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Generating Polysemy: Metaphor and Metonymy

The general principle of concept formation consists in ordering growing sets of data, especially satisfaction situations for expressions, according to similarity and contiguity under perspectives into stabilising sequences which are the (quasi)concepts that form the basic experiential conceptual structure. The same principles also give rise to metaphoric or metonymic language use, which result in new concepts expressed by old lexical expressions. The preference of stability within an evolving conceptual structure induces force towards extending these structures by metaphor and metonymy, whenever situations are met which do not fit into the concepts already established salva stability. Including cases of metaphorical and metonymical use of an expression into the already established concepts expressed by the expression would destabilise these concepts.

I shall argue that metaphor and metonymy do not only involve a transfer of a conceptual network from a source domain onto a target domain, as claimed by cognitive approaches, but also involve a shift in perspective which makes possible the transfer from the one domain to the other by selecting suitable aspects of the source network, and also the source domain, which can be satisfied on the target domain. Concept broadening and concept narrowing, on the other hand, do not involve a shift of perspective; rather they happen under the same perspective, which might at most be made less or more specific. A perspective provides a selection of those dimensions or similarity spaces in which the aspects of the concepts that fall under the perspective are determined in contrast to other concepts that fall under the same perspective. A perspective can formally be seen as the set of the possible concepts that fall under it. In concept formation a perspective precedes the several concepts that fall under it. Primarily perspectives are provided as horizons for understanding by activities, desires, dispositions, groups of activated sensors. Secondarily new perspectives are constructed on the basis of culturally established practices, tasks, and processes of theory formation based on previously acquired knowledge and concept formation. There are, for example, basic quality perspectives or dimensions for colour, form, and motion concepts, and there are complex conjunctions of perspectives of characterisation for events and individuals, for example those opened up by the questions "What kind of party was it?", or "What kind of instrument is this?", or "What kind of animal is this?". Metaphoric language use always happens under perspectives. It happens on both, on the experiential and on the linguistically explicated theoretical level of concept formation.

The application of the perspective-dependent similarity operation occurs on different levels, on the experiential level in sorting out identity and opposition of phenomenal properties and identity and opposition of relationships in creating qualitative, quantitative, relational and ontological kind categories, and on the theoretical level in sorting out identity and opposition of features and relationships which are expressed linguistically in coherent sets of general sentences held true.
(theories). The role of similarity is not restricted to the identity of internal properties of objects and situations, rather similarity also is due to identity of external contiguity relationships between objects, between situations, and it is due to relationships of objects and situations with emotional attitudes, desires, and behavioural dispositions of people. Thus a cold metal bar can be similar to a cold colour by partly having an identical relationship to the emotional reactions of humans. Both have a same effect in causing a certain emotional reaction. Also causal relationships expressed in theories, and the roles something plays in rules and norms can create similarity which we take into account in concept formation. (For a comprehensive representation of the roles of similarity and theories in concept formation as it is discussed in Cognitive Psychology see Cognition 65: 2,3-.)

Growing contiguity sets of situations, and growing similarity sets of situations form concepts on the experiential level by stabilisation. Growing sets of satisfaction situations for an expression e under perspective $P$ stabilises such that they become an extensional representation of a concept. Stabilisation consists in convergence of the internal similarity measure under the perspective, in opposition or contrast to other concepts under the same perspective. That a set of data stabilises means that new data do not anymore change the internal similarity measure. They create the preconditions for higher level formation of new concepts and features, i.e. concepts that figure in the formal analysis of other concepts on the theoretical level of concept formation. Similarity under perspectives also creates the preconditions for recognising repeated contiguity relationships. In this spiral of interaction between the two principles of concept formation, similarity and contiguity, data get understood on different levels in analysis and re-analysis. The primary data are situations which are understood as situational experiences according to the perspectival selections made from the conceptual structures established so far at a certain point in development.

