# Determiners' Impact on Metaphoric Meaning for Computational Analysis in Spanish

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Conceptual metaphors are fundamental in framing how we perceive and articulate abstract concepts. In languages like Spanish, the choice of determiners plays a crucial role in conceptual metaphor construction, influencing their interpretation and effectiveness. Based on a corpus of Spanish metaphors, our analysis revealed some implications of the choice of the determiners. For instance, metaphors such as (1a) and (1b) frequently employ definite articles ("La," "El"). This usage contrasts with their English counterparts, often omitting articles like "Life is a journey." A definite article in Spanish metaphors suggests a tendency towards specificity and universality, implying a definitive statement about the entire concept. In contrast, the absence of such determiners in English points to a more abstract, generalized interpretation.

(1)     a.   "La vida es un viaje" (Life is a journey)
        b.   "El amor es una guerra" (Love is war)

In contrast, there are cases where what is chosen is an indefinite article, as in (2a), indicating a singular instance of a broader category. The analysis also extends to source domains, with metaphors like (2b) emphasizing particular aspects through an indefinite article.

(2)     a.   "Un viaje es un libro" (A journey is a book)
        b.   "Una relación es un viaje" (A relationship is a journey).

This linguistic pattern has significant implications. Using determiners such as "La" in metaphors may lead to a more concrete and collectively accepted understanding of concepts in Spanish. The specificity induced by Spanish determiners can influence how speakers engage with and conceptualize the ideas presented in metaphors, potentially reflecting underlying cultural values and perspectives. The study's findings have practical applications in various domains. For instance, they can enhance metaphor recognition in natural language processing, improve translation accuracy, and help with computational cultural studies.

**References:** • Esquivel, V. (2012). El determinante en la nueva gramática de la lengua española. *Lengua y Sociedad* 12(1), 102–107. • Ibarretxe, I. & J. Valenzuela (2012). *Lingüística cognitiva*. Anthropos. • Tong, X., E. Shutova & M. Lewis (2021). Recent advances in neural metaphor processing: A linguistic, cognitive and social perspective.