



‘Geography, Ornithology, Physics and Silviculture’: Novel Science-Related Conceptual Metaphors from Written Football Discourse in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This article sets out to prove the potential existence, or otherwise of football-related conceptual metaphors in domains apart from war, specifically the scientific domain, with the objectives of identifying, categorizing and describing the metaphors, due to the research gap that exists concerning the lack of studies describing conceptual metaphors in non-war domains in football discourse. Both conventional methods of Lakoff and Johnson’s (Source-Mapping-Target) and an exceptional approach of classifying the metaphors into superordinates, subordinates and textual examples. Ten issues of two newspapers/publications in Nigeria: *The Daily Trust* and *SportingSun*, five each, were selected for the study. The Lakoff and Johnson’s *Conceptual Metaphor Theory* (1980) and the *Metaphor Identification Procedure* by Pragglejaz Group (2007) were utilized as the theoretical underpinnings. The identification of the metaphors was via the *Revised Metaphor Identification Procedure*, and the method of analysis was textual/discourse analysis, guided by the objectives. The results of the study presented four novel, i.e. not previously reported superordinates (or master metaphors), namely: geography, ornithology, physics and silviculture. The study identified the novel metaphors, categorized them into superordinates, sub-superordinates and subordinates, and established thematic domains and overarching implications amongst them. These ten (10) novel conceptual metaphors are, to the best of our research, had not been presented or reported anywhere before. Conclusively, conceptual metaphor discourse analysis is capable of yielding multitudes of novel superordinate, sub-superordinate and subordinate master metaphors. Thus, football-related conceptual metaphors are as novel as they are pervasive and diverse.

CITATION

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INTRODUCTION

Conceptual metaphors are metaphorical expressions whose meanings are understood at a cognitive level, i.e. in the brain, by relating the metaphoric object to another well-known entity that is referred, readily recognizable, and similar, to the original object on the basis of one or

more shared characteristic(s), which enable a metaphoric link-up between the original object and the comparative entity, in a direct, linear fashion. For example, the statement: *football is war* is a conceptual metaphor in which the original term, football, is compared to the referred term, war (Surahman *et al.*, 2024).

Certain conceptual metaphors are known to be associated with football discourse, including the master metaphor of *Argument/Sport/Football is War*, and other metaphors derived therefrom. However, as was shown by Lewandowski (2012), a careful survey of footballing discourse can reveal other metaphors different from those related to war, including metaphors related to other sports such as racing and chess, and metaphors related to hunting, sailing, magic, among others.

The fact that conceptual metaphors are known to be present in everyday language (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980b), creates an avenue for the presence of metaphors (or lack thereof) will be established through research. If confirmed, subsequent linguistic endeavours can typify, analyse, describe and rationalise the functions and purposes of metaphors in football parlance, as football's contribution to the global understanding of conceptual metaphor theory (Ahumaraeze, 2020).

A display of football related writings exist globally, in sport publications, e.g. match reports, articles, interviews, etc. contributing significantly to English language in general, nonetheless, the area has not witnessed researches that it deserved. Like all established writings, the language of football reportage is rife with variegated linguistic devices including conceptual metaphors in order to enhance the realization of meaning and arouse interest in the learners (Wilinsky, 2014).

However, exhaustive research endeavours aimed at identifying, typifying, characterising and analysing football related metaphors are rare in conceptual metaphor research, the ever-growing body of researchable material notwithstanding. A significant chunk of previous researches on this subject, where they exist, tend to focus on commentaries, where metaphors are readily available. This creates a research lacuna yet to be bridged: The existence of possibly novel conceptual metaphors potentially present in written reportage (Oluremi, 2013). Moreover, geographical, generation and sociolinguistic factors catalyse disparities in writing styles, and hence, variation in utilisation of conceptual metaphors in writings, thus, a research problem exists concerning researching conceptual metaphors in Nigerian football reportage considering the clear geographical and sociolinguistic dichotomies between Nigeria and European countries, where a significant portion of research on conceptual metaphors found in football was done. Likewise, in Nigeria, despite the existence of multiple newspapers and football publications containing multiple football reportages, studies about the existence and the linguistic explanation of football-related conceptual metaphors are scarce; instead, focus is placed on the occurrence of conceptual metaphors in online commentaries, thus creating a research problem and necessitating perusing newspapers/football publications in search of conceptual metaphors. Since language is an indisputably and

constantly changing, new conceptual metaphors will invariably arise by the day, through the introduction of novel word senses, creation of new expressions and terminologies, borrowings, etc. Therefore, this study contributes to conceptual metaphor theory research, a nascent linguistic field of research, and provided empirical research inputs from authentic collections of recent data.