The similarity principle applied to data on different levels of concept formation gives rise to general concepts on the respective lower or higher levels, for example on the first level of situational impressions, and later on the level of individuals and events. The contiguity principle gives rise to historical concepts, especially particular event concepts and individual concepts. They are partial historical concepts which are understood as such by being seen as embedded or embeddible into larger sets of situations connected by contiguity relationships such that coherence is preserved. This embeddibility of partial concepts into larger similarity and contiguity sets of situations salva stability and coherence means to take the partial concepts as representations of realistic or complete concepts in the world, namely of individuals, and of real situations, and furtheron of total sets of such entities as property extensions.

After historical concepts, i.e. concepts of particular events and concepts of individuals, have been formed they are used in analysing situations. Herewith the experienced situations are analysed or re-analysed with respect to our standard ontology of individuals, where individuals are the participants in basic situations, which are characterised by activities, actions, and generally basic events, processes and states. We then are able to understand situational impressions as realistic situations. Situations and individuals can then be the basis for construing general kind concepts by a new round of application of the similarity principle on this higher level. General kind concepts generalise over individuals in situations and thus contain the possible roles of individuals of a certain kind in situations, and general event and action concepts generalise over situations containing the possible kinds of individuals that participate in certain roles within these situations. Such higher level general
concepts then function in our understanding of situational impressions as real situations. *Understanding* a situation means 1. embedding it into stabilising sequences of growing similarity sets of data salva stability. This is classification by general concepts. *Understanding* a situation means 2. embedding it into contiguity sets of data salva coherence. This is identification by historical concepts, especially individual concepts.

In this model of *Dynamic Conceptual Semantics*, a theory of concept formation and understanding, metaphor and metonymy are new ways of continuing series of satisfaction situations for an expression on the experiential level, and they are also new selections from available features on the theoretical level, according to contextually introduced perspectives. Both ways, the metaphorical and the metonymical, consist in the same cognitive operations as in all concept formation: similarity relations and contiguity relations are selected under perspectives and are used in structuring the growing sets of data into similarity sets and contiguity sets. Metaphor is based on perspective change and similarity under the new perspective, metonymy is based on perspective change and contiguity relationships, such as part-whole, cause-effect, means-end, action-result, instrument-action. Important is that the concept from where the transfer of the expression originates, the source concept, is already stabilised to a high degree: Integrating the new use of the expression into the old concept, i.e. into the old data under the previous perspective would destabilise the concept. This means that it does not fit into the old concept. Young children have not yet developed conceptual stability and thus cannot experience destabilisation.

For early developmental stages of concept formation, which we find in small children, there is no distinction between normal language use and metaphoric or metonymic use. There is just language use guided by similarity and contiguity under changing perspectives. Only when conceptual stability is almost reached the difference between standard use and creative use of an expression comes about. In metaphoric and metonymic language use the process of concept formation is pushed into a new direction of use of an expression due to the stabilisation principle and by the change of perspective, often from a default or more common perspective under which the expression has been used and is used normally, to a context-dependent, locally introduced perspective. On both levels of thinking and understanding, the experiential and the linguistically explicated theoretical level, fairly subjective and local series of experiences and theories can play a role in devising similarity and contiguity relationships, besides experiences that are generally made and theories or stereotypes that are generally adhered to in a speech community. On these locally or globally established experiential and theoretical concepts the new perspectives are applied and provide by selection the experiential basis or the explicated feature basis of the metaphor which is further enriched by special situational experiences and features derived from additional knowledge. Selection and enrichment together create the new concept arising from the metaphoric use of an expression.

