

**Investigating war and
non-war Covid-19 metaphorical
expressions in political speeches**

Asst.Lect.Hajer Akram Jasim
Al-Noor University College

Abstract:

This study investigates war and non-war expressions of Covid-19 metaphorical expressions in political speeches. Metaphors may become controversial since they denote different meanings. Each metaphor emphasizes certain aspects of the subject matter thus affecting the thinking, assessments even emotions of people in particular ways. COVID-19 war metaphors, for example, which are commonly utilized at the beginning of the pandemic, are criticized for incorrectly personifying the virus as a malevolent enemy. The study utilizes Conceptual Metaphor Theory as a model to analyze the chosen data. CMT has been adapted by adding denotations (frames) and mind maps to simplify the metaphorical project from the source domain onto the target domain. It is found that the virus is used as an Abstract Target Domain. Also, it is found that the WAR frame is more frequent in the political metaphors related to COVID-19 than the non-war frames.

Keywords: Meataphor, COVID-19, War, political speeches

استقصاء التعبيرات المجازية الحربية و غير الحربية المتعلقة بالفايروس التاجي
المستجد (كوفيد_19) في الخطاب السياسي

م.م هاجر اكرم جاسم

كلية النور الجامعة

Hajerakram944@gmail.com

المستخلص:

تستقصي هذه الدراسة الأطر الحربية و غير الحربية للتعبيرات الإستعارية المتعلقة بالفايروس التاجي المستجد (كوفيد-19) في النصوص السياسية. أصبحت الاستعارة محط جدل لامتلاكها العديد من العوامل المؤثرة: حيث تركز كل استعارة على جوانب معينة من الموضوع وتخفي جوانب اخرى, وبذلك تؤثر بطرق معينة في التفكير , التقويمات و حتى عواطف الناس. على سبيل المثال, الاستعارات المتعلقة بالحرب التي كانت شائعة جدا في بداية الجائحة, تم انتقادها لتشخيصها الفايروس على انه عدو حاقق, لذلك ظهرت اصوات تنادي لطرق بديلة عن الاستعارات الحربية للحديث عن كوفيد-19. تستخدم هذه الدراسة نظرية الاستعارة المفاهيمية كأداة لتحليل العينات المختارة. تم تعديل هذه النظرية بإضافة الخرائط الذهنية و الأطر الدلالية لدعم تحليل العينات و تسهيل الإسقاط الإستعاري من المجال المصدر على المجال المستهدف. وَجَدَت هذه الدراسة بأن الفايروس يستخدم كمجال مستهدف مجرد. تم الوصول ايضاً الى ان إطار الحرب هو اكثر استخداماً في الاستعارات السياسية المتعلقة بالفايروس التاجي المستجد (كوفيد-19) من الأطر الغير متعلقة بالحرب .

الكلمات المفتاحية: استعارة, الفايروس التاجي المستجد -19, الحرب, الخطاب السياسي

1 Introduction

Metaphors may become controversial since they have framing effects. Each metaphor emphasizes certain aspects of the subject and backgrounds others, thus affecting the thinking, assessments even emotions of people in particular ways. War metaphors, for example, which are commonly utilized at the beginning of the pandemic, are criticized for incorrectly personifying the virus as a malevolent enemy, causing unnecessary anxiety, and dangerously legitimizing authoritarian government steps. So there is a need to make a balance in using both effects of war metaphors : negative and positive, on one hand.

On the other hand, there is a call for alternative options of talking about COVID-19 other than all war metaphors, because certain characteristics of war metaphors can potentially have negative effects in that they contribute to anxiety or even aggression towards individuals who is considered guilty of causing or transmitting the virus or even towards ordinary people. From here non-war metaphors related to COVID-19 get their power and started out.

Metaphorical expressions assist in conveying the meaning successfully. They are essential in transferring the message of the text appropriately and successfully for they are capable of adding force to the meaning conveyed. If they are well understood, they will do their job in the best way, and readers will receive the message successfully. However, if metaphorical expressions are not well received by readers who may take them at their face value, a problem may arise and misunderstanding may turn up.

2. Metaphor: Definitions and views :

Metaphor, as the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (Metaphor | Definition & Examples | Britannica, 2017) puts it, is a “figure of speech that implies comparison between two unlike entities, as distinguished from simile, an explicit comparison signalled by the words ‘like’ or ‘as’ ”. A metaphor is defined as “an expression which describes a person or an object in a literary way by referring to something that is considered to have similar characteristics to the person or subject you are trying to describe”. Unlike the one before, in this definition, metaphor is conceptualized as as a ‘literary way’ not as a figure of speech. Besides, there is no clear-cut

distinction between simile and metaphor in this definition; there is an overlap between the two definitions (Salem, 2014: 68).

Wilkinson (2008: xi) perceive metaphor as “a means of expressing one thing in terms of something else, as if someone were to say ‘it’s no use crying over spilt milk’ to a friend uselessly wails something lost beyond recall”. Similarly, Semino clarifies metaphor as “the phenomenon whereby we talk and, potentially, think about something in terms of something else” (Semino, 2008: 5). The definitions of Wilkinson and Semino do not confirm that there is a fundamental element of similarity, on which the metaphoric structure lies. The definitions are too general; all other speech characters may fall within the concept of metaphor following this definition. Proverbs and idioms can also be used as metaphors (Salem, 2014: 68).

Dickins (2005: 228) defines metaphor as “a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is used in a non-basic sense suggesting a likeness or analogy with another more basic sense of the same word or phrase”. Again, in this definition, metaphor is not necessarily distinguished from simile. Kövecses refers to metaphor as “a figure of speech in which one thing is compared to another by saying that one is the other, as in ‘He is a lion’ ” (Kövecses, 2002: vii). It implies the metaphor exclusively refers to phrases with a subject, a verb "to be" and a predicate. A statement such as 'the lion' will not be a metaphor, whereas 'Lion' applies to 'a specific orator.' By analyzing closely these distinct meanings, we find they have a lot in common and that they validate the following information on metaphor, its characteristics and its components together:

- Metaphor is a figure of speech.
- Metaphor is based on a similarity between two elements.
- The entities can be people or objects.
- The kind of comparison is implicit, i.e. comparative is not utilized.
- Words are altered from their literal meaning.
- A phrase or one word may be used in a metaphor.
- The use of metaphor in thought is a cognitive phenomena.

