

Metaphors of HOT and COLD in Ancient Greek: a Diachronic Perspective

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This paper aims to investigate metaphorical extensions of temperature terms in Ancient Greek (AG) across different discourse types and diachronic stages using a Conceptual Metaphor Theory approach (CMT, Lakoff/Johnson 1980). CMT is interested in temperature as a source domain for metaphorical mappings toward the emotion domain (among others, Lakoff et al. 1991, Lakoff/Kövecses 1987, and Lorenzetti 2009).

In contrast to typological studies (Koptjevskaja-Tamm 2015), no research has yet focused on AG temperature terms and their related metaphorical extensions from either a synchronic or a diachronic perspective. This paper contributes to filling this gap and is structured as follows:

- (i) it provides an analysis of the metaphorical extensions of AG nouns, adjectives, and verbs related to the subdomains of HOT and COLD;
- (ii) it considers data from both literary and non-literary texts, identifying differences in the use of these terms in different genres and discourse types;
- (iii) it deals with data from different language stages, including data from the Archaic, Classical and Postclassical periods (i.e., 8th cent. BCE – 6th cent. CE), examining diachronic changes regarding the metaphorical use of these terms.

AG temperature terms are scrutinized in a literary corpus built by extracting a set of occurrences from Archaic, Classical and Postclassical Greek texts using the online database *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae*. In addition, occurrences from documentary papyri are scrutinized using the online database *Trismegistos*.

Our analysis shows, among other things, that metaphorical developments of these terms are frequently linked to EMOTIONS, as observed in other languages (Barcelona Sánchez 1986, Apresjan 1997, and Coschignano 2021). For example, the verb *thermainō* ‘make warm/hot’ instantiates the metaphor ANGER IS HEAT (1). Furthermore, temperature terms can instantiate metaphorical extensions beyond the emotion domain, e.g., the verb *thálpō* ‘make warm/hot’ instantiates the metaphor LIFE IS HEAT (2):

- (1) *kai mē pròs orgēn splánkhnā*
and NEG toward anger(F):ACC.SG gut(N):ACC.PL
therméēs kótōi
make_hot:AOR.SBJV.2SG resentment:DAT.SG
‘And do not heat your guts to anger with resentment.’ (Ar. *Ran.* 844).

- (2) *ei d’ éti zameneî Timókritos haliōi sòs*

if PTC still mighty:DAT.SG Timocritus:NOM.SG sun:DAT.SG your
patēr *ethálpeto*
 father:NOM.SG make_hot:IMPF.3SG
 ‘And if your father Timocritus had still been warmed by the strength of the sun (i.e., alive) [...]’
 (Pind. *N.* 4.14).

This study also contributes to enriching the semantic annotation of the *Ancient Greek WordNet* (AGWN), developed within the project *Linked WordNets for Ancient Indo-European languages* (PI Chiara Zanchi). Through its rich annotation system, AGWN allows tracking semantic change over time and across literary genres (Biagetti et al. 2021).

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