

The role of polysemy in the motivation of idioms: A contrastive approach

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ABSTRACT

Traditionally described as a cognitive phenomenon based on the conceptual links between the compositional and idiomatic meanings of idioms (Dobrovol'skij and Piirainen, 2005, 87), the synchronic motivation of idioms is rarely analyzed with regard to their polysemy (cf., e.g., Dobrovol'skij, 2007). Considering that polysemy stands as a motivational device in lexicology (Marzo, 2013), this contribution aims to investigate the potential role that polysemy plays in the synchronic motivation of French idioms. Due to the importance of the perception of native speakers in the study of synchronic motivation (cf., e.g., Koch and Marzo, 2007; Rettig, 1981; Umbreit, 2015), this contribution will analyze the potential influence of polysemy on the motivation of French idioms by means of a qualitative questionnaire. Twelve French idioms, six of which are polysemous, will be motivated by native French speakers and native Italian speakers, who are not familiar with the French language. By comparing the types of conceptualization provided by both groups of speakers, it will be possible to empirically demonstrate the impact of polysemy on the synchronic motivation of idioms and to observe how polysemy-based motivation manifests itself in phraseology.

Keywords: phraseology; polysemy; synchronic motivation.

1. Polysemy and synchronic motivation

The synchronic motivation of idioms is traditionally described as a cognitive phenomenon based on the conceptual links between the compositional and idiomatic meanings of idioms (Dobrovol'skij and Piirainen, 2005, 87). Nevertheless, this definition does not correspond to that of lexical motivation, i.e. the synchronic motivation of lexical units in general:

[A] lexical item L_1 (lexeme, word, idiom) expressing a concept C_1 , is motivated with respect to a lexical item L_2 expressing a concept C_2 , if there is a cognitively relevant relation between C_1 and C_2 paralleled by a recognizable formal relation between the *signifiants* of L_1 and L_2 [...]. (Koch, 2001, 1156)

Although idioms are part of the lexicon (cf., e.g., Cruse, 1986; Mejri, 1997), the criteria on which their motivation relies differ from those determining the

motivation of lexical units in general. In addition to being composed of two dimensions (formal and cognitive)¹, lexical motivation implies several motivational processes, such as extrinsic motivation, which occurs when a lexical unit is motivated via a formally different lexical unit, and polysemy-based motivation. As suggested by Marzo (2008, 174), polysemy-based motivation takes place when a lexical unit (for ex. *souris* ‘computer device’) is motivated via a formally identical lexical unit (here, *souris* ‘small rodent’) by means of a formal relation (here, formal identity) and a cognitively relevant relation (here, metaphorical similarity). In this article, we will focus on polysemy-based motivation, which is not contemplated as a motivational process in phraseology. Considering that idioms can be polysemous as well², the absence of studies regarding this motivational process in the field of idioms might be related to different factors. Firstly, research on the synchronic motivation of idioms is mainly based on one motivational process, that is the relation between the compositional and idiomatic meanings of idioms. Secondly, several studies have paid close attention to the role of cultural specifics in the motivation and semantic dimension of idioms (cf., e.g., Mejri, 2018; Pamies, 2011; Piirainen, 2011), even though extralinguistic knowledge is only one of the possible levels of knowledge that participates in conceptualization. In addition to extralinguistic knowledge, the levels of knowledge that participate in the conceptualization of lexical units are sememic knowledge, such as the meaning of the lexical units and their lexical field, and lexical knowledge, which includes, among others, information about polysemy (Blank, 1997, 55–75).

The main goal of this study is to show that polysemy can act as a motivational process in phraseology as well. Due to the importance of investigating synchronic motivation in an empirical way (cf., e.g., Detry, 2008 and 2014; Radden and Panther, 2004; Ramonda, 2017; Rettig, 1981; Schröder, 1981), the potential impact of polysemy on the motivation of idioms will be studied by means of a qualitative survey, which aims at gaining a deeper understanding of the conceptualization provided by native speakers. By recognizing the limitations of approaches solely based on the introspection of linguists, some works (Marzo, 2013, 76–79; Marzo and Rube, 2006, 154; Marzo and Umbreit, 2016, 426–427; Umbreit, 2011, 274) highlight that the study of motivation requires a speaker-based approach, which allows for the consideration of native speakers’ linguistic consciousness.

