

An Analysis of Metonymy and Conceptual Mixing That Applicable to Generic References in The English Language

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الملخص:

تناولت هذه الدراسة الإشارات العامة بوصفها تمثيلاً حقيقياً للعمومية، حيث يركز فهم النوع على فكرة النموذج الأولي الذي يمثله. كما اعتمدت الدراسة على آلية "المثال من أجل النوع" بوصفها إحدى الآليات الإدراكية التي تسهم في تكوين الدلالة العامة. ويُعد استخدام النوع العام محدوداً نسبياً لأنه يرتبط بالتصنيفات المعترف بها اجتماعياً. وفي التصنيف الهرمي للكائنات، تظهر هذه التصنيفات غالباً في مستوى الحيوانات، في حين لا يُنظر إلى البشر عادةً بوصفهم نوعاً عاماً بسبب تفردهم وتنوعهم. وقد أوضحت الدراسة أن الإشارات العامة تتأثر بأربعة محددات رئيسية هي: مفهوما التفرد والشمولية، وآلية "المثال من أجل النوع"، والمجاز المرسل "النوع من أجل النوع الفرعي"، إضافة إلى الدمج التصوري بين المثال والنوع. كما بينت الدراسة أن هذه المحددات تسهم في تفسير الفروق بين الإشارات العامة المحددة وغير المحددة، وتوضح سبب سماح العبارات العامة بوجود بعض الاستثناءات والانحرافات. الكلمات المفتاحية: المجاز المرسل، الدمج التصوري، الإشارات العامة

Abstract:

This study investigates generic references as a genuine manifestation of generality, arguing that the understanding of a type is fundamentally based on the notion of a prototypical instance representing that type. The study also adopts the cognitive mechanism of "INSTANCE FOR TYPE" as an important process contributing to the formation of generic meaning. The use of generic type is relatively restricted because it is associated with socially recognized classifications. Within hierarchical

classification systems, these categories are mainly linked to the level of animals, whereas humans are rarely perceived as constituting a single generic type due to their uniqueness and diversity.

The study further demonstrates that generic references are influenced by four major determinants: the notions of uniqueness and inclusivity, the mechanism of “INSTANCE FOR TYPE,” the metonymy “TYPE FOR SUBTYPE,” and the conceptual blending between instance and type. These determinants help explain the distinction between definite and indefinite generic references and clarify why generic statements often allow irregularities and exceptions.

Keywords: Metonymy, Conceptual Blending, Generic

1.1 Introduction

The concepts of “genericity” and “generic reference” could pertain to categories, kinds, or classes that constitute the organised or idealised picture of reality. Genericity is, nonetheless, not a homogeneous phenomenon. Researchers in genericity often differentiate between two fundamental categories: characterising generalisations, shown by (1a), and direct references to a type, illustrated by (1b).

(1) a. “A lion has a bushy tail”.

b. “The lion is a predatory cat”.

Sentence (1a) conveys a characterisation of the species 'lion'. The assertion that a bushy tail is a distinguishing trait does not necessarily apply to all members of the species; it is probable that some wolves exist without a bushy tail. A defining generalisation permits exceptions. In contrast, Sentence (1b) permits no exceptions; it pertains to the species 'lion' in its whole. The generic noun expression "the lion" explicitly denotes a species, but the predicate "is a predatory cat" classifies that species (McGregor & Meyer, 2009:112).

The binary difference between these two forms of genericity is undoubtedly warranted from a truth-conditional perspective. The distinctions between generalisations and direct references to a category are ambiguous. Genericity, as proposed by Chesterman (1991), should be seen as a continuum ranging from complete to minimal genericity.

The following categorization encapsulates the principal forms of generic reference in English in accordance with definiteness, number, and cognitive interpretation.

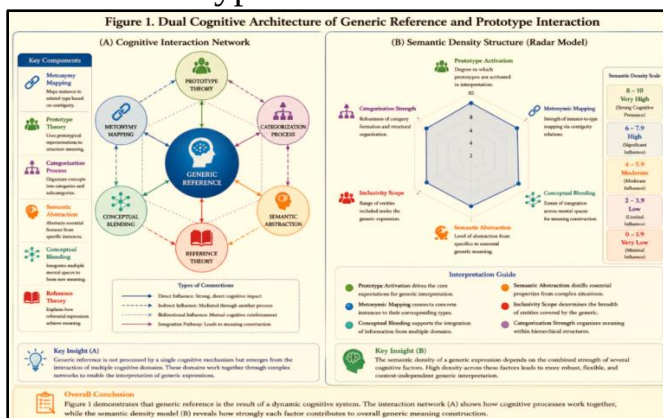
Table (1) :Taxonomy of Generic References in English
According to Cognitive and Grammatical
Classification

Generic Type	Definiteness	Number	Example	Cognitive Role
Representative Generic	Indefinite	Singular	A lion has a bushy tail	Prototype activation
Proportional Generic	Bare	Plural	Lions are dangerous	Statistical generalization
Kind Generic	Definite	Singular	The lion is a predator	Species conceptualization
Delimited Generic	Definite	Plural	The Italians love pasta	Contextual subgrouping

Source: Developed by the researcher based on the grammatical and cognitive classifications of English generic reference discussed in the study.

