

The Role of Gesture in Conceptual Metaphor Theory: A Multimodal Discourse Analysis of Metaphor Use in Everyday Communication

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دور الإيماءات في نظرية الاستعارة المفهومية: تحليل خطابي متعدد الوسائط لاستخدام

الاستعارة في التواصل اليومي

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Abstract: The study explores the interplay between gesture and verbal metaphor in everyday communication through the lens of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) and multimodal discourse analysis (MDA). While CMT posits that metaphors shape our understanding of abstract concepts, this research investigates how gestures complement, enhance, or modify these metaphorical expressions. By analyzing conversational data, including video recordings of natural interactions, the study identifies how gestures align with or diverge from verbal metaphors, providing additional context and emotional nuance. Utilizing Kress and van Leeuwen's framework of multimodal analysis, the research examines the representational, interactive, and compositional meanings of gestures in relation to metaphorical language. The findings reveal that gestures not only reinforce but can also expand or alter the meaning of metaphors, offering a more comprehensive understanding of multimodal communication. This integration of cognitive linguistics and multimodal discourse analysis provides new insights into how physical actions contribute to the construction and interpretation of metaphorical concepts.

Key words: Gesture, CMT, Multimodality, Discourse Analysis, Cognitive Linguistics

المخلص:

تستكشف الدراسة العلاقة بين الإيماءات والاستعارات اللفظية في التواصل اليومي من خلال نظرية الاستعارة المفهومية (CMT) وتحليل الخطاب متعدد الوسائط (MDA). بينما تقترض CMT أن الاستعارات تشكل فهماً للمفاهيم المجردة، تحقق هذه الدراسة في كيفية تكامل الإيماءات وتعزيزها أو تعديلها لهذه التعبيرات الاستعارية. من خلال تحليل بيانات المحادثات، بما في ذلك تسجيلات الفيديو للتفاعلات الطبيعية، تحدد الدراسة كيفية توافق الإيماءات مع الاستعارات اللفظية أو اختلافها عنها، موفرةً سياقاً إضافياً ونغمة عاطفية. وباستخدام نموذج كريس وفان ليوين للتحليل متعدد الوسائط، يدرس البحث المعاني التمثيلية والتفاعلية والتأليفية للإيماءات فيما يتعلق باللغة الاستعارية. وتكشف النتائج أن الإيماءات لا تعزز المعاني فحسب بل يمكن أن توسعها أو تغيرها أيضاً، مما يوفر فهماً أكثر شمولاً للتواصل متعدد الوسائط. يقدم هذا الدمج بين اللغويات المعرفية وتحليل الخطاب متعدد الوسائط رؤى جديدة حول كيفية مساهمة الحركات الجسدية في بناء وتفسير المفاهيم الاستعارية. الكلمات المفتاحية: الإيماء، نظرية الاستعارة المفهومية، تعدد الوسائط، تحليل الخطاب، اللغويات المعرفية.

1. Introduction

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the role that non-verbal communication plays in shaping our understanding of abstract concepts. This is particularly evident in the study of metaphors, which have long been recognized as fundamental to human cognition and communication (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) posits that metaphors are not merely linguistic expressions but are rooted in our conceptual system, influencing how we perceive and interact with the world (Lakoff, 1993). For instance, metaphors like “time is money” reflect underlying conceptual frameworks that shape our experiences and interactions.

However, while much research has focused on the verbal dimensions of metaphors, less attention has been given to how these metaphors are enacted and reinforced through non-verbal means, such as gestures. Gestures are integral to multimodal communication and can significantly impact the interpretation and conveyance of meaning (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2001). They often accompany spoken language, providing additional layers of meaning and enhancing the communicative process. For example, gestures that mimic actions related to metaphors can help to visualize and emphasize abstract concepts, thereby influencing how they are understood by the audience (McNeill, 1992).

Recent studies have begun to explore the interplay between gestures and metaphorical language, revealing that gestures can complement, amplify, or even modify the meaning of metaphors (Gullberg, 2006). This interaction between gesture and metaphor highlights the importance of adopting a multimodal perspective to fully grasp how metaphors function in communication. Kress and van Leeuwen's (2001) framework of multimodal discourse analysis provides a comprehensive approach to examining how different semiotic resources—such as gestures, speech, and facial expressions—combine to create meaning.