These characteristics allow us to establish a modern and more full definition of a metaphor: is a cognitive figure of speech in which the literal meaning is altered and is based on an abstract likeness between two different items (without any comparing particles).

To sum up the above metaphor definitions, we can assume that the metaphor at least includes the following in its narrow meaning:

1. A comparison.
2. There is no preposition or comparison-related particle; the comparison is implied.
3. The comparison is being made between different things originally.
4. Using words or phrases in non-literal contexts (Salem, 2014: 70).

Metaphor encompasses all figures of speech in the broadest meaning. The term "metaphor" will only be used in the restricted meaning in this study.

3. Conceptual metaphor theory

In cognitive linguistics and in cognitive and social sciences, Conceptual Metaphor Theory has plays an important role both in neighboring fields such as cognitive psychology and anthropology. In this part we sum up and describe some of the important components of the CMT as they developed between the period of the publication of *Metaphors We Live By* and the mid-1990s.

This paradigm was suggested in their 1980 book *Metaphors We Live By* by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson for the first time and was elaborated in a number of later works. The CMT has been one of the first cognitive semantic enterprise theoretical framings, and much of the early theoretical inspiration for the cognitive approach supported by CMT. The main premise of conceptual metaphor theory is that metaphor is more than merely a stylistic feature of language; rather, thought by itself is metaphorically basic in nature. This viewpoint organizes conceptual structure by 'cross-domain mapping,' or relationship across conceptual domains. Some of these mappings result from pre-conceptual experiences, while others build on them to create more complex conceptual frameworks. For example, we may conceive of QUANTITY as a VERTICAL ELEVATION, as in "She got a really high grade in the test," where "high" does not literally indicate to physical height but to an excellent mark. According to CMT, It's because the 'conceptual domain' QUANTITY is conventionally created and so understood in terms of the conceptual domain VERTICAL ELEVATION. Conceptual activities requiring mappings are more commonly known as "conceptual projection" such as conceptual metaphor. The assertions claimed by conceptual metaphor theorists like

Lakoff and Johnson and their colleagues link directly to two of the essential assumptions connected with cognitive semantics. The first is 'the embodied cognition thesis' that contains the conceptual structure based on the embodied experience, and the second is 'that semantic structure reflects the conceptual structure' (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980).

4. Metaphorical frames used in COVID-19 discourse :

4.1 War frame :

In communication sciences a frame is typically defined as “consisting of two elements...elements in a text such as words, used as framing devices, and (latent) information used as reasoning devices, through which a problem, cause, evaluation, and/or treatment is implied” (Wicke and Bolognesi, 2020: 8). Using war-related words is a phenomenon of communication that expresses aspects of the Covid-19 outbreak relating to the steps required for fighting against a virus (Ibid: 14-15).

The figurative frame of WAR is definitely a traditional one, often used unconsciously, in discourses involving diseases. As Flusberg et al. (2018: 5) argue that such a frame is handy and commonly used as it builds on the basic experience that everyone has, considering the fact that this is not first-hand knowledge for most people. This frame also expressed, in a perfect manner, the need for steps to be taken to reach the conclusive result immediately, and the urgency of a very negative situation. In a very categorical way, the outcomes may be positive or negative. The inner frame layout is relatively simple with opponent forces identified as allies and enemies or in-groups and out-groups . Each force has an objective strategy that involves risks which can be fatal (Wicke and Bolognesi, 2020: 5).

Since the spread of the virus (among people and within the body of a person) and the creation of the disease are invisible mechanisms that are difficult to conceptualize, the metaphor of war allows us to think of viruses as unseen enemies that attack our cells and medicines as weapons that can be used to kill the invader. Since many War terms can be used to communicate about disease, in the terms of Lakoff and Johnson this constitutes a "structural metaphor", in which the source domain "war" supplies a variety of notions, which could be applied to the target domain "disorder" (Panzeri et al., 2020: 4).

We are all aware that we are not at war. But our situation implies enough resemblance to life in the war to make the metaphor appealing (Patrick, 2020: 3). In discourse on pandemic control, the language of war — frontline, fight, battle, win and loss has become familiar (Richard, 2020: 2).

War requires violence attempting to resolve conflict. There are cases of health workers suicide—the most profound type of violence against oneself—there have also been violent losses from COVID-19. The meteoric increase in household surveys reveals household conflicts with their often violent effects. During the battle we have to recognize our enemies. It is tempting to blame other countries, politicians and leaders, and those who do not follow the laws of physical distance for this pandemic and its implications, we describe other 'enemies,' who may be driven by this language of war (Ibid: 3).

4.1.1 War metaphor of COVID-19 from political perspective :

Sontag (1989: 93-124) outlined in her dissertation how military metaphors in speeches about plagues, including AIDS, flourish. This is also valid for COVID-19. Donald Trump, America's "wartime president," conducts his meetings with his powerless "Surgeon General" consulting for journalists, surrounded by a task force. To honor a nation still at war with viruses and words, the Pentagon flies synchronised military planes called the Blue Angels and Thunderbird¹. Leaders around the world stormed metaphorically into another global pandemic's discursive violation (Erlanger, 2020)². The military command proliferates with sentences such as "stay home," "shelter in place," and "self-isolation"; these are political strategy metaphors intended to boost self-confidence and the dignity of private households, instead of the most suspicious 'quarantine,' a phrase that impresses American citizens who suffer from idealized conceptions of democracy. The military metaphors of COVID-19 help people respect the 'front-line workers' – those perceived to be

¹ The Blue Angels and Thunderbirds are air forces in USA. They gathered crowds in their pass over New York City to congratulate first responders from health care agencies and other important employees working on the front lines of the coronavirus war in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania who were welcomed with a thundering "Thank You".

² Retrieved at: (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/16/world/europe/coronavirus-france-macron-travel-ban.html?searchResultPosition=3>).

