Regular polysemy in context:
a corpus-based analysis of regular polysemy in Spanish nouns

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We present our first results of an ongoing project devoted to the study of regular polysemy (Apresjan, 1974) in Spanish nouns (project nr 1191204, Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo, Chile Government, 2019-2022). Our goal is to provide with corpus evidence of the types of regular polysemy in Spanish, taking into account the fact that the studies based on empirical data in this type of polysemy are scarce (see Berri 2014 for one of the few exceptions). A considerable number of lexical units hold this type of polysemic relations, which makes their study cost-effective regarding the process of corpus analysis for lexicographic purposes. We use Skema (Baisa et al., 2020) to manually annotate corpus data, and the CPA Ontology (cf. Ježek and Hanks, 2010) as source of semantic types to label each of the meanings. Our first results (Renau, 2021 and others) show that, in many cases, meanings linked with metonymy (which is the main mechanism in regular polysemy) are grouped not only in pairs (e.g. [[Plant]] – [[Plant Part]]), but in "chains" (e.g. [[Plant]] – [[Plant Part]] – [[Beverage]] – [[Smell]]). Also, regular polysemy is not an isolated phenomenon, but it works together with other mechanisms such as metaphor. Corpus analysis, theory and lexicographic representation must integrate all this complexity.

References

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