

EGLĒ ŽILINSKAITĒ-ŠINKŪNIENĒ, INESA ŠEŠKAUSKIENĒ

Vilnius University

egle.zilinskaite@gmail.com, inesa.seskauskiene@flf.vu.lt

**On the motivation of prepositional meaning:
the Lithuanian UŽ and the Latvian AIZ**

The present paper reports the results of the investigation demonstrating how the principle of motivated polysemy works on interpreting numerous senses of the Lithuanian UŽ and the Latvian AIZ roughly equivalent to the English BEHIND. The principle of motivated polysemy in prepositional semantics is advocated by cognitive linguists (see Talmy 2000; Tyler and Evans 2003; Matlock 2004, among others). Most papers so far have been written relying on the English data. Inflecting languages, where case plays a role which is no less important than that of a preposition have been researched to a lesser extent. A number of papers have focused mainly on Slavic languages (see Maljar and Seliverstova 1998; Przybylska 2002; Pawelec 2009; Tabakowska 2003, 2010). Baltic languages have received much less attention (see Berg-Olsen 2005; Šeškauskienė and Žilinskaitė-Šinkūnienė *to appear*).

In our previous research (*ibid.*) we attempted to account for thirteen meanings of the Lithuanian UŽ linked in a single network. Interestingly, the network of its Latvian counterpart AIZ is narrower. It includes the meanings of spatial location, function, control, obstacle, sequential location, hiding and covering, boundary and border, spatial distance and reason. In the present investigation these meanings will be discussed in more detail demonstrating links between physical (more concrete) and non-physical (more abstract) senses. The findings in Latvian and Lithuanian will be compared exploring the question of (non) equivalence and its possible reasons.

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