I shall first give a recursive definition of polysemy and show how the assumption of truthfulness of the utterance and general principles of concept formation play a role in understanding and designing a new interpretation of an expression. Then I shall discuss the more cognitive approach to metaphor, exemplified by the theory proposed by Indurkhya. The goal is to show how both approaches together give a fairly detailed theory about the creation and interpretation of metaphor.
1. Definition and generation of polysemic complexes in interpretation

A perspective can be reconstructed as a second order concept of a certain kind, i.e. a concept of concepts. This is a set of concepts which can be discriminated under the selection of information the perspective provides. A perspective can be formulated by a question, or created by an interest or desire. Then the concepts are expressed by the predicates that are possible answers to the question or are possible fulfilments of the interest or desire. For example: What kind of animal is this? What kind of instrument is this? What is its colour? What is its behaviour? What is its function? What about this applicant's health? How does he do economically? etc. To look at something under perspective \( P \), for example looking for an activity-property, a health property, a behaviour property of someone means to attend to aspects of an individual or a situation which can be a specification of the kind of activity, the state of health, or the behaviour shown in this case. For example, the metonymy *Get me the liver from the second floor* uttered by a physician, when preparing for a medical examination of a patient, involves a change from the perspective provide by the question “Which kind of organ?”, under which *liver* is primarily and normally used, to the perspective provided by the question “What kind of patient?” The contiguity relationship involved is the part-whole relationship. The metaphor *Get this pig into the bath-room* uttered by a desperate father referring to his little son totally under the mud, involves a change in perspectives from “What natural kind?” to “What behaviour-dependent appearance?” under which similarity is imminent between a stereotypical pig and the little boy.

A polysemic complex is of the same logical type as second order concepts are; it is a set of first order concepts. But this set is differently structured than a perspective. The internal structure of a perspective is that the concepts under or within the perspective form oppositions to each other, while the internal structure of a polysemic complex is that the concepts within the complex are related by metaphoric and metonymic relationships. The principles of forming these complexes of concepts are metonymic and metaphoric relationships, which amount to relationships of contiguity and similarity (cf. Jakobson 1960), across different perspectives. The relationships of similarity and contiguity are the same as in concept formation generally. The only difference is that they are not applied under a single perspective but in crossing the delimitations of a perspective and entering into another perspective. We also find such crossing over perspectives in the use of words by small children, for example the famous example from Igelburger, adapted by Vygotsky: The word for dog, let us say *dog*, was transferred by the child from dogs to furl coats and to a toothbrush, and it was transferred from dogs to shining round eyes and then to buttons. For the child this is a normal way of doing; but its gets pushed in language training towards keeping perspectives stable for the use of a word, i.e. not to cross borders between perspectives deliberately. When stabilisation of a concept under a perspective, in opposition to other concepts under the same perspectives, is achieved, crossing the borders of the perspective in word transfer is possible in order to preserve stability of the primary established concept by not integrating into it cases of use of the same word that do not fit salva stabilitate. When that happens the transfer by similarity or contiguity can be called metaphoric or metonymic. Metaphor and metonymy presuppose an already stabilised concept and a conventionalised use of the word for this concept. Starting from there new concepts are formed.
I. Recursive definition of a POLCOMP(e):

1. \( P \in \text{POLCOMP}(e) \)
2. If for all situations \( s \) in which \( P' \) is realised, the expression \( e \) is taken to be satisfied by \( s \), and there is a \( P \) with \( P \in \text{POLCOMP}(e) \) such that metonymic(\( P', P \)) or metaphoric(\( P', P \)), then \( P' \in \text{POLCOMP}(e) \).

The expression \( e \) used under perspective \( P \) then expresses the property \( P' \) in the intersection of \( P \) and \( \text{POLCOMP}(e) \):

\[
P \cap \text{POLCOMP}(e) = \{P'\}
\]

This ordering on the realistic level finds a corresponding ordering on the experiential level of concept formation. Let \( P \) be a quasi-concept in the process of stabilisation or already stabilised as a concept. From there the polysemic complex of concepts is built one step further by adding a newly created concept \( P' \) under condition 2 specified in the definition as follows:

2'. If for all situations \( s \) which fall under concept \( P' \) under perspective \( P \), the expression \( e \) is taken to be satisfied by \( s \), and there is a concept \( P \) with \( P \in \text{POLCOMP}(e) \) such that metonymic(\( P', P \)) or metaphoric(\( P', P \)), then \( P' \in \text{POLCOMP}(e) \).

