

# When romantic love in Gikūyū becomes a human body part.

**Source:** Cognitive Linguistic Studies . 2015, Vol. 2 Issue 1, p79-93. 15p.

**Author(s):** Gathigia, Moses Gatambuki; Ndung'u, Ruth W.; Orwenjo, Daniel Ochieng

**Abstract:**

Studies in Cognitive Linguistics show that metaphors are fundamental to the structuring of people's thought and language (Sweetser 1990; Kövecses 2009). It is against this backdrop that this study discusses human body parts as metaphors of conceptualizing love in Gikūyū.<sup>1</sup> To achieve this objective, an interview schedule was administered to 48 respondents of different gender by the researcher assisted by four research assistants. The Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) and the main principles of the Metaphor Identification Procedure Vrije Universiteit (MIPVU) (see Steen et al. 2010) were used in this study. The principles of the MIPVU were employed to find out whether the lexical items collected were metaphorical or not. Using three annotators and the researcher, the study identified 100 Metaphor Related Words (MRWs) as per the annotation guidelines adapted from the MIPVU procedures and three lexical units which were annotated as Discard From Metaphor Analysis (DFMA). From the MRWs, the study identified eight metaphors of human body parts which play an indispensable role in the conceptualization of love in Gikūyū. Further, the study noted that gender is a vital variable that provides people with the prism through which they view love since males registered more lexical frequencies for LOVE IS A HUMAN BODY PART than females. The study concludes that metaphor in Cognitive Linguistics is not only a creative device, but an important mental facility and cognitive instrument.

Copyright of Cognitive Linguistic Studies is the property of John Benjamins Publishing Co. and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use. This abstract may be abridged. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material for the full abstract.

For access to this entire article and additional high quality information, please check with your college/university library, local public library, or affiliated institution.



**Important User Information:** Remote access to EBSCO's databases is permitted to patrons of subscribing institutions accessing from remote locations for personal, non-commercial use. However, remote access to EBSCO's databases from non-subscribing institutions is not allowed if the purpose of the use is for commercial gain through cost reduction or avoidance for a non-subscribing institution.

---

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Copyright](#)

© 2016 EBSCO Industries, Inc. All rights reserved.