

New Medievalisms

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Edited by

Javier Martín-Párraga

and Juan de Dios Torralbo-Caballero

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INTRODUCTION

There is a renewed interest in medieval culture, literature and society, as recent fictional artefacts such as *Game of Thrones* or the cinematographic adaptations of Tolkien's pseudo-medieval universe clearly prove. From a merely academic viewpoint, there are many excellent journals and book series devoted to a scholarly analysis of the medieval English language and literature.

While “traditional” medieval scholars do have several valid vehicles of communication (including some excellent volumes that have appeared previously in this same publishing house, such as *In Search of the Medieval Voice: Expressions of Identity in the Middle Ages*, 2008 or more recently *Medieval Metaphysics, or is it "Just Semantics"?*, 2011), those researchers that decided to favour new ways or to combine more eclectic approaches are often not given the same opportunities. Nonetheless, their academic prestige and the quality of their papers deserve to be published in a collective volume.

Another reason why we consider this book will be interesting for the scientific community is related to the new educational paradigm across Europe, taking into account that the Bologna Process for Higher Education clearly implies a multi-disciplinary approach to university education. It must also be borne in mind that all the English Studies programmes around Europe include at least one subject that is directly or indirectly related to Medieval England. Thus, we do consider it evident that there is an important target audience for a publication like this in the European academic community.

New Medievalisms, thus, includes six themed segments that are both inherently different and cohesively connected.

The book opens with “New Approaches to the Study of the Medieval English Language”, in which three internationally renowned experts offer new insights on the medieval English language, as well as its implications in the evolution of the language and its acquisition by foreign learners. In the first chapter, Antonio Barcelona-Sánchez deals with the motivation of the emergence of the multal quantifier meaning of the noun *lot* occurring in the partitive and multal quantifier (quasi-) determiner *a lot of*. Eulalio Fernández-Sánchez, in the second chapter, focuses on the psycholinguistic implications of the simplification experienced by Middle English for second language acquisition processes, and at the same time he provides a

diachronic evidence for the psycholinguistic accessibility of English as a foreign language at present. Olga Blanco-Carrión, in chapter three, considers the surprising link between the words “grammar” and “glamour”, which comes from Middle English. In this section the most salient corpus findings for both word-forms *gramarye* and *glamour* are summarized.

The second segment, entitled, “The First Medieval English Poem Revisited”, includes three chapters. The first one, authored by Marta Rojano-Simón takes readers on a journey to the Sutton-Hoo archaeological site, which is extremely connected to the first poem written in England: *Beowulf*. Thus, a link between medieval society and literature is established. In the next chapter, Javier Martín-Párraga moves from ancient times to contemporary pop revisitations of the same medieval epic poem, taking into account graphic novels, comic books, movies and even videogames. Elena Cantueso-Urbano closes this part with an exciting paper in which the author traces back the influence of Christianity in Grendel’s Mother, paying special attention to the innovative topic of the myth of the femme fatale that appears for the first time in English literature in *Beowulf*.

The third segment centres on “Medieval Echoes in Contemporary Literature”, starting with Magdalena López-Pérez’s study about the extensive literary production of Attar, including books in both English and Arabic concerning literary criticism, translation, language teaching and creative writing. Consequently, a bridge across Eastern culture and Medieval England is discovered. Next, María Luisa Pascual-Garrido examines the account of pilgrimage provided by Margery Kempe against a representative corpus of medieval writings dating from the late fourteenth century, illustrating how Kempe’s narrative is strategically used to question different sources of male authority and subvert them so as to empower herself. Vicente López-Folgado, in the following chapter, studies Morris’ translation of *Beowulf* in depth, applying an original perspective within the field of study. Cristina M. Gámez-Fernández shows the deep impact medieval English author Julian of Norwich had on the literary production of the American poet Denise Levertov, focusing on how the contemporary author recreates Julian of Norwich’s figure and writings as a starting point from which to widen her knowledge of the mystic as a way to meditate on religious faith. The author who closes this section, Juan de Dios Torralbo-Caballero, approaches Chaucer’s seminal composition *The House of Fame*, objectifying the self-representation mechanisms that shape the poet’s identity in the process of artistic exploration.