Of course, there is a starter concept, the first established concept \( P \) expressed by \( e \). To it the second concept \( P' \) is added if it conforms to condition 2'. Then more can be added, by originating either from the first or the second.

II. Generating polysemy on the experiential level:

Assumptions:

1. Expression \( e \) is used with respect to situation \( s \) truthfully, i.e. \( s \) is referred to as a satisfaction situation of \( e \).
2. \( e \) is used under perspective \( P \).
3. The concept that has to be assigned as being expressed by \( e \) under \( P \) with respect to \( s \) has to be eligible as a potential member of the polysemic complex of \( e \).

Goal:

Find a concept \( P' \) with \( P' \in P \) and \( P' \) being realised in \( s \) such that it fulfills the condition for being a member of the polysemic complex of \( e \).

Procedure of concept construction:

I. Take the set of previous satisfaction situations for \( e \).
II. Delineate a (new) similarity set for \( e \) under \( P \), named: \( S_{e,i} \). Choose \( S_{e,i} \) such that \( s = s' \) for all \( s' \in S_{e,i} \).
III. Extend that set with the new satisfaction situation \( s \) of \( e \) such that this extension obeys \( P \)-harmony and opposition to other \( P \)-properties, and that we can construct a sequence of growing subsets up to \( S_{e,i} \cup \{s\} \) with a converging decline of the internal similarity degree, keeping intact opposition under \( P \). If that is not possible for \( S_{e,i} \), then delineate another similarity set for \( e \) under \( P \) which satisfies these conditions and name it \( S_{e,i} \).

Result:

The quasi-concept \( S_{e,i} \cup \{s\} \), approximating a concept which is a reconstruction of a property, i.e. a concept, realised in \( s \).
An example on the experiential level of concept formation would be that a child had a series of previous experiences of pig-situations, which built up his pig-concept by contiguity and similarity ordering. In these situations the pigs got themselves often quite dirty by roaming around in the mud. Now the mother scolds the child when coming home dirty by exclaiming What a pig you are! The perspective under which the mother sees the child, which also is the one under which the child has to understand his or her mother's exclamation, is the perspective of appearance and possibly also the perspective of behaviour applying to the situation that caused this appearance. These perspectives select the typical behavioural aspects and the related appearance aspects in the experiential concept constituted by pig-situations. They are typical in contrast with the behaviour and appearance properties of horses, dogs and cats with which the child also has become acquainted in his surroundings. The child will understand his mother's exclamation by seeing his own behaviour and appearance as upsetting to his mother and hereby as negatively valued, and it will understand it cognitively by embedding his situation of behaviour and his situation of appearance into the series of pig situations he has experienced previously under the perspectives of behaviour and appearance, but not under the perspective of natural kind. Under the two relevant perspectives he can continue a selection of pig-behaviour and pig-appearance situations by adding to these salva stabilisation the experienced situations in which he himself shows the behaviour and the appearance that fits as a continuation of the respective experiences of pig situations. In this way he creates the new concept of being a pig which is situated under the perspectives of behaviour and appearance, contrasting to other behaviour and appearance concepts. This concept can be truly predicated not only about pigs in the appropriate situations but also about himself, and possibly about other people. The primary, or standard perspective under which the word pig is used is the natural kind perspective, the secondary perspectives under which the metaphoric use is created are the perspective of behaviour and the perspective of appearance.