[S]peakers are able to establish synchronic relations between words both morphologically and conceptually as well as to give reasons for these relations based on their

1 The absence of a formal dimension in the synchronic motivation of idioms lies outside the scope of this article and, therefore, it won’t be further discussed.

2 According to Moon (1998, 187), an idiom is polysemous when it has two or more idiomatic meanings.

implicit or even explicit knowledge of word-families and their structure. Their ideas about motivated or opaque words in their language directly reflect their average linguistic knowledge. These capacities even be more fruitful for investigating motivation than the introspection used by professional linguists, who might consider more words as motivated than non-linguists or who might motivate them differently from non-linguists due to their linguistic expertise. (Umbreit, 2011, 274)

2. The empirical study

The potential role played by polysemy in the synchronic motivation of idioms will be explored by means of a qualitative survey³. By focusing on French idioms, the questionnaire is composed of two versions, each of which is addressed to a different group of speakers:

- a French version, which is conducted with native French speakers;
- an Italian version, which is conducted with native Italian speakers, who are not familiar with the French language.

The selection of the idioms for the questionnaire was based on two factors: their polysemous or monosemic status and their existence in French or both in French and Italian. As indicated in Table 1, twelve idioms were chosen as stimuli: six polysemous idioms existing in French and six monosemic idioms, three of which exist only in French, whereas the remaining three exist both in French and Italian.

In both versions of the survey, the selected idioms were presented together with one of their idiomatic meanings and an example of use. As far as the Italian version is concerned, French idioms were literally translated into Italian. After providing information about their knowledge of the idioms⁴, participants were asked to further explain their motivation using their own words⁵. Alternatively, participants could mark idioms as semantically opaque. In total, 100 participants took part in the survey: 50 native French speakers and 50 native Italian speakers⁶.

3 The survey is implemented by means of SosciSuvey.de. It was online from March to April 2023. Participants were recruited via personal contacts, cultural institutions, and online forums.

4 In the section about the knowledge of the idiom, participants have been presented with following options (translated from French and Italian into English by the present author): 1. “Yes, I know the expression with the indicated meaning”, 2. “Yes, I know the expression, but with a different meaning”, 3. “No, I do not know this expression.”

5 More precisely, French and Italian participants were asked to answer the following question (translated from French and Italian into English by the present author): “In your opinion, why does [idiom] mean [idiomatic meaning]?”

6 Among the native French speakers, 88% are between 18 and 35 years old, 10% are between 36-60 years old, and 2% are older than 60. 80% are women, 12% are men, and 8% identified as “Other”. As far as the native Italian speakers are concerned, 50% are between 18 and 35 years old, 42% are between 36-60 years old, and 8% are older than 60. 74% are women and

Table 1. List of the stimuli included in the questionnaire

Polysemous idioms	Monosemic idioms	
Existing in French	Existing in French	Existing in French and Italian
<i>avoir la banane</i> , lit. 'to have the banana', meaning 'to be fit' <i>perdre pied</i> , lit. 'to lose foot', meaning 'to lose control of the situation/oneself' <i>coup du lapin</i> , lit. 'hit of the rabbit', meaning 'trickery, betrayal' <i>dormir sur ses deux oreilles</i> , lit. 'to sleep on one's two ears', meaning 'to sleep deeply and calmly' <i>sucrer les fraises</i> , lit. 'to add sugar to strawberries', meaning 'to be doddering, senile' <i>loup de mer</i> , lit. 'wolf of sea', meaning 'experienced and capable person' ⁷	<i>ne pas avoir les yeux dans sa poche</i> , lit. 'not to have the eyes in one's pocket', meaning 'to be nosy, to observe everything' <i>casser sa pipe</i> , lit. 'to break one's pipe', meaning 'to die' <i>bête comme ses pieds</i> , lit. 'stupid as one's feet', meaning 'very stupid'	fr. <i>avoir les pieds sur terre</i> /it. <i>avere i piedi per terra</i> , lit. 'to have the feet on ground', meaning 'to be realistic and practical' fr. <i>mener une vie de chien</i> /it. <i>fare una vita da cani</i> , lit. 'to lead a dog's life', meaning 'to lead a miserable life' fr. <i>le mouton noir</i> /it. <i>la pecora nera</i> , lit. 'the black sheep', meaning 'a member of a group who is different from the rest and is considered as negative'

