

Voorbeeld Language Acquisition:

1st topic: dehumanizing metaphors in public debates

In 2006 Wilders announced that the Netherlands were facing a “tsunami” of islamification - with Muslim migrants “flooding” the nation, the Dutch would soon be “drowning”. Given that most people still vividly remembered the tsunami that hit Thailand on 26 December 2004, and given the Dutch collective identity of a nation defying Mother Nature by living below sea level behind man-made dikes, many people found Wilders’ rhetoric very persuasive. Musolff (2015), among others, has shown that migrants are often described by means of dehumanizing metaphors involving natural disasters like floods and fires but also “vermin”, “leeches” and “parasites”. In my thesis I will investigate cross-cultural similarities and differences between Wilders and the PVV on the one hand, and Nigel Farage and UKIP on the other, to determine which metaphors these political parties and their leaders use to talk about immigration generally and Muslims in particular. I will first provide an overview of recent corpus studies identifying common metaphors in public debates about immigration; I will then analyze a number of speeches by Wilders and Farage, as well as documents posted on their websites. I will identify metaphorical expressions using MIPVU (Steen et al., 2010) and discuss these in terms of their “deliberateness” (Steen, 2008) and persuasive potential (Charteris-Black, 2005) in dehumanizing immigrants and changing the reader’s perspective.

Three secondary sources:

Charteris-Black, J. (2005). *Politicians and rhetoric: The persuasive power of metaphor*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Musolff, A. (2015). Dehumanizing metaphors in UK immigrant debates in press and online media. *Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict* 3(1), 41–56.

Steen, G.J. (2008). The paradox of metaphor: Why we need a three-dimensional model of metaphor. *Metaphor and Symbol*, 23(4), 213-241.

Steen, G.J., Dorst, A.G., Herrmann, J.B., Kaal, A.A., Krennmayr, T., and Pasma, T. (2010). *From MIP to MIPVU: A method for linguistic metaphor identification*. Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins.