Conceptual Metaphores of Time in the Lithuanian Language

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Abstract. The analysis of the current research is based on the theoretical and practical framework of the Conceptual Metaphor Theory by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson (1980, 1989, 1999), and works of Turner (1987), Kövecses (2002). The conceptual metaphor functions as a succinct representation of the structural relationship between an abstract notion (e.g. time) and a more concrete one (e.g. moving object). It generally has a structure represented as: X IS Y, where X stands for more abstract concept and Y for the lesser one. We shall view this structuring as a mapping of the terms from the Y domain back onto the corresponding elements of the X domain - from source to target.

The purpose of the current research is to find out how TIME is conceptualized via metaphor in Lithuanian language and to explore the differences between the metaphoric usage of TIME and its hyponyms. The material for the analysis constituting approximately 546 examples has been selected from the book XX a. lietuvių poezija (The Lithuanian Poetry of the 20th Century).

The research findings suggest that there are differences between the metaphoric usage of TIME and its hyponyms. The results reveal that TIME is mostly perceived through the basic physical experience: as a moving object, as space and as an abstract concept.