The choice of stimuli is directly linked to the hypotheses of this study. As Section 3 will show, the analysis focuses on the types of conceptualization (*motivational categories*) used by the French and Italian speakers to motivate the idioms. The potential role played by polysemy in native speakers' conceptualization will be investigated on the basis of the following hypotheses:

- Polysemous idioms show a higher level of discrepancy in motivational categories than monosemic idioms;
- Monosemic idioms existing in French and both in French and Italian show a similar level of discrepancy in motivational categories;
- The motivational categories with a high level of discrepancy used by French participants to motivate polysemous idioms are related to the other idiomatic meaning(s) of theirs.

The confirmation of the first hypothesis would suggest that native speakers employ a different type of knowledge to motivate polysemous idioms in comparison with monosemic idioms. Considering that the potential discrepancy between motivational categories can be caused by cultural factors, the second hypothesis aims at narrowing the impact of cultural factors on motivation and,

26% are men. Due to space limitations, other personal data about participants, such as the region where they live, is not provided.

7 Although *loup de mer* exists also in Italian (it. 'lupo di mare'), the two idioms are not equivalent. Firstly, *lupo di mare* has a lower frequency than *loup de mer* according to *Sketch Engine (fr-TenTen)*. Secondly, *lupo di mare* has only one idiomatic meaning ('experienced sailor'), whereas *loup de mer* means '(type of) fish', '(edible) flesh of this fish', 'seal', 'experienced sailor', and 'experienced and capable person'.

thus, suggesting the potential participation of other types of knowledge in the motivational processes. In this regard, the third hypothesis will show that the type of knowledge responsible for the confirmation of the first hypothesis is lexical knowledge, which includes information about the polysemy of lexical units (cf. Section 1).

3. The comparison between types of conceptualization: Analysis and discussion of the data

In the analysis of the collected data, only valid answers⁸ have been taken into account. Answers providing the same motivational partner, i.e. the concept through which the stimulus is motivated, and the same activated knowledge have been grouped under the same motivational category⁹. In order to identify statistically significant differences in the motivational categories provided by the French and Italian speakers, the p-value will serve as the main indicator. If the p-value is less than 0.05, the discrepancy in a certain motivational category is considered as statistically significant¹⁰.

In the next paragraphs, the results of the empirical study will be presented and discussed with regard to the above-mentioned hypotheses (see Section 2). Due to space limitations, we will mainly focus on the categories showing a statistically significant discrepancy used by the French speakers and the types of knowledge on which they are based.

3.1 Monosemic idioms existing in French and Italian

In the first group of idioms, only one motivational category shows a statistically significant discrepancy, namely OPPOSITION BETWEEN UP AND DOWN in *avoir les pieds sur terre*. Nevertheless, this category plays a fundamental role in the conceptualizations provided by both groups of speakers: it is used by 71.11% of the French speakers and 45.83% of the Italian speakers.

3.2 Monosemic idioms existing in French

The idiom *ne pas avoir les yeux dans sa poche* shows a statistically significant difference in the category POCKET AS A PRIVATE AND INTIMATE PLACE. Even if this category is employed by most Italian speakers (47.62%), it appears to be

8 Invalid answers do not provide useful information with regard to the goals of the study. For instance, answers are labeled as invalid if participants motivate another idiom or another idiomatic meaning of the indicated idiom.

9 Motivational categories are composed of at least two answers. The answers that do not belong to any motivational category are grouped under the category "Other". In addition, answers containing two distinct types of conceptualization are split into two answers.