'important' for the medical, commercial, social and, of course, political institutions. These workers range from health and safety workers and restaurant workers to gig staff who deliver food to medical laborers , who risk their lives for tips. The latter received nightly respect of clapping from unknown residents across large cities, spread and shared throughout social media and broadcasting. These festivities look less like victory show than video clips from The Hunger Games³ thundering huzzahs that appear to honor employees even as bureaucracies steal medical laborers of essential combat gear or (PPE), in this instance, it can save lives (Craig, 2020: 1026-1027).

War metaphor highlights the desperate need for radical policy decisions, such as closing schools, enforcing travel bans and slowing down the world's economies. It calls for the sense of responsibility and duty of people to serve their country in the time of need. This is undoubtedly not the first time the war metaphor is used by leaders and policymakers to describe a threat which is not military. The war metaphor conceals various dangers, which are especially dangerous in the case of the COVID-19 pandemic, since it is a popular tool for political speech. The metaphor of war is used to form categorizations powerfully. For instance, we are all "Soldiers" in war, not citizens. For this cause, leaders ask for obedience rather than careful, and call for our patriotism not for unity. Under the umbrella of these categorizations, changes to risky authoritarian power stations around the world, as in Hungary, where Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has taken advantage of expansive emergency powers and the right to rules by decree (Musu, 2020:2-3).

Similarly, in the light of the Philippines' national emergency law, President Rodrigo Duterte acquired the right to punish those who spread "fake information" on the epidemic and which can effectively be used to suppress political opponents. In the United Kingdom, a nation with strong democratic institutions, the Coronavirus Bill has granted government ministers authority to arrest and isolate citizens, ban public meetings like protests, close down harbors and airports (Ibid). Health

³ "The Hunger Games" is a series of young adult dystopian novels. The Hunger Games universe is a disaster set in Panem, a North American country composed of the rich Capitol and 13 districts varying in poverty. Every year, youths from the first 12 districts are chosen by lottery to compete in The Hunger Games, a televised battle epic death game. After the victory, the people begin to acclaim and have massive celebrations.

Secretary Matt Hancock (2020) puts it this way : “The measures that I have outlined are unprecedented in peacetime. We will fight this virus with everything we have. We are in a war against an invisible killer and we have to do everything we can to stop it.”

In Alberta, the implementation of Bill 10 gives large and unprecedented powers to the premier and his cabinet. In comparison, the pandemic concept as war necessarily means that an enemy has to be identified. The enemy is coronavirus, but many politicians have added qualifiers to the enemy. The term 'The Chinese virus' is linked with the rise of hateful anti-Asian attacks in North America by President Trump and other American politicians. As this virus spread to major cities such as New York, Toronto and Montreal, another dichotomy is occurring between large urban centres and small rural areas whose citizens may feel at risk of exposure by city dwellers who escape the city (Musu, 2020:2-3).

When leaders use the war metaphor to talk about COVID-19, they can actually get positive effects: they can convey a sense of urgency and alert the population about the seriousness of the threat, and thus they succeed in communicating "the need for everyone to organize and play their role at home (for people, take social distancing commands and handwashing recommendations seriously. This means for businesses that resources are shifted to stop the outbreak, whether for supplies or work). In addition, politicians can use the metaphor usefully “to cut through partisan disagreements and unite people against a common enemy” (Panzeri et al., 2020: 4)

4.2 Non-War frames :

4.2.1 Motivations for using Non-war metaphor frames :

The reasons we are mentioned regarding war metaphor frame are enough to launch the initiative – #ReframeCovid –. In late March 2020 a group of scientists who are interested in metaphor used Twitter to team up to launch an initiative aimed to collect alternatives to the War Metaphors for Covid-19, while most of Europe and the world were locked off. This initiative launched by two Spanish academics, Paula Pérez-Sobrino at the University of La Rioja and Inés Olza at the University of Navarre, and Veronika Koller, and was joined by Elena Semino of university Lancaster (Semino, 2020: 53). This interesting

initiative inspires non-war-related metaphors which inspire people to follow the rules while encouraging them to have optimism (Henderson, 2020).

You are not alone if you believe the military metaphor is overused. But should we think about different metaphors? According to Semino (2020), a linguist at Lancaster University in the United Kingdom, if a battle lasts too long, people will get tired of it. Then she adds ; "They could think there is no victory in sight, so the messages could become less effective". In terms of metaphors we can see something else. Metaphors will be most effective in transforming our thinking by comparison. However, there is a danger here as well. The choice of metaphor can influence not just the way we are talking, this option can change the way we believe and experience the thing we are dealing with. Yasmin (2020)⁴, who teaches medicine and journalism at Stanford University, explains by saying ;

"I have to say that I, too, sometimes slip up and fall into that language, but I think it's really important to correct ourselves and think about the impact that can be had when you're using really violent language at a time when people are already anxious and already scared."

So, are there any better ways to discuss our current situation? Semino from Lancaster University says yes. She supervises a crowdsourced project called "Metaphor Menu", that covers the numerous ways that people think about their cancer diagnosis. She says that some patients are weaponizing their struggle works. However, many others associate being on a trip, being in a tough relationship, or having a stone in her or his shoe or being on a trip. In terms of the Coronavirus, Semino believes it is appropriate to put the war discussion on hold (Patrick, 2020).

4.2.2 Alternative ways of talking about COVID-19 :

Koller explains: "For all these reasons, we have become interested in alternatives to the war metaphors we hear on a daily basis. "she adds ; "We are particularly interested in the aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic

⁴ Retrieved at: (<https://profiles.stanford.edu/seema-yasmin?tab=publications>).

that are relevant to ordinary people". In explaining the virus and its effect and intervention in response, political and public observers have used war metaphors since the start of the global COVID-19 crisis. However, Semino and Koller as linguists who work in health communication also see metaphor as one thing in comparison to another and no single metaphor can convey the complex meaning of a situation, let alone a global pandemic (Henderson, 2020).

The alternative ways of talking about COVID-19 or its situation in terms of metaphor are widely varied and cannot be listed, in contrast to the war frame metaphors. These alternatives comprise all frames and concepts except the military terms. As they are largely varied, they will be restricted to the data collected in this study.

