

Metaphorical, metonymic and metaphthonymic character in Spanish verbal phraseological units based on the noun *cabeza*: a classification proposal and analysis

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ABSTRACT

The present contribution focuses on metaphoricity and metonymicity related to the field of phraseology. Its more specific aim is to classify a series of Spanish verbal phraseological units (PUs) which contain the noun *cabeza* in order to observe the relationships between metaphoricity, metonymicity and literality of the conceptualisations at their root. The classification proposed is based on the consultation of different studies in the field of conceptual metaphor and phraseology (related to the mental mechanisms of associative comprehension and to the characteristics of the PUs, with special attention to their potential idiomaticity); it comprehends completely metaphorical and completely metonymical expressions at two extremes and intermediate stages of interaction between metaphor and metonymy with the possible presence of literal elements within the PU. The analysis of 131 expressions previously compiled by Baran & Nkoum (2018) (some of which are repeated due to their polysemic value), has shown a higher incidence of metaphoricity with respect to metonymicity and a dominance of metaphorical PUs where the element *cabeza* is metonymically conceptualised and refers to the brain or the intellectual faculties of humans. The results of the analysis carried out also suggest the validity of the proposed classification for possible future phraseological studies.

Keywords: conceptual metaphor; metonymy; metaphthonymy; phraseology; Spanish.

1. Introduction

Metaphor, metonymy and phraseological units (hereafter abbreviated to PU for the singular and to PUs for the plural form) are three intrinsically and reciprocally linked concepts, considering that idiomaticity represents one of the possible characteristics of PUs (i.e. fixed expressions already available in the

language with a predetermined and recognised meaning) (Corpas Pastor, 1996). Since the last century, research in the field of cognitive metaphor and phraseology has experienced an important increase. Nevertheless, despite the numerous studies and approaches, the complexity of human thought, the continuous evolution of languages and their internal variety still motivate to observe and explain the network of relationships between the mechanisms of mental association and their manifestation in languages. Determining the relationship between PUs' underlying metaphorical and metonymical conceptualisations and possible literal values is exactly the purpose of the present study, which is based on the analysis of 131 somatic PUs containing the noun *cabeza* and collected by Baran À Nkoum (2018).

2. Theoretical framework

The conception of metaphor as a pure figure of speech characterised past eras until the first decades of the 20th century, when scholars such as Richards (1936), Black (1955, 1962) and Lakoff and Johnson (1980) some years later, recognised its cognitive dimension and described it as a conceptual mechanism in which a source domain, usually concrete and related to physical experience, transfers some of its properties to a target domain which is usually abstract (Black, 1955, 286–287; Black, 1962, 38–40; Lakoff, 1993, 245; Richards, 1936, 93–94, 119). When in Spanish a person is said to be a *loro* ('parrot') on the assumption that he/she talks a lot, for example, the human being is understood in terms of a bird and the only property of the bird that is activated in the conceptual transference is its loquacity. The Conceptual Metaphor Theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) attempts to show that a high number of conceptualisations in human thought is conventional at a general level; however, at a more specific level those conceptualisations can differ from culture to culture and from language to language, giving rise to lexicalised or creative linguistic uses (Lakoff, 1993, 208). When the involved domains are somehow related (e.g. cause and effect, container and contained element) those result in a specific type of metaphor: metonymy. In this regard, Deignan and Potter (2004, 1240) distinguish between metaphors, if there is some distance between the interacting domains, and metonymy, if the transfer takes place within the same semantic field. With regard to conceptual metonymies concerning the emotional sphere, Kövecses (1986) notes that some emotions are often understood and expressed through the physiological effects they provoke (e.g. anger is conceived as internal pressure, redness of the face, agitation, body heat, etc.). Conceptual metonymies usually derive from logical correlations between two realities, such as part and whole, place and event, institution and responsible person (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980, 59). Goossens (1990, 336) notes that metaphors and metonymies can interact, giving rise to phenomena he calls *metaphthonymies*, with

three possible combinations of conceptualisations: (i) a reality conceived in metonymic terms is inserted into a metaphorical expression (metonymy within metaphor), (ii) a metaphor is inserted into a metonymy (metaphor within metonymy) and (iii) a metaphor derives from a metonymy (metaphor from metonymy). In some cases, a certain ambiguity can be perceived, which makes it difficult to identify a conceptualisation as a metaphor, a metonymy or a specific combination of them.

The analysis of the figurative uses detected in two chapters of the Italian novel *Venuto al mondo* by Margaret Mazzantini (Cataldo, 2019) has shown a constant presence of metaphors (from this point on, in this paragraph, the term metaphor is used as hypernym and refers also to metonymy) in the language and in communications: these can be novel in thought as well as in the language or conventional in the mind and expressed freely or through lexicalised uses; furthermore, it is possible and common to manipulate conventional and lexicalised uses in order to create new images. From a linguistic point of view, conventional and lexicalised metaphors can consist, on the one hand, in a polysemous word or in a word which has a figurative value in all its meanings (with the Spanish verb *derramar*, ‘to spill’, for example, the spreading of a liquid is conceptualised through the allusion to *rama*, ‘the branch’) and, on the other hand, in a syntagmatic expression or in a complete sentence (paroemia). The latter constitute two types of PUs, which are characterised by fixity (they are stable in the language), lexicalisation (their meaning is shared among the speakers of a language), pluriverbality (they consist of at least two elements), possible variation (they can have alternative fixed and lexicalised formulations) and possible idiomaticity (they usually have a non-compositional meaning) (Castillo Carballo, 1997-1998, 70–75). In this respect, Corpas Pastor (1996, 19–32) points out that the meaning of PUs is usually figurative and Castillo Carballo (1997-1998) observes that idiomaticity can characterise the whole expression or just a part of it if some components maintain their literal meaning. Moreover, the meaning of a whole expression is strongly connected to its metaphorical motivation, due to the interaction between the literal and the metaphorical dimensions in the mental lexicon of human beings (Corpas Pastor, 2001, 32–33). Although the interest in the mechanisms of conceptualisation of reality among scholars arose decades ago, research in this field is still vital. González (2023), for example, carries out a study on metaphors and metonymies that characterised the way of thinking in the COVID-19 pandemic and in the quarantine. The fact that research is still being done on these topics demonstrates the need to explain the cognitive mechanisms behind constructions of meaning. At the same time, the consolidation of research in phraseology in recent decades highlights the important role it plays in human communication (Mogorrón and Gómez, 2024, 2) and the need to explore it in depth.

3. Analysis

This third section contains the main aspects of the analysis carried out: the methodology, which has led to the definition of a set of different typologies of metaphorical/metonymic PUs; the classification of the PUs collected by Baran & Nkoum (2018); the results observed.

3.1 Methodology

The aim of the present study is to determine how metaphors and metonymies appear in PUs and how they can interact and also relate to possible literal uses. On the basis of the research consulted and commented in the theoretical framework of this contribution, the existence of eight typologies of PU has been supposed:

1. Metaphorical PUs: the whole set of the expression's components delineates an image. For example, through the gesture described in the expression *darse alguien de cabeza contra las paredes* (literally: 'to bang the head against the walls'; PU 35 of the analysis) Spanish speaking people conceptualise the idea of making an effort that does not lead to any results.
2. Metaphorical PUs with literal elements: at least one component of the expression retains its literal meaning while the others manifest a metaphorical association. For example, in *tener alguien la cabeza como una bola de billar* (literally: 'to have the head like a billiard ball'; PU 133 of the analysis), the literal meaning of the head is preserved, but its bald aspect is evoked through the image of a billiard ball; in this way, a part of the human body with a special feature is linked to an object of a similar shape and surface.
3. Metonymic PUs: the whole set of the expression's components delineates an image that is somehow related to the general literal content. The PU *doblar alguien la cabeza* (literally: 'to bend the head'; PU 44 of the analysis) in its meanings of dying or obeying, shows the conceptualisation of an event or a behaviour by referring to a natural and spontaneous reaction that a person may have in these situations.
4. Metonymic PUs with literal elements: at least one component of the expression retains its literal sense while the others manifest a metonymic association. For example, in *tener alguien una idea en la cabeza* (literally: 'to have an idea in the head'; PU 138 of the analysis), there is a metonymic relationship between the head as a container and the mind as the contained element, while the rest of the expression requires a literal interpretation.
5. *Metaphthonymic* PUs: the whole set of the expression's components delineates an image in which metaphoric and metonymic mechanisms interact. In *bajar alguien la cabeza* (literally: 'to lower the head'; PU 27 of the analysis), for example, two conceptualisations coexist and overlap: on the one hand, the idea of a person accepting a situation when there is no other choice is

