

# Metaphor in legal translation: space as a source domain in English and Lithuanian

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Space is an established source domain for metaphors in English and other languages and cultures (Yu 2016). It is particularly productive in conceptualising time, morality and other psychological and social states (see Haspelmath 1997; Casasanto & Boroditsky 2008; Duffy & Feist 2016).

Starting with Talmy (1973/2000: 237), many scholars have admitted that languages carve up space in idiosyncratic ways. Apparently, those idiosyncrasies are preserved in spatial expressions conceptualising abstract domains.

Legal discourse is extremely abstract and, despite its rigor and formulaicity, also metaphorical; genres where legal opinion is expressed are more likely to involve metaphor (Richard 2014). Legal discourse also employs a number of spatiality markers used in their abstract senses, e.g. *under/above the law, higher courts, beyond the contention, etc.*

This paper focuses on some metaphorically used spatiality markers, namely, the prepositions *over, above, under, below, behind, beyond, before, along*, the adjectives *high* and *low, long* and *short*. The aim of the investigation is to identify metaphors employing space as a source domain and verify if spatially motivated metaphorical senses have been preserved in translation into Lithuanian.

The data includes 18 opinions of advocates general of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) drawn from *InfoCuria*, a database of the CJEU. The corpus covers the period between 2011 and 2015 and contains over 203,180 words in total (EN subcorpus: 116,540 words; LT (translation) subcorpus: 86,640 words). To search for utterances in question, the AntConc (Anthony 2015) software was used. For metaphor identification, the principles of MIP (Steen et al. 2010) have been employed. To identify tendencies of translation, the model of Abdulah & Shuttleworth (2013) was adhered to.

The results show that in English, verticality markers are employed to render abstract meanings mostly through the preposition *under*, used in numerous patterns rendering the POWER IS UP metaphor. Other metaphors include TIME IS SPACE, MORE IS UP, UNACCEPTABLE IS CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES.

In translation, an established English verticality schema identifiable in the POWER IS UP metaphor is preserved in some cases with *high* and *low*. The pattern with *under* (*under the law*) in Lithuanian is rendered through a metaphor based on a horizontal (*pagal įstatymą* 'along the law') or container (EN *under the case-law*—LT *teismo praktikoje* 'in the case-law') schema. The metaphor MORE IS UP is mostly lost. The metaphor UNACCEPTABLE IS CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES based on a horizontal schema (*beyond the scope of the parties' action*) in Lithuanian is rendered through a vertical schema: *ne-galima viršyti šalių ieškinio apimties* ('you shall not go over the top of the scope of the parties' action').

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