Aim of the study

The aim of the research is to investigate conceptual metaphors present in football reportage of the sport section of *The Daily Trust* newspaper and *SportingSun* publications from the contextual, semantic and cognitive viewpoints. With this premise, this research sets to employ the Lakoff & Johnson's (1980) *Conceptual Metaphor Theory*, to analyse the various conceptual metaphors found in the football sections of *The Daily Trust* newspaper and *SportingSun* publications. Furthermore, this research work delimits itself to the editions of the publications considered: those from June-July 2019.

Based on our research, no previous work of this nature had ever been undertaken using *The Daily Trust* newspaper and *SportingSun* publications. The timeframe chosen for the execution of the research coincided with the season for the 2019 Total African Cup of Nations (AFCON – Egypt) and the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup (France), as such; emphasis is placed on articles related to such events only. The chosen newspaper and publication are prominent nationwide sport publications that are subsidiaries of *The Daily Trust* and *The Sun* newspapers, which are prominent in Nigeria today, as was evidenced by the fact that *The Sun* is the second most widely read newspaper in Nigeria (Hollingsworth & Kemedi, 2015), moreover, the Daily Trust is the newspaper with the widest circulation in Nigeria, as of 2017 (Olawale & Omotayo, 2018; Abubakar & Abubakar, 2015). The coalescence of these factors makes it necessary to undertake a research endeavour of this kind.

Research objectives

1. To determine the existence of conceptual metaphors belonging to the Science domain in the Nigerian football discourse.
2. To classify the novel conceptual metaphors into superordinates and subordinates.
3. To identify the thematic domains and the overarching implications of the novel, science-associated metaphors from the Nigerian football discourse.

Research questions

1. Do novel conceptual metaphors belonging to the Science domain exist in the Nigerian football discourse?
2. If existent, into what superordinates and subordinates can the novel conceptual metaphors be grouped?

3. What are the thematic domains and the overarching implications of the novel, science-associated metaphors from the Nigerian football discourse?

Understanding the conceptual metaphor theory in the context of football discourse

The linguistic features of the language involved in football commentaries are many, and include richness in terms of expressions and nuances, such as the use of metaphorical statements to describe football-related events. Football language spans the spectrum of language skills (Bergh & Ohlander 2012). In such a scenario, an avenue is created whereby the presence of metaphors (or lack thereof) will be established through research. If confirmed, subsequent linguistic endeavours can typify, analyse, describe and rationalise the function and purposes of metaphors in football parlance, as football's contribution to the global understanding of conceptual metaphor theory.

Conceptual metaphors are metaphorical expressions whose meanings are understood on a cognitive level, i.e. in the brain, (Al-Soweidi, 2021), by relating the metaphoric object to another well-known entity that is referred, readily recognizable, and similar, to the original object on the basis of one or more shared characteristic(s), which enable a metaphoric link-up between the original object and the comparative entity, in a direct, linear fashion. For example, the statement: *football is war* is a conceptual metaphor in which the original term, football, is compared to the referred term, war.

The Conceptual Metaphor Theory was developed by Lakoff & Johnson (1980b), who radically shifted from the literary view of metaphor, choosing instead to provide a philosophical, linguistic and alternate view to metaphors, which they encompass in five ideals:

1. That metaphors are conceptualized properties and not merely word-based semantic products;
2. Metaphors can serve in enhancing the flexibility and spread of the depth of understanding, and are not simply used for a rhetorical or aesthetic function;
3. The transference of the core metaphorical supposition as going away from being based on the similarities between the compared entities;
4. Impeccably and immaculately, metaphors are seamed into the fabric of everyday conversation, even unknowingly and unconsciously,
5. Critically and unavoidably, metaphors are enmeshed in human reasoning rather than being used ornamentally and rhetorically in literary writings.