- conveyed in metonymic terms through the description of a head's movement that shows acceptance; on the other hand, the expression can be considered metaphorical because its meaning refers to a mental attitude or a choice that does not involve any body movement.
6. Metaphorical PUs with metonymic elements: at least one component of the PU constitutes a conceptual metonymy, while the others manifest a metaphorical association. In the expression *írsele a alguien algo de la cabeza* (literally: 'something goes out of someone's head'; PU 65 of the analysis), for example, the fact of forgetting something is conceptualised as information that goes away, but within this image there is a logical relation between the head as container and the mind as contained element.
 7. Metonymic PU with metaphorical elements: at least one component of the PU represents a conceptual metaphor, while the others show a metonymic association. In this case, no example can be proposed from the analysis carried out. However, it is possible to explain how this PU typology appears through other Spanish expressions such as *subírsele a alguien el alcohol al coco* (literally: 'alcohol goes up to somebody's coconut') whose use has been observed on the internet as a more colloquial variant of *subírsele a alguien algo a la cabeza* (literally: 'something goes up to someone's head'; PU 111 of the analysis) and which refers to having reduced mental faculties because of alcohol consumption. On the one hand, the metaphorical character of this expression concerns the association between the coconut and the head, with the conceptualisation of the head in terms of fruit, probably due to a similarity of form. On the other hand, this metaphorical association appears in a metonymic context, considering that when someone drinks alcohol, this reaches the blood in the veins and consequently flows into the brain.
 8. *Metaphthonymic* PUs with literal elements: at least one component of the expression retains its literal meaning, while the others show a *metaphthonymic* association. Also in this case, no expressions for this typology were found in the analysis carried out. An example which does not derive from this study could be *subírsele a alguien los humos al cerebro* (literally: 'smokes go up to somebody's brain'). Here, the brain retains its literal value, but is part of an image that is partially metonymic and partially metaphoric: on the one hand, anger is conceptualised in terms of body heat, which is a common physical result of this feeling; on the other hand, the idea of body heat undergoes a further level of abstraction, in which it turns into fire that produces smoke.

Once defined this eight possible scenarios, the classification of the 131 Spanish verbal somatic PUs based on the noun *cabeza* compiled by Baran & Nkoum (2018) has been carried out: each expression has been examined and associated with one of the above-described typologies; in case of polysemic

PUs, the same expression has sometimes been ascribed to more than one typology depending on each single meaning and the connection between the literal and figurative sense. Moreover, those PUs or meanings which have not been considered idiomatic have not been included in the analysis (for example, the expression *tirarse alguien de cabeza al agua* with the meaning of throwing oneself headfirst into the water, and the PUs *levantar alguien la cabeza* and *erguir alguien la cabeza* when they refer to the body movement of raising the head).

3.2 Classification of the PUs examined

This section presents the classification of the analysed PUs. The ascription of each expression to a specific typology is the result of a careful reflection that considers the literal value and the figurative meaning of the PUs. Nevertheless, the analysis admits a certain degree of subjectivity, taking into account that the distinction between metaphorical, metonymic and literal value is not always clearly definable and, in many cases, it is not easy to determine the weight of metaphorical, metonymic and literal uses within a same PU. The typology that has given rise to most doubts is that of metonymic PUs, because sometimes the logical relationship between the figurative and the literal meaning of the expression is not direct and it is necessary to go beyond a level of abstraction in order to recognise it. As an example, *arrojarse los trastos a la cabeza* (literally: ‘to throw things at each other’; PU 26 of the analysis) describes a violent action that people may commit during a fierce fight; however, this image can be used to describe a non-physical argument, which implies that somebody could perceive it as metaphorical rather than metonymic, or even *metaphibonymic* due to this overlapping of perceptions. With regard to metonymic PUs, the association between feelings such as anger and worry and increased body temperature has been considered as a cause-effect relationship, as this could be a physical reaction to mental stress.

The following is the list of the examined expressions numbered as in the reference study. Next to each one there are indicated the literal meaning in brackets and the figurative meaning or meanings given by the author. It should be made clear that it is not always easy to propose a literal translation, since some formulations and the use of certain prepositions could make the image evoked by the expression unclear or ambiguous.

17 - *Abrir alguien la cabeza a alguien* (‘to open someone’s head’): to seriously wound someone in the head.

18 - *Actuar alguien con cabeza* (‘to act with head’): to act consciously.

19 - *Agachar alguien la cabeza* (‘to bend down the head’): synonym of PU 27.

20 - *Alzar alguien cabeza* (‘to raise head’): synonym of PU 69.

21 - *Alzar alguien la cabeza* (‘to raise head’): 1) to get out of poverty or misfortune; 2) synonym of PU 69 (meaning 2).

22 - *Andar alguien con la cabeza baja* ('to walk with the head down'): to look thoughtful or dreamy.

23 - *Andársele a alguien la cabeza* ('someone's head goes out'): someone is disturbed or weak and has the impression that everything he/she sees is moving around him/her.

24 - *Andar alguien de cabeza* ('to walk headfirst'): to have too much to do without knowing how to deal with it; to be too busy or to have too many worries.

