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Language, literature and cognition, as the three central themes of the book, stand for the different faces of a three-sided prism that lies at the core of the human being's linguistic and communicative ability and cognitive potential. Language and cognition are inseparable; language is one of our basic cognitive abilities and one of the most ostensible signs of human thinking power. And literature is nothing but language, a linguistic discourse imbued with artistic spirit, which expresses, construes and communicates knowledge and thought.

In the field of linguistics, the paradigm known as Cognitive Linguistics has in recent years become one of the most visible banners of the relationship between language and cognition. This paradigm embraces a multitude of approaches from different theoretical perspectives, but ultimately united in their common interest in the link between language and cognition. Of these approaches, those by linguists working from the US, such as Lakoff and Johnson's Theory of Conceptual Metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson 1980, Lakoff 1993), Langacker's Cognitive Grammar (1987, 1991) or Fillmore's Frame Semantics (1976, 1982), are undoubtedly the most famous and widely recognised. That said, the cognitive postulate flourishes in Europe, resulting in a series of approaches that have contributed to widening our knowledge on language and cognition from their own particular perspective.

In this sense, this volume encompasses a wide spectrum of approaches developed, for the most part, by Spanish linguists, although homage is also paid to the theory of the French linguist Maurice Toussaint. It brings together fifteen papers that profile different cognitive approaches to literature and language in general, starting with two papers in tribute to Toussaint, whose linguistic theory—as outlined in the introduction to the book—inspired much of the work of the research group of the editors, *Lenguajes* ("Languages"). In the first, Francis Tollis describes how Toussaint's theory, inspired by laws of biology and physics, explains certain linguistic processes that may, at first sight, seem arbitrary. In fact, in the letter to the mathematician and creator of catastrophe theory René Thom that appears as the second paper in the volume, Toussaint himself underlines certain parallels between some of the mathematician's proposals and his linguistic model. Despite differences with cognitive approaches that led Toussaint to talk about "an anti-cognitivist cognitive neurolinguistics" (45), his attempt to explain the motivation

of linguistic processes through reference to nature has clear parallelisms with Cognitive Linguistics postulates.

The third paper of the volume places readers in the literary field at the hand of M^a Ángeles Hermosilla, who builds upon Reception Aesthetics and cognitive postulates in order to vindicate the dynamic nature of meaning. Unlike more traditional approaches which conceive of meaning as an objective entity that lies within the text, she defends the inter-subjective character of reading as a space where meaning is built during the interaction between reader and text.

The fourth paper is devoted to Ángel López's Liminal or Perceptive Grammar. This theory shares some basic cognitive principles with Cognitive Linguistics (such as the figure and ground principle or the parallelisms between linguistic processes and basic natural processes like vision), but also displays features (such as its simultaneous focus on language and meta-language) that distinguish it from other approaches. Another approach in the volume placed in the field of linguistics is the fourteenth paper of the volume, by Eulalio Fernández Sánchez, which advocates a multidisciplinary approach to the nature of the linguistic sign.

The fifth paper of the volume brings readers back to the literary field guided by Ángel Luis Luján, whose work is a vindication of the use of cognitive stylistics as valuable methodology with which to analyse literary texts. Such a methodology is based on the basic cognitive principles that advocate the continuity between literary and everyday language and between the iconic and the motivated nature of language. The seventh, twelfth and thirteenth papers of the volume also have a literary orientation. That by Mercedes Belinchón deals with the relationship between natural and literary language and suggests that it is a suitable field of research for cognitive linguistics and psychology as well as for literature. This is complemented by a paper by María Dolores Porto and another by Juani Guerra. Both work in the field of Cognitive Poetics, but whereas Porto's work provides a more general introduction to the leading principles of Cognitive Poetics, the paper by Guerra adopts a more interdisciplinary approach, placing the theory within the paradigm of Complexity Theories.

The sixth paper of the volume, by F. Javier Perea Siller, adopts a more historical approach in its historiographic application of cognitivism. It analyses the metaphorical motivation of the concept of nobility from the debates of sixteenth-century Spanish society and its relationship with the racist images surviving up to the eighteenth century. The metaphorical motivation of language is also the focus of the eighth paper, by M^a Paz Cepedello and M^a del Carmen García Manga, which points to metaphor as one of the most productive mechanisms for motivation.

One area with enormous potential for the application of cognitive theories is without any doubt that of Second Language Acquisition and the next paper, by Anna Sánchez Rufat, proposes a method to improve the learning of lexical combinations in foreign language teaching by building on three components or basic stages of cognitive processing, that is, retention, fixation and reutilisation.

Another area where there are numerous possibilities for the application of cognitive-oriented approaches is Discourse Analysis. The approach detailed in the paper by Antonio Barcelona regarding the notion of conceptual metonymy is particularly illuminating in this respect. He argues for the presence of metonymic operations, not only in many cognitive-linguistic processes (for instance, metaphors), but also in processes operating in discourse comprehension (for instance, in pragmatic inference and implicature).

After Barcelona's contribution on the notion of metonymy, we find the paper by Regina Gutiérrez on the notion of conceptual metaphor, another of the leading concepts in Cognitive Linguistics. Her work adopts an interlinguistic approach to the analysis of heart metaphors, arguing that the similarities found in its conceptualisation in different languages suggest the existence of a universal motivation based on a series of generic interlinguistic stereotypes of the human body.

Finally, the volume closes with a paper by Carlos Subirats on Frame Semantics, one of the most prolific approaches within the Cognitive Linguistics paradigm. His model builds on Fillmore's FrameNet project to create a Spanish model of this network by integrating Frame Semantics and Bergen and Chang's Embodied Construction Grammar (2007).

The main challenge the volume faces lies in its ambitious attempt to unify approaches that at times seem very different and not closely related. This may be what gives this work its rather eclectic character, which on certain occasions can be seen as a virtue, but on others becomes an obstacle to its aim to unify. Nevertheless, and despite the difficulties imposed by the diversity of the approaches encompassed in the volume, one of its main achievements is surely that of highlighting and vindicating the existence of other cognitive approaches developed in areas nearer Spain. It brings together a number of approaches that, while sharing a crucial set of cognitive assumptions, such as the union between language, literature and cognition, have still managed to find their own identity and postulate innovative and specific premises. On the one hand, one could argue that these European approaches have been somehow overshadowed by the notoriety—undoubtedly well deserved—of US linguists. But on the other, they have certainly managed to use the paradigm for their own purposes, turning it into a “more propitious breeding ground for their rise” (11). I hope that *Lenguaje, Literatura y Cognición* will become a standard addition to the bookshelf, alongside the US contributions and that it will contribute to fostering the growth and expansion of Cognitive Linguistics in Spain.

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