The fourth segment, under the title “Translating Medieval Culture” is composed of only one extensive and pioneering chapter, co-authored by Emilio Ortega-Arjonilla and Ana Belén Martínez-López. In this piece of research these scholars analyze in depth translation and film adaptation in the contemporary dissemination of medieval culture, stereotypes and values. Hence, this paper does not only consider translation itself but also the fundamental influence medieval English literary texts had on some of the most popular and mainstream contemporary fictions, such as *The Name of the Rose*, *Lord of the Rings* or *Star Wars*.

The fifth segment, “Bridges Across Medieval Cultures”, contains four original texts. The first of these, written by Carmen Balbuena-Torezano, takes us to the Arthurian Court, analyzing the deep impact the British Arthurian cycle had on German epic literature. The author will transport us from Germany to France in a poetic voyage in which *Breton* and *Middle English lais* are compared. Thus, these two chapters can be viewed as two sides of the same coin, as they both deal with the English mythical King in two of the most powerful European cultures and civilizations. Then, Israel Muñoz-Gallarte dives even deeper into history, throughout a philosophical and meta-literary consideration of the echoes of Greek tragedy in medieval literature. Pedro Marfil-Ruiz and Christopher M. Courault devote the final chapter to Henry Swinburne’s *Planimetry*, which is the first publication of the planimetry of Cordoba’s Mosque.

The concluding segment, “Innovative Approaches to the Teaching of Medieval Language and Culture”, offers three original and contemporary ways of presenting Medieval England to a wide range of students belonging to different educational levels, from primary education to post-graduate programmes. Daniel D. Martínez-Romera presents a state of the art proposal by the means of which educational software is applied to medieval themes. Verónica Marín-Díaz asks the reader to reconsider some widespread misconceptions on videogames in general. From a more specific perspective, this expert reflects on how videogames can be beneficial for the teaching of the British Middle Ages. The last chapter of this part, which also closes the book, is not less ground-breaking since Begoña E. Sampedro-Requena applies one of the latest technological advancements: podcasts to the didactics of medievalism.

Javier Martín-Párraga
Juan de Dios Torralbo-Caballero
Editors

PART I:

NEW APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

CHAPTER ONE

METONYMY AND METAPHOR IN THE EMERGENCE OF THE QUANTIFIER MEANING OF THE NOUN “LOT”¹

ANTONIO BARCELONA-SÁNCHEZ

Introduction

This paper is a brief study on the motivation of the emergence of the multal quantifier meaning of the noun *lot* occurring in the partitive and multal quantifier (quasi-)determiner *a lot of*. The motivation for the development of the corresponding quasi-pronoun *a lot* is also briefly discussed. It is argued that the main motivational factor in both cases is conceptual metonymy. I presented two earlier versions of this paper at two different cognitive linguistic conferences (in 2007 and in 2010). A short initial version was published as part of Barcelona (2006), and a brief, revised version was part of Barcelona (2009); some paragraphs of both papers have been reproduced with some minor changes in later sections of the present chapter. A definitive longer, more detailed version will be published in Barcelona (in preparation).

The quantifying expression *a lot of*, which is regarded by some standard grammars as a compound determiner lexeme (cf. Quirk *et al.* 1985, 264), is semantically similar to the quantifying determiners *much* and *many*, but different in syntactic behaviour from these fully-fledged determiners. *A lot of* is not a fully grammaticized compound determiner (Langacker 2010), one of the reasons being that it can sometimes be interrupted by adjectives, as in the ironic idiom *A fat lot of good that'll do you!* or even by a whole phrase, as in *They have a lot—maybe even a whole collection—of impressionist paintings*. Therefore, we will treat *a lot of* as a quasi-determiner. The homonymous quasi-pronoun *a lot* and the quasi-adverb *a lot* seem to have arisen from the quasi-determiner on the basis of a form metonymy (see below on quasi-pronominal *a lot*).