In simplified terms, the conceptual metaphor theory is given by the relation: $A \rightarrow B$, where A represents a target domain and B represents a source domain. The understanding of these conceptual metaphors is based on mapping between the source and target domains, which helps in the comprehension of the relationship between

the domains (Lakoff *et al.*, 1991). The intent of such a comparison, it has been argued, is to bring to the fore the similarities between the entities in question.

The essence of metaphor is the understanding of one concept in terms of another, as this was clearly echoed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980a, p. 6).

Metaphor is not just a matter of language, that is, of mere words. We shall argue that, on the contrary, human thought processes are largely metaphorical. This is what we mean when we say that the human conceptual system is metaphorically structured and defined. Metaphors as linguistic expressions are possible precisely because there are metaphors in a person's conceptual system.

From a psychological-football fused perspective, football was used as a metaphor to interpret teamwork. Some particulars of a football team were used to create a better understanding of organizational teamwork (Bokeno, 2009). In another study, Clarke (2009) (cited in by Dervant, (2016), used football metaphors functioning as a therapeutic activity in order to promote mental health. Triggs *et al.* (2011) examined the extent of metaphors whether they support players to cope with career long problems. They used metaphors in song lyrics to encourage youth football players in the sense of expressing their thoughts and feelings. Players developed their communication skills. Besides, they had a better understanding of transition phases of their careers by using metaphors.

In their entirety, the previous literatures we encountered on this subject tend to center on the description of war-related metaphors either in football itself, other sports, or other domains. Therefore, a research lacuna exists regarding the quest to find novel metaphors that are different from *Football is War/Violence*. Are there other branches of the football conceptual metaphor tree? If yes, what are they? In essence, do other metaphors, apart from Argument is War related ones exist in football? Also, are they found in sport publications? Answering these questions spurred the undertaking of this research.

METHODOLOGY

Considering the fact that this research focuses on elucidating novel conceptual metaphors from the Nigeria football discourse, ten Nigerian, football-related newspapers/publications were chosen to form the research corpus: five *Daily Trust* newspapers from July, 2019 (i.e. those of Monday, 1st July; Friday, 5th July; Monday, 8th July; Thursday, 11th July and Sunday, 14th July); and five *SportingSun* publications, chosen from June and July, 2019 (i.e. Tuesday, 25th June; Saturday, 29th June; Sunday, 7th July; Monday, 15th July and Friday, 19th July). These publications were selected using purposive sampling.

The theoretical frameworks for the study were adopted to characterize the existence of previous heterogeneous models that give an intellectual backing to the study. The

chosen frameworks for analysis include the Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory (1980) and the Metaphor Identification Procedure (Pragglejaz Group, 2007; also adopted by Lewandowski, 2011). The former served as an underpinning for the research, while the latter serves as a guide as to how to identify the metaphors.

This study is based on the framework of cognitive semantic linguistics, under the aegis of the cognitive theory of linguistics, specifically, the Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT), proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980a) was employed. They argued that 'metaphor does not occur primarily in language but in thought' and 'that we actually understand the world with metaphors and do not just speak with them' (Kövecses, 2005, p.2).

The Conceptual Metaphor Theory, having been pursued and developed by many scholars, including Kövecses (2002; 2005), Charteris-Black (2004) and Semino (2008) is still a highly popular approach in cognitive studies of metaphor. The forward approach was used by this research, which involves looking for all available metaphor superordinates, subordinates and individual examples. However, after the relevant metaphors have been identified, the reverse approach of Lewandowski (2011), focusing on the use of specific (e.g. conflict-related metaphors) in the language of soccer; drawing on the material from both Polish and English languages, was employed. The superordinancy and subordinate approach was adapted and modified from Lewandowski (2009, 2011), which involves the classification of the metaphors into superclasses and assigning individual branches of other branching, sister metaphors, which are the subordinates, finally followed by the textual examples. Lewandowski (2011, p. 81-82), outlined the methodology for identification of metaphors, using the Metaphor Identification Procedure, which he himself adopts from Pragglejaz Group (2007, p. 3):-

