



Marija Omazić
University of Osijek

Delibegović Džanić, Nihada; Berberović, Sanja. 2019. *Conceptual Integration Theory in Idiom Modifications*. Valencia: Publicacions de la Universitat de València, ISBN 978-84-9134-534-3, 126 pp.

The book *Conceptual Integration Theory in Idiom Modifications* looks at the phenomenon of idiom modifications through the lens of cognitive linguistics and aims to account for idiom modification mechanisms using the apparatus of conceptual integration theory.

The long-standing view that idioms are formally and thus also semantically fixed has been challenged in many studies that have shown that idioms are indeed flexible both structurally and semantically to varying degrees. This book investigates the phenomenon of innovation and creativity in phraseology and examines the limits to innovation, i.e. it questions whether modified idioms are choreographed by a set of principles or constraints and whether these principles are coherent. 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 book examines the phenomenon of innovation and creation in phraseology and studies the limits of the first one, that is, it asks whether the modified idioms are organized by a set of principles or restrictions, and if these principles are consistent. The theory of conceptual integration is used to analyze modified phraseological units in order to provide insight into the mechanisms that regulate their creation and cognitive organization.

At the beginning of the book there is a brief introduction which provides essential background information about the research and methodology. The authors state their hypothesis and elaborate on their choice of theoretical framework and methodology that will be applied in their book.

The second chapter gives the overview of phraseology as a separate linguistic discipline and its close connection to cognitive linguistics. This short chapter serves as an introduction to the next chapter on idioms and idiomatic expressions, in which the authors extensively discuss different definitions of idioms, their char-

acteristics and classifications of idioms. The authors also provide insights into cognitive linguistic view of idioms which as the authors of this book put it ‘represents an alternative to the traditional view, according to which idioms are understood as expressions that are independent of any conceptual system and whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meaning of their constituents’. In this chapter authors also discuss different approaches to classification of idioms in terms of their modifiability. After discussing different classifications, the authors opt for the one suggested by Omazić (2003, 2015), which serves as the basis for the analysis of the selected examples in chapter five. These are syntagmatic and pragmatic modification, lexical modification and structural modification. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic modification involves adjective gradation, pluralization, and negation of positive expressions and affirmation of negative statements. Lexical modification is further divided into substitution, addition and extension. Structural modification involves four subtypes: blending, clipping, permutation and reconstruction.

Chapter four provides the overview of the conceptual integration theory, which presents the theoretical framework for this study. The theory was proposed by Fauconnier & Turner in 1993 as an extension Fauconnier’s (1985) mental space theory. The basic ideas behind conceptual blending theory have since been elaborated in the works of Fauconnier & Turner (2006 [1998], 2000, 2002), Turner & Fauconnier (1995, 1999, 2003), Turner (2007, 2014), Coulson & Oakley (2000), Grady et al. (1999). Conceptual blending is essential for the simplest kinds of thought and conceptual integration is an unconscious activity embedded in every aspect of human life (Fauconnier & Turner, 2002:18).

Chapter five presents an extensive analysis of sixty-seven modified idiomatic expressions divided in seven categories depending of the type of modification they exhibit: formal blending, clipping, permutation, reconstruction, addition, substitution and mixed types (permutation and clipping, addition and clipping, substitution and clipping, substitution and addition). Modification mechanisms are explained using the postulates of the Conceptual Integration Theory. A set of vital relations and governing principles, suggested by Fauconnier and Turner (2002), are tested on selected examples to see which vital relations and governing principles are present and therefore regulate the relations within the conceptual integration network.

In chapter six the authors provide concluding remarks stating that this study has shown that the conceptual integration theory can be used to analyze modified phraseological material in order to provide insights into mechanisms which regulate its creation and cognitive organization. The theory not only provides insight into the way we produce, but may also give clues about the ways in which we process mod-



ified and blended figurative expressions. The conceptual integration theory provides us with the key for unlocking the internal cognitive choreography of idiom modifications.

From a theoretical and methodological perspective, this book represents an important contribution to contemporary research in the field of phraseology, highlighting alternative methodological tools for the description of modified phraseological units. Furthermore, previous research on this topic from the cognitive linguistic perspective has been sporadic and has offered only glimpses into and not a full account of the phenomenon of idiom modification. This book is therefore recommended to anyone who is interested in a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of idiom modifications.

References

- Coulson, Seana & Oakley, Todd. 2000. Blending basics. *Cognitive Linguistics* 11(3–4). 175–196. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/cogl.2001.014>
- Grady, Joseph & Oakley, Todd & Coulson, Seana. 1999. Blending and metaphor. In Gibbs, Raymond & Steen, Gerard (eds.), *Metaphor in cognitive linguistics*, 101–124. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.175.07gra>
- Fauconnier, Gilles. 1985. *Mental spaces*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
- Fauconnier, Gilles & Turner, Mark. 2000. Compression and global insight. *Cognitive Linguistics* 11(3–4). 283–304. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1515/cogl.2001.017>
- Fauconnier, Gilles & Turner, Mark. 2002. *The way we think: Conceptual blending and the mind's hidden complexities*. New York: Basic Books.
- Fauconnier, Gilles & Turner, Mark. 2006. Conceptual integration networks. In Geeraerts, Dirk (ed.) *Cognitive linguistics: Basic readings*, 303–371. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. Reprint of 1998. Conceptual integration networks. *Cognitive Science* 22(2). 133–187. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110199901.303>
- Omazić, Marija. 2003. *Modifications of phraseological units in English*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Zagreb: Filozofski fakultet.
- Omazić, Marija. 2015. *Phraseology through the looking glass*. Osijek: Sveučilište Josipa Jurja Strossmayera u Osijeku, Filozofski fakultet.
- Turner, Mark 2007. Conceptual integration. In Geeraerts, Dirk & Cuyckens, Hubert (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of cognitive linguistics*, 377–393. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199738632.013.0015](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199738632.013.0015)
- Turner, Mark. 2014. *The origin of ideas: Blending, creativity, and the human spark*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Turner, Mark & Fauconnier, Gilles. 1995. Conceptual integration and formal expression.



Metaphor and Symbolic Activity 10(3). 183–204.

Turner, Mark & Fauconnier, Gilles. 1999. A mechanism of creativity. *Poetics Today* 20(3). 297–418.

Turner, Mark & Fauconnier, Gilles. 2003. Metaphor, metonymy, and binding. In Dirven, Rene & Pörings, Ralf (eds.), *Metaphor and metonymy in comparison and contrast*, 469–487. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110219197.4.469>