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MJESEČNO PREDAVANJE

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Metaphor as a conceptual basis for multiword units' motivation

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Sažetak predavanja:

The central issue of semantics of metaphorically based multiword units is the phenomenon of motivation. Motivation is a key for many aspects of their behavior in discourse and their cross-linguistic equivalence. The phenomenon of motivation is cognitive by nature and has cultural implicatures.

Most lexical units point to their actual meaning via the meanings of their components, either constituent parts of their structure or of their conceptual basis. In this sense, most lexical units are motivated. To explain how speakers use linguistic expressions to convey meaning means to reveal relevant motivating links. Motivated means neither wholly arbitrary nor fully predictable (Langacker 1987: 48).

In general, four types of motivation can be distinguished:

- (i) semantic motivation,
- (ii) syntactic motivation,
- (iii) motivation based on textual knowledge, and
- (iv) index-based motivation.

In this talk, these types will be discussed in detail.