1. Read the entire text-discourse to establish a general understanding of the meaning.
2. Determine the lexical units in the text-discourse
3. For each lexical unit in the text, establish its meaning in context, that is, how it applies to an entity, relation, or attribute in the situation evoked by the text (contextual meaning). Take into account what comes before and after the lexical unit.
4. For each lexical unit, determine if it has a more basic contemporary meaning in other contexts than the one in the given context. For our purposes, basic meanings tend to be
 - More concrete [what they evoke is easier to imagine, see, hear, feel, smell, and taste];
 - Related to bodily action;
 - More precise (as opposed to vague);
 - Historically older;
 Basic meanings are not necessarily the most frequent meanings of the lexical unit.

5. If the lexical unit has a more basic current-contemporary meaning in other contexts than the given context, decide whether the contextual meaning contrasts with the basic meaning but can be understood in comparison with it.

6. If yes, mark the lexical unit as metaphorical.

Lewandowski (2009) suggests that in the event of the occurrence of a dilemma of assigning/tagging a specific metaphorical expression, the researcher has the liberty of being subjective while trying to group them into particular domains and the wordings that are associated with the source and target domains; as he deems fit.

Subjectivity also applies in the selection of which words form the source domain, as opined by Wilinsky (2014, p. 89): "Selection of items can rest on *a priori* knowledge, it can be based on existing word-lists, or it can rely on a preceding keyword analysis of texts on target-domain topics. In this sample, we then identify the metaphorical mappings in which these lexical items occur".

Textual analysis was employed for analyzing obtained data, in synchrony with the schematic involving the identification of the metaphors, their organization and analysis within a '*kin-corpus*' (a group of closely related words). However, both the top-down and the bottom-up i.e. corpora-based approaches were used simultaneously and complementarily. This is not uncommon in previous researches on metaphor (Naicker, 2016). The metaphors were searched from the writings using the Revised Metaphor Identification Procedure (MIP), as described by Naicker (2016). Elaborately, after the texts were subjected to three readings, areas where conceptual metaphors are thought to exist were identified and underlined. Afterwards, the metaphors were compiled and subjected to the various levels of analyses, according to the objectives of the research.

Analysis of data

The analysis of data was carried out on the basis of the objectives of the study and the methods chosen for data analysis. The study found out that besides the traditionally well-trodden path of the *Football is War* master metaphor; there exists other domains serving as sources in providing novel conceptual metaphors. The study found out that geography, ornithology, physics and silviculture are significant repositories of novel conceptual metaphor related to footballing discourse.

On the whole, 9 novel conceptual metaphors were presented, including three from physics, two from silviculture, two from geography and two from ornithology. The metaphors were first presented using the classical (Lakoff & Johnson approach), before they are later grouped using the hierarchical order of importance system: those five key domains from which the words were sourced are known as Master Metaphors i.e. Science, Physics, Silviculture, Geography and Ornithology. From the master

metaphors, ordinary instances of conceptual metaphors were elucidated. The 9 identified conceptual metaphors were dissected and tagged ‘subordinates’. After the presentation of the metaphors, thematic domains and overarching implications were derived and established. These establish relationships between the superordinate domain and football from a general perspective on the one hand, and illustrate the interwoven, angled nature of the sub-superordinates, if any, and or the subordinates, vis-à-vis the stated superordinates. The data presentation and analysis is presented in sections, as follows:

Section I: Analysis of the Conceptual Metaphors Based on A Pre-existing Model: Presentation of the Novel Metaphors using the Classical Approach/Lakoff and Johnson Model

The classical approach of Lakoff and Johnson (1980), which is based on establishing the link between source and target domains, at the word level, was employed for the study. In this approach, the symbol represents mapping between the source and target domains. The source domains were taken from the grouping of the metaphors into a specific field, i.e. the kin-corpus. The source domain encompasses the members under the Master Metaphor, whereas the target domain was provided based on the initiative of the researcher, upon critical thinking, and interpretation of the meaning of the expression in context