10 In the Annexes 1, 2, and 3, the p-value is marked with an asterisk when it indicates a statistically significant discrepancy.

dominant among French speakers' answers too: more than 23% of the French speakers have motivated the idiom via this category. An interesting case of statistically significant difference is represented by *casser sa pipe*. DEATH/ILLNESS CAUSES FALLING, WHICH CAUSES A BROKEN PIPE is the most used category by the French speakers, but it is absent among the conceptualizations provided by Italian participants. This result might be the consequence of a semantic blending¹¹ between *casser sa pipe* and the formally similar idiom *se casser la pipe*, lit. 'to break the pipe', meaning 'to fall'. In addition, the results from a pilot study conducted with 70 French speakers, who were required to indicate the idiomatic meaning of a set of idioms and to motivate them, show that *casser sa pipe* might not be monosemic: while the meaning 'to die' was mentioned by most participants (85.96%), 3.51% of them indicated 'to fall' as the idiomatic meaning of the idiom. Thus, the monosemic status of this idiom remains uncertain.

3.3 Polysemous idioms

In *avoir la banane*, the category SMILE (SHAPE OF THE BANANA) INDICATES HAPPINESS, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGETIC/FIT PEOPLE, which is used by 60.87% of the French speakers, is clearly related to the other idiomatic meaning of the idiom, that is 'to smile, to be happy'. This explains why this category is not used by the Italian participants, most of whom (26.00%) opt for a category based on the resemblance between the shape of the banana and the shape of a fit body (ANALOGY BETWEEN THE SHAPE OF A BANANA AND A FIT BODY). The same can be said for *perdre pied*, whose other meaning 'to lose contact with ground in the water' is at the basis of LOSING CONTACT WITH GROUND IN WATER (TO DROWN) IS LIKE LOSING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION/ONESELF. This category is used by most French speakers (36.36%), while it is absent among Italians' answers, the majority of whom (41.30%) compensate for the lack of lexical knowledge by using the category WITHOUT FOOT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK/TO GO ON.

In *coup du lapin*, polysemy influences the choice of motivational categories in two different ways: the idiomatic meaning 'whiplash injury' is not only responsible for the metaphor between the betrayal and this type of injury (BETRAYAL IS LIKE A WHIPLASH INJURY, used by 13.95% of the French speakers and absent among Italian participants' answers), but it also guarantees the activation of specific knowledge, namely the method to kill rabbits. In fact, the physical point at which the whiplash injury occurs roughly corresponds to the physical point at which the deadly blow is inflicted on rabbits. In this regard, the category BETRAYAL AS A METHOD TO KILL RABBITS is used by 46.51% of the French speakers, while only 4.00% of the Italian speakers employ it.

11 Blends are defined by Cutting and Bock (1997, 58) as "[...] the replacement of an element related to one speech plan by an element related to another speech plan, resulting in an utterance that does not exactly match either one". For an insightful analysis of blends, cf. Harley (2001).

Although present, the impact of the polysemy of *dormir sur ses deux oreilles* on its motivation is less visible. Directly related to the other meaning ‘to feel safe, worry-free’, the category LACK OF DANGER/FEELING SAFE MAKES PEOPLE SLEEP DEEPLY/CALMLY is used by 25.93% of the French speakers and 7.84% of the Italian speakers. A quick analysis of Italian phraseology could explain why this category is also used by Italian speakers: the existence of several formally and semantically similar idioms in Italian, such as *dormire con un occhio solo*, lit. ‘to sleep with only one eye’, meaning ‘to be constantly vigilant, living in constant fear of being attacked, even when sleeping’ could have led participants to activate the concepts of DANGER and FEAR.

In the motivation of *sucrer les fraises*, it is possible to observe that the category ADDING SUGAR MAKES HANDS SHAKE, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH ELDERLY PEOPLE, used by only 10.42% of the French speakers, is based on the other meaning of the idiom, that is ‘to tremble in an uncontrollable way’. Nevertheless, the category showing a statistically significant discrepancy is ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ADDING SUGAR TO SWEET FOOD AND BEING DODDERING/SENILE, which is not linked to the polysemy of the idiom. The weak role played by the polysemy-based category in motivation can be explained by considering the data about the knowledge of the idiom. Since the majority of the French speakers affirmed not to know the indicated idiom (68.63%)¹², relevant knowledge about the polysemy of the idiom could not be used by most French speakers to motivate it. Thus, this condition led them to activate the same type of knowledge as Italian speakers.