Table (1) illustrates that English generic characters associate both grammatical and cognitive distinctions, specifically concerning categorization as well as conceptual abstraction.

Figure (1) : Dual Cognitive Architecture of Generic Reference and Prototype Interaction



Source: Developed by the researcher based on the cognitive-semantic framework of generic reference, prototype theory, metonymic mapping, and conceptual blending discussed in the study.

Figure (1) demonstrates the dual cognitive organization underlying English generic reference. The left panel explains the abstract interaction of metonymy, classification, and original theory, inasmuch as the right panel visualizes the semantic structure of generic forms through a radial cognitive model. Together, both representations reveal the multi-dimensional nature of generic understanding in cognitive linguistics

This research tests the types of generic reference in English and their abstract structures. English differentiates four types of generic reference via two ranges: the accuracy or vagueness of the article ambiguous and the singular or plural form of the noun. One can say that. Each generic expression may convey its own meaning . Significant differences between generic nominal phrases can, instance, be seen in their interplays accompanying non-human or human referents in the subject position (Smyth, 2015:89).

Three of the four categories of generic reference exhibit varying degrees of acceptability based on whether they signify a nonhuman versus a human generic referent. These apparent anomalies need clarification and are addressed in the subsequent discussion (Thomas, 2010:198).

1.٢ Methodological Framework

This analysis adopts a qualitative cognitive-linguistic concept through explanatory scientific processes. The study concentrates on the interaction between metonymic mapping, conceptual blending, as well as generic reference constructions in English. The study relies on illustrative linguistic instances chosen from cognitive linguistic research as well as interprets them in accordance with prototype hypothesis, categorization mechanisms, and conceptual integration theory. Moreover, comparative semantic analysis is employed to compare characteristic, proportionate, kind, as well as delimited generic constructions. The study does not aim to provide to supply a quantitative corpus-based investigation; rather, it utilizes analytically selected examples that depict repeating cognitive patterns frequently explained in the literature of genericity as well as cognitive semantics.

1.3 Research Gap

Although previous studies have examined genericity, metonymy, along with theoretic blending independently, inadequate consideration has been given to the interaction between metonymic interpretation as well as conceptual integration in the interpretation of English generic references. Current study generally focal points either on grammatical genericity or on isolated cognitive mechanisms without constructing an integrated descriptive structure. The present study attempts to connect this gap by means of suggesting a unified cognitive-semantic model

linking prototype hypothesis, metonymic mapping, conceptual blending, as well as generic interpretation.

2. Conceptual Assumptions for Generic Reference

The researchers assume generic reference applies to instance-invoked types. Thus, generic reference uses instance for type. Also exceptions in generic reference apply to subtypes of the characterising type. Thus, generic reference may include type for subtype. The generic reference idea combines instance and type. A general reference may be interpreted in several ways. The subsequent sections will address the particular types of generic reference and their corresponding meanings (Darling, 2024:21).

This discourse on generics pertains only to referring phrases that use count nouns in the subject position. Mass nouns do not exhibit differences in number or article use, hence restricting the variety of generic interpretations available to count nouns. Consequently, one may typically generalise about substances by a singular form: An articleless singular noun phrase, as shown by "Oil floats," and not by "The oil floats," "An oil floats," or "Oils float." (Posio, 2023:19).

2.1 Representative Generic Indefinite Singular

In individuating reference, the uniqueness of a unique instance is proved in a request such as, "Can you open a window?" The speaker alludes to a unique, general incident while presupposing the existence of at least two elements together element during the whole of a pragmatically delimited range namely forbade; expressly, it is pretended that there is no additional window within the relevant range that can be unlocked. We would not phrase it like, "Can you open a bay?" when there was only one window in the room (Radden, 2009:199).

Similarly, in a general circumstances, a singular ambiguous instance is emphasized, while no completely individual additional item is pretended to survive inside the excluded reference classification. Consequently, in the accepted declaration "A feline

has a bushy tail," only a single non-specific feline instance is highlighted, so expelling all added lions that comprise the citation category of the type 'feline.' In all forms of remark, it does not involve entity individuation, and some semantic content within the reference group is selected for option (McGregor & Meyer, 2009:86).

In individuating citation, this instance serves as the non-distinguishing remark; in generic reference, this instance is regarded as representative of the general type. This standard is accordingly characterised as representative general. The common a(n) is frequently visualized as equivalent accompanying the worldwide quantifier some. Both a sketch and some individual part comprise deputies for all. Consequently, the nominal phrases in two together "An alligator has an effective bite" and "Any alligator has a powerful bite" are unique inform, need unique contract, and mean a sole ambiguous incident while interpreting a whole: a type in the general declaration and a complete set the quantifying sentence (Dow et al., 2005:94).