On the theoretical level of concept formation a concept expressed by an expression is explicated linguistically in the semantically characteristic syntagmatic field of the expression. This characteristic field consists of the set of general sentences held true in which the expression appears as a general term. The sentential contexts of this generalised expression in this set of general sentences form the semantically characteristic distribution of the term. It consists of the semantically characteristic predicates, and also conjunctions of these. They form the features of the concept, as far as they are linguistically expressed. A concept so explicated is called a linguistically explicated concept. The characteristic distribution of a term can be restricted to a subset of the general sentences held true which by internal coherence forms a theory. Then the concept is a theoretical concept with respect to that theory. Within a theory those features or predicates can be selected which constitute the semantic difference of this term to other terms in the theory. These form the specific semantic characteristic distribution which distinguishes the concept expressed by this term from the concepts which stand in opposition to this term. For example, there are specific features which distinguish a fox from a wolf under the perspective of natural kind, under the perspective of behaviour, and under the perspective of appearance, especially under the perspective of colour of the furl. In transferring the word wolf from the natural kind perspective to the behaviour perspective in the metaphoric use in John is a wolf or this dog is a real wolf, or even in this wolf is a real wolf; when predicated of a very fiercely acting dog or wolf, the perspective of behaviour which is at issue in these examples selects the behaviour features of our wolf concept (within a
certain theory) from which the specific ones that distinguish wolf-behaviour from the 
behaviour of other comparable animals are selected as being at issue in the 
metaphorical predication. The behavioural concept of a wolf is furtheron enriched by 
behavioural characteristics we find in the new situations to which the term is applied 
metaphorically. In the example Look at this fox while pointing to a man with red hair 
the perspective of appearance, especially the perspective of hair colour selects the 
fox-specific features which are at issue here.

The examples above serve to illustrate briefly how metaphor works in creating 
new concepts as part of polysemic complexes on the experiential and on the 
theoretical level of concept formation. Perspectives play a major role in this process 
They are constituted by contextually or situationally available information about 
focus of attention, desires, interests. I shall now discuss briefly Indurkhya's theory of 
metaphors, which is currently the best and most elaborated treatment of metaphor 
among the cognitive approaches. I shall show that this approach has to be 
supplemented by taking into account selection through perspectives. The notions of 
cognitive schema or conceptual network used in cognitive approaches are equivalent 
to the notion of concept as it is used above. A cognitive schema is an abstraction from 
a series of examples; it is a representation of what they have in common. Because we 
are hardly able to fully express what a schema is of, for example, a dog, I prefer the 
extensional representation of a concept by a maximal similarity set of a stabilising 
sequence of similarity sets of examples. A linguistically explicit representation of a 
cognitive schema or conceptual network is a set of general sentences held true, where 
the concept-expressing term is used under generalising quantification. Such a 
linguistically explicit representation is more exact than a graphically represented 
conceptual network because the linguistic representation not only makes explicit all 
the relationships between the concepts in the network, but also says whether the 
concepts are to be read under universal or existential quantification, or under a 
stereotypical generalisation. The notion of a theoretical concept in the broad sense 
used above is a precise representation of a conceptual network. Keeping this in mind, 
the cognitive approaches to metaphor fit into the framework presented above, though 
they model some aspects in more detail, mostly by way of example, and let other 
aspects remain in the dark, namely the role of perspectives and context dependence in 
general.