25 - *Apostar alguien la cabeza* ('to bet the head'): 1) to affirm with conviction, to be sure of something; 2) to be in serious danger.

26 - *Arrojarse dos personas los trastos a la cabeza* ('two people throw things at each other's head'): synonym of PU 139.

27 - *Bajar alguien la cabeza* ('to bend down the head'): 1) to bend down the head (literal meaning); 2) to bow the head in a sign of respect; 3) to bend down the head due to shame or dishonour, to be embarrassed or humiliated; 4) to show obedience; 5) to listen to another person's warnings without complaining; 6) to accept or be patient when there is no other option.

28 - *Bullirle a alguien algo en la cabeza* ('something boils in someone's head'): to have a fixed but not well-defined idea in mind.

29 - *Calentarse alguien la cabeza* ('to warm up the head'): 1) to worry too much about something or to think about something intensely or for a long time; 2) to meditate on something.

30 - *Calentar alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('to warm up someone's head'): 1) to annoy, tire or worry somebody with heavy and insistent conversations; make someone think too much; 2) to make a person conceive misleading ideas; 3) to tell someone stories in order to make him/her angry at someone else; 4) to ask for something insistently and continuously.

31 - *Cargársele a alguien la cabeza* ('someone's head loads'): to feel heaviness and dullness in the head.

32 - *Comer alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('to eat someone's head'): to convince someone with certain ideas by taking advantage of his/her good faith or naivety; to harass someone.

33 - *Comerse alguien la cabeza* ('a person eats his/her own head'): synonym of PU 29 (meaning 1).

34 - *Conservar alguien la cabeza* ('to keep the head'): to be sane, lucid.

35 - *Darse alguien de cabeza contra las paredes* ('to bang the head against walls'): 1) to bang the head against the walls, out of desperation; 2) to rush into a business with damage; to use useless means to achieve a certain purpose; to become angry or desperate for having lost a great opportunity; 3) to make futile and desperate efforts.

36 - *Dar alguien en la cabeza a alguien* ('to hit someone on his/her head'): to intentionally do something contrary to what another person expects or desires.

37 - *Dar alguien un (buen) lavado de cabeza a alguien* ('to give someone a (good) head washing'): to scold or reprimand someone.

38 - *Dar alguien vueltas a la cabeza a algo* ('to turn the head around something'): to think intensely about something, usually in search of a solution.

39 - *Darle a alguien vueltas la cabeza* ('someone's head turns'): to feel dizzy, upset; to have a feeling of loss of balance.

40 - *Decir alguien todo lo que le pasa por la cabeza* ('to say everything passes through the head'): to lack moderation or prudence in what someone says.

41 - *Dejar alguien la cabeza como un bombo a alguien* ('to leave someone's head like a drum'): synonym of PU 30 (meaning 1).

42 - *Dejarse alguien cortar la cabeza por alguien* ('somebody leaves his/her head be cut off for someone'): to be at someone's complete disposal; to be able to do anything for someone.

43 - *Descomponerse a alguien la cabeza* ('someone's head is decomposing'): synonym of PU 95 (meaning 1).

44 - *Doblar alguien la cabeza* ('to bend the head'): 1) to die; 2) to comply, to obey; 3) synonym of PU 27 (meaning 6).

45 - *Echar alguien cabeza* ('to throw head'): synonym of PU 29 (meaning 1).

46 - *Echarse alguien de cabeza a un pozo* ('to dive headfirst into a well'): to act foolishly

47 - *Embotarse alguien la cabeza* ('someone blunts his/her head'): synonym of PU 95 (meanings 1 and 2).

48 - *Encajar alguien algo en la cabeza a alguien* ('to put on something on someone's head'): synonym of PU 79 (meaning 1).

49 - *Encasquetar alguien algo en la cabeza a alguien* ('to put on something on someone's head'): synonym of PU 79 (meaning 1).

50 - *Enderizar alguien la cabeza* ('to straighten the head'): synonym of PU 71.

51 - *Entrar alguien de cabeza en una cosa* ('to enter headfirst into one thing'): to get deeply involved in something.

52 - *Erguir alguien la cabeza* ('to straighten the head'): synonym of PU 71.

53 - *Escarmentar alguien en cabeza ajena* ('to learn from another's head'): learn from other people's mistakes.

54 - *Hacer alguien adobes con la cabeza* ('to make adobe bricks with the head'): synonym of PU 44 (meaning 1).

55 - *Meter alguien la cabeza debajo del ala* ('to put the head under the wing'): to disappear in the face of dangers; do not want to see reality or to face it.

56 - *Hacer alguien cabeza* ('to make head'): to be the principal in a business or a group of people, to be the one who holds the power, to head something.