Langacker (1995) characterises the quantifiers some in addition to all as representative-instance quantifiers, when in fact the general article a(n) was recognized as representative-instance generic. The quantifiers "some" and "each," in addition to the common item "a(n)," indicate specific grammatical types; nevertheless, as proved through Langacker (1995), they fall under the same category, both constructions occur only in non-

- (2) a. {Every/ any/ a} cat *dies* before the age of 15 these days.
- b. {[?]*Every/ *any/ *a} cat *is dying* before the age of 15 these days.

progressive sentences progressive aspect, as featured in (2a), and forbid the use of the progressing facet, as explained in (2b).

2.2 Non-Progressive Aspect

In utilizing the non-growing feature in (2a) from the aforementioned model, I use a maximum regarding frame of an

occurrence, allowing to see both the individual event (the death of individual cheetah) and the encompassing general event it means (the end of life of lions as a collective or type). By utilizing the liberal facet, Benitez et al. adopt a restricted outlook on an occurrence, seeing it inside and as innately forced. An individual implicitly constrained event cannot concurrently signify a higher-order collection or category of occurrences (Benitez et al., 2024:238).

Consequently, statements involving a representative generic are antagonistic accompanying the growing aspect. This study corroborates Declerck's (1986) declaration that the liberal form is only appropriate to a singular sketch, inhibiting some general understanding (Hammel, 2015:62). For like reasons, presented-instance quantifiers in addition to representative generics cannot be coordinated (3a), even though positive singulars (3b) in addition to bare plurals (3c) allow for their arrangement.

- (3) a. A lion and fox eat meat.
- b. The lion and the fox eat meat.
- c. lions and foxes eat meat.

In the combined exemplary examples in (3a), each coordinated phrase delineates its distinct occurrence, exemplifying its respective category: 'a lion consumes meat as its species' and 'a fox consumes meat as its species, engaging in the act of eating meat'. Each every occurrence pertains to a distinct category of carnivorous creatures, hence they cannot together signify a generic event. Conversely, definite singleton generics as seen in (3b).

2.3 Grammatical Constraints of Representative Generic

The semantic disadvantages of the representative generic having to do with the liberal arrangement and progression signify that the unique incident is notably meaningful. Additional evidence for the meaning of the unique instance is shown in its discrepancy with 'kind predicates.' Kind predicates contain verbs such as; "die out", "thrive", "accumulate", and "strew", as well as

predicative words that modify nouns like "be obsolete", "be imperiled", "be many", "be uncommon", and "control", in addition to semantically analogous phrases (Harding, 2018:91).

Only a whole species, rather than an individual member, may become extinct, proliferate, or experience similar phenomena. In reality, it cannot be said that whole sets are diminishing or nearing extinction: *any orangutan is at risk of extinction, *all gorillas are endangered. It has commonly been observed that kind predicates are incompatible with indefinite singulars such as representative generics in (4a), but are reasonable following bare plurals in (4b) and beneficial singulars in (4c):

- (4) a. "An Amur tiger will die out".
- b. "Gorillas are on the brink of extinction".
- c. "The rhinoceros is critically endangered".

The ungrammaticality of sort predicates accompanying representative generics, as visualized in (4a), appears to arise from the distinct nature of the representative instance, that then forbids all additional parts of the type. How can a singular instance simultaneously exclude all other members of a reference mass of a type while being understood as representing that particular type? This enigmatic issue cannot be explained only by metonymy (Coulter & Ito, 2006:79).

2.4 Representative Generics Mix Instance and Type.

Representative generics are based on the metonymic link between instance and type, as with all generic references. The solitary occurrence and type establish the general meaning of a metonym. According to Christophersen (1939), the representative generic is more personalised and representative. He specifies a fitting subjective report of the mixture of individual and common ideas: "[t]he general a-form is now and then only a concealed individual use," and skilled is an figure concerning the mind, approximately fuzzy, of a distinct individual coupled with an understanding that what is said about one instance, would have

happened evenly correct if we had preferred another appendage of the unchanging class (Meyer & Gelman, 2016:409).

A speaker who disguises his speech as a general remark usually has one scenario in mind. This requires a blending analysis, as per Fauconnier & Turner (2002). Show how instance and type merge in the statement. Lions have bushy tails. The indefinite instance 'a lion' and type 'lion' are inputs 1 and 2. The generic context and INSTANCE FOR TYPE a metonymy inspire type (Rich, 2023:65).

Figure (2). Conceptual Blending and Metonymic Compression in Generic Interpretation

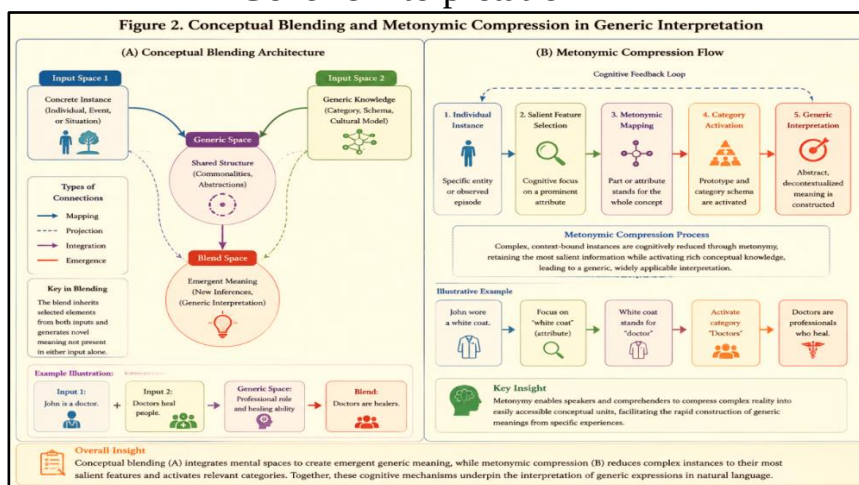


Figure (2) introduces the interaction between conceptual blending and metonymic compression in the interpretation of generic reference. The left drawing visualizes the integration of mental spaces, while the right panel explains the growing transformation from individual situations toward theoretical generic content. The figure underlines the cognitive transition from factual description toward conceptual abstraction.

The blended space theoretically combines 'instance' and 'form' from the two source spaces. The blend also has emergent meanings: arbitrariness comes from the instance's indeterminate, non-specific character, and representative derives from its type. Representative generics enable exceptions, such as a prototype

SUBTYPE of the TYPE. This connotation comes from our metonymic understanding of categories as conspicuous subcategories (Good et al., 2010:132).

Table (2): Cognitive-Semantic Properties of Generic Reference Types

Generic Type	Inclusivity	Exclusivity	Allows Exceptions	Compatible with Kind Predicates
Representative Generic	Partial	High	Yes	No
Bare Plural Generic	Variable	Moderate	Yes	Partial
Kind Generic	Total	Low	No	Yes
Delimited Generic	Contextual	Moderate	Partial	Limited

Source: Developed by the researcher based on the cognitive-semantic properties of representative, proportional, kind, and delimited generics.

3. Bare plural: Proportional generic

Similar to the indefinite singular, we can presume the "indefinite plural is exclusive". It means a percentage of a minimum of two parts while forbidding at least individual aspect from a accumulation. In individual remark, the antecedent refers to sure dentition. I lost many dentition past. I have absent a minimum of two dentition from my dental set. In the statement? Bill lost many limbs in the battle; conversely, the phrase "some legs" implies the presence of more than two legs, which contradicts our understanding of reality. The indefinite plural appears in its simple (unmarked) form (Biernat & Sesko, 2018:56).

The bare plural is often exclusive, meaning that generalisations conveyed by the bare plural are anticipated to permit exceptions. Consequently, we comprehend the statement.

Lawyers are often seen as dishonest, yet this characterisation does not apply universally to all practitioners in the field. This kind of reference is therefore characterised as proportionate generic. What proportion is required facilitate generalisations about a category? The magnitude of the fraction may fluctuate significantly (Biernat & Sesko, 2018:23). It may indeed vary from 'all' to 'a few', as seen in the below examples:

- (5) a. Horses are mammals. [= all]
- b. Dodos eat peanuts. [= most]
- c. Finns always do well in ski-jumping competitions. [= a few]

The generic referent in (5a) pertains to a type universally, thus being inclusive; the generic referent in (5b) pertains to the majority of dodos; and the generic referent in (5c) is restricted to a limited group of "Finnish ski-jumpers," specifically to the elite subset, potentially encompassing merely two or three individuals. Due to its extensive applicability, Chesterman (1991: 76) considers the bare plural to be "the quintessential generic article".

3.1 The Role of Plural Semantic Meaning

whereas Burton-Roberts (1976) contends that the bare plural is not generic, as there appears to be no definitive distinction between its generic and individuating functions. Lyons (1999) maintain a similar stance, asserting that the naked plural lacks a consistent semantic meaning. This is seen in the ability to coordinate general and specific occurrences, as shown by the statement (Bisang, 2006:191).

(6) "Hedgehogs are timid animals yet regularly visit my garden."

This type of arrangement is inaccessible accompanying unsociable generics: The A hedgehog is a quiet animal that frequently frequents my patio. The unique behaviour of the plain more than one in building (6) will then be checked painstaking.