5. Data Analysis

Text (1) : "In May 2020, the Irish Prime Minister stated that, in Ireland, the coronavirus was a fire in retreat but not defeated ... we must extinguish every spark, quench every ember. "

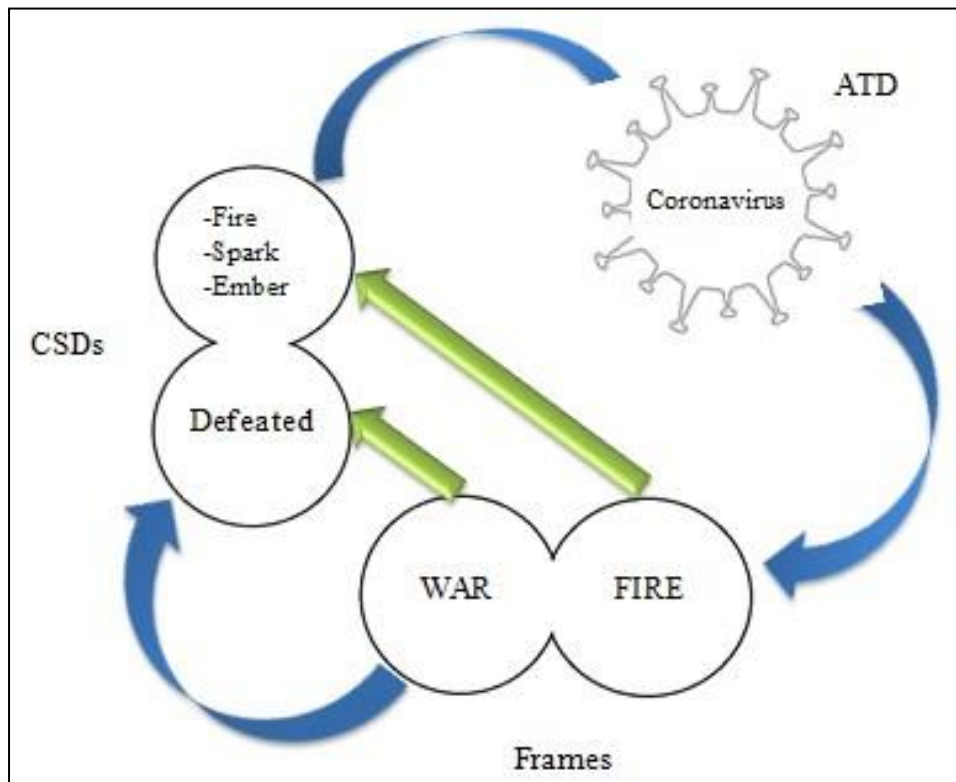


Figure (1) Analysis of text (1)

Discussion:

As this text illustrates, the meanings associated with the metaphorical words often draw upon the advanced experience of knowledge. The metaphorical entailments are: CORONAVIRUS IS A FIRE, SPARK AND EMBER where the ATD (Coronavirus) is conceptualised in terms of the CSDs. (Fire, Spark, Ember), and CORONAVIRUS IS AN ENEMY where the CSD (Defeated) is mapped onto the ATD (Coronavirus).

We have knowledge from previous experiences with the fire and the war serves here as a combination of two frames, namely; the non-war frame (FIRE) and (WAR) frame. As the spread of coronavirus like fire is retreating, this is the first frame (FIRE), but at the same time this virus does not stop from spreading which means that war with it still presents and that the tries of stopping it are continuous, this is the second frame (WAR), the projection happened from the CSDs. (**Spark, Ember**) of those frames onto the ATD (**coronavirus**). The Prime Minister went more deeply into FIRE frame and its CSD, as the real fire begins from a spark and ends with an ember, their role as a government is to extinguish every suspected case (Spark) and take care of every infected (Ember) to recover from the virus. This idea in its own term serves as an important embodied message to deliver the semantic structure to the hearer's\reader's mind.

Text (2) :WHO Director-General Dr.Tedros Adhanom "We have seen how the divisions in politics and communities **feed the virus** and foment the crisis."

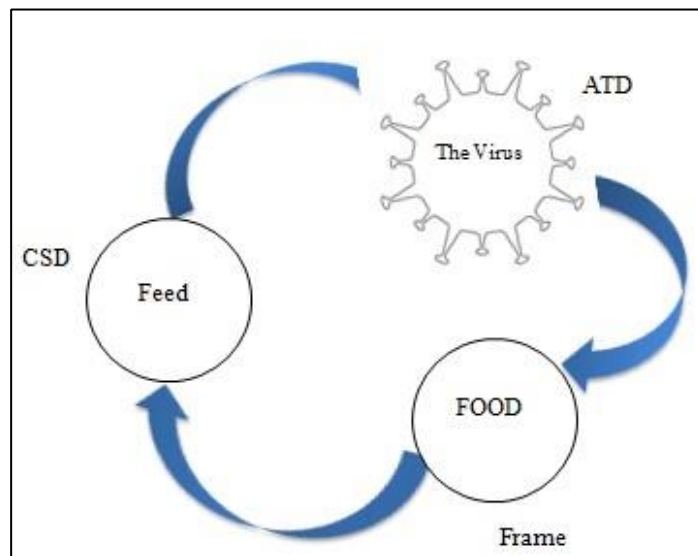


Figure (2) Analysis of text (2)

Discussion:

Starting from the metaphorical entailment in the text: THE VIRUS IS FEEDING, the CSD (Feed) activates its properties in the ATD (The virus). This mapping gives rise to the conceptual structure of the concept (Feed).

This conceptual mapping gives rise to more knowledge about the non-war frame (FOOD) in which the CSD (**Feed**) is projected onto the ATD (**The Virus**). The text compares how conflicts of politicians, leaders, and societies pave the way to the virus and make it stronger and easy to be pervasive. This is how human conflicts feed the virus like people who eat food to grow up and be stronger and powerful. It is not the time of the divisions, it is the time of solidarity to overcome this crisis.