57 - *Hacer alguien ir de cabeza a alguien* ('to make someone go headfirst / with the head'): synonym of 143 (meaning 1).

58 - *Hacer alguien levantar la cabeza a alguien* ('to make someone raise his/her head'): to heal someone.

59 - *Hacer alguien perder la cabeza a alguien* ('to make someone lose his/her head'): to make someone fall in love.

60 - *Hacerse alguien un bolo en la cabeza* ('someone makes a skittle in his/her head'): synonym of 95 (meanings 1 and 2).

61 - *Hincharle alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('to swell someone's head'): 1) to increase someone's anger; 2) to praise with exaggeration, to say nice things to please someone.

62 - *Ir alguien cabeza abajo* ('to go head down'): to get ruined by degrees.

63 - *Ir alguien de cabeza por algo/alguien* ('to go headfirst / with the head for something/somebody'): 1) someone is very busy or desperate because he/she does not have enough time to get something done; 2) to want one thing very much; 3) to do everything possible to please or serve someone.

64 - *Ir alguien con la cabeza gacha* ('to go with the head down'): to feel ashamed.

65 - *Írsele a alguien algo de la cabeza* ('something goes out of someone's head'): to forget

66 - *Írsele a alguien la cabeza* ('someone's head goes away'): 1) to start suffering from dizziness; 2) to go mad.

67 - *Jugarse alguien la cabeza* ('someone stakes his/her own head'): synonym of PU 25.

68 - *Lanzarse alguien de cabeza en algo* ('to pounce headfirst on something'): to do something without thinking about it.

69 - *Levantar alguien cabeza* ('to raise head'): 1) to finally get out of poverty or a bad situation; 2) to recover from illness, to regain strength or energy; 3) in conditional sentences it is used to express the astonishment caused in a deceased person by things in the present.

70 - *Levantar alguien algo de su cabeza* ('someone raises something from his/her own head'): to pretend or invent something.

71 - *Levantar alguien la cabeza* ('to raise the head'): 1) to raise the head upright (literal meaning); 2) to adopt the attitude of someone who is not humiliated or who considers that he/she has nothing to be ashamed of; 3) to come back to life.

72 - *Llevar alguien la cabeza alta* ('to hold the head up'): to feel proud, to show satisfaction

73 - *Ljarse alguien la manta a la cabeza* ('someone wraps the blanket on his/her own head'): 1) to decide to act after much hesitation; to make a hasty decision or to act thoughtlessly; 2) to make a decision without thinking about the consequences.

74 - *Llenar alguien la cabeza de aire a alguien* ('to fill someone's head with air'): synonym of PU 30 (meaning 2).

75 - *Llenar alguien la cabeza de pájaros a alguien* ('to fill someone's head with birds'): synonym of PU 30 (meaning 2).

76 - *Llevar a alguien algo de cabeza* ('someone brings somebody something on his/her own head'): synonym of 143 (meaning 1).

77 - *Llevar alguien algo en la cabeza* ('to carry something on the head'): to receive damage instead of what was expected.

78 - *Metérsele a alguien algo en la cabeza* ('something gets into someone's head'): to figure something out with little or no basis and stubbornly believe it to be true or possible.

79 - *Meter alguien algo en la cabeza a alguien* ('to put something in someone's head'): 1) to convince someone of something; to make someone understand something, overcoming with work his/her ineptitude; 2) to make something become a fixed idea or an obsessive aspiration

80 - *Meter alguien la cabeza debajo del ala* (repeated in PU 55 and therefore not included in the analysis).

81 - *Meter alguien la cabeza en un puchero* ('to put the head in a pot'): expression employed when someone maintains his/her opinion with tenacity and stubbornness although he/she has made a notorious mistake.

82 - *Meterse alguien de cabeza en algo* ('to get headfirst into something'): to do something without thinking about it.

83 - *No caberle a alguien algo en la cabeza* ('something does not fit in someone's head'): to be unable to conceive or understand something.

84 - *No entrarle a alguien algo en la cabeza* ('something does not get into someone's head'): synonym of PU 83.

85 - *No levantar alguien cabeza* ('someone does not raise head'): 1) to be unable to get out of a difficult or bad situation; 2) to be unable to recover from illness; 3) to be very busy, especially in reading and writing.

86 - *No levantar alguien la cabeza de alguna ocupación* ('someone does not raise his/her head from an occupation'): to be engrossed in doing something.

87 - *No tener alguien (mucho) cabeza* ('someone does not have (much) head'): not to have much intelligence, not to be very judicious.

88 - *No tener alguien donde volver la cabeza* ('someone has no place to turn his/her head to'): to be abandoned, helpless.

