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**CONVENTIONALITY AND CREATIVITY IN THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF TIME IN
MODERN GREEK: METAPHORS AND BLENDS IN LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

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Abstract

This dissertation deals with time conceptualization in Modern Greek in the context of cognitive linguistics. I specifically focus on linguistic expressions that provide evidence for the conceptualization of time, with particular emphasis on expressions of time in poetry. The aim is to provide an integrated account of time conceptualization in everyday and poetic discourse, while at the same time addressing a number of theoretical issues, such as the relationship between different approaches to metaphor and meaning construction and the distinction between conventionality and creativity. This research project is initiated by the hypothesis that the conceptualization of time is metaphorical, thereby motivating conventional metaphorical expressions in everyday discourse, while in poetry it is mainly manifested in creative, nonconventional metaphorical expressions that may align, or not, with the everyday conceptualization of time. To test this hypothesis, a small, specialized corpus of Modern Greek poetry was compiled and used in parallel with a general corpus of Modern Greek. The findings of the research suggest that the conceptualization of time afforded in everyday discourse is metaphorically structured in terms of space and motion, thereby motivating non-conventional spatio-temporal metaphors in Modern Greek poetry. However, I also show that in poetic discourse time expressions may override the spatial patterns for time conceptualization by instantiating novel

mappings between time and concrete domains of experience not conventionally associated with time conceptualization (e.g., a coffin, candles). On the grounds of empirical evidence from Modern Greek poetry, I also bring to the fore a nonmetaphorical pattern of time conceptualization whereby a time interval is construed in terms of another time interval, thus challenging the dominant view in cognitive linguistics that time can only be metaphorically structured. Importantly, I show that, whether metaphorical or not, all construals of time found in the corpus of Modern Greek poetry are psychologically and culturally constrained. In theoretical terms, I argue that time conceptualization in everyday and poetic discourse can best be analyzed in terms of Conceptual Integration Theory, which essentially refines and complements, rather than contradicts, Conceptual Metaphor Theory. In doing so, I contribute empirical evidence and novel insights to the on-going debate about current theories of meaning construction in cognitive linguistics. In dealing with expressions of time in everyday and poetic discourse I also embark on investigating various degrees of (non)conventionality, an endeavour not formerly undertaken in the cognitive linguistic literature. Specifically, I propose that time expressions in everyday and poetic discourse are located along a continuum based on the criteria of (a) linguistic entrenchment, or lack thereof; (b) (non)motional frames; and (c) (non)metaphorical structure. Finally, in analyzing poetic expressions of time I implement insights from cognitive poetics, a novel and blossoming approach to the study of literature that is informed by findings in cognitive linguistics. In this way, this dissertation essentially points to an interdisciplinary approach to time, discourse and cognition.