

# Metaphors Across Languages

A Questionnaire  
(short version)

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## PREFACE

The goal of this questionnaire is to provide an overview of metaphorical expressions in a wide variety of the world's languages.

## INTRODUCTION

Name of language: \_\_\_\_\_

Further information about language (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of informants/consultants (if different from respondent): \_\_\_\_\_

## PART 1:

List the words in your language whose meanings correspond to the following English words. Then, for each of the words that you listed, describe any additional, non-literal or metaphorical usages that it may also have, in domains other than the standard or basic domain of the word. [For example, in English 'see' may also be used metaphorically to mean 'understand'.]

### PERCEPTION TERMS

see, look, watch, observe

hear, listen

smell

taste

touch

### SENSORY TERMS

light, pale

dark

loud, noisy

quiet, silent  
good-smelling  
bad-smelling, stinking  
good-tasting  
bad-tasting  
sweet  
bitter  
sour  
salty  
hot/spicy

#### BODY PART TERMS

head  
eye  
ear  
mouth  
back  
belly  
heart  
liver  
hand  
foot

#### TEXTURE TERMS

hard  
soft  
smooth  
rough  
slippery  
prickly

#### FOOD TERMS

eat  
drink  
digest  
swallow  
vomit  
urinate  
defacate

#### TRAVEL TERMS

beginning of journey  
end of journey  
source point  
destination  
upward movement

downward movement  
crossroads  
obstacle  
bypass  
shortcut  
dead-end

## PART 2:

For each of the following three domains, list as many metaphorical expressions as you can think of in your language.

### EMOTIONS

This domain encompasses anger, fear, love, hatred, sorrow, sadness, happiness and so forth. [Some examples of metaphorical expressions in this domain in English are "be full of anger", "explode with anger", "be consumed with fear", "fall in love", and so on.]

### MENTAL STATES AND ACTIVITIES

This domain includes remembering, forgetting, knowing, understanding and so forth. [Some examples of metaphorical expressions in this domain in English are "grasp an idea", "get something in one's head", "see the light", and so on].

### TIME

[Some examples of metaphorical expressions in this domain in English are "the event is ahead of us / behind us", "the event is close / far away", "we invested a lot of time in this project", "we ran out of time", and so on].