Superordinate 1. Football Strategizing is Geography

Source	Mapping	Target
European	➤	technique-based style of football
African	➤	physicality-based style of football

Brazilian	➤	skills-and-tricks-based style of football
Latitude	➤	allowing a team/player liberty in football
Acres	➤	exploitable spaces in football

NB: The line ----- marks the demarcation/boundary between the two source domains obtained from the analytic corpus (the selected newspapers/publications) and the three source/target domains supplied to supplement the two and enhance understanding of the Superordinate through the application of the Lakoff and Johnson model. These were obtained by carefully scrutinising the available metaphors, and providing model sources and targets that can naturally fill-in-the-gaps. This becomes necessary because of the novelty of the metaphors, as only two or three

instantiations of source-target mappings are obtained, therefore, supplementation becomes necessary, since the whole source-target complex is assumed to be one entity. However, assuming that abundant source-target mappings exist, i.e. when there are five or more metaphors from the same Superordinate, in the corpus, which warrant unaided comprehension of the Lakoff and Johnson model based purely on the individual metaphors under the master metaphor/superordinate, supplementation is not necessary.

Superordinate 2. Football is Ornithology

Source	Mapping	Target
Wings		the two lateral divisions of the football pitch
Soar		to play excellently, and hence win
Ornithologist		football coach, analyst, pundit or somebody who studies the beautiful game very well
Bird		football field

NB: The line ----- is used as described previously.

Superordinate 3. Football is Physics

Source	Mapping	Target
Trajectory	➤	career path of a footballer
Pressure	➤	pressing somebody to do something in football, or the urge or force that triggers the pressing

Less-pressure	➡	a team/footballer bearing little burden of pressure, e.g. as a result of lack of notoriety
Momentum	➡	form of a football team, e.g. winning/undefeated streak
Acceleration	➡	rapid promotion e.g. through football ranks by a footballer due to extraordinary achievement
NB: The line is used as described previously.		

Superordinate 4. Football is Silviculture

Source	Mapping	Target
Raking	➡	collecting financial emoluments after an achievement in football
Perennial	➡	a rival team of football with whom a team shares a longstanding history
Nursery	➡	youth academy system in football
Plantation	➡	team
Chop down	➡	to bring a footballer down, e.g. by fouling
NB: The line is used as described previously.		

Section II: Identification and Categorisation of the Metaphors into Superordinates and Textual Examples

There are two subsections here. In the first subsection, after instantiations of the identified metaphors were presented, they were categorised under a single Superordinate. A master metaphor is given a number, e.g. Superordinate 1. The metaphor tags are given capital Roman numerals, e.g. I, II, III, IV, etc., and the instances of the metaphors were presented with alphabets, with the sentence italicised and the metaphorical expression bolded. The source is presented in brackets.

In the second subsection, the relationship between manifestations of the metaphors under a master metaphor is explored. This was done using Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications. Thematic Domains discuss the source domains of the conceptual metaphors, and their link to their respective target domains, but with a special emphasis on the source, while Overarching Implications refer to the cross-linking between individual metaphors found under a superordinate, with regards to their meaning. The second section explores this relationship in depth. Therefore, in the section, relationships are established between the superordinate domain and football from a general perspective on the one hand, and the interwoven nature of the metaphors vis-à-vis the stated superordinates, if any, are illustrated, on the other hand.