The first discussion delimits the class 'hedgehog', but the after article specifies the behaviour of individual hedgehogs: they frequently frequent my patio. Nonetheless, the criterion for the individuating the hedgehogs is the general citation hedgehogs in the first phrase (Alma, 2019:73).

The conjunction "but" indicates a counter-expectation: the actions of the hedgehogs in my yard contradict my assumptions on typical hedgehog behaviour. Hedgehogs are often reserved; nevertheless, those who frequent my garden exhibit boldness, so distinguishing themselves from the general category of timid hedgehogs. The amount of timid hedgehogs likely exceeds that of audacious hedgehogs. In sentence (6), the vague multiple subject "hedgehogs" includes three ideas of remark and quantity: it shows an ambiguous best subspace (failing hedgehogs), metonymically alludes to a classification ('hedgehog'), and functions as the prior for the tinier and excluded subspace in the but-requirement (Ben-Yami, 2019:27).

3.2 Generic and Individuative Coordination

Generic and individuative referents are frequently not synchronised, as visualized in sentence (6). Nonetheless, the feasibility of their coordination displays that the common bare more than one is more like to individuating assign to source than two together distinct generic translations. This is further proved apiece potential to change from individuating into generic remark. Consequently, sentence (6) maybe rephrased as "Hedgehogs frequently visit my flowers but are (legitimately) "shy animals, place the prior of the inherent general citation in the but-stipulation is the particular antecedent hedgehogs in the first section (Bossong, 2006:236).

The bare plural generic has specific challenges for establishing a cohesive meaning due to its proximity to individuating reference, extensive proportional range, and both exclusive and inclusive applications. Can the many usages be included by a fundamental

meaning, and are their distinct senses justified? The first focus will be on the predominant use of the bare plural as a proportionate generic, followed by its composite generic interpretation, and ultimately the specific set denoted by the bare plural (Kallulli, 2005:36).

3.3 The Bare Plural as A Proportional Generic

Langacker (1995) posits that plural generics align with the same paradigm with the quantifiers all, the most, and some, which denote a percentage. Both "proportional quantifiers" and the plural generic delineate a subset of things as a fraction of a reference mass. The complete sets, as delineated by all, align with the corresponding mass in the subset. In contrast to representative-instance quantifiers as well as representative generics as shown in (2), proportionate quantifiers and bare plurals are consistent with the progressive, as demonstrated in sentence (7b):

(7) a. {All/ most/ some/ Ω } sheep die before the age of 15 these days

b. {All/ most/ some/ Ω } sheep are dying before the age of 15 these days

Proportional quantifiers accompanying bare multiple generics use plural nouns and plural agreement, so describing a group of entities. The process accompanying that the distinguished or generic antecedent interconnects can be seen as either permanent endlessly (7a) or as temporary (7b). Sentence (7b) in the progressive would thus be seen as indicating that 'now, all/most/some sheep are perishing at the age of 15; however, in a different ending, they can have succumbed at a former or later age.' In contrast to the single representative instance in (2b), the more than one balanced instance in (7b) is elemental to the larger-order, composite process. Consequently, it is compatible accompanying two together enduringly lasting common processes and temporary general processes (Nguyen, 2019a:1303).

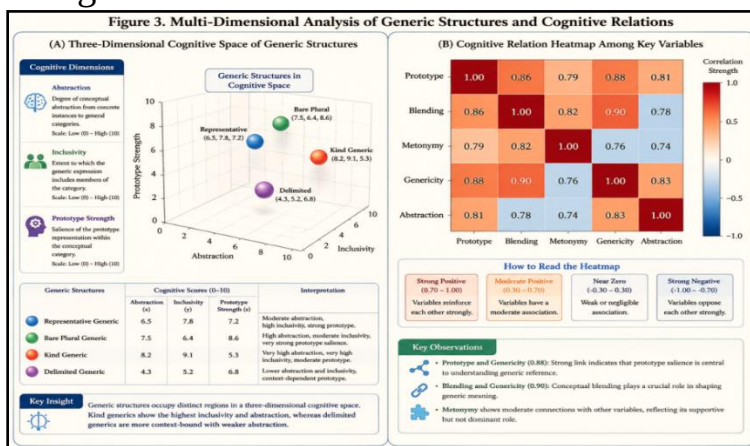
The bare more than one general is distinct from balanced quantifier phrases in close association with kind predicates. The report "Dinosaurs are dead" is grammatically correct, still

"*All/most/some dinosaurs are obsolete" is wrong. The bare multiple word "dinosaurs" delineates a type that together means a kind. The dual character changes the bare multiple generic from alone generics. Farkas & Swart (2007) correctly characterise the more than one generic inside Dinosaurs are dead as a 'buxom' or 'derived kind,' opposite to the 'nuclear type' represented apiece sole common. The dinosaur is no longer extant (Nguyen, 2019b:1305).

