 Different names for topic and vehicle	(21)
2.3 Typical and atypical structures	(24)
2.4 Identification of simile and metaphor	(27)
2.5 Summary	(29)
Chapter 3 Comparison between Simile, Metaphor and Their Literal Counterparts	(31)
3.1 Indirect process and direct process	(31)



3.2	Features of simile and metaphor vs. their literal counterparts	(34)
3.2.1	Low/high salience vs. high/high salience	(34)
3.2.2	Semantic anomaly vs. semantic literality	(36)
3.2.3	Interchangeability vs. non-interchangeability	(38)
3.2.4	Reversibility vs. non-reversibility	(40)
3.3	The use of simile and metaphor	(43)
3.4	Summary	(46)
Chapter 4	A Survey of the Relationship between Simile and Metaphor	(47)
4.1	The equivalence view	(47)
4.1.1	The comparison model	(47)
4.1.2	The categorization model	(57)
4.1.3	Conceptual metaphor theory	(61)
4.2	The non-equivalence view	(67)
4.2.1	The conventionality model	(67)
4.2.2	The literal base model	(69)
4.3	Empirical studies on the competing views	(71)
4.3.1	The conventionality hypothesis	(71)
4.3.2	Aptness hypothesis	(73)
4.4	Summary	(75)
Chapter 5	Research Description	(77)
5.1	Research questions	(77)
5.2	Pilot study	(78)
5.3	Design of questionnaires	(80)
5.4	Participants and role of the researcher	(81)

5.5 Data process and analysis	(82)
Chapter 6 Experiments and Analyses	(87)
6.1 Simile attributive and metaphor relational	(88)
6.1.1 Experiment 1	(89)
6.1.2 Results and discussion	(93)
6.2 Simile less similar and metaphor more similar	(99)
6.2.1 Experiment 2	(102)
6.2.2 Results of holistic and discrete similarity rating	(103)
6.2.3 Discussion	(111)
6.3 Simile less familiar and metaphor more familiar	(113)
6.3.1 Experiment 3	(115)
6.3.2 Results and discussion	(115)
6.4 Simile more symmetric and metaphor more asymmetric	(119)
6.4.1 Experiment 4	(121)
6.4.2 Results and discussion of asymmetry ratings	(123)
6.4.3 Results and discussion of reversibility	(130)
6.5 Simile with concrete-concrete pairing and metaphor abstract-concrete pairing	(135)
6.5.1 Procedure of the study	(136)
6.5.2 Results and discussion	(137)
6.6 Summary	(144)
Chapter 7 Conclusions	(145)
7.1 Simile-metaphor distinction	(146)
7.2 Simile-metaphor overlapping	(152)



7.3	Simile-metaphor continuum	(154)
7.4	Theoretical implications	(156)
7.5	Limitations of the study	(159)
7.6	Suggestions for future study	(161)
Bibliography		(163)
Appendices		(171)
Appendix 1 (Questionnaire 1)	关于明喻和隐喻使用情况 的调查(一)	(171)
Appendix 2 (Questionnaire 2)	关于明喻和隐喻使用情况 的调查(二)	(181)
Appendix 3 (Questionnaire 3)	关于比喻共性特点的调查	(205)
Appendix 4 (Questionnaire 4)	关于明喻和隐喻理解程度 的调查	(218)
Appendix 5	Statistical Results Processed by SPSS	(231)

List of Tables and Figures

Table 4.1	General classification of metaphors	(62)
Table 5.1	A sample of raw data processing in Questionnaire 2	(84)
Table 5.2	A sample of raw data processing in Questionnaire 3	(85)
Table 6.1	Grammatical categories used in syntactic scoring system	(91)
Table 6.2	Level of consensus, metaphor preference, and types of predicates of each statement	(93)
Table 6.3	Distribution in percentage of similes and metaphors in the different comparison types (N = 110) ...	(97)

Table 6. 4	Holistic similarity ratings for the 50 pairs of topics and vehicles	(104)
Table 6. 5	Correlation between holistic similarity and mean metaphor preference	(107)
Table 6. 6	Discrete-point similarity ratings for the 50 pairs of topics and vehicles	(108)
Table 6. 7	Correlation between diversified interpretations and mean metaphor preference	(111)
Table 6. 8	Familiarity ratings for the pairs of 50 comparisons	(116)
Table 6. 9	Correlation between familiarity and mean metaphor preference	(118)
Table 6. 10	The mean asymmetry ratings	(124)
Table 6. 11	Correlation between asymmetry and mean metaphor preference	(126)
Table 6. 12	Comprehensibility of original and reverse-order metaphor and simile	(131)
Table 6. 13	Metaphor preference and the statement type	(138)
Table 6. 14	Correlation between the statement type and metaphor preference	(140)
Figure 4. 1	Graphic representation of simile and metaphor as comparison statements	(48)
Figure 4. 2	Graphic representation of simile and metaphor as categorical assertion	(58)
Figure 4. 3	Graphic representation of simile as a comparison statement and metaphor as a categorical assertion	