Contents

List of figures *page* x
Acknowledgements xi

Introduction 1

1 'What those boys need is a good handbagging.' What is metonymy? 4
1.1 Introduction 4
1.2 Metonymy from a cognitive linguistic perspective 9
1.3 The differences between metonymy and metaphor 13
1.4 Aims and overview of the book 15

2 'He coughed and spluttered a lot and sneezed his lunch all over the place.' Types of metonymy and their behaviour in real-world data 19
2.1 Introduction 19
2.2 Metonymy types and their manifestations in real-world data 20
Examples of whole–part metonymy types and their manifestations in real-world data 21
Examples of part–part metonymy types and their manifestations in real-world data 28
2.3 Principles determining vehicle choice and their manifestations in real-world data 35
2.4 Conclusion 41

3 'He's only bowin' to his passport.' Theoretical models of metonymy: uses and drawbacks 42
3.1 Introduction 42
3.2 Established models of metonymy: uses and drawbacks 43
Referential and propositional metonymy (Warren, 1999, 2006) 43
Referential, predicational and illocutionary metonymy (Panther and Thornburg, 1998) 46
'Source in target' metonymy and 'target in source' metonymy (Ruiz de Mendoza Ibáñez and Diez Velasco, 2002) 48
Peirsman and Geeraerts' (2006a) varying strengths of contiguity 51
Langacker's (1993) focus on active zones and what this means for models of metonymy 53

Barcelona's (2003b) progressive membership constraint model and Handl's (2012) radial category approach to metonymy 56
3.3 Other approaches to language that can be used to explain metonymy 59
Metonymy and blending theory 59
Metonymy and relevance theory 61
Metonymy as an emergent phenomenon: the role of complex systems theory 62
3.4 Conclusion 63

4 '"BBC", her mother would have said.' What do people use metonymy for? 65
4.1 Introduction 65
4.2 Referential functions of metonymy 65
4.3 Highlighting and construal 73
4.4 Anaphoric reference, cohesion and coherence 75
4.5 Exophoric reference 82
4.6 Illocutionary functions of metonymy 84
4.7 Relationship-building and the establishment of discourse communities 85
4.8 Conclusion 90

5 'But what can we expect, after all, of a man who wears silk underpants?' Playful, evaluative and creative functions of metonymy 92
5.1 Introduction 92
5.2 Metonymy and euphemism 93
5.3 Metonymy and hyperbole 94
5.4 Metonymy and irony 95
5.5 Metonymy and vagueness 96
5.6 Metonymy and evaluation, ideology and positioning 99
5.7 Metonymy and creativity 104
The creative use of metonymy in language and the role of metonymy in linguistic humour 105
The creative use of metonymy in art 111
The creative use of metonymy in music 113
The creative use of metonymy in film and advertising 115
How do these findings on the creative uses of metonymy in other forms of expression relate to existing work on semiotics? 119
5.8 Conclusion 122

6 'The Government of Britain is sort of there.' How can we identify 'metonymy'? 123
6.1 Introduction 123
6.2 Metonymy identification in text: a possible procedure and initial challenges 124
6.3 Further challenges in metonymy identification 127
The role played by metonymy in language change 128
The interaction and overlap between metonymy and metaphor 132
6.4 The automatic identification and interpretation of metonymy in language 138

6.5 Possible avenues to explore in the automatic identification of metonymy 139
Signalling 140
Formal features of metonymy 141
The role of genre and register 145
6.6 Conclusion 146

7 'I found Robbie Williams in the lounge.' How is metonymy processed in the mind? 147
7.1 Introduction 147
7.2 Psycholinguistic and neurological studies of metonymy comprehension 147
7.3 Developmental studies of metonymy comprehension and production 152
7.4 Metonymy comprehension and production by children with linguistic impairments 155
7.5 Metonymy and psychotherapy 157
7.6 Conclusion 160

8 'He started as nobody from Austria.' Cross-linguistic and cross-cultural variation in metonymy: implications for language learning and translation 161
8.1 Introduction 161
8.2 Cross-linguistic variation in metonymy 162
8.3 Problems caused by misunderstandings of metonymy in cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication 169
8.4 Metonymy and the language learner 172
Metonymy comprehension by language learners 172
Metonymy production by language learners 180
Can metonymy be 'taught' to language learners? 184
8.5 Metonymy and translation 186
8.6 Conclusion 189

9 'These huts did absolutely unbelievable work.' What do we now know about metonymy? 191
9.1 Introduction 191
9.2 What do we now know about metonymy? 191
Metonymy is not just found in language 191
Metonymy serves a wide range of rhetorical functions 192
Metonymy is often used playfully and creatively and for humorous effect 192
Metonymy can be found in many different parts of speech 193
Metonymy extends beyond the level of the word 193
Metonymy is subtle and flexible 193
9.3 What do we still not know about metonymy and how might metonymy research continue to be used in the 'real world'? 194
9.4 Conclusion 197

References 198
Index 214