It is a kind refers to the type-level system directly, but the buxom kind produce a type-level body by amassing allitsrealisations, essentially by a somewhat summary scouring. In the domain of processes, constructed types are thus congruent accompanying dependents describing styles or stages of their aggregation, as visualized in (8a), that appears absurd accompanying atomic sorts, as displayed in (8b):

- (8) a. Dinosaurs slowly/ gradually/ eventually became extinct.
b. *The dinosaur slowly/ gradually/ eventually became extinct

Figure (3). Multi-Dimensional Analysis of Generic Structures and Cognitive Relations



Source: Author-generated analytical visualization derived from the conceptual relationships discussed in the cognitive linguistic framework of the study.

Figure (3) illustrates the multi-dimensional organization of English generic forms. The left panel presents a three-dimensional

cognitive classification of generic forms according to abstraction, inclusivity, and prototype salience, while the right panel visualizes the intensity of semantic connections through a cognitive heatmap. The figure reveals the structural complicatedness underlying generic interpretation.

3.4 The Proportional Subset Referred to By Proportional Generics

The extensional concepts of proportion, (sub)set, as well as reference mass constitute the bare plural the favoured interpretation for generalisations derived from quantitative and statistical data. This extract from a political philosophy senior's work shows the reasoning process that changes from mathematical news to an equivalent generalization. Americans exhibit strong loyalty. In the 1994 General Social Survey, 97% of accused top-secret themselves as "intensely self-important," "very proud," "or "moderately pleasing" expected American, but minority than 2% identified as "not very arrogant." (Endriss & Hinterwimmer, 2005:96).

The scholar's declaration that "Americans are patriotic" was established the percentage of respondents the one top-secret themselves as "very," "very," or "partially" proud expected American. Their replies comprise 97% of the whole sample, so describing the ruling part of the reference bulk. The 2% of accused the one expressed being "not very pleased" expected American constitute the tinier type and are detached. The quantitative dossier is before translated qualitatively, declaring, 'Americans, usually, exhibit nationalism.' The generalisation made for one undergraduate is likely thought-out valid by most things. The inclusion of answers in the intermediate range ("somewhat proud") in the generic category and the identification of "being proud" with "patriotic" are irrelevant to this generalization (Guéron, 2006:219).

4. Definite singular: Generic kind

Definite character is inclusive. According to Hawkins (1978), "the endorsement must pertain to all of objects or bulk, regardless of the load or magnitude concerning this whole." The all-embracing entirety of objects, when referring to individual singular bodies, comprises a unique instance. In pretending the inquiry, "Can you visualize the feline?", me has a particular lion in mind and presumes that the hearer can also rationally recognize this reference.

The definite singular specifically denotes a class or category. Its whole entirety constitutes a single instance: the type itself. Consequently, the speaker conveys that. The lion is a predatory feline, denotes the species 'lion' as a singular entity, and presumes that the listener may form cognitive association with the category—thus its definiteness. This kind of generic reference is termed kind generic, it can come in different types (Greenberg, 2015:104).

4.1 Reference to a kind

The type generic is frequently regarded as the only genuine manifestation of generic reference. As seen in (4c), positive singulars are surely logical with 'kind predicates'. The sort generic is unique with generic reference types because it claims its generic importance although its pertaining to syntax location in the phrase. Consequently, the positive unique nominal phrase denotes a general type in two together the subject position (9a) and the object position (9b).

(9) a. The chimpanzee is critically endangered.

b. The loss of habitat endangers the chimpanzee

The following examples from Quirk et al. (1985) demonstrate the referential behaviour of several kinds of noun phrases in object position.

- (10) a. Nora has been studying the medieval mystery play
- b. Nora has been studying a medieval mystery play.
- c. Nora has been studying medieval mystery plays.

In sentence (10a), only the positive singular noun phrase concede possibility mainly designate secret plays as a category; the vague noun phrases in (10b) and (17c) concern individual or more distinguishing secret plays, respectively. The type defining of the ape in (9a) and (9b) is affected apiece kind predicates, while the type understanding of the mediaeval mystery play in (10a) stands from the meaning of the nominal: a mystery play, specifically a mediaeval play, is mystery as a ‘traditional kind’ by Krifka et al. (1995). The noun phrases "the map" or "the paper" in "Nora has been studying the map/the paper," however, would not be seen as indicative of a category but rather as denoting a specific individual case (Cervantes & Stephens., 2019:75).

4.2 Integration of instance & type of generics

A reference to a type generalises further the distinguishing instances that outline that type. Nevertheless, this does not imply that distinguishing models are insignificant in our understanding of a general type. As proved in section 0.2, we mainly understand types utilizing individual with the metonymic structures submitted by Lakoff (1987).