In the last polysemous stimulus, *loup de mer*, the only motivational category showing a statistically significant difference (EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A WOLF), which is largely used by both groups of speakers (French speakers: 25.53%; Italian speakers: 52.38%), is based on the compositional meaning of the idiom. Nevertheless, the impact of other meanings of the idiom on its motivation is major. In fact, 10.64% of the French speakers employ the category EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A TYPE OF FISH, which is based on the meaning ‘(type of) fish’. EXPERIENCED PERSON AS AN EXPERIENCED SAILOR is the most common category among the French speakers’ answers (31.91%) and the second most common one among the Italian speakers’ conceptualizations (28.57%), in whose native language *lupo di mare* exists with the idiomatic meaning ‘experienced sailor’. Therefore, the absence of statistical significance among polysemy-based categories is the result of the fact that polysemy plays a crucial role not only among the types of motivation provided by the French speakers, but also among those provided by Italian participants. Moreover, the discrepancy in EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A WOLF can be explained by considering that, contrary to the Italian

12 Apart from those who did not know the idiom, 21.57% of the French speakers knew the idiom with the indicated meaning and 9.80% of them knew the idiom, but with a different meaning.

speakers, French participants could use an additional polysemy-based category (EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A TYPE OF FISH) to motivate the idiom.

3.4 General observations

In light of the collected data, it is possible to compare the results with the initial hypotheses (Section 2). The number of motivational categories showing a statistically significant discrepancy is higher among polysemous idioms (10 in total) than monosemic idioms (3 in total¹³). In addition, no major difference is observed among the results in monosemic idioms: monosemic idioms existing in French present 1 category showing a statistically significant discrepancy, while monosemic idioms existing in French and Italian have 2, including *casser sa pipe*. The analysis of the statistically significant motivational categories among polysemous idioms proves that polysemy is responsible for most differences between conceptualizations, confirming the third hypothesis of the study. In fact, all categories showing a statistically significant discrepancy mostly used by the French speakers are built upon polysemy-based motivation. On the other hand, the categories showing a statistically significant difference mostly used by the Italian speakers are based on the compositional meaning of the idiom, which, contrary to polysemy, is accessible even to those who do not know French. With the exception of *loup de mer*, Italian participants tend to activate encyclopedic knowledge to motivate the idioms, thanks to which they compensate for the lack of lexical knowledge about their polysemy.

4. Conclusion

In spite of the limited number of stimuli, the comparison between the answers provided by both groups of participants has shown that polysemy has a significant impact on the types of conceptualization provided by the French speakers. The presence of additional idiomatic meanings can lead to the activation of specific concepts, which are absent or not relevant among the conceptualizations provided by those speakers who do not know the analyzed idioms. Our empirical data have not only proven that answers mostly differ when speakers motivate polysemous idioms, but also that polysemy is generally responsible for the motivational categories showing a statistically significant discrepancy used by French participants.

Moreover, it can be observed that polysemy-based motivation manifests itself in different ways in phraseology. Firstly, the idiomatic meaning can act as a motivational partner, as in *loup de mer*: when using the categories EXPERIENCED PERSON

13 Considering that the monosemic status of *casser sa pipe* is uncertain, the number of motivational categories showing a statistically significant discrepancy among monosemic idioms could be set at 2.

AS A TYPE OF FISH and EXPERIENCED PERSON AS AN EXPERIENCED SAILOR, participants do not motivate the idiom through its compositional meaning, but instead via two of its idiomatic meanings. Secondly, the idiomatic meaning can serve as an intermediary step in the process of conceptualization. For instance, the motivational category SMILE (SHAPE OF THE BANANA) INDICATES HAPPINESS, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGETIC/FIT PEOPLE in *avoir la banane* is built as a chain of associations, which starts from the compositional meaning and, mediated by the idiomatic meaning ‘to smile, to be happy’, reaches the other idiomatic meaning of the idiom. More precisely, the shape of the banana is compared to the shape of the smile, which occurs when being happy, which, in turn, is associated with being energetic and fit. Thirdly, polysemy can be responsible for the activation of specific knowledge, as in the motivational category BETRAYAL AS A METHOD TO KILL RABBITS OF *coup de lapin*. The information about the traditional method to kill rabbits is activated by the idiomatic meaning ‘whiplash injury’.