The next section includes the study of the role of metonymy in the motivation of the lexical-semantic changes leading to the present-day multal quantifier sense of *lot* in the context of the quasi-determiner *a lot of*; it also deals with the motivation of the development of the quasi-pronominal form *a lot* from the quasi-determiner. The third section contains the conclusions.

Metonymy in Lexical Change: From “Piece of Wood” to Quantifier to Pronoun

This section has two parts. The first, longer sub-section is devoted to the development of the multal sense in the quasi-determiner *a lot of*. The second section deals briefly with the later development of the corresponding quasi-pronoun.

From *Lot* as a Concrete Physical Noun to *Lot* as a Multal Quantifier Noun in the Quasi-Determiner Expression *a Lot of*

The multal quantitative meaning of *lot* in *a lot of* is the result of a series of metonymic extensions from the basic, oldest meaning (still alive) of the noun lexeme *lot*. This basic meaning is that of “an object used in deciding a matter by chance, a number of these being placed in a container and then drawn or cast out at random one by one” (Webster’s Dictionary, sense 1a of *lot*). The Oxford English Dictionary (henceforth OED), in its entry 1a for the noun *lot*, says that this object usually was “a piece of wood”, and it describes the basic meaning of *lot* like this:

(...)[An] object (app. usually a piece of wood) used in a widely diffused ancient method of deciding disputes, dividing plunder or property, selecting persons for an office or duty, etc., by an appeal to chance or the divine agency supposed to be concerned in the results of chance. The ‘lots’, each bearing the special mark of one of the competitors, were placed in a receptacle (in Homeric Greece a helmet); according to Greek procedure the vessel was shaken, the winning lot being that which fell out first; in Scandinavia (...) the winning lot was drawn out by an uninterested party.

The *first metonymic extension* is the one leading from the basic meaning to a minor sense of the lexeme, namely sense 1b in the OED, reproduced below:

Sense 1b in OED: “In abstract sense: The casting or drawing of lots, or the use of any equivalent process, to obtain a decision. Chiefly in the phrase *by lot*”.

An example might be *The ancients knew that election by lot was the most democratic of all modes of appointment*. The metonymy leading to this extension is instrument (object used in the action of casting lots) for action (the action of casting lots).²

The *second metonymic extension*, chained to the former, is the one leading from sense 1b in the OED to sense 1c in the OED. Sense 1c is described like this in the OED: “The choice resulting from the casting of lots; in the phrase *the lot falls on* (a person or thing)”.

An example from the OED is *The lot fell on Egmont to devise some suitable livery*. Two chained metonymies seem to be involved in the motivation of this extension. The first of them is casting lots for deciding/choosing by casting lots. This metonymy can be categorized as an instance of the high-level metonymy action (casting lots) for result (deciding/choosing by casting lots). It motivates the meaning “make a decision” of such expressions as *cast/draw/throw*, etc. *lots* and probably also the use of the verb *fall* when *lot* is used in sense 1c (because the decision depended on the place where the lot, i.e. the object used in the decision-making procedure, *fell*). The other metonymy, likewise a manifestation of action for result, is the action of deciding/choosing by casting lots for the result of the action (the result being the course of action decided upon/chosen, or the actual choice made). That is, an expression such as *The lot fell on Egmont to devise some suitable livery* is not understood as meaning that Egmont would have to decide who would devise the livery, but that the decision taken (by casting lots) was that Egmont would devise the livery.³

Sense 1c in the OED leads to one of the present-day prototypical senses of the noun lexeme, described in a part of the meaning complex presented as sense 2a by the OED.

Sense 2 in the OED: “What falls to a person by lot”. This sense includes four sub-senses in the OED, i.e. senses 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d. The relevant sub-sense for our purpose is 2a.

Sense 2 a in the OED. “*That which is assigned by lot to a person as his share or portion in an inheritance, or in a distribution of property; a division or share of property made by lot*” (I have set the relevant part of this definition in italics).

