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Conceptual metaphors and etymology

With the development of conceptual metaphor (CM) theory within the research paradigm of cognitive linguistics since the 1980s (cf. Lakoff & Johnson 1980) and the attribution of the pervasive character of CMs as permeating all registers of language and not being restricted to poetic language vel sim., their use and development is relevant for language diachrony in general. This applies both to independently recurring CMs found across languages and times, which might be due to general features of human experience (cf. e.g. Cairns 2016 and Kölligan 2017 on ‘nakedness’ and ‘shame’), and to CMs contingent upon culturally and historically unique circumstances (which one might call a “locality constraint”, e.g., the development of political metaphors such as “the state is a body” [“body politic”] and “the state is a ship” in ancient Greece, cf. Brock 2013).

This paper will examine a set of well-known CMs and their application to etymological research mostly in Greek and Latin arguing that

(a) the CM ‘anger is a hot fluid in a container’ may not only explain the case of Lat. *furor* ‘anger’ (cf. Kölligan 2020), but also, e.g., that of Greek *σκυδαίνω/σκύζομαι* ‘be angry’ and *σκύζα* ‘lust, heat’, which have not received a satisfactory explanation so far (cf. Beekes 2010: 1360) and which may be related to the Proto-Indo-European root **skeud-* ‘to impel’, and allow to connect the superficially divergent roots **ǵ^her-* ‘to shine’ (Lith. *žėriù*) and **ǵ^herH-* ‘to be angry’ (Ved. *hṛṇite*);

(b) that the CM ‘the soul is a sea’ occurs not only in Lat. *tranquillus* ‘calm’ (cf. Kölligan 2022), Lat. *aequus, aequor* (cf. *aequo animo* ‘with a calm mind’) and Greek *γαλήνη* ‘calm of the sea/of the soul’, but also in derivatives of PIE **sem-* ‘one (and the same)’ developing the meaning ‘even, calm’ (cf. Ml. *sám*; Germ. *sanft*);

(c) that the CM ‘success is reaching the end of the path’ (cf. Lakoff 1993: 222) underlies the diachronic development of verbs originally meaning ‘to stretch’, ‘to move (towards)’, etc., denoting (agent-oriented) ability such as Greek *δύναμαι* (cf. Kölligan 2021), Toch. *cämp* and German *gelingen* ‘to succeed’ next to *(ge-)langen* ‘to suffice, to reach’.

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