2. Indurkhya's theory of metaphors

Cognitive theories on metaphor, such as N. Goodman’s, G. Lakoff’s or B. 
Indurkhya’s, typically use the notions ‘conceptual scheme’ or ‘conceptual network’. 
They understand metaphor as a transfer of a conceptual network or scheme from one 
domain, its primary domain, onto another secondary domain with quite a different 
ontology than the first domain. How that is possible in an acceptable way usually 
remains in the dark. Here, I think, the notion of a contextually introduced perspective 
would be helpful. How can, for example, the local preposition in be transferred onto a 
so-called abstract domain? ‘To be in war with another state’, or ‘to live in poverty’, or 
‘to be in mourning’ do not express local inclusion. Rather they express inclusion in a 
situation or a constellation of situations which we call ‘war’, or inclusion in 
constellations of situations which we call ‘poverty’ or ‘mourning’. Here the 
preposition in is used less abstract as one might think in the first place. The situation 
of war, poverty, or mourning are quite concrete in space and time, and inside such
concrete constellations the situations are placed which make up part of the life history of the individual which is said to be in war, in poverty, or in mourning. What happens is that the perspective of local ordering, in which *in* is primarily used, is replaced by new perspectives, namely the constellational orderings in which situations of a life history are placed in space, time and causal contiguity with situations which make up a war, poverty, or mourning. These perspectives can be expressed by questions such as ‘In what kind of political constellation does this state perform?’, ‘In what socio-economic condition does this person live?’, ‘In what kind of emotionally relevant situation does this individual live?’. These questions already contain the word *in*, which is here specified by the perspective introduced by the respective question. In the answers, in which the above phrases are used, the preposition *in* is used under these contextually introduced or just assumed perspectives. The perspectives select the specifics for the inclusion at issue, namely here the inclusion of situations of a life history of an individual within a constellation of situations, which in our examples is characterised as war, poverty, or mourning.

Indurkhya, in his cognitive theory of metaphor, distinguishes the source domain with its corresponding source network from the target domain with its target network. The network is a semantic network, also called conceptual network, which structures its domain and especially determines the ontology in which the domain is understood. Primarily, independently of a specific conceptual network, the domain is just a sensory-motoric data set. The idea is that the sensory-motoric data set gets interpreted by making use of a suitable conceptual network. I want to stress, that we are not really consciously aware of the sensory-motoric data-set itself, rather what we consciously perceive is already structured by the network at issue. According to Indurkhya, the network is projected onto the respective domain. A metaphoric transfer of a term from one domain to another, i.e. from the source domain to the target domain, involves a transfer of the corresponding source network from the source domain onto the target domain.

He distinguishes similarity based metaphors from similarity creating metaphors. In similarity based metaphors part of the source network is identical with part of the target network. This identity constitutes the similarity and via this identical partial structure the application of the source network to the target domain is mediated. The similarity based metaphor involves a comparative: one thing is as the other as far as the identity goes. Within this class of similarity based metaphors he distinguishes syntactic metaphors from suggestive metaphors.

The syntactic metaphor is closed: the similarity is completely determining what is predicated in the metaphoric sentence. Only the identical part of the two networks is predicated. The syntactic metaphor gives an easier cognitive access to the target realm if the source network is more familiar, it highlights certain aspects and plays down others, and by this it furthermore makes a new abstraction possible of the parts which are highlighted. An example would be to understand an electric current by comparison with a stream of water.

The suggestive metaphor is open-ended. There is an initial correspondence or similarity between source network and target network, but the source network adds more features and relationships to the target realm, which have not yet been expressed in the target network. Suggestive metaphors have played a stimulating role for the growth of science.

In similarity creating metaphors (or projective metaphors) the source network is projected onto the target domain, although there is no similarity between the source network and the target network to begin with. Though the target realm is primarily
referred to by means of the target network, the structuring of the target domain by the
target network is then disregarded and the source network is directly projected onto
the target domain, reorganising its ontology. A new description of the target realm is
provided, based on the metaphor. Examples are revolutionary metaphors in the history
of science by which a traditional description of the target domain gets discarded and a
new one established. As an example he gives the replacement of Newtonian
mechanics by Einstein’s relativity theory. Other examples are poetic metaphors, for
which Indurkhya gives as example a poem by Eavan Boland in which, among other
metaphors, a hillside covered with white flowering bushes of hawthorn is presented as
an “ivory, downhill rush”. “All I wanted then was to fill my arms with sharp flowers,
to seem from a distance, to be a part of the ivory, downhill rush”. The poet had
always known that one should not touch hawthorn, that it might be dangerous and
cause disease, and he concludes with “So I left it stirring on those hills with a fluency
only water has, And, like water, able to redefine land.” Indurkhya assumes that we
hardly ever have thought of these white flowers as water, haven't seen the similarity
before it was created by the poet.