89 - *No tener alguien la cabeza bien sentada* ('someone does not have the head well seated'): to be thoughtless.

90 - *No tener alguien más que una idea en la cabeza* ('someone does not have more than an idea in the head'): synonym of PU 138.

91 - *Olerle a alguien la cabeza a pólvora* ('someone's head smells like gunpowder'): to be in danger of violent death.

92 - *Pagar alguien con su cabeza* ('someone pays with his/her own head'): to pay with one's own life; to cost a lot of money.

93 - *Partirse alguien la cabeza* ('someone break his/her own head'): synonym of PU 29 (meaning 1).

94 - *Pasársele a alguien algo por la cabeza* ('something goes through someone's head'): to get an idea.

95 - *Perder alguien la cabeza* ('someone loses his/her own head'): 1) to lose serenity and control due to an attack of fear, anger, passion, etc.; 2) to go mad, to act unthinkingly; 3) to faint or lose consciousness; 4) to be blindly in love with someone.

96 - *Poner alguien a precio la cabeza de alguien* ('to put a price on someone's head'): to promise a sum of money to capture or kill someone.

97 - *Poner alguien la pistola en la cabeza de alguien* ('to put a gun to someone's head'): to force someone to do something without giving them any other choice.

98 - *Poner alguien sobre su cabeza a alguien* ('someone puts somebody on his/her own head'): to consider it admirable.

99 - *Ponerse alguien algo en la cabeza* ('someone puts something in his/her own head'): synonym of PU 78.

100 - *Poner alguien la cabeza como un bombo a alguien* ('to make someone's head be like a drum'): to become heavy-headed or dazed.

101 - *Quebrantar alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('to break someone's head'): 1) to humble someone's pride, to subdue someone; 2) synonym of PU 30 (meaning 1).

102 - *Quebrarse alguien la cabeza* ('someone breaks his/her own head'): synonym of PU 29 (meaning 1).

103 - *Quitar alguien algo de la cabeza a alguien* ('to take something out of someone's mind'): to make someone stop thinking something.

104 - *Quitarse alguien algo de la cabeza* ('someone takes something out of his/her own mind'): to stop being obstinate about a thing; to erase a thing from thought.

105 - *Rascarse alguien la cabeza* ('someone scratches his/her own head'): to express hesitation, doubt.

106 - *Romper alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('to break someone's head'): 1) to hurt someone's head; 2) to tire someone with stupid speeches.

107 - *Romperse alguien la cabeza* ('someone breaks his/her own head'): synonym of PU 29 (meaning 1).

108 - *Sacarle alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('someone takes the head out to somebody'): expression employed when a person is noticeably taller than another person.

109 - *Sacar alguien la cabeza* ('to take the head out'): 1) to show up; 2) expression employed when a shy person begins to dare to speak or do something.

110 - *Sentar alguien la cabeza* ('to sit the head'): expression employed when someone who was turbulent and disorderly becomes judicious.

111 - *Subírsele a alguien algo a la cabeza* ('something goes up to someone's head'): 1) to get dizzy from drinking, to get drunk; 2) to become too conceited and lose the usual serenity.

112 - *Subírsele a alguien la sangre a la cabeza* ('the blood goes up to someone's head'): to get angry, irritated.

113 - *Subírsele a alguien los humos a la cabeza* ('the smokes go up to someone's head'): to be very angry.

114 - *Tener alguien la cabeza de chorlito* ('to have the head of a plover'): synonym of PU 117 (meaning 2).

115 - *Tener alguien la cabeza (muy) metida en los hombros* ('to have the head (very) deep in the shoulders'): to get angry about something.

116 - *Tener alguien la cabeza a las once* ('to have the head at eleven'): synonym of PU 117.

117 - *Tener alguien la cabeza a pájaros* ('to have the head to birds'): 1) to be a dazed person or a person with poor judgement; 2) to be an irresponsible person or to be distracted; 3) to be a frivolous person.

118 - *Tener alguien la cabeza llena de serrín* ('to have the head full of sawdust'): to be stupid.

119 - *Tener la cabeza bien amueblada* ('to have a well-furnished head'): synonym of PU 131.

120 - *Tener alguien la cabeza al revés* ('to have the head upside down'): to be disorientated.

121 - *Tener alguien la cabeza como un bombo* ('to have the head like a drum'): 1) to be dazed by intellectual overwork; 2) to be bald.

122 - *Tener alguien la cabeza como un colador* ('to have the head like a strainer'): to forget easily.

123 - *Tener alguien la cabeza como una bola de billar* ('to have the head like a billiard ball'): to be bald.