The sense described by the part italicized can be regarded as prototypical because it contributes a semantic attribute shared by several other senses of the lexeme, namely the notion “what is assigned to

someone as his/her share". This notion is a part of other current senses of the noun *lot* (see senses 2b, 2d, 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 6b in the OED). This notion thus constitutes a sense of *lot* which lies at the centre of a sub-network of senses within the overall polysemous sense network in this lexeme.

This *third metonymic extension* is motivated by a metonymy that maps the course of action decided upon or chosen by casting lots (specifically the assignment of a piece of property to someone) onto the piece or portion of property affected by the assignment so decided/chosen. This metonymy constitutes a manifestation of the higher-level metonymy action for object involved in the action (Kövecses and Radden 1998). This metonymy operates in one of the situations typically motivating the casting of lots: the situation in which several people have a claim on the same piece of property and lots are drawn to decide which part of that property should be assigned to whom, i.e. a decision is made involving each resulting piece of property. The metonymy maps the act of division and assignment resulting from the casting of lots onto the part of the property so divided and assigned.⁴

Prototypical sense 2a facilitates the emergence of another sense of the lexeme, namely sense 8a in the OED.

Sense 8a in the OED: "A number of persons or things of the same kind, or associated in some way; a quantity or collection (of things); a party, set, or 'crew' (of persons); also, a quantity (of anything). Now only *colloq.*, except with reference to articles of commerce, goods, live stock, and the like. Often with some degree of depreciation, either implied, or expressed by an epithet (cf. sense 3)".

The now obsolete OED sense 3 mentioned in the sub-entry for sense 8a is: "In the *Ormulum*: A part, portion, or division of anything; a number of things forming part of a larger whole. *Obs.* (Cf. sense 8)".

Sense 3 is older than sense 8a but later than sense 2a, and thus seems to have been a bridge between senses 2 and 8a.

The OED sub-entry for sense 8a is actually a conglomerate of senses. The detailed study of these senses would require a lengthy discussion, but they all presuppose the two (both obsolete) senses gathered by the OED in its sub-entry 3: "*a part, portion, or division of anything*" and "*a number (of things or persons) forming part of larger whole*".

The first of the senses in OED sub-entry 3 is directly linked to OED sense 2a and is motivated by a generalization of the notion "part of an object resulting from its division by lot" to the notion "part of an object resulting from any type of division". This generalization is facilitated, if not directly motivated, by the metonymy member (portion of property) for category (portion of any entity). This generalization constitutes the *fourth*

metonymic extension. This extension also seems to underlie in part OED senses 4a-b, 5, 6a-b (these senses are also directly connected to OED sense 2a), and 7a-b.

The second sense in OED sub-entry 3 appears in one of the examples cited by that sub-entry (the orthography has been adapted to present-day English conventions) such as *This lot of all Christian folk*, i.e. “This portion of all Christian people”, which implies “This number or amount of all Christian people”. This second sense in OED sub-entry 3 is due to the highlighting of an implicature potentially invited by the notion “portion resulting from the division of an object into parts”. This implicature is that the portion may itself consist of smaller parts which can be *counted*, and that, even if the portion cannot be divided into smaller parts, the “size” of the portion can be *measured*. In other words, the notion of portion invites the notion of *quantity* or *amount*. This implicature is guided, in my view, by the metonymy entity (portion) for salient characteristic (quantifiability). A salient property of a portion is its quantifiability (manifested as the countability of its distinctive parts or its measurability as a whole); hence the sense “*number* (of things or persons) forming part of a larger whole”. The notion “larger whole” is implicit in the opposition “whole-portion”. This extension to quantity is the *fifth* metonymic extension.

An important property implicit in that opposition is the *homogeneity* of whole and portion of a physical object or of a substance; as we will see below, this homogeneity holding in whole-portion is later transformed, in sense 8a, into a category bind (“kind-of”) connecting categories and members.