Text (3) : The Prime Minister of Singapore: "We have been **fighting**, and **the tide** is still coming in. What has changed is that we have put up our **dykes**, we have held the **water** out, but the **dyke** leaks. We have got **bits** coming in, people coming home, **the virus** gets into Singapore. We have to keep a very vigilant eye on it continuously, and make sure that every **drop** which comes in we mop it up quickly before **a drop** becomes **a rivulet**, **a rivulet** becomes **a stream**, then I have **a flood** and we are **sunk**. "

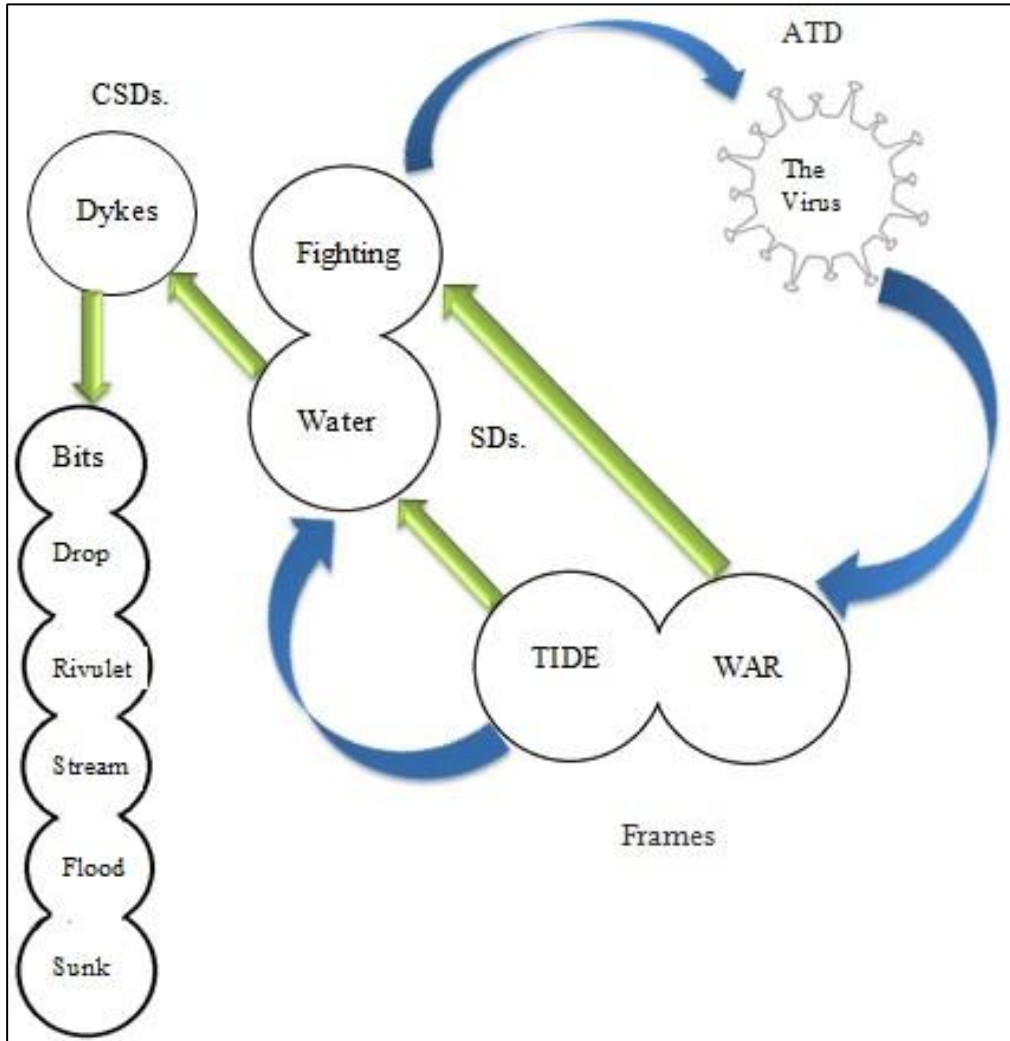


Figure (3) Analysis of text (3)

Discussion:

The text reflects the following conceptual metaphors: THE VIRUS IS AN ENEMY AND WATER where the CSDs (Enemy, Water) activate their cognition properties in the ATD (The virus).

The Prime Minister of Singapore explains how the situation of his country is sensitive by showing that the country is **fighting** (CSD) **the virus** (ATD) and trying to reduce and stop increasing infections. He hinted at closing the borders and preventing citizens from returning home trying not to increase infections because just if a few people get into the country there is a high possibility they are holding **the virus** (ATD). This virus is like **water** (CSD) filled with a **dyke** (CSD) to the top. If a few drops start sweeping out of the dyke this dyke will not stand along because those drops will make a **rivulet** (CSD) or a small stream and this rivulet will be a **stream** (CSD). Put simply, when the infection cases

increased, then this stream will go out of control and make a huge **flood** (CSD) when the infection records a high rate and all people are being **sunk** (CSD) in this virus.

Text (4): On 17th March 2020, five days before the UK was put under lockdown due to **COVID-19** pandemic, the PM, Boris Johnson, made an official statement included the following: "Yes this **enemy** can be deadly, but it is also **beatable** and we know how to **beat it** and we know that if as a country we follow the scientific advice that is now being given we know that we will **beat it**."

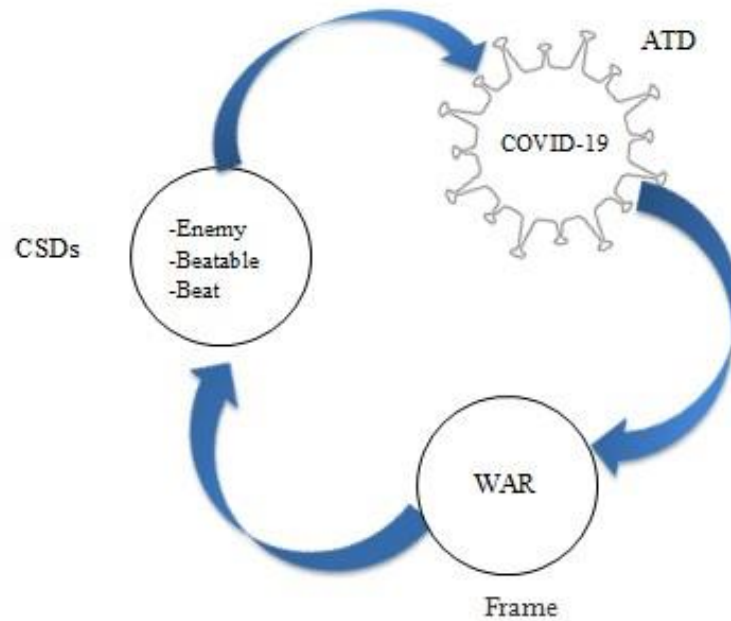


Figure (4) Analysis of text (4)

Discussion:

The text holds the metaphorical entailment: COVID-19 IS AN ENEMY as the properties of the CSDs (Enemy, Beatable) are mapped onto the ATD (COVID-19), the mind conceptualises and understands the concept (COVID-19) in terms of the concepts (Enemy, Beatable).