The current study aims to bridge the gap between CMT and multimodal discourse analysis by investigating how gestures interact with and contribute to the meaning of verbal metaphors in everyday communication. By analyzing conversational data through video recordings, this research seeks to uncover how gestures and metaphors work together to shape our understanding of abstract concepts. This approach is hoped to enrich the theoretical understanding of metaphor besides providing practical insights into the dynamics of multimodal communication.

2. Theoretical Framework

To integrate the key concepts from CMT, MDA, and related research and to provide a comprehensive basis for analyzing the interaction between gestures and metaphors the study presents the following framework. It highlights how these theories collectively contribute to understanding multimodal communication.

2.1. Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT)

Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), developed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), posits that metaphors are not merely linguistic expressions but reflect underlying conceptual systems that shape human thought and perception. According to CMT, metaphors help us understand abstract concepts through more concrete or familiar experiences. For example, the metaphor “*time is money*” allows us to conceptualize the abstract notion of time using the more tangible concept of money. This theory highlights the cognitive processes involved in metaphor usage and its impact on our understanding of abstract ideas. Below are key concepts in CMT which include:

- Conceptual Mapping: This refers to the way in which elements from a source domain (e.g., *money*) are mapped onto a target domain (e.g., *time*), influencing how we understand and interact with the latter (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980).

- Metaphorical Domains: CMT identifies various metaphorical domains, such as TIME, ARGUMENTS, and EMOTIONS, each with its own source and target mappings (Lakoff, 1993).

2.2. Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA)

Multimodal Discourse Analysis, particularly the work of Kress and van Leeuwen (2001), examines how various semiotic resources, such as language, gestures, and visual elements, interact to construct meaning. MDA emphasizes that communication is not limited to verbal language but involves a combination of modalities that collectively contribute to the conveyance of meaning. Key concepts in MDA include:

- Semiotic Modes: Different modes, such as gestures, speech, and visual elements, each have their own semiotic resources and contribute to meaning-making in different ways (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2001).

- Representational, Interactive, and Compositional Meanings: These categories help analyze how gestures represent ideas, interact with other modalities, and combine with verbal language to create cohesive messages (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2001).

2.3. Gesture and Metaphor Integration

Recent research has explored how gestures interact with and enhance verbal metaphors, bridging the gap between CMT and MDA. Gestures can provide additional context, reinforce, or modify the meaning of metaphors, thus influencing the overall interpretation of the message. Key studies in this context include:

- Gullberg's Research: Gullberg (2006) investigates how gestures support and enhance verbal communication, showing that gestures are integral to understanding and interpreting metaphors.

-McNeill's Theory of Gestures: McNeill (1992) argues that gestures are closely linked to cognitive processes and can reveal underlying conceptual structures, including metaphors.

2.4. Embodied Cognition and Metaphor

Embodied Cognition theories further support the integration of gestures with metaphor analysis by emphasizing that cognitive processes are deeply rooted in sensory and motor experiences. This perspective aligns with the idea that metaphors are grounded in bodily experiences and that gestures are a natural extension of this embodied cognition (Gibbs, 2006).

3. Methodology

3.1. Cases Selection

The current study seeks to investigate how gestures embody metaphorical concepts and interact with other communicative modes. To ensure a diverse and representative analysis, a selection of cases was made based on their relevance and illustrative value. The chosen cases were selected for their significant use of gestures to convey metaphorical and thematic content. This ensured that each case would provide a clear example of how gestures function in different contexts.

The cases span different genres and formats (e.g., film, TED Talk), which allows for a broad examination of gesture use across varied narrative styles and communication methods. The cases were selected randomly to avoid selection bias and to represent a range of communicative contexts. This random selection aimed to capture a diverse array of gestures and their metaphorical implications without influencing the analysis to specific genres or styles. The cases include:

- "*The King's Speech*" (2010): A film depicting a historical figure's struggle with stuttering, using gestures to represent internal battles.
- "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" (2006): A film highlighting personal empowerment through power poses.
- Amy Cuddy's *TED Talk* (2012): A presentation on how body language affects self-perception and confidence.
- "*Pulp Fiction*" (1994): A film featuring philosophical reflections on life through gestures and dialogue.

By selecting cases from various formats and contexts, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of how gestures function metaphorically and multimodally. The random selection ensures a balanced perspective across different styles of communication. Each case was chosen for its illustrative value in demonstrating how gestures can convey metaphorical content and interact with verbal and non-verbal elements, providing rich material for qualitative analysis.