The two metonymies just discussed now definitively free the two senses in sub-entry 3 in the OED, and their heir, the senses in 8a, from any direct connection to the original “lot-casting” or “lot-drawing” context. Sense 3a frees *lot* from any *necessary* connection to the notion of ownership (it can now denote a part, portion or division of anything, potentially including people and other types of “things”); and sense 3b generalizes the notion portion into its internal quantifiability, thus bringing about the first quantitative sense. This decontextualization, together with the fact that people or things are often understood as members of classes (categories), explains why the lexeme “*lot*” can now be applied to a “*number* of people or things”. The importance of the obsolete senses in OED sub-entry 3 for the emergence of the present day multal quantifier meaning of *lot* in the quasi-determiner and the quasi-pronoun is that they contribute the *first purely quantitative sense* of the noun lexeme *lot*.

The main senses in sub-entry 8a in the OED, therefore, seem to arise as a generalization from the second sense in sub-entry 3: from “number (of

things or persons) forming part of larger whole” to “number of persons or things of the same kind, or associated in some way”, and from the latter to “a quantity of anything”. Complex heterogeneous physical entities (unlike homogeneous, mass-like entities), both physical and abstract, consist of a number of clearly distinct parts which may be very different from each other (imagine a car, with its various parts, or the staff in a university department, with its various members). The conceptualization of these complex entities includes the knowledge that they exhibit a basic part-whole (i.e. meronymic) connection between the parts and the “larger whole” and other connections of a variable nature between the various parts. These connections are ultimately mental connections in the conceptualization of complex entities, and the existence of these mental connections is a salient property of those entities; these can thus be metonymically understood from this salient property: salient characteristic (mental connection of parts to whole and between parts) for entity (complex heterogeneous physical entities). Likewise, the conceptualization of categories includes their salient property of exhibiting mental connections (“kind-of” connections, e.g. a car is a kind of vehicle) between categories and category members, and also other connections of a variable nature between the various category members. Categories can be understood metonymically from this salient property, which is a salient subdomain in the domain of categories: salient characteristic (mental connections of categories to members and between members) for entity (categories). These two metonymies jointly bring out the abstract structural correlation between categories and complex heterogeneous physical entities, thus motivating the metaphor categories are complex heterogeneous physical entities like buildings or collections of living beings or of objects (see Barcelona 2000b and Radden 2000 on metonymy-based metaphors).

The existence of this metaphor can be justified on independent grounds (as witnessed by such examples as *He has built a sophisticated category / How to Build Your Category's Taxonomy*,⁵ or by the frequency with which linguists, philosophers and educated speakers in general talk about categories or classes as having parts and about categories as wholes: *This part of the category is less clear than the other/The central part of the category/We must take into account the whole category*. Categories of individual entities (people, animals, things) are in fact (indefinitely large) collections of individuals of the same kind.

The metaphor categories are complex heterogeneous physical entities endows categories with part-whole structure, since its metaphorical source has part-whole structure, which is mapped onto the domain of categories.

Therefore, the metaphorical notion of categories includes part-whole structure as one of the properties of categories. The conceptual entity category can then be metonymically activated from this subdomain: salient characteristic (PART-WHOLE STRUCTURE) for entity (CATEGORY). This is a metonymy which motivates the extension from the sense “number (of things or persons) forming part of a larger whole” (OED 3b) to the sense “number of persons or things of the same *kind*, or *associated* in some way” (OED 8a) i.e. to “number of people or things forming part of the same category”. This is the *sixth metonymic extension*.

The “larger whole” to which the people and things belong (sense 3b) is actually a category of people; but the category is not presented as such: it is simply presented as a whole group of entities, of which *lot* designates a part. An important difference, in this respect, between sense 3b and the first main sense in 8a is that in 3b (*a*) *lot* designates a subcategory (with its own distinguishing properties), which is presented as a part within a larger category, which is presented as a whole (*this lot of all Christian folk*, i.e. “this sector within the whole Christian people”); whereas in 8a (*a*) *lot* designates a number of members of the larger category, *the category being now presented, not as a concrete whole-part configuration, but as an abstract notion (a “kind of” relation)*: “This sector of Christians”.