The results of this study suggest that, contrary to what the definition of phraseological motivation states (cf. Section 1), the motivation of idioms is not solely based on the cognitive links between their compositional and idiomatic meanings. In fact, polysemy meets the necessary conditions for being considered an additional motivational device in phraseology. In line with Matlock’s thesis (1998), we believe that polysemy deserves more attention in phraseology, as it can notably influence the way native speakers conceptualize and motivate idioms.

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Annex 1: Data about monosemic idioms existing in French and Italian

Motivation category/partner	French	Italian	p-value
<i>avoir les pieds sur terre</i> , lit. 'to have the feet on ground', meaning 'to be realistic and practical'			
OPPOSITION BETWEEN UP AND DOWN	71.11%	45.83%	0.02391*
GROUND AS A SOURCE OF STABILITY AND REALISM	24.44%	39.58%	0.1806
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GROUND AND PRACTICAL JOBS	2.22%	6.25%	0.656
Other	0.00%	8.33%	0.1421
Opacity	2.22%	0.00%	0.9741
<i>mener une vie de chien</i> , lit. 'to lead a dog's life', meaning 'to lead a miserable life'			
DOG EXPERIENCES POOR TREATMENT	59.26%	64.41%	0.7121
DOG IS SUBMITTED TO HUMANS	16.67%	8.47%	0.3009
DOG AS A HARD WORKER/EXPLOITED	14.81%	15.25%	1
Other	3.70%	3.39%	1
Opacity	5.56%	8.47%	0.8125
<i>le mouton noir</i> , lit. 'the black sheep', meaning 'a member of a group who is different from the rest and is considered as negative'			
WHITE IS THE TYPICAL COLOR OF SHEEP	72.41%	68.42%	0.7912
BLACK IS NEGATIVELY CONNOTATED	22.41%	24.56%	0.9588
BLACK FUR HAS BAD REPERCUSSIONS ON THE MARKET	0.00%	5.26%	0.2359
Other	1.72%	1.75%	1
Opacity	3.45%	0.00%	0.4833

Annex 2: Data about monosemic idioms existing in French

Motivation category/partner	French	Italian	p-value
<i>ne pas avoir les yeux dans sa poche</i> , lit. 'not to have the eyes in one's pocket', meaning 'to be nosy, to observe everything'			
POCKET AS A DARK/CLOSE SPACE	53.85%	30.95%	0.06278
POCKET AS A PRIVATE AND INTIMATE PLACE	23.08%	47.62%	0.03844*
Opacity	23.08%	21.43%	1
<i>casser sa pipe</i> , lit. 'to break one's pipe', meaning 'to die'			
DEATH/ILLNESS CAUSES FALLING, WHICH CAUSES A BROKEN PIPE	30.43%	0.00%	0.0001611*
A BROKEN PIPE IS LIKE A BROKEN LIFE	15.22%	30.43%	0.1361
BREAKING ONE'S PIPE IS AN OLD HABIT CONNECTED WITH DEATH	8.70%	2.17%	0.3577
SMOKING IMPLIES BREATHING, WHICH IMPLIES BEING ALIVE	4.35%	8.70%	0.6728
A DEAD PERSON DOES NOT NEED TO SMOKE	2.17%	10.87%	0.2052
THE INABILITY OF SMOKING CAUSES DEATH (DUE TO NICOTINE ADDICTION)	4.35%	0.00%	0.4747
Other	4.35%	8.70%	0.6728
Opacity	30.43%	39.13%	0.5114
<i>bête comme ses pieds</i> , lit. 'stupid as one's feet', meaning 'very stupid'			
OPPOSITION BETWEEN BRAIN AND FEET	62.50%	45.28%	0.1072
FOOT IS NEGATIVELY CONNOTATED	17.86%	15.09%	0.8964
Other	5.36%	3.77%	1
Opacity	14.29%	35.85%	0.0171*