The first phase of the pandemic when the Prime Minister called **the virus** (ATD) as **an enemy** (CSD). Although the WAR frame is used, the context smoothly leads you to understand that the government stands with the people. Although it is a deadly virus but the government will protect people and fight for them to **beat it** (CSD), and it is **beatable** (CSD) only if the country and people open their minds and follow the scientific directions. This may be a preliminary step to announce the full lockdown

and to make the situation under the control _ such as social distancing, wearing masks, wash hands well etc.

Text (5): The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez: "We are at war with a virus and not winning it... this war needs a war-time plan to fight it."

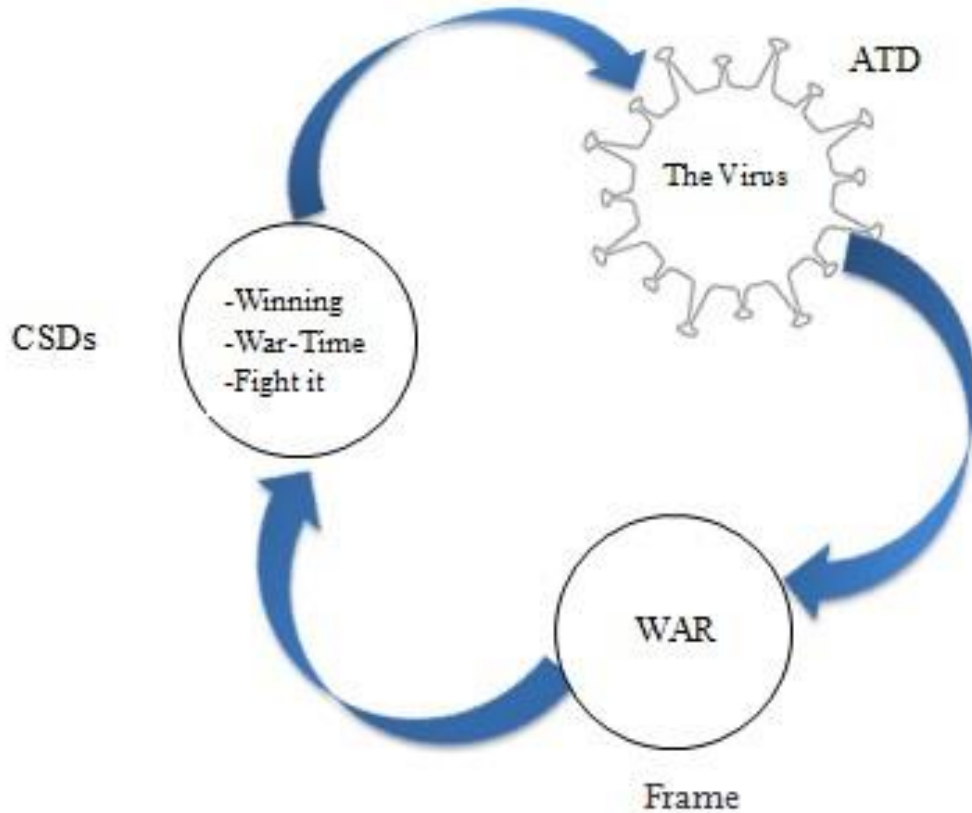


Figure (5) Analysis of text (5)

Discussion:

The essential metaphorical entailment is: THE VIRUS IS AN ENEMY where the CSDs (winning, war-time, fighting it) reflect a mapping structure onto the ATD (The virus).

The UN Secretary used this frame to show people how the situation is hard with **the virus** (ATD). The real war includes losing and winning, preparing and planning, and the same goes for the virus to overcome it. It involves a long time to put a suitable plan and provide good support, but the government is facing another **war with the time** (CSD) to **fight** (CSD) **the virus** (ATD) because it spreads quickly and infects a large number of people every day. Till now, this war has no obvious results, although there are a lot of deaths. There is hope to win this war, but this has not happened till now (CSD).

Text (6): On April 1, Donald Trump declared that the US continued to "wage all-out war to defeat the virus."

