Collostructional analysis meets metaphors: A study on Indonesian near-synonyms of HAPPINESS

Gede Primahadi-Wijaya-Rajeg (Monash University)

Metaphorical conceptualisation of emotions is one of the major areas of interest within the field of Conceptual Metaphor Theory. However, most studies in this area have mainly focused on the metaphors of broad, basic-level emotion concepts (e.g. ANGER, HAPPINESS, etc.) (cf. Soriano, 2013). In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in the metaphor analysis of more specific emotion words (e.g. anger, fury, rage) under one emotion category (i.e. ANGER), entailing the interaction of metaphorical usages and near-synonyms of emotions (cf. Stefanowitsch, 2004; Ogarkova, 2007).

This study addresses this issue in a case study of three Indonesian near-synonyms of HAPPINESS, viz. kebahagiaan, kesenangan, and kegembiraan. First, it explores the distinctive metaphorical collocational patterns of the three words by combining metaphorical pattern analysis with multiple distinctive collexeme analysis (cf. Stefanowitsch, 2005, 2013). Second, the distinctive metaphorical patterns are further explored as to what metaphorical concepts are conveyed, potentially showing distinctive metaphorical meaning-construction of each word. The data comes from the Indonesian corpus of the Leipzig Corpora Collection. In this study, a 200-item random sample of the concordance for each word is analysed.

The result of multiple distinctive collexeme analysis suggests that there are subtle yet clear differences in the words’ metaphorical collocational patterns. This distributional difference accentuates different ways the three words are profiled metaphorically.

For kebahagiaan, most of its distinctive metaphorical patterns highlight the ‘attainment’ aspect of HAPPINESS, which is construed metaphorically as an ACQUISITION OF A PHYSICAL OBJECT. Another distinctive metaphorical pattern for kebahagiaan indicates that the attained emotion-object could be evaluated on its GENUINENESS.

Turning to kesenangan, the most distinctive metaphorical patterns evokes the SEARCHING OF AN OBJECT. In addition, the ‘attainment’ aspect is also profiled by the other two distinctive metaphorical patterns, evoking the ACQUISITION OF A PHYSICAL OBJECT metaphor and, more specifically, NOURISHMENT metaphor (cf. Lakoff & Johnson, 1999, p. 197).

In contrast to the previous two words, the majority of the distinctive metaphorical patterns for kegembiraan foreground the ‘intensity’ of HAPPINESS. It is profiled via three metaphorical concepts: LIQUID IN A CONTAINER, INTENSITY IS QUANTITY, and NATURAL FORCE. Another highlighted aspect is the ‘expression’ of HAPPINESS conveyed via (IN)VISIBLE OBJECT and BODY-FACE IS CONTAINER FOR EMOTION metaphors (cf. Ogarkova & Soriano, 2014, p. 108). Kegembiraan also attracts metaphorical patterns referring to NOURISHMENT, similar to kesenangan. The remainder of the distinctive metaphorical patterns for kegembiraan evoke COLOUR and EXISTENCE/ABSENCE OF EMOTION IS PRESENCE/ABSENCE (OF AN OBJECT) (cf. Kövecses, 2000, p. 41).

References


