

Conceptual Integration Theory in Idiom Modifications

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Publicacions de la Universitat de Valencia, 2020

Monografía

The long-standing view that idioms are formally and thus also semantically fixed has been challenged and many studies have shown that idioms are indeed flexible both structurally and semantically to varying degrees. We often come across examples of creatively used idioms, with their original structure disrupted and their semantics affected in the process. This book investigates the phenomenon of innovation and creation in phraseology and examine the limits to innovation, i.e. question whether modified idioms are choreographed by a set of principles or constraints, and whether these principles are coherent. The Conceptual Integration Theory is used to analyze modified phraseological units in order to provide insights into mechanisms which regulate their creation and cognitive organization. This theory not only provides insight into the way we produce, but also gives clues about the ways in which we process modified figurative expressions. The Conceptual Integration Theory seems to offer us the key for unlocking the internal cognitive choreography of idiom modifications presented in our corpus

Título: Conceptual Integration Theory in Idiom Modifications

Edición: 1

Editorial: 20200127

Editorial: Spain Publicacions de la Universitat de Valencia 2020

Descripción física: 128 pages

Mención de serie: ENGLISH IN THE WORLD SERIES 17

Audiencia: General/trade General/trade

Fuente de adquisición directa: Universidades españolas Intercambio científico

ISBN: 9788491345565

Materia: Language study Lingüística Intercambio científico

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