124 - *Tener alguien la cabeza como una olla de grillos* ('to have the head like a pot of crickets'): to be dazed.

125 - *Tener alguien la cabeza cuadrada* ('to have a square head'): to be very stubborn; to have an inflexible mentality.

126 - *Tener alguien la cabeza llena de aire* ('to have the head full of air'): synonym of PU 118.

127 - *Tener alguien la cabeza en la luna* ('to have the head in the moon'): to be distracted.

128 - *Tener alguien la cabeza dura* ('to have a hard head'): 1) to be a clumsy person; 2) to be stubborn.

129 - *Tener alguien la cabeza en otra parte* ('to have the head elsewhere'): to be distracted, to be inactive, to dream.

130 - *Tener alguien la cabeza hueca* ('to have an empty head'): to be a thoughtless, weak and unstable person; to be unintelligent, clumsy.

131 - *Tener alguien la cabeza sobre los hombros* ('to have the head on the shoulders'): to be a very judicious and responsible person.

132 - *Tener alguien la cabeza en su sitio* ('to have the head in the right place'): synonym of PU 131.

133 - *Tener alguien la cabeza trastornada* ('to have the head in a mess'): to be disorientated.

134 - *Tener alguien (muy) mala cabeza* ('to have a (very) bad head'): 1) to be forgetful; 2) to act without considering the consequences.

135 - *Tener alguien poca sal en la cabeza* ('to have little salt in the head'): synonym of PU 118.

136 - *Tener alguien mucha cabeza* ('to have a lot of head'): synonym of PU 131.

137 - *Tener alguien poca cabeza* ('to have little head'): to have no judgement.

138 - *Tener alguien una idea en la cabeza* ('to have an idea in the head'): 1) to be stubborn; 2) to have a thought and avoid making it known.

139 - *Tirarse dos personas los trastos a la cabeza* ('two people throw things at each other's head'): to argue or fight.

140 - *Tirarse alguien de cabeza al agua* ('to dive headfirst into the water'): to dive headfirst into the water (literal meaning).

141 - *Torcer alguien la cabeza* ('to twist the head'): 1) to get a disease; 2) to die.

142 - *Tornar alguien cabeza a algo o alguien* ('someone returns his/her head to something or somebody'): to pay attention to someone or something.

143 - *Traer a alguien algo de cabeza* ('someone brings somebody something on his/her own head'): 1) to give someone a lot of work or worries; 2) to exasperate someone, to contradict him/her or to make him/her angry; 3) synonym of PU 59.

144 - *Traer alguien algo o alguien sobre su cabeza* ('to carry something or somebody on the head'): to think very highly of someone or something.

145 - *Venirle a alguien algo a la cabeza* ('something comes into someone's head'): to come to mind.

146 - *Volver alguien la cabeza a alguien* ('someone turns his/her head to somebody'): 1) to refuse to greet someone; 2) to refuse to help someone at a difficult time.

147 - *Volversele a alguien la cabeza* ('someone's head goes back to him/her'): synonym of PU 95 (meaning 2).

The expressions listed above are now classified according to the underlying conceptualisation. The information offered for each typology only includes the number under which the PU appears in Baran Á Nkoum's list (2018) and, in the presence of polysemous PUs, the number of the meaning selected for that typology (or the meaning explained if it does not have a corresponding number in the original set) in brackets.

(i) Metaphorical PUs (30 expressions):

21 (1), 24, 25 (1, 2), 35 (2 [meaning: to rush into a business with damage], 3), 36, 37, 38, 42, 46, 51, 54, 55, 56, 62, 63 (1, 2, 3), 67, 68, 73 (1, 2), 76, 77, 81, 82, 85 (1), 86 (1), 97, 98, 101 (1), 109 (2), 143 (1, 2, 3), 144.

(ii) Metaphorical PUs with literal elements (6 expressions):

17, 92 [meaning: to cost a lot of money] 106, 108, 121 (2), 123.

(iii) Metonymic PUs (22 expressions):

19 (2, 3, 4, 5), 20 (3), 22, 27 (2, 3, 4, 5), 29 (1, 2), 35 (1, 2 [meaning: to become angry]), 44 (1, 2), 50 (3), 52 (3), 64, 69 (3), 71 (3), 72, 90 (1), 105, 109 (1), 111 (1), 112, 115, 138 (1), 141 (2), 146 (1).

(iv) Metonymic PUs with literal elements (10 expressions):

18, 53, 87, 95 (1, 2), 96, 133, 134 (1, 2), 136, 137, 138 (2).