Subsection I: Superordinates and Instantiations of the Metaphors

Superordinate 1: Football Strategizing is Geography

- I. Physicality-based football style is African
E.g. ... Ahmed Garba popularly called ‘Yaro Yaro’ has advised the squad ... to abandon the European approach for ‘African style’ of football which thrives on physicality. (Daily Trust, Monday, 8th July, 2019, p. 46).
- II. Technique-based style of football is European

*E.g. ... Ahmed Garba popularly called ‘Yaro Yaro’ has advised the squad ... to abandon the **European approach** for ‘African style’ of football ... (Daily Trust, Monday, 8th July, 2019, p. 46).*

Superordinate 2: Football is Ornithology

- I. Playing by the side of the pitch is being on the wings
*E.g. In Arsenal, I play a lot from the **wings** (Sunday SportingSun, Sunday, 7th July 2019, p.4.)*
- II. To play excellently is to soar
*E.g. ... the Super Eagles must not fail to **soar** against the 1976 AFCON runners-up (SportingSun, Tuesday, 25th June, 2019, p.5).*

Superordinate 3: Football is Physics

- I. A football player’s expected route is a projectile’s trajectory
*E.g. ... Koita will be hoping to continue his upward **trajectory** (Weekend SportingSun, Saturday, 29th June, 2019, p.6).*
- II. Pressing somebody/someone to do something is putting them under pressure
*E.g. It is important to know your opponent well without turning that into **pressure** against yourself (Sunday SportingSun, Sunday, 7th July, 2019, p.5).*
- III. A player bearing the burden of little or no expectation is less-pressured
*E.g. However, the **less-pressured** lad is still savouring ... (Weekend SportingSun, Saturday, 29th June, 2019, p.5)*
- IV. Form of a footballer/football team is momentum
*E.g. Eagles of Carthage ‘**gain momentum**’ after muted start ... (SportingSun, Monday, 15th July, 2019, p.4).*

Superordinate 4: Football is Silviculture

- I. Collecting football bonuses is raking a farmyard

E.g. *Super Eagles rake over 334m for beating Cameroon* (*Daily Trust*, Monday, 8th July, 2019, p.46).

II. Long lasting rivalries are perennial trees

E.g. ... *the Super Eagles ... soared into the semi-finals ... after an emphatic 2-1 victory over perennial rivals, Bafana Bafana of South Africa ...* (*Daily Trust*, Thursday, 11th July, 2019, p. 46).

Subsection II: Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications of the Superordinates

Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications for Superordinate 1: Football Strategising is Geography

Thematic Domain: This superordinate is domiciled in geography, the branch of science concerned with the study of the earth and its constituents. This superordinate's thematic idea is that discrepancies exist between geographical locations of the world, and as such, their attitudes to life, styles, etc. differ.

Overarching Implications: Translated into football, there are two major approaches, the *African* physicality-based approach and the *European* technical approach. Modernization is a common feature of geographical transformations, likewise, abandoning one style for another in this type of football strategizing is very common, especially if it suits the team/coach, or if desired results aren't achievable or achieved.

Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications for Superordinate 2. Football is Ornithology

Thematic Domain: The domain of this superordinate is the scientific study of birds, which is called ornithology. The metaphors involve the structure of birds and an action peculiar to birds.

Overarching Implications: The implication here is representing the study of a bird as the study of football. The football field itself is represented in form of a bird caricature, with the wings represented by either the sides of the field or the players playing there; in the same vein, soaring of a bird connotes the form of a team, winning a game or dominating it.

Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications for Superordinate 3. Football is Physics

Thematic Domain: Here, this metaphor is analysed from the physics thematic domain, as physics is one of the three principal branches of science, together with biology and chemistry. The subordinates involved here centre around *pressure, momentum* and *trajectory*.

Overarching Implications: The overarching implications here evoke a comparison with a body in a projectile motion, which has a trajectory, which means the path taken by the body, or here, a footballer. In Physics, momentum is defined as the product of force and velocity, and in football, a run of successive victories is referred to as momentum. Pressure is required to be exerted before one can halt momentum, therefore, pressure here refers to any agent that may prevent a player or a team from

achieving success, winning a match, or being in a condition where one has to deliver as a matter of urgency or due to expectation.

Thematic Domains and Overarching Implications for Superordinate 5. Football is Silviculture

Thematic Domain: This superordinate is derived from agriculture, a branch of science, and silviculture, in particular, within the agricultural domain. The superordinate has just two subordinates, but they are significant in signifying the start and finish of the silviculturing practice. The silviculturing practice starts with *raking*, done purposefully to clear the plantation area, and ends with *perennial* chopping down of the logs.