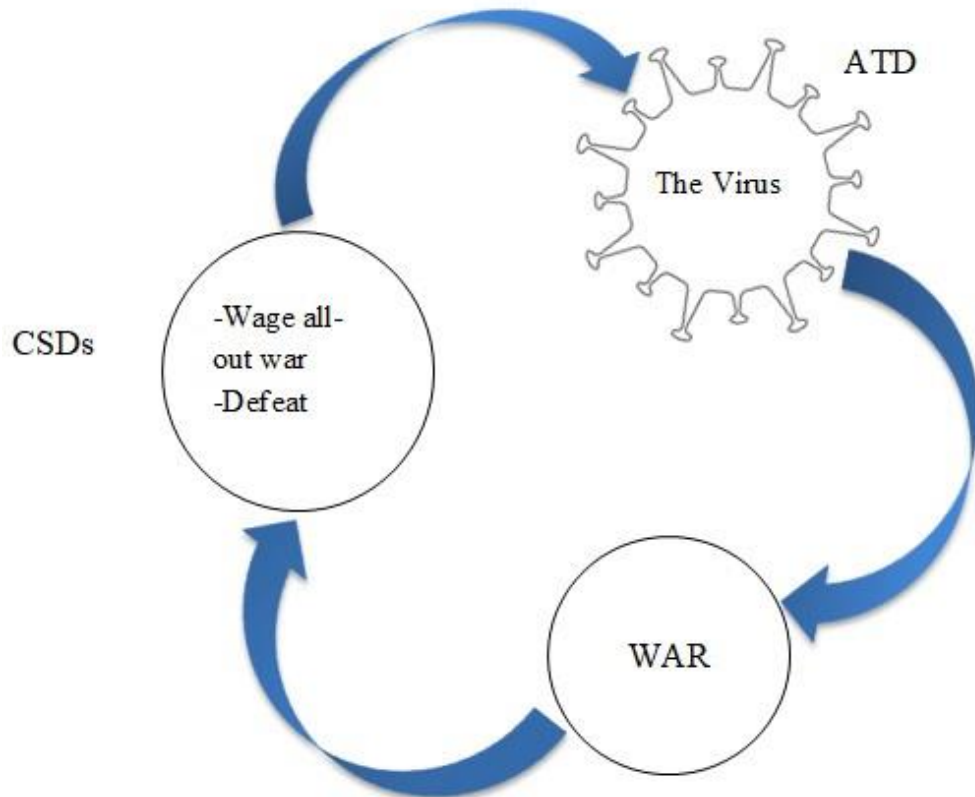


Figure (6) Analysis of text (6)

Discussion:

The metaphorical inference of this text is: THE VIRUS IS AN ENEMY where the concepts relating to war represent the CSDs (wage all-out war, defeat) which are mapped metaphorically onto the ATD (The virus).

The meaning associated with the concepts (wage all-out war, defeat) and the frame (WAR) relate to their specific properties, since who starts a war should have enough power to do so, but Trump claims that US will **wage all-out war to defeat** (CSDs) and overcome the virus. Actually, US with its leadership do not have enough power to plunge into such a war. 400.000 American social media and newspapers interested in writing this number, which is the number of coronavirus victims during Trump’s leadership and most of them are of health workers. Americans are repeating this number to blame Trump for his carelessness. So, he has

spoken in such war terms trying to reduce Americans' anger by claiming that he would wage and start a full and strong war against the virus.

Text (7): Th New York governor Andrew Cuomo: "The infection forecaster said to me we were looking at **a freight train** coming across the country, we are now looking at **a bullet train**."

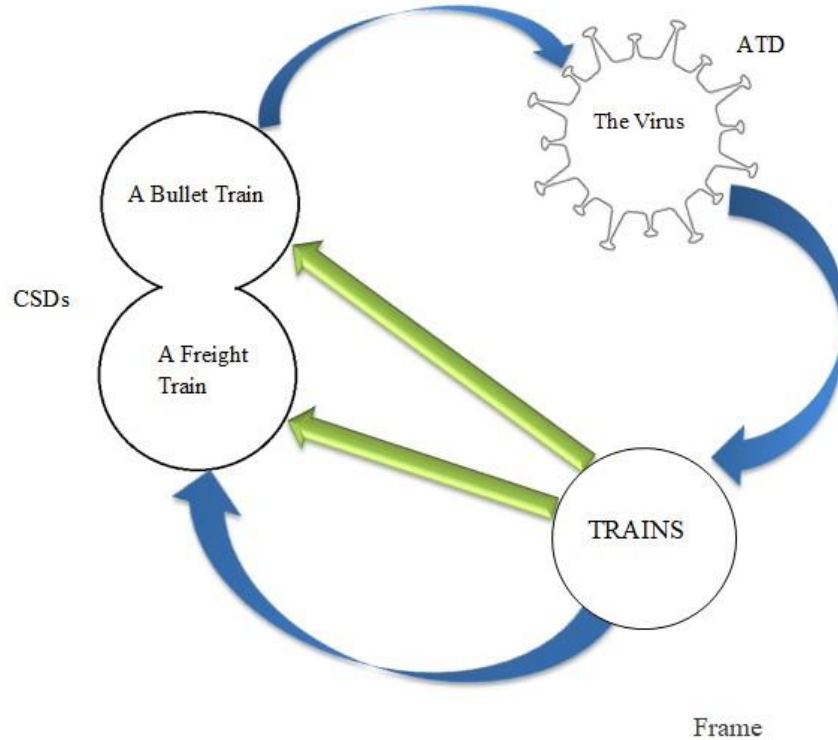


Figure (7) Analysis of text (7)

Discussion:

The metaphorical entailment which can be driven is that: THE VIRUS IS A FREIGHT AND A BULLET TRAIN as the physical properties of movement and kind in the CSDs (A freight train, A bullet train) are motivated by the ATD (The virus).

Starting from the infection forecaster speech referring to **the virus** (ATD) in New York as a TRAIN (Non-war frame), this train has gone into two phases: at the beginning, it was **a freight train** (CSD) holding the virus when it was spreading in China and other countries, then the second phase when it began to attack the country like **a bullet train** (CSD) moving in a high-speed everywhere. The concept (A bullet train) refers to the way of spreading the virus and how the infections double every day in New York and cannot be stopped. That is why the state governor used this metaphor; he is warning people, calling for all

energies, and declaring an emergency for more collaboration between people and the state to control this crisis.

Text (8): Trump said: "We continue to mourn with thousands of families across the country whose loved ones have been stolen from us by the invisible enemy."

