

Universität Duisburg-Essen • 45117 Essen

To:

metaphor-l@raam.org.uk

Copy to: e.semino@lancs.ac.uk

gj.steen@let.vu.nl

FACHBEREICH
GEISTESWISSENSCHAFTEN
GERMANISTIK

Bearbeiter(in) Priv.-Doz. Dr. Reiner Kupper
Telefon 0201 183 3422 (Skr.)
Fax 0201 183 4409
E-Mail reiner.kuepper@uni-due.de
Gebäude R12 R05 A28

Homepage: <http://www.uni-due.de/germanistik/kuepper/index.shtml>

Datum 05.01.12

ABSTRACT FOR RAAM 9

The application of MIP (VU) to the work of Carl Diem, Hitler's organizer of the 1936 Olympics

Methods for Linguistic Metaphor Identification were “originally designed to analyze English discourse.” (Steen et al. 2010a, 147). Accordingly, they have mostly been applied to English – partly also Dutch – corpora; that is, to languages that “carr[y] meaning in words, and lack[...] great inflectional influences.” (Steen et al. 2010a, 147) “A language like German where inflection is more important and influential, may pose different problems for procedures such as MIP and MIPVU. In addition, languages which have a more complex system of word formation and compounding, where different morphemes carrying meaning can be combined, will need a procedure that is able to identify these elements.” (Steen et al. 2010a, 147f.) Moreover, the English corpora, most approaches to metaphor are based on, usually represent present-day discourse. The application to *historical* texts poses additional problems which will also be discussed in this presentation. In particular, my presentation is based on the three volumes of “OLYMPISCHE FLAMME. Das Buch vom Sport” (1942), by the “Sportfunktionär” and “Sportwissenschaftler” Carl Diem (1882-1962). His book, which is largely a compilation of his contributions to academic journals and newspapers, is considered the most important document of national-socialist sport ideology. Since Diem was also co-founder and vice-chancellor of the first University College of Sport in Berlin, his discourse was most influential also among academics. In the mid-1930s Diem was in charge of the organization of the 1936 Olympic games. Diem's more or less pathos-injected publications and speeches can be expected to rely heavily on the use of metaphorical language; the number of lexical units in relation to metaphor will be compared to the results that Steen et al. (2010a/b) received for various registers of present-day discourse. My results are, of course, only preliminary; particularly “specialist terms” (cf. Steen et al. 2010a, 111) pose a problem. So my presentation is largely a report on work in progress. In any case, one has to be “aware that only a full-fledged discourse-linguistic analysis can provide statistically grounded evidence on the discourse functions of metaphorically related words.” (Steen et al. 2010a, 125)

References:

- Carl Diem (1942), *Olympische Flamme. Das Buch vom Sport*, Berlin: Deutscher Archiv-Verlag.
Frank Becker (2009), *Den Sport gestalten. Carl Diems Leben (1882–1962)*. Duisburg: Universitätsverlag Rhein-Ruhr.
Gerard J. Steen et al. (2010a), *A Method for Linguistic Metaphor Identification*. From MIP to MIPVU, Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
Gerard J. Steen et al. (2010b), “Metaphor in usage”, *Cognitive Linguistics* 21-4, 765-796.
Anatol Stefanowitsch/Stefan Th. Gries (Ed.) (2006), *Corpus-Based Approaches to Metaphor and Metonymy*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.