
Processing differences between single and extended metaphors and similes

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Abstract

Do we process *a lie is a dagger* in the same way as we process a lie is like a dagger? Some theories claim that the processing of metaphors and similes draws on different cognitive mechanisms, while others do not. Further, some theories of metaphor comprehension claim that single metaphors are processed similarly to extended metaphors, while others state the opposite. In this eye-tracking reading study, we investigate processing of single and extended metaphors and similes. Our results suggest that there are differences between processing single and extended metaphors, as well as between similes and metaphors.

Keywords: Metaphor, Simile, Figurative language

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