(v) *Metaphthonymic* PUs (21 expressions):

19 (6), 20 (1, 2), 21 (2), 26, 27 (6), 28, 44 (3), 50 (2), 52 (2), 58, 69 (1, 2), 71 (2), 85 (2, 3), 86, 88, 91, 113, 139, 141 (1), 142, 146 (2).

(vi) Metaphorical PUs with metonymic elements (62 expressions):

23, 30 (1, 2, 3, 4), 31, 32, 33 (1), 34, 39, 40, 41 (1), 43 (2), 45 (1), 47 (1, 2), 48 (1), 49 (1), 59, 57 (1), 60 (1, 2), 61 (1, 2), 65, 66 (1, 2), 70, 74 (2), 75 (2), 78 (1, 2), 79 (1, 2), 83, 84, 89, 92 [meaning: to pay with one's own life], 93 (1), 94, 95 (3, 4), 99, 100, 101 (2), 102 (1), 103, 104, 106 (2), 107 (1), 110, 111 (2), 114 (2), 116, 117 (1, 2, 3), 118, 119, 120, 121 (1), 122, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 (1, 2), 129, 130, 131, 132, 135, 145, 147 (2).

(vii) Metonymic PUs with metaphorical elements:

no expressions have been found.

(viii) *Metaphthonymic* PUs with literal elements:

no expressions have been found.

3.3 Results

As the presented classification shows, the most common conceptualisations are metaphorical with metonymic elements (62 PUs), followed by fully metaphorical PUs (30) and by *metaphthonymic* (21) and metonymic (22) PUs. A smaller portion of PUs includes metonymic expressions with literal elements (10) and metaphoric expressions with literal elements (6). The possibility of finding metonymic PUs with metaphorical elements and *metaphthonymic* PUs with literal elements has not been confirmed in this analysis (which does not necessarily

imply the non-existence of these two typologies, since, in the methodological section, two examples not included in this study have been provided). These numbers suggest a general tendency to activate conceptualisation mechanisms in the mind based on the substitution of domains that do not have real and logical relationships with each other. The fact that most of the metaphorical PUs present metonymic elements is probably a feature of the group of expressions examined based on the noun *cabeza*: as dictionaries show, this not only represents the upper part of the body, but can also metonymically refer to the brain (with a container-contents association) and consequently designate the function of this organ, which is responsible for the intellectual faculties of human beings.

4. Conclusions

The conclusions derived from the analysis concern two essential aspects: the possibility and forms of interaction between metaphorical and metonymical conceptualisations and the incidence of these different forms of interaction in Spanish verbal PUs based on the noun *cabeza* and compiled by Baran à Nkoum (2018). On the one hand, it has been observed that the interaction between metaphorical and metonymical mental associations constitutes a set with two extremes (total metaphoricity and total metonymicity) that move towards each other and meet in a central stage in the form of *metaphthonymies*. A parallel axis represents the literal dimension and shows the alternation of components within a PU that require literal interpretation and absence of literally interpretable elements. Literalness also presents intermediate degrees. This idea could be illustrated as follows:

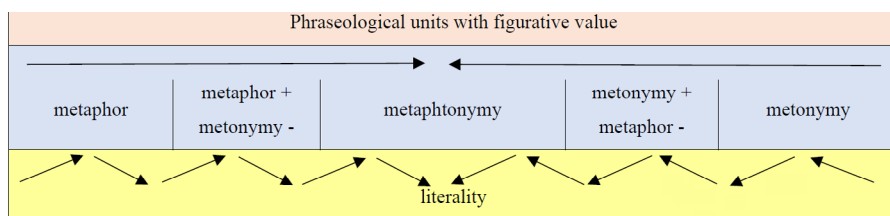


Fig. 1. Possible manifestation of metaphoricity, metonymicity and literalness in figurative PU

This image shows that PUs can be completely metaphorical on the one hand and completely metonymic on the other hand and that, between these two extremes, there is a level of predominance of metaphoricity or metonymicity until obtaining an analogous weight of these two within a PU. At the same time,

literalness is an independent value which can be present (or perceived) together with the figurative character of an expression or not. The numbers indicated in the results of the analysis show a general tendency to activate in the mind conceptualisation mechanisms based on the substitution of domains that do not have logical and real connections with each other. The relevance of metaphorical PUs with metonymic elements could be a specific feature of the group of expressions examined, as *cabeza* is commonly used as synonym of brain and referred to intellectual faculties.

The illustration presented could be considered valid even in a more general perspective, since it potentially reflects the nature of any other PU. It could therefore be used as a basis for further analyses of metaphoricity, metonymicity and literalness in the field of phraseology. Finally, this study could serve as a reference for research in other fields, such as contrastive linguistics or translation.

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