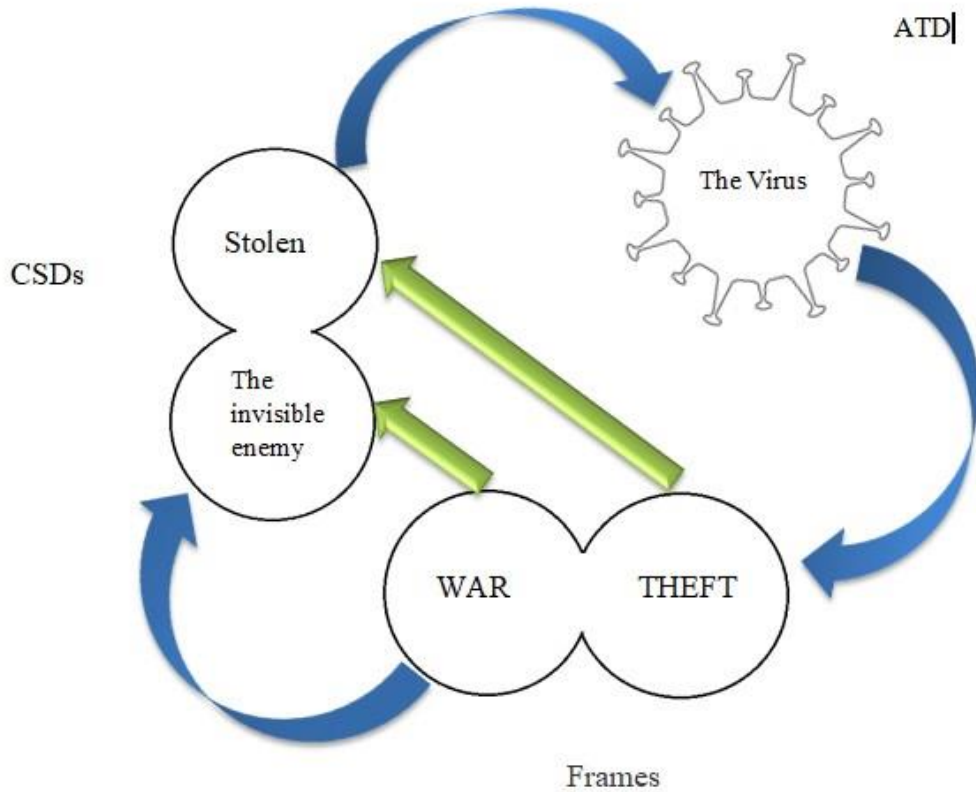


Figure (8) Analysis of text (8)

Discussion:

The metaphorical entailments are: THE VIRUS IS A THIEF AND INVISIBLE ENEMY where the CSDs. (stolen, the invisible enemy) are mapped onto the ATD (the virus).

The President Trump resembles **the virus** (ATD) as a thief who steals (CSD) people’s souls creating a global crisis and thousands of deaths in the US. In addition, he describes the virus as **the invisible enemy** (CSD) who kills people because it is known that no enemy shows any mercy towards its opponent in the war, let alone a hidden one which can hit strongly, making the other side flop. At first glance, Trump appears to be sending his condolences to American families who lost their members through the pandemic and expressing his sadness towards the victims of the virus. But he may send a hidden message that he and his government are not responsible for the virus which gets out of control,

doubling deaths and infections every day, and that he is doing his best to reduce the national and local blame for his carelessness about thousands of deaths of people in general and of medical staff in particular.

6. Conclusions

The analysis shows that samples use metaphors by making a comparison between the virus and one or more thing. The Abstract Target Domain is (the virus) while the Concrete Source Domain are divided into two parts: the first is represented by the WAR frame in which military terms are used by politicians and leaders to illustrate the situation of the pandemic as a war, this frame is used six times out of the total number of the data. The second part is represented by the non-war frames which are used five times, they are: (FIRE, FOOD, TIDE, TRAINS and THEFT) .

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Al Salem, M. N. (2014). *The Translation of Metaphor from Arabic to English in Selected Poems of Mahmoud Darwish with A Focus On Linguistic Issues*. University of Leeds.
- Craig, David. (2020). "Pandemic and Its Metaphors: Sontag Revisited in the COVID-19 Era." *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 23(6):1025–32. Doi: 10.1177/1367549420938403.
- Dickins, J. (2005). Two Models for Metaphor Translation. *John Benjamins Publishing Company*17:2
- Flusberg, S. J., Matlock, T., & Thibodeau, P. H. (2018). War Metaphors in Public Discourse. *Metaphor and Symbol*, 33(1) 1-18. Doi: 10.1080/10926488.2018.1407992.
- Henderson, Emily. (2020). "Linguistics Experts Call For Alternative Ways Of Talking About Covid-19." *News Medical Life Sciences* 1–3.
- Kövecses, Z. (2002). *Metaphor: A Practical Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors We Live by*. London: University of Chicago Press.
- Musu, C. (2020). War Metaphors Used for COVID-19 Are Compelling but Also Dangerous. *The Conversation*, 8.

- Panzeri, F., Di Paola, S., & Domaneschi, F. (2020). Does the COVID-19 War Metaphor Influence Reasoning? SocioPolitical Factors Mediate the Framing Effect.” 1–33.
- Semino, E. (2020). “Not Soldiers but Fire-Fighters”–Metaphors and COVID-19. *Health Communication*, 36(1), 50–58. Doi: 10.1080/10410236.2020.1844989.
- Sontag, S. (1989). *Illness as metaphor and AIDS and its metaphors*. United States: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Wicke, P., & Bolognesi, M. (2020). Framing COVID-19: How We Conceptualize and Discuss the Pandemic On Twitter. ArXiv. *PLoS ONE* 15(9 October):1–24. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0240010.
- Wilkinson, P. R. (2008). *Thesaurus Of Traditional English Metaphors*. 1st Ed. USA & Canada: Routledge.
- Erlanger, Steven. (2020). “Macron Declares France ‘at War’ With Virus, as E.U. Proposes 30-Day Travel Ban - The New York Times.” Retrieved February 23, 2021 (<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/16/world/europe/coronavirus-france-macron-travelban.html?searchResultPosition=3>).
- Hancock, Matt. (2020). “COVID-19.” *UK Parliament* . Retrieved February 26, 2021 (<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2020-03-16/debates/235689EC-0A18-4488-BFCF-9F012A1A0C1B/Covid-19>).
- Patrick, Cox. (2020). “Fires, Orchestras, Parachutes. Some Other Ways to Describe Coronavirus besides War.” Retrieved December 19, 2020 (<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-04-28/fires-orchestras-parachutes-some-other-ways-describecoronavirus-besides-war>).
- Semino, Elena. (2008). “Introduction : Studying Metaphor In Discourse.” In *Metaphor In Discourse*. <https://www.cambridge.org/>.
- Semino, Elena. (2020). “Fires, orchestras, parachutes. Some other ways to describe coronavirus — besides war.” <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk>. Retrieved February 23, (<https://www.pri.org/stories/2020-04-28/fires-orchestras-parachutes-some-other-ways-describe-coronavirus-besides-war>).
- Yasmin, Seema. (2020). “Stanford Profiles.” <http://www.seemayasmin.com> . Retrieved February 23, 2021 (<https://profiles.stanford.edu/seema-yasmin?tab=publications>)