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Chained metonymies in lexicon and grammar -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Chained metonymies -- 3. Body part terms and their chained metonymies -- 4. Conclusion -- References -- Arguing the case against coercion -- Introduction -- 1. Defining terms -- 2. Examples of coercion in recent studies -- 3. Coercion in the construction of meaning -- 4. Conclusions -- References -- When Zidane is not simply Zidane, and Bill Gates is not just Bill Gates -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Objectivist theories of reference vs. cognitive approach to the figurative use of proper names -- 3. Metonymy and metaphor in the construction of the meaning of figuratively used proper names -- 4. Conclusions and prospects for further research -- References.

Collocational overlap can guide metaphor interpretation -- 1. Introduction -- 2. A frequency-based model of collocational overlap -- 3. An association-based model of collocational overlap -- 4. Evaluation of the model against native-speaker interpretations -- 5. General discussion -- References -- Part 2. Mental spaces and conceptual blending -- Constructing the meanings of personal pronouns -- References -- The construction of meaning in relative clauses -- 1. Introduction -- 2. The construction of meaning in relative clauses -- 3. Pragmatically and contextually driven interpretations -- 4. Conceptual and constructional constraints in the interpretation of relatives -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Constraints on inferential constructions -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Constraints on the English inferential construction -- 3. The distribution of inferential constructions in discourse -- 4. A discourse constraint on English inferential constructions -- 5. Discussion -- 6. Conclusion -- References -- The construction of vagueness -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Lexical sources -- 3. The functions of taxonomic nouns in scientific contexts -- 4. The emergence of approximative modifiers -- 5. From prepositional to modifying use -- 5. Conclusion -- References -- Dictionaries, corpora, and internet sources -- Communication or memory mismatch? -- 1. Introduction -- 2. Radical Experientialism and Cognitive Typology -- 3. Questions -- 4. Interrogation and memory mismatch -- 5. Conclusions -- References -- Brutal Brits and persuasive Americans -- 1. Introduction -- 2. A construction-based approach -- 3. Previous studies of the into-causative -- 4. The into-causative in British vs. American English -- 5. Summary -- References -- Index of authors -- Index of subjects -- Index of metonymies and metaphors.

Sommario/riassunto

Meaning does not reside in linguistic units but is constructed in the minds of the language users. Meaning construction is an on-line mental activity whereby speech participants create meanings on the basis of underspecified linguistic units. The construction of meaning is guided by cognitive principles. The contributions collected in the volume focus on two types of cognitive principles guiding meaning construction: meaning construction by means of metonymy and metaphor, and meaning construction by means of mental spaces and conceptual blending. The papers in the former group survey experiential evidence of figurative meaning construction and discuss high-level metaphor and metonymy, the role of metonymy in discourse, the chaining of metonymies, metonymy as an alternative to coercion, and metaphorical meanings of proper names. The papers in the latter group address the issues of meaning construction prompted by personal pronouns, relative clauses, inferential constructions, "sort-of" expressions, questions, and the into-causative construction.