This latter sense is further generalized to the sense “a quantity of anything” on the basis of the metonymy member (people/things [forming a category]) for category (any entities⁶ [forming a category], i.e. anything). This is the *seventh metonymic extension*.

As the OED states, the senses gathered in sub-entry 8a are now in restricted use, but they contribute the abstract quantitative sense applied to entities in the same category that leads directly to the present day *multal* quantifier sense. One normally uses the quasi-determiner “*a lot of*” or the quasi-pronoun “*a lot*” to denote a number of entities belonging to the same category (or to an amount of the same substance category). In *I ate a lot of chocolate and a lot of biscuits* one refers to *two* amounts of two different categories, and in *I ate a lot*, one (in principle) refers to an amount of some type of edible entity.

The *multal* meaning (“a great number or amount”) of the present-day quasi-determiner and quasi-pronoun is registered in sub-entry 9 of the noun lexeme *lot* in the OED, which defines that meaning like this:

A considerable number, quantity or amount; a good deal, a great deal. Used in sing. (*a lot*) and plur.; also as quasi-adv. Often *absol.*, without explicit mention of the persons or things intended. Also with adjective, as *a good lot, a great lot, (this, that) little lot*.

This meaning seems to be motivated by the metonymic connection between the notion a quantity of any noncount entity and the notion a large quantity of such entity (and, correspondingly, by the metonymic connection between the notion a number of any count entities included in a category and the notion a great number of such entities). The route of extension seems to be this one: The notions a number of entities / an amount of an entity, that is, the notion of quantity, can activate the top degree in the scale of quantity, on the basis of the metonymy whole scale for upper end of the scale (Radden and Kövecses 1999, 32). In other words, the notion of quantity can trigger metonymically the notion “high/great quantity”. This extension constitutes the *eighth metonymic extension*. Other instances of semantic intensification seem to be motivated by the same metonymy.⁷

Once the noun *lot* acquires the sense “a great number or amount”, its frequent use as the head of the indefinite NP *a lot* before partitive *of* (*a lot of books/money*) becomes partially lexicalized as a sort of compound lexeme and partially grammaticized as a quasi-determiner in the determinative syntactic function.⁸

A Synopsis and a Comment

The previous account of the role of metonymy in the semantic evolution of *lot* from its oldest sense to its present multal quantitative meaning as part of the quasi-determiner *a lot of* can be summed in figure 1, where the metonymies motivating the various semantic extensions constitute two chains linked by a metaphor into a larger chain.

Basic sense: (OED 1a) *Object used in deciding a matter by chance by drawing / casting lots* →

1. Sense *Casting or drawing of lots to obtain a decision* (OED 1b) motivated by INSTRUMENT (OBJECT USED IN THE ACTION OF CASTING LOTS) FOR ACTION (THE ACTION OF CASTING LOTS) →

2. Sense *The choice resulting from the casting of lots* (OED 1c) jointly motivated by ACTION (CASTING LOTS) FOR RESULT (DECIDING / CHOOSING BY CASTING LOTS) and ACTION (ACTION OF DECIDING / CHOOSING BY CASTING LOTS) FOR RESULT OF THE ACTION (THE ACTUAL CHOICE MADE BY CASTING LOTS / THE COURSE OF ACTION DECIDED IN THIS WAY) →

3. Sense *What is assigned by lot to a person as his share or portion in a distribution of property* (OED 2a) motivated by ACTION (COURSE OF ACTION DECIDED UPON OR CHOSEN BY CASTING LOTS [SPECIFICALLY THE ASSIGNMENT OF A PIECE OF PROPERTY TO SOMEONE] FOR OBJECT INVOLVED IN THE ACTION (THE OBJECT DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THAT COURSE OF ACTION [NORMALLY, THE PIECE OR PORTION OF PROPERTY AFFECTED BY THE ASSIGNMENT SO DECIDED/ CHOSEN]) →

4. Sense *A part, portion, or division of anything* (part