Two ways of studying emotion metaphors in cognitive linguistics

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There are essentially two major ways of studying emotion metaphors (and metaphors in general) in cognitive linguistics: the older "lexical approach" (e.g., Kövecses, 1986; Lakoff and Kövecses, 1987; Kövecses, 2000) and the more recent "corpus linguistic approach" (e.g., Deignan, 2005; Stefanowitsch, 2006). Proponents of the corpus linguistic approach assert that their method is superior on the grounds that it is free from the weaknesses of the lexical method (it is not intuitive, it is not based on decontextualized language, etc.). In the presentation, we challenge this view by making use of the emotion of surprise as an example. We demonstrate that the two methods of studying emotion metaphors have their own respective strengths and weakness and that they complement each other.