Overarching Implication: The implication here is that raking signifies the collection of a specific amount of funds, and resembles the silviculturing practice in the sense that the totality of the material in question is being referred, either all the waste and debris, or refereed to amounts of money, goals, etc. The silvicultural practice ends with year after year after year utilization of the forest, i.e. the perenniality of the trees being logged or chopped down year after year, just like Nigeria makes use of South Africa year after year.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The ideas of primacy realizable from the study are: novel conceptual metaphors exist in football, including the Master Metaphors, or domains, that serve as sources of the metaphors, the sub-superordinates, and the conceptual metaphors themselves.

Contrary to many findings by previous researches and researchers [vide: Lewandowski (2011), Wilinsky (2014)], this study finds the existence of novel conceptual metaphors. *Football is War* is a well-established metaphor, however, this research work has shown that conceptual metaphors can exist in source domains other than war. The range of sources of football metaphors transcends 2 or 3 well known domains of war, theatre and sailing. All four Master Metaphors: *Geography, Ornithology, Physics and Silviculture*, to the best of our research, had not been elucidated anywhere before, as Superordinates in football discourse. This fact must be digested taking into cognizance the contextuality and sociolinguistic variations. The pervasiveness of metaphors reported by the study agrees with previous researches. A total of ten (10) novel conceptual metaphors were analysed from the ten selected newspapers, in only the five selected science-related domains.

Nonetheless, this study is not the first to describe existence of novel conceptual metaphors in the global football discourse: previously, Lewandowski *et al.* (2012) is, to the best of our research, one of the first authors to wholly concentrate on the existence of non-violence conceptual metaphors in the global football discourse. This work, furthermore, contributes specific instances of

novel, non-violence conceptual metaphors associated with Nigerian football discourse that weren't found/discussed in Lewandowski's research.

Furthermore, the presence of kin-corpora and superordinates/subsuperordinates, as described before in the analysis, corroborates the interrelatedness between the individual metaphors which, to the best of my research, was rarely attempted or done in previous researches. This cognitive synergy in meaning might be brought to being, consciously or unconsciously, by the writers, and underscores the need for thematic domains and overarching implications.

The use of the scientific metaphors greatly enhanced the realization of meaning. This buttresses the findings reported by Sani & Bature (2019), who studied the impact and influence of scientific terms and expressions as tools for concretizing idea abstractions, using conceptual metaphors as devices, concluding that science-related metaphors are enmeshed in the fabric of everyday conversations; and this study further confirms those findings, by illustrating the pervasiveness of conceptual metaphors related to the science domain, in the Nigerian football discourse.

Ultimately, the use of conceptual metaphors in football writings cognitively enshrines a basis for the rationalisation of meaning between scientific words and football happenstances, such that the readers' sphere of understanding merges the two concepts, at a cognitive level.

Limitations of the Study

This study is limited by its corpus size: only ten newspapers/publications were chosen for analysis. It is also limited by its narrowing of the area of the research's focus to just novel conceptual metaphors in the science domain. Moreover, the chosen publications/articles were restricted to only those in the selected issues of the newspapers covering the chosen time period.

CONCLUSION

This study had proven that novel, nascent conceptual metaphors exist in football discourse, conceptual metaphors are pervasive in everyday language, and that they help in the realization of meaning. Likewise, the research posits that not only do conceptual metaphors exist from Lakoff and Johnson's original Master Metaphors, but because language is a constantly evolving singularity, conceptual metaphors arise every now and then. Four novel, science-related conceptual metaphor superordinates were described, including those related to *Geography*, *Ornithology*, *Physics* and *Silviculture*. The crux of the data is that ten (10) novel metaphors related to science were presented in the study. This suggests the fact that continuous research into this field is imperative and will yield valuable data about the subject yet unearthed,

which will aid the understanding of the topic. In essence, the field of conceptual metaphor research is an orchid ripe with novel and nascent fruits ready to be plucked, but after due tillage and silvicultural practice. Football-related conceptual metaphors are as diverse as they are pervasive.

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Appendix: References for the Publications/ Newspapers Utilised as Textual Corpora

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