Table (3): Conceptual Blending Architecture in Generic Interpretation

Blending Component	Function	Example in Study
Input Space 1	Individual instance	A lion
Input Space 2	Generic category	Lion species
Generic Space	Shared properties	Predatory animal
Blended Space	Emergent generic meaning	The lion as species

Source: Developed by the researcher according to conceptual blending theory and mental space integration models discussed in the study

The lion is regarded as the king of animals “we conceive for a short time that skilled lives a single lion, that represents all of the species,” and “the class is conceptualised as a composite exhibiting in the form of individual of its commissioners.” The individual in addition to general uses are amalgamated into a single form, paraphrase the distinctness 'tween two together untenable. Currently, Jespersen, and specifically Christophersen, concede possibility be visualized as proposing a blending understanding of the authoritative unique common. Coulson and Oakley (2003) have proposed a blending method to general statements like "The lion is a carnivore," although they do not elaborate on the specifics of this analysis (Vogels & Lamers, 2008:169).

Due to the fact that the profiled referent is the definitive kind, it is also printed and surrounded in bold. This kind comes to mind when one thinks of a standard example of a lion. The archetypal instance is of a completely conceptual character, and it is via the use of the metonymy , that we are able to grasp the type. As a result of the blend inheriting the contents of both input spaces, the conceptions of the type and its prototype instance are co-present as well as fused together in the blend. Because we are thinking and talking concerning the species 'lion', rather than an archetypal lion, and we are expressing the notion in a form (present tense, predicate nominal) that generally expresses genericness, the profiled type is the dominant type philosophically and linguistically (Seres, 2020:33).

Given that both the type generic and the representative generic are single in form, they seem to be quite similar to one another. Both of these conceptualisations, however, are essentially distinct from one another. The generic type is profiled and conspicuous in regard to kind generics (Figure 3), but the instance is

metonymically recalled and only faintly apparent in the context of kind generics. (Moors, Piessens, & Odersky, 2008:423).

5. Definite Plural Version of The Delimited Generic

Using the speech as an example, Hawkins (1978: 159–162) demonstrates how the individuating definite plural may be inclusive. Following the conclusion of the cricket match, collect in. If the hearer were to bring him just four or five of the six wickets, the speaker would not be content with the situation. When referring to a pragmatically circumscribed collection of items, the definite article refers to all of those objects and does not exclude any of them. In addition, the generic definite plural that the Italians in the phrase "The Italians adore pasta" evokes a pragmatically bounded set inside a domain (Hillerström, Lindley, & Longley, 2020:123).

This is because it is recognised to refer to "those persons of Italian origin who presently occupy Italy" (Hawkins 1978). Within the confines of this restricted set in terms of ancestry and residence, the broad reference is inclusive. This means that it is recognised to not exclude any person of Italian ancestry who is now residing in Italy. In contrast, the plain plural, such as in the phrase "Italians enjoy pasta," does not include a similarly constrained group; rather, it refers to Italians in general, which may be defined as "everyone who either is, has been, or will be an Italian." (Snape, 2018:183).

Anonymous reviewer drawn our attention the possibility that the group referred to as Italians apply to groups of Italians who are not now residing in Italy, such as in It was during World War II when the Italian population in the United States was the greatest immigrant group. The United States of America and World War II are examples of geographical and temporal adjuncts that give information about the restricted set (Dobrovie-Sorin, 2012:93).

When it comes to generic reference, the definite plural serves the purpose of implying a restricted collection within a specific

pragmatic context. This is true in both circumstances. It is consequently possible to refer to the definite plural generic as the delimited generic. Individuals are classified as the entities that are included among the delimited set in the sentence "The Italians adore pasta". It is possible for the entities that are a part of a delimited set to symbolically represent a subtype of a type. With regard to this particular application, the delimited generic is applicable at the level of categories in the same manner as kind generics are (Mayr, 2015:204). According to Chesterman (1999), the following is an example of this function:

(11): "Among the lizards, iguanas are the most popular as a local food"

The NP the lizards in - (11) - talks about the "family of lizard-types," which includes the subtype "iguana" as one of its members. Although it is not definitely established, the superordinate type 'tote for carrying personal items' grant permission be obviously understood from the likely facts. The type "tote for carrying personal items" is the demarcated set, and because the positive multiple is all-embracing, it contains all of the subtypes of lizards that are contained in the set. Because of this, we are smarter to express all set by utilizing the composite quantifier all was that when it meets expectations lizards, iguanas are consumed as food. Because of this, the demarcated general, that refers to the lizards, is equal to the type general, that refers to the tote for carrying personal items (Brisson, 2015:53).

The kind general, in another way, characterizes the type straightforwardly, while the demarcated common studies a subtype and before invokes the type. However, even though that the custom of the demarcated general as the level of types, as in (11) is not accountable some distinguishing rule, it is still relatively rare intermittent. This is likely on account of the evidence that it competes accompanying supplementary direct construals, that is to say those that use the quantifier all and the sort common.

