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## Extended metaphors

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In a corpus-based analysis of extended metaphor (EM), I investigated whether EM correlates with register and how register properties can influence its realisation.

Metaphors refer to an entity that is similar to the literal referent. In *extended metaphor*, several metaphors in a discourse share the kind of similarity (Semino and Steen 2008, Reijnierse et al. 2020). E.g., (1) and (2) both refer to a direct referendum as the free leg of democracy, a metaphor of the type SOCIETY IS A BODY:

- (1) *Standbein unserer Demokratie* ‘main pillar of our democracy’
- (2) *Da dieses Standbein fehlt, steht unsere Demokratie gewisser Weise nur auf einem Bein da.* ‘Since this free leg is missing, our democracy is standing on one leg only, as it were.’

*Register* refers to the influence of situational or functional context on intra-individual linguistic variation. Halliday & Hasan (1985) define register features like ‘tenor’, which targets relations of interlocutors (e.g., hierarchy or closeness). Biber & Conrad (2009) identify register dimensions like persuasivity.

The analysis used the metaphor corpus of Egg and Kordoni (2023), whose text types (parliament speeches, news commentaries, sermons, fiction, debates, and TEDx talks) vary along register dimensions. EM frequency (per 1000 words) in the corpus is given in Table 1, correlation to text type is significant at  $p < .0001$ .

text type	sermons	speeches	commentaries	fiction	debates	TEDx talks
EM	3.0	.3	1.2	.2	2.0	.7

Table 1: EM counts for the subcorpora

These scores correlate strongly ( $p < .01$ ) with persuasivity and hierarchy. Also, EMs greatly vary in length, in particular, sermons and debates often exhibit long EMs. While many EMs consist of conventionalised metaphors, we also found non-conventionalised metaphors in EMs. In the debates, due to their dialogic nature, EMs typically span across the turns of several speakers, and their distribution between speakers follows specific patterns in that metaphors can be shared or be used exclusively by individual speakers or groups of speakers.

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