

Basic Issues in Cognitive Linguistics: Course Overview

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History of CL

- Started in the 70s.
- Central figures: Wallace Chafe, Charles Fillmore, George Lakoff, Ronald Langacker, and Leonard Talmy.
- Assumption: Meaning is central to language. Linguistic structures serve the function of expressing meanings and hence the mappings between meaning and form are a prime subject.
- Opposed to: The prevalent idea that meaning was 'interpretive' and peripheral to the study of language. The central object of interest in language was syntax.

Milestones in the 80s

- Took off in the 80s.
- Milestones:
 - *Metaphors We Live By*
 - *Foundations of Cognitive Grammar, 2 vol.*
 - *Women, Fire and Dangerous Things*
 - *Topics in Cognitive Linguistics*, ed. by Brygida Rudzka-Ostyn

The Enterprise

- Interprets lg in terms of concepts and bodily experience
- George Lakoff
- Ronald Langacker
- Len Talmy



Visiting Scholars



- Yoshihiko Ikegami



- Laura Janda



- Zoltan Kovacs

Meaning and understanding

- Central concern of Cognitive Linguistics: meaning and ways of understanding.
- What do you see?
- Meaning of the picture resides in the way we understand it.
- Meaning of a situation resides in the way we verbalize it.



Understanding Emotions

- My love is a red, red rose.
- Robert Burns.
- O Ephraim, what am I to do to you? O Judah, what am I to do to you? For your love is like a morning cloud, and like the dew which goes early away.
- Hosea 6:4.
- Lakoff on LOVE
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu-9rpJITY8>)

Applications of CL

- Used in studying various sorts of *real data*:
 - Specialized genres (literary/legal/tourism etc.)
 - Translation (cross-linguistic)
 - Second language acquisition/teaching

Assignment 4

- Based on your research statement, write a 1-page assignment on the research methodology (choice of materials). Justify why such material choice is important. Stress methodological rigor (how your data is representative of the language/culture at issue).
- For example, if you plan to compare languages, what are some possible ways?

Housekeeping

- Show syllabus.