



Wydział Filologiczny

UNIWERSYTET W BIAŁYMSTOKU

**RaAM**  
Researching & Applying Metaphor  
[www.raam.org.uk](http://www.raam.org.uk)

**The project is financed from the grant received from the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the Regional Initiative of Excellence programme for the years 2019-2022, project numer 009/RID/2018/19, the amount of funding 8 791 222,00 zloty**



*Białystok 2022*

## **RAAM15 LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Centre for Linguistic Studies  
Faculty of Philology  
University of Białystok, Poland**

Justyna Wawrzyniuk  
Daniel Karczewski  
Paweł Dziędziul  
Martyna Awier  
Patrycja Kownacka  
Tomasz Michta  
Beata Piecychna  
Agata Rozumko  
Marcin Trojszczak  
Edyta Wajda

**15th Researching and Applying Metaphor Conference: the Social Impact of Metaphor  
21-24 September 2022  
University of Białystok, Poland**

[raam15.uwb.edu.pl](http://raam15.uwb.edu.pl)

[raam15@uwb.edu.pl](mailto:raam15@uwb.edu.pl)

**MICHELE MANNONI**

The word, the character, the character component, or the variant? Methodological issues in identifying linguistic metaphors in (legal) Chinese

**LOLA MARINATO, GIUDITTA CALIENDO, MAARTEN LEMMENS**

Sharing grief through metaphors: A study on French narratives of perinatal loss

**MARTA MARTÍN GILETE**

Exploring metaphor use in metaphor-mediated instruction

**MARTA MARTÍN GILETE, IRENE CASTELLANO RISCO, ALBERTO HIJAZO GASCÓN AND IRAIDE IBARRETXE-ANTUÑANO**

Metaphor in EMI discourse: Exploring motion events in academic talk

**SHREYA MUDGIL**

Beauty and Love: Sample survey based analysis of metaphors in Bollywood

**MARÍA MUELAS-GIL, MANUELA ROMANO MOZO**

Metaphor in anti-violence campaigns: an analysis of November 25th posters in Spain

**SUSAN NACEY**

Development of metaphorical production in learner language: A longitudinal perspective

**ELENA NEGREA-BUSUIOC, DIANA SIMION, GEORGIANA UDREA**

The heart is a pump but also a dollhouse, a four-door car or a ship: Metaphors that young students create on the fly to understand and explain core scientific concepts in biology

**ELENA NEGREA-BUSUIOC**

Vaccine as a cheat sheet: The power of metaphor to build and undermine pandemic-related arguments on Facebook

**ANDREW NSIRIM**

Historical Formation of the Nègre Concept: A Vector Semantics Approach to Mapping Diachronic Metaphor Use in French Racial Description, 1666-1789

**NIAMH ANNA O'DOWD**

Plastic hearts: The emotional and framing effects of multimodal metaphor in non-commercial campaigns about ocean plastic

**DAVID O'REILLY, CARINA RASSE**

Confidence and the role of the first language in second language idiom comprehension: Do learners know what they think they know?

**EDWIN CHRIS ODHIAMBO**

Metaphoric Framing and Meaning Retrieval: Conceptualizing Political Leaders in Kenya during the Building Bridges Initiative Constitutional Reform Debate

**YUICHIRO OGAMI**

On the Japanese idiomatic expressions representing interpersonal behavior in terms of activities associated with the buttocks

**KIMBERLEY PAGER-McCLYMONT**

Pathetic fallacy as a conceptual metaphor: expressing emotions through colour tones.

**KIMBERLEY PAGER-McCLYMONT, FRANSINA STRADLING**

The Role of Pathetic Fallacy in Triggering Narrative Empathy

**ELINA PALICHUK**

A Spiderweb of Human Trafficking: Dimensions and Perceptions

**SILVIA PETERSSEN, AUGUSTO SOARES DA SILVA**

Polarising metaphors in the Venezuelan Presidential Crisis

# A Spiderweb of Human Trafficking: Dimensions and Perceptions

**Elina Paliichuk**

Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, Ukraine

"... I'm like a fly trapped in a spider's web."

Embracing real-life and virtual dimensions, human trafficking (HT) media coverage extends from victims' personal survival stories to police and NGOs' reports. The previous research (Paliichuk, 2011) revealed that HT construal is a system of schemata-based projections shaping spiderweb image. The recent observations show that spiderweb metaphor in media has become more explicit: for instance, the corpus of 26,888 words contains the HT manifestations through web (146), net (111), spider (23), fly (12), crawl (7) and other language units.

A new project is undertaken to reconsider the HT construal and verify its perceptions. The research question is whether the spiderweb metaphor verbal actuation contributes to stronger reader's response to HT media content. The research tasks imply reviewing the source-and-target domains (biological properties of spiderweb and HT offline and online dimensions); analysing relevant corpora; and measuring perceptions of the HT media content based on an authentic article and a manipulated text, where the explicit spiderweb metaphor is replaced with schemata-charged verbal means

The paper relies on the CMT and image schema theories (Lakoff and Johnson 2003, Stockwell 2022) and the methods of corpus analysis, conceptual analysis, metaphor analysis, and the experiment. The design includes 60 undergraduates participating in a survey during their learning activities; their perceptions are measured at pre- and post-reading stages and in contrast between two versions of the text. The data are processed with SPSS 26 software based on Descriptive Statistics, Paired Sample Test, Independent Sample Test. At the pre-reading stage, we can report that only 10,7% of the respondents perceive HT as spiderweb and visualise it as something being dark (71,4%), an invisible world (82%), and a trap (10,7%). The findings on the post-reading impressions will clarify whether the deliberate use of spiderweb metaphor can be recommended for enhanced social impacts.

## References

- Fillmore, C. J. (1987). *Fillmore's case grammar: A reader* (Studies in descriptive linguistics). J. Groos.
- Johnson, M. (1990). *The Body in the Mind: The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reason* (1st ed.). University of Chicago Press.
- Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (2003). *Metaphors We Live By* (1st ed.). University of Chicago Press.
- Stockwell, P. (2002). *Cognitive Poetics: A New Introduction* (1st ed.). Routledge.
- Paliichuk E. O. (2011) *Linguistic and Conceptual Peculiarities of Human Trafficking Situation in Modern English-Language Media Discourse*. Manuscript. Thesis for a PhD in Philology, Kyiv National Linguistic University, Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine, Kyiv.
- Paliichuk, E. (2022). *Spiderweb* (Version 1) [Spiderweb corpus 2022 by Elina Paliichuk]. Sketch Engine. <https://ske.li/elinapaliichuk>