Annex 3: Data about polysemous idioms existing in French

Motivation category/partner	French	Italian	p-value
<i>avoir la banane</i> , lit. 'to have the banana', meaning 'to be fit'			
SMILE (SHAPE OF THE BANANA) INDICATES HAPPINESS, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGETIC/FIT PEOPLE	60.87%	0.00%	2.45E-07*
BANANA AS AN ENERGETIC SOURCE	28.26%	18.00%	0.3411
YELLOW IS POSITIVELY CONNOTATED	6.52%	2.00%	0.5509
ANALOGY BETWEEN THE SHAPE OF A BANANA AND A FIT BODY	0.00%	26.00%	0.0006244*
PHALLUS (SHAPE OF THE BANANA) IS ASSOCIATED WITH BEING ENERGETIC/FIT	0.00%	10.00%	0.08131
ANALOGY BETWEEN BANANA'S AND TRAINED MUSCLES' CONSISTENCY	0.00%	6.00%	0.271
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN BANANA, AS AN EXOTIC FRUIT, AND WEALTHY CLASS	0.00%	4.00%	0.5121
Opacity	4.35%	34.00%	0.0007081*
<i>perdre pied</i> , lit. 'to lose foot', meaning 'to lose control of the situation/oneself'			
LOSING CONTACT WITH GROUND IN WATER (TO DROWN) IS LIKE LOSING CONTROL OF THE SITUATION/ONESELF	36.36%	0.00%	2.29E-02*
THE ABSENCE OF A FOOT ENTAILS LACK OF STABILITY/BALANCE	29.55%	26.09%	0.896
THE ABSENCE OF A FOOT MAKES PEOPLE FALL	15.91%	6.52%	0.2797
WITHOUT FOOT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO WALK/TO GO ON	13.64%	41.30%	0.00706*
FOOT AS A MEAN OF MEASUREMENT	0.00%	10.87%	0.07345
Other	4.55%	4.35%	1
Opacity	0.00%	10.87%	0.07345
<i>coup du lapin</i> , lit. 'hit of the rabbit', meaning 'trickery, betrayal'			
BETRAYAL AS A METHOD TO KILL RABBITS	46.51%	4.00%	4.99E-03*
BETRAYAL IS LIKE A WHIPLASH INJURY	13.95%	0.00%	0.02102*
ANALOGY BETWEEN BETRAYER'S AND RABBIT'S BEHAVIOR	6.98%	50.00%	1.85E-02*
ANALOGY BETWEEN BETRAYER'S AND RABBIT'S AGILITY	2.33%	12.00%	0.171

ANALOGY BETWEEN THE SURPRISE EFFECT DUE TO A BETRAYAL AND A MAGIC TRICK	4.65%	2.00%	0.8943
Opacity	25.58%	32.00%	0.6521
<i>dormir sur ses deux oreilles</i> , lit. 'to sleep on one's two ears', meaning 'to sleep deeply and calmly'			
IF BOTH EARS COVERED, NO NOISE CAN BE HEARD/DISTURB THE SLEEP	42.59%	35.29%	0.5714
LACK OF DANGER/FEELING SAFE MAKES PEOPLE SLEEP DEEPLY/CALMLY	25.93%	7.84%	0.02794*
A COMFORTABLE POSITION IN BED MAKES PEOPLE SLEEP DEEPLY/CALMLY	18.52%	29.41%	0.2799
Other	1.85%	3.92%	0.9599
Opacity	11.11%	23.53%	0.1532
<i>sucrer les fraises</i> , lit. 'to add sugar to strawberries', meaning 'to be doddering, senile'			
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN ADDING SUGAR TO SWEET FOOD AND BEING DODDERING/SENILE	29.17%	54.17%	0.02277*
ADDING SUGAR TO SWEET FOOD AS A MEANINGLESS HABIT	14.58%	16.67%	1
ADDING SUGAR MAKES HANDS SHAKE, WHICH IS ASSOCIATED WITH ELDERLY PEOPLE	10.42%	0.00%	0.06616
Other	4.17%	4.17%	1
Opacity	41.67%	25.00%	0.1296
<i>loup de mer</i> , lit. 'wolf of sea', meaning 'experienced and capable person'			
EXPERIENCED PERSON AS AN EXPERIENCED SAILOR	31.91%	28.57%	0.9112
EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A TYPE OF FISH	10.64%	0.00%	0.0864
EXPERIENCED PERSON AS A WOLF	25.53%	52.38%	0.01713*
Opacity	31.91%	19.05%	0.2536