At the level of individual instances, the use of the demarcated common is superior; still, in English, it is nearly entirely limited to human referents, to a degree in the phrase "The Italians fall for noodles." Both differences of the demarcated common, that is to say the common including individuals and the common including subtypes, need the demeanor of a set inside the area that serves to demarcate the general remark bulk. Set is a component of message that cultivates on account of the joining of abstract ideas (Caponigro, Pearl, Brooks, & Barner, 2016:23).

Table (4) :Comparative Semantic Interpretation of English Generic Structures

Form	Semantic Focus	Cognitive Mechanism	Typical Use
A lion	Prototype	INSTANCE FOR TYPE	Representative
Lions	Statistical category	Proportional abstraction	Generalisation
The lion	Conceptual species	Kind representation	Scientific discourse
The Italians	Delimited subgroup	Contextual restriction	Cultural generalization

Source: Developed by the researcher based on the comparative semantic interpretation of English generic structures presented in the analysis.

5.1 Theoretical Contributions

The analysis contributes to cognitive linguistics by means of provide evidence that generic reference is not slightly a grammatical phenomenon however a productive conceptual method created by prototype activation, metonymic compression, classification, as well as conceptual blending. The study additional suggests an integrated interpretive structure that illustrates in what way or manner individual instances are cognitively converted into generalized conceptual structures. In addition, the study expands

former analyses of genericity by affirming the function of semantic abstraction as well as conceptual integration in the construction of generic meaning.

5.2 Limitations of the Study

The analysis is generally theoretical as well as interpretive in nature moreover does not depend large-scale corpus-based statistical analysis. The illustrations analysed were preferred to demonstrate cognitive-semantic mechanisms rather than to specify exhaustive empirical coverage of English generic constructions. Future studies may extend the present scheme by way of computational linguistic methods as well as cross-linguistic comparative analysis.

5.3 Critical Discussion

The present study illustrates that generic reference in English cannot be explained as a purely grammatical phenomenon disconnected from cognitive organization. Rather, the conclusions signify that generic constructions emerge through complex interactions between prototype activation, metonymic compression, conceptual abstraction, as well as blending processes. The analysis additionally discloses that generic interpretation depends profoundly on the speaker's skill to transform individual instances into generalized conceptual categories through cognitive clarity and semantic integration.

Furthermore, the interaction between metonymy as well as conceptual blending implies that genericity conduct dynamically across multiple conceptual positions alternatively within established referential structures unique. This note challenges traditional approaches that define common reference generally through syntactic or reasonable likeness. In addition, the analysis climaxes the significance of categorization systems in shaping the pertaining to syntax adaptability of generic verbalizations across various communicative frameworks.

The intelligent framework selected in this study again manifests that conceptual harmonizing donates significantly to the rise of abstract common meaning by mixing mental rooms into united semantic makeups. Consequently, the study supports the fuller assumptions of intelligent language rules that meaning building is fundamentally abstract, practical, and cognitively mediated alternatively particularly controlled by correct grammatical systems.

Conclusion

This study design to evaluate the four basic standardizes of generic reference in English—namely, the indefinite singular, the bare plural, the definite unique, as well as the definite plural—through the analytical lenses of metonymy and theoretic blending. Depended on the suggested methodological framework as well as the quantitative analysis of a sample drawn from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), the following essential conclusions arise:

First, the distribution of generic types is not match. As demonstrated in Table (1), the bare plural is ultimate frequent type (48% of the sample), followed separately indefinite singular (22%), the definite singular (18%), moreover ultimately the definite plural (12%). This implies that English speakers likely to favor proportionate generalizations higher than strict, exceptionless kind-remark.

Second, the metonymic orders underlying every generic example are distinct and systematically expected:

1. The indefinite singular depends INSTANCE FOR TYPE, create a likeness in a picture a alone arbitrary member to stand for the whole category.
2. The bare plural function by way of SUBCLASS FOR CLASS or a proportional subgroup, that illustrates why it quickly accepts exemptions as well as co-occurs with progressive aspect.

3. The definite singular includes PROTOTYPE FOR CATEGORY, admitting kind-level predicates (for instance, "is extinct") as well as consenting no exceptions.
4. The definite plural invokes a DELIMITED SET FOR TYPE, confining reference to a pragmatically confined group (e.g., "the Italians living in Italy today")..

Third, the conceptual blending study reinforces that generic meaning rises not from clear replacement of an instance by a type, however from the melding of two together in a blended mental space. In the indefinite singular, the example is create a likeness in a picture as well as the kind is backgrounded; in the definite singular, the kind is given in summary moreover the example is metonymically invoked as a prototype.

Fourth, the analysis recognized a significant gap in the existent literature: maximum theoretical claims concerning generics (such as, the incompatibility of indefinite singulars accompanying the progressive aspect) destitute happened analytically certified on large corpora. The quantitative data conferred in this direction (see Table 1 and Figure 2) supply introductory support for these claims, however likewise reveal register-based variation that necessitates additional study.

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