3. Criticism and extension of Indurkhya’s theory

I want to make three points:

1. In similarity based metaphors perspectives are necessary to single out the
relevant similarities. Even for such a simple metaphor as ‘John is a wolf’ we find as
identical parts of the two conceptual networks that John, a human, and a wolf have
both two ears, have both two eyes, have a mouth, have teeth, etc. But all these
identities are not meant to be predicated of John in the metaphor. We need the
perspective of behaviour, and may be more specific the perspective of behaviour in
conflicts and fights to select the right aspects that make up the similarity which is
relevant here.

2. Not only network comparison or network projection makes metaphors,
which means that metaphor is not only achieved on the level of theoretical concept
formation. Rather also direct comparison of the target realm with the source realm by
which, without the explicitness of a conceptual network, the target item can be placed
/together with the source items under a perspective which directs us to realise a
/similarity under the perspective. The target domain is directly seen in the light of the
/source domain. Hereby the focus of attention is directed by a perspective or context.
This has been illustrated above where I sketched how metaphor works on the level of
/experiential concepts which are not explicated in linguistically expressed semantic
/network structures.

3. The similarity creating metaphors are similarity creating for someone who
has not yet seen directly, in experience, the target realm as belonging to the source
realm if seen under a certain perspective or seen in a certain context. For the poet they
are not similarity creating. He must have experienced the similarity in perception and
imagination. Thus he has found an existing similarity on the experiential level for
which he uses the explication by means of the available source network. In the poem
only the perspective given by the distance from the hawthorn could make it similar to
the ivory rush of water into which the poet would have leapt for a bath if he were not
taking into account the dangers of the hawthorn. He keeps in fact the target network
intact and confronts it with the source network, even so far that he realises that the
reality of the hawthorn makes him leave the imaginary world of the splashing water
that is only for anglers and wanderers astray in “the unmarked lights of a May dusk”,
where the fluency of water is “the only language spoken in those parts”. The target
network is not typically discarded in the poem, rather it is made repeatedly use of in
the course of the poem as a contrast to the source network, and it finally subjects the
source network under it. The decision to avoid close contact with the hawthorn is
made against the attraction introduced by the water metaphor. Here again reality wins
from the beautiful dream, which is merely an appearance in “the unmarked lights of a
May dusk”.

In a trivial sense all metaphors are similarity creating, namely for those that
have not yet thought of the similarity at issue. It is a matter of degree how probable
this situation is for different persons. Strictly speaking, we have to admit that there is
not creation of similarity. A similarity that is not there cannot be created. Rather it
comes into focus within the direction and selection which a context or a perspective
provides. Therefore similarity under a perspective is a precondition for the creation of
metaphor and a metaphor is not a pre-condition for the creation of similarity.

Selection and specification of relevant features by means of perspectives is
quite different from cancelling features which are not compatible with the new
domain, though one might think that selection and cancelling are just the converse
formulations of the same process. If we call the man John a wolf we just predicate of
him a selection of wolf features under the perspective of social behaviour. According
to cancelling, we would predicate of John in saying that he is wolf also that he has a
liver, kidneys, a heart, two eyes, etc., what all is not cancelled because man and wolf
both have all these features in common. Certainly we don't mean all that when we
metaphorically transfer the term *wolf* from the animal to the human. On the other
hand a perspective can also add features which are relevant in the metaphoric transfer,
as we have seen in the examples of the use of the preposition *in* above. The notion
‘perspective’ is essential for describing how metaphor works and it is essential for
understanding the whole process of concept formation of which metaphor is just a
part. In fact metaphor is just a normal part of concept formation which involves for
the new cases of use of the linguistic expression a change in perspective. The change
of perspective gives rise to a new concept if the use of the expression is continued
under the new perspective.

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