3.2. The Model of Analysis

The analysis model used in this study is eclectic, integrating Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory with Kress and van Leeuwen's Multimodal Discourse Analysis. This combined approach provides a comprehensive framework for examining how gestures function metaphorically and interact with other communicative modes to enhance meaning.

Lakoff and Johnson's theory posits that metaphors are not merely linguistic but are deeply embedded in our cognitive processes. Gestures are seen as physical manifestations of these metaphors, embodying abstract concepts and making them more tangible. This framework is used to analyze how gestures in the selected cases represent and reinforce metaphorical concepts. By identifying the metaphorical content conveyed through gestures, this model provides insights into how abstract ideas are expressed through physical actions. Kress and van Leeuwen's approach focuses on how different modes of communication, including gestures, interact to construct meaning. This framework examines how gestures complement and enhance verbal and non-verbal communication within a multimodal context. This model is employed to analyze the interaction between gestures, speech, and other non-verbal elements in the selected cases. It helps to understand how gestures work together with other modes to create a coherent and enriched narrative.

Lakoff and Johnson's theory provides a deep understanding of the metaphorical functions of gestures, while Kress and van Leeuwen's approach offers a detailed analysis of how gestures interact with other communicative modes. By integrating these frameworks, the model allows for a holistic analysis of gestures. It examines how gestures embody abstract metaphors and how they function within a broader multimodal context to enhance meaning.

Using Lakoff and Johnson's framework, gestures are analyzed for their metaphorical significance in each case. This involves identifying how physical actions represent and reinforce underlying abstract concepts. Kress and van Leeuwen's model, besides, is applied to explore how gestures interact with verbal and non-

verbal elements, examining their role in constructing a coherent and impactful narrative. The integration of both frameworks offers a more comprehensive understanding of the role of gestures in communication. It allows for a nuanced analysis that addresses both metaphorical representation and multimodal interaction. The eclectic model is versatile, accommodating the diverse nature of the selected cases and providing a robust framework for analyzing gestures across different genres and formats. In summary, the eclectic model of analysis combines Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory with Kress and van Leeuwen's Multimodal Discourse Analysis to provide a thorough examination of gestures. This integrated approach enhances our understanding of how gestures convey metaphorical meanings and interact with other modes of communication to enrich the overall narrative.

4. Cases Analysis

To investigate how gestures interact with other forms of communication and transmit metaphorical meanings enhancing the context as a whole, the study is adopting a qualitative approach where every scene is to be described and analyzed according to the framework adopted.

Case No. 1

4.1.1. Case Description

The scene is taken from "*The King's Speech*" (2010) film where King George VI practices his speech, his hand gestures metaphorically represent his internal battle with stuttering. His gestures embody the metaphor of struggle and determination, visually expressing his emotional and psychological challenges.

4.1.2. Case Analysis

1. Metaphorical Embodiment for gestures in this context could reveal:

- Metaphor of Struggle and Battle: The gestures King George VI uses can be seen as metaphors for his internal struggle. For instance, if he pounds his fist or clutches his chest, these gestures metaphorically represent his emotional and psychological battle with stuttering. This aligns with Lakoff and Johnson's idea that metaphors often map abstract concepts (like internal struggle) onto more concrete actions (like physical gestures).
- Embodied Metaphors: According to Lakoff and Johnson, our physical actions are deeply intertwined with our conceptual metaphors. King George VI's physical gestures embody his metaphorical struggle, translating his internal emotional state into observable physical actions. This suggests that his gestures are not merely supportive but integral to expressing and understanding his internal state.

2. Multimodal Interaction

Kress and van Leeuwen's Multimodal Discourse Analysis examines how different modes of communication (such as visual, verbal, and gestural) work together to create meaning:

- Interaction of Modes: In the scene, King George VI's verbal speech about his struggle is accompanied by his hand gestures. Kress and van Leeuwen analyze how these modes (spoken language and gestures) interact to enhance the audience's understanding of his internal struggle. For example, his gestures emphasize points made in his speech providing a physical representation of his emotional state, adding depth to the verbal message.
- Gestural Meanings: According to Kress and van Leeuwen, gestures can have specific functions in multimodal texts. King George VI's gestures are supposed to function to highlight the intensity of his struggle providing a visual metaphor for his emotional state. The analysis shows how these gestures support the verbal message, where they help to create a cohesive representation of the struggle.

3. Integrated Analysis

Conceptual Metaphor Theory provides the foundation for understanding how King George VI's gestures reflect his internal metaphors of struggle and battle. His gestures are manifestations of his conceptual struggles, translated into physical actions. Kress and van Leeuwen's Framework helps in analyzing how these gestures work in concert with his verbal speech to create a coherent narrative of struggle. The interaction of his gestures with his speech enhances the overall communicative effect, providing a richer understanding of his internal battle.

Overall, King George VI's hand gestures in "*The King's Speech*" serve as a powerful embodiment of his internal struggle with stuttering, illustrating the synergy between verbal and non-verbal modes of communication in conveying complex emotional and psychological states.

Case No. 2

4.2.1. Case Description

A scene in "The Pursuit of Happyness" (2006) film by Chris Gardner who uses power poses to metaphorically represent his pursuit of happiness and overcoming obstacles. His gestures illustrate the concept that body language can shape personal identity and confidence, making abstract ideas of self-perception more tangible.

4.2.2. Case Analysis

In this scene Chris Gardner (played by Will Smith) provides a compelling example of how gestures can function both metaphorically and multimodally. Analyzing this scene through the lenses of the framework adopted offers a comprehensive understanding of how Gardner's physical actions and expressions enhance the portrayal of his pursuit of happiness and his struggle to overcome obstacles.

1. Metaphorical Embodiment in this scene reveals that Gardner's gestures can be analyzed as follows:

- Metaphor of Pursuit and Obstacles: Gardner's gestures likely represent the metaphorical concepts of pursuit and overcoming obstacles. For instance, if he uses forward-reaching or climbing gestures, these actions symbolize his ongoing effort to achieve his goals despite significant challenges. Such gestures embody the metaphor of "pursuit," where his physical movements reflect the emotional and psychological aspects of his journey.

- Embodied Struggle: When Gardner performs gestures that involve pushing or grappling, these can be seen as metaphors for his internal struggles and perseverance. These gestures transform his abstract struggle into a concrete, visible form, illustrating how physical actions can represent the metaphorical concept of "overcoming."

2. Multimodal Interaction in Gardner's scene:

- Gestures and Speech Integration: Gardner's gestures work in tandem with his spoken words to enhance the overall narrative. If he discusses the challenges of pursuing happiness while demonstrating these struggles through physical actions, his gestures amplify and provide a visual representation of his verbal message. This integration makes the abstract concept of pursuit more concrete and relatable to the audience.

- Facial Expressions and Body Language: Gardner's facial expressions and overall body language further contribute to the meaning-making process. Determined or strained facial expressions combined with gestures that depict struggle or striving underscore the emotional weight of his journey. This multimodal combination enriches the audience's understanding by visually and emotionally connecting with Gardner's narrative.

3. Integrated Analysis

Metaphorical Representation: Gardner's gestures serve as tangible embodiments of the metaphors related to his pursuit of happiness. By using gestures that symbolize striving and overcoming, he translates his internal emotional and psychological struggles into visible actions, aligning with Lakoff and Johnson's conceptual metaphors.

Multimodal Meaning Construction: The integration of Gardner's gestures with his verbal communication and facial expressions demonstrates how multiple modes work together to convey meaning. According to Kress and van Leeuwen, the interaction between his physical actions and speech not only enhances the clarity of his message but also adds depth to the portrayal of his challenges and perseverance. In summary, Gardner's gestures in this poignant scene from *The Pursuit of Happyness* effectively embody the metaphorical concepts of struggle and pursuit, while their interaction with his speech and facial expressions constructs a powerful and coherent narrative.

This integrated analysis highlights how metaphors and multimodal communication work together to enhance the emotional and thematic depth of the scene.

Case No. 3

4.3.1. Case Description

This scene is from Amy Cuddy's *TED Talk* (2012) where Cuddy demonstrates how adopting power poses can metaphorically influence one's self-perception and confidence. Her gestures reinforce the idea that body language shapes emotional states and personal identity, integrating physical actions with verbal explanations to emphasize her message.

4.3.2. Case Analysis

Amy Cuddy's TED Talk "Your Body Language May Shape Who You Are" explores how adopting certain postures, or "power poses," can metaphorically influence self-perception and confidence. Analyzing her gestures through the frameworks adopted provides a comprehensive understanding of how her physical actions reinforce the talk's central message.

Metaphorical Embodiment in Cuddy's talk:

- Metaphor of Power and Confidence: Cuddy's demonstration of power poses embodies the metaphor that body language shapes personal identity and emotional states. For instance, when she assumes expansive postures with arms raised or legs spread, these gestures metaphorically represent the concept of empowerment. This physical act symbolizes confidence and control, making the abstract idea of "feeling powerful" more concrete.

- Embodied Metaphors: The power poses Cuddy demonstrates are metaphoric embodiments of how physical posture affects psychological states. According to Lakoff and Johnson, adopting such postures is not just a physical act but a representation of the metaphor that "body language influences self-perception." These gestures visually represent the internal psychological state of empowerment and confidence, illustrating how metaphorical concepts are translated into physical actions.

Multimodal Interaction in Cuddy's TED Talk:

- Gestures and Verbal Explanation: Cuddy's gestures are directly linked to her verbal explanations. As she describes the impact of power poses on self-perception and confidence, her demonstration of these poses provides a visual reinforcement of her words. This multimodal approach helps bridge the gap between abstract concepts and practical understanding, showing how physical actions complement and enhance verbal messages.

- Facial Expressions and Body Language: Cuddy's facial expressions and body language, in addition to the power poses, contribute to the talk's effectiveness. Her confident demeanor and expressive gestures reinforce the message that adopting certain postures can positively influence self-perception. Kress and van Leeuwen's framework helps analyze how these additional non-verbal cues work together with the power poses to build a coherent and persuasive narrative.

Integrated Analysis offers a comprehensive analysis of how Cuddy's gestures function in her TED Talk:

1. Metaphorical Representation: Cuddy's power poses serve as tangible representations of the metaphor that body language influences personal identity and emotional states. The expansive postures she adopts are metaphoric embodiments of empowerment and confidence, transforming abstract psychological concepts into visible, physical actions. This aligns with Lakoff and Johnson's theory that gestures can represent and reinforce conceptual metaphors.

2. Multimodal Meaning Construction: The interaction between Cuddy's gestures, verbal explanations, and facial expressions enhances the overall impact of her message. Kress and van Leeuwen's analysis shows how the combination of these modes creates a more persuasive and engaging presentation. The physical demonstration of power poses supports and illustrates her verbal claims, effectively communicating the idea that body language can shape one's sense of self and confidence.

In summary, Amy Cuddy's TED Talk utilizes gestures to embody and reinforce the metaphor that body language shapes personal identity and emotional states. The analysis highlights how these gestures not only represent metaphorical concepts but also interact with verbal and non-verbal elements to construct a powerful and coherent narrative.

Case No. 4

4.4.1. Case Description

This is a scene in "*Pulp Fiction*" (1994) where Jules discusses "walking the earth," his gestures underscore the philosophical and existential nature of his dialogue. His physical actions metaphorically reflect his reflections on life and purpose, enhancing the abstract concepts through tangible gestures.

4.4.2. Case Analysis

The scene where Jules (Samuel L. Jackson) discusses the metaphor of "walking the earth" provides a rich example of how gestures can carry significant metaphorical weight. Analyzing this scene through the framework adopted reveals how gestures contribute to the philosophical and existential themes of the dialogue.

Metaphorical Embodiment in this scene:

- Metaphor of "Walking the Earth": Jules's gestures in this scene likely function as metaphors for the philosophical idea of "walking the earth," which represents a journey of self-discovery and existential reflection. If Jules uses expansive or deliberate gestures, such as sweeping hand motions or purposeful movements, these can symbolize his existential journey and philosophical insights. These gestures make the abstract notion of an existential journey more concrete and relatable.

- Embodied Metaphors: Jules's gestures may represent his contemplation of his place in the world and his personal transformation. For example, if he uses a gesture that implies a broad or encompassing action, it can be seen as an embodiment of his philosophical reflections on life and purpose.

Multimodal Interaction in Jules's scene:

- Gestures and Verbal Communication: Jules's gestures are closely aligned with his verbal expression. If his gestures underscore or accentuate the themes of his dialogue about "walking the earth," they enhance the philosophical and existential weight of his words. Kress and van Leeuwen's framework helps analyze how these gestures interact with his spoken words to deepen the audience's understanding of his existential reflections.

- Facial Expressions and Body Language: Jules's facial expressions and body language contribute to the scene's meaning. If his expressions reflect contemplation or intensity, they reinforce the philosophical nature of his dialogue. The combination of his gestures, facial expressions, and body language creates a richer and more immersive representation of his existential journey.

Integrated Analysis of how Jules's gestures function in this scene:

1. Metaphorical Representation: Jules's gestures serve as metaphors for the abstract concept of "walking the earth." His physical movements and hand gestures embody the existential and philosophical nature of his dialogue, transforming an abstract idea into a more tangible and expressive form. This aligns with Lakoff and Johnson's theory that gestures can represent and reinforce metaphorical concepts.

2. Multimodal Meaning Construction: The interaction between Jules's gestures, verbal communication, and other non-verbal cues creates a cohesive narrative. According to Kress and van Leeuwen, the gestures complement and enhance his spoken words, enriching the philosophical and existential themes of the scene. The combination of these modes helps convey the depth and complexity of his reflections on life and purpose. Jules's gestures in the scene discussing "walking the earth" effectively embody the metaphorical and existential themes of his dialogue.

Findings

Conducting qualitative studies will offer a nuanced understanding of how gestures function in conveying metaphorical concepts and enhancing multimodal communication. This integrated approach will allow for a richer analysis of gestures' roles and impacts in various communicative contexts.

In light of the findings from the analysis of gestures in the four cases: *"The King's Speech"*, *"The Pursuit of Happiness"*, Amy Cuddy's *TED Talk*, and *"Pulp Fiction"* several key insights emerge about the role of gestures in communication and their integration with conceptual metaphors and multimodal discourse.

1. Embodiment of Metaphors: In each case, gestures play a crucial role in embodying and reinforcing metaphorical concepts. In *"The King's Speech"*, gestures symbolize the internal struggle with stuttering, while in *"The Pursuit of Happiness"*, power poses represent personal empowerment and perseverance. Similarly, Amy Cuddy's *TED Talk* demonstrates how body language can influence self-perception and confidence, and in *"Pulp Fiction"*, gestures highlight philosophical and existential themes. This consistent use of gestures to convey abstract ideas underscores the effectiveness of gestures in translating complex metaphors into physical forms.

2. Multimodal Integration: The integration of gestures with verbal communication and other non-verbal elements enhances the overall meaning-making process. Kress and van Leeuwen's framework reveals that gestures not only support but also amplify the verbal message, creating a more cohesive and impactful narrative. This multimodal interaction allows for a richer, more nuanced portrayal of themes and emotions, demonstrating the power of combining different communicative modes.

3. Enhanced Understanding: The combination of Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory with Kress and van Leeuwen's Multimodal Discourse Analysis provides a comprehensive approach to understanding how gestures function in various contexts. Gestures are not isolated actions but are deeply intertwined with both metaphorical meaning and multimodal communication, enhancing our comprehension of their role in conveying complex ideas.

The study highlights the integral role of gestures in embodying and communicating metaphorical concepts, and how their interaction with verbal and non-verbal elements enriches the meaning-making process. This integrated approach underscores the importance of considering gestures as a vital component of multimodal communication and metaphorical expression.

5. Conclusion

The integration of Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) and Multimodal Discourse Analysis (MDA) provides a nuanced understanding of how gestures interact with metaphorical language in everyday communication. This study demonstrates that gestures are not merely supplementary to verbal metaphors but play a crucial role in shaping and enhancing the meaning of metaphors. By embodying and visually representing abstract concepts, gestures offer additional layers of meaning and context that are not always captured through speech alone.

Through detailed analysis, it is evident that gestures can reinforce, elaborate, or modify the metaphorical expressions used in communication. They contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of abstract ideas by providing tangible, physical representations that align with or expand upon verbal metaphors. This multimodal approach highlights the significance of combining verbal and non-verbal elements to fully grasp the richness of human communication.

Overall, this research underscores the importance of adopting a multimodal perspective in linguistic and cognitive studies. By examining how gestures and metaphors interact, we gain deeper insights into the embodied nature of metaphorical thinking and the complex ways in which meaning is constructed and conveyed. Future studies could further explore this interaction in different cultural and social contexts, providing a broader understanding of the role of gestures in metaphor use across diverse communicative settings.

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