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Metaphor and Parable

In this talk, I attempt to systematically compare the phenomena of metaphor and parable within the framework of conceptual metaphor theory (CMT). My major goal is to see whether we can regard parable as a kind of metaphor. I will characterize conceptual metaphors along a number of dimensions that have several values, and see whether typical parables fit the values that apply to typical cases of conceptual metaphors. The dimensions in terms of which I characterize conceptual metaphors include the nature of the source and target, presence of systematic mappings, directionality of mappings, the kind of conceptual structure involved in source and target, the basis or grounding of the mappings, and some others. In light of the analysis, I suggest that, given a CMT framework, parables can be regarded as non-prototypical cases of conceptual metaphors.

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