



ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAŃ

Faculty of English

Metaphor, metonymy and image schemata in commemorative landscapes

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The data



Bełżec Memorial (2004)



Berlin Memorial (2005)



9/11 Memorial in NYC
(2011)

Reconstruction of the
Jewish Cemetery in Poznań (2008)



Aschrott's Fountain in
Kassel (1987)





Sources of inspiration

- image schemata (Johnson 1987, Lakoff 1987, Goatley 2007)
- inherent axiology of image schemata (Krzyszowski 1997); UP IS GOOD / DOWN IS BAD; ambivalence of the CONTAINER schema – instantiations: shelter and prison;
- image schematic scaffolding (Dancygier 2015, 2016): image schemata, framing, viewpoint
- materially grounded meaning making (Sinha 2005)
- situated cognition (Bernardez 2007)
- conceptual metonymy and metaphor (....)
- intertextuality (Kristeva 1980, Wodak and Reisigl 2009))
- Contextual factors in metaphor creation in discourse (Koevecses 2015, 2016)



CENTRE – PERIPHERY



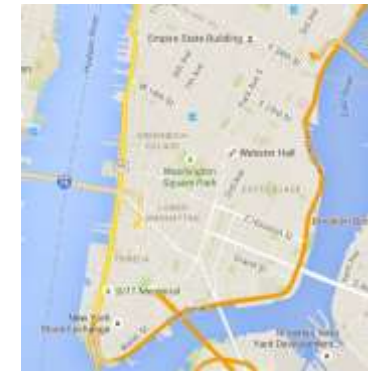
Bełżec

authentic location
traumatic landscape
peripheral
poor transport



Berlin

inauthentic location
near Reichstag,
Bundeskanzleramt,
Branderburgertor



NYC

authentic location
traumatic landscape
Lower Manhattan



Framing the Berlin Memorial: (1) CENTRAL IS IMPORTANT

“... remembrance of the victims of the Nazi regime has become an integral part of our self-perception.” (...)

“And while the Holocaust will not necessarily be among the central components of German identity for everyone in our country, it will still hold true that there is no German identity without Auschwitz.“

[The President of the Federal Republic of Germany Joachim Gauck's speech on 27.01.2015]

> Both **the location** of the Memorial and **the official political speech** place the remembering of the Holocaust at the **CENTRE** of German historical narrative and German identity.



Framing the Berlin Memorial: (2) peripheralisation of the authentic

“our places of mourning and remembrance exist, and have so for over 70 years. They are the former concentration and extermination camps, the mass graves,...”

“These are always also places for the peace of the dead. For that reason, it would be not only regrettable but a downright scandal if these sites of remembrance over the longer term were to pay a price for the creation of the »Holocaust Memorial«.”

[Speech by Dr. h.c. Paul Spiegel, President of the Central Council of the Jews in Germany, at the inauguration of the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe]

>The **central** Memorial is framed as a **danger** to the authentic sites in more **peripheral**, but authentic places.

CONTEINER/MENT



Belzec

walls grow from the ground level up to 11m, the crevasse is 2.5m wide

SHADE, LOWER TEMPERATURE

AFFORDANCES: people in twos and larger groups can walk together

FRAME: der Schlauch, the Ohel immersing in the grave



Berlin

CONSTRAINER blocks of the same width and length vary in height between ground level to 5m, paths between are narrow

SHADE, LOWER TEMPERATURE, MUTED SOUND

AFFORDANCES: people can only walk alone through the maze

FRAME: “a place without information”



Axiological ambiguity of the CONTAINER



Jewish cemetery in Poznań

Negative polarity: the locked gate to the inner yard functions as BLOCKAGE, constrains access; results in the exclusion of the Jewish commemoration from the public space



Positive polarity: the Jewish past is a PART, safely integrated with the everyday life of the inhabitants of the housing estate, without which this everyday wouldn't be WHOLE; LINK between the Jewish past and the present.

NAME FOR PERSON metonymy



Belzec

first names only reconstructed
alphabetical order

one for many metonymy



New York

every person's unique name
names of friends or co-workers LINKED
into networks

one for one metonymy



The polysemy of the tree imagery: (1) UP-DOWN schema

Belżec



370 pine trees planted to camouflage the site were removed

oak trees that were in the camp during operation retained as witnesses of history

living monuments

the organic aspect

Tree of Knowledge – roots in the underworld, top in heaven

UP-DOWN schema



The polysemy of the tree imagery: (2) the CYCLE schema

9/11 Memorial

Survivor Pear Tree

resilience, survival, rebirth

416 Swamp white oaks

trees canopy for cathedral vault >
sanctity of the place

seasonal changes > CYCLE >
backdrop for the remembering and
mourning rituals



Polysemy of water imagery



9/11 Memorial, NYC (2011)

Individual rivulets for sorrow of individual family members

Mass of water for unity (link)
Unity for strength to overcome grief

Water for life/purification/healing

Aschrott's Fountain, Kassel (1987)

The negative fountain, the fountain in reverse

The sound of the invisible fountain for the repressed memory

Water for irritant that prevents forgetting



Conclusion

- Usefulness of the analytic tools developed within cognitive linguistics in an analysis of landscape architecture >>>
- I argue for extending of the research field into other communication systems, including landscape design
- On the descriptive level, I have shown the recurrent patterns of memorial architecture and how they contribute to meaning making
- In particular...



In particular

- how **CENTRE-PERIPHERY** schema and the axiological value of centre influence the interpretation of meaning of the memorials
- how the **CONTAINER** schema motivates the embodied experience of the memorial visitors
- How the **CONTAINER** schema interacts with **BARRIER** on the one hand and **PART-WHOLE** and **LINK** on the other to create conflicting axiology
- how **NAME FOR PERSON** metonymy can chain with **ONE FOR ONE** vs. **ONE FOR MANY** metonymy to produce different meanings
- how various aspects of the Source Domain **TREE** can combine with **UP-DOWN** or **CYCLE** schema to construct different images/meanings of bringing the knowledge hidden atrocities to light and of the healing following the mourning
- How **WATER** imagery may be used to represent strength for overcoming grief and working through the collective trauma or how it may be used to disturb the peace of the forgetting and provoke the necessity to revisit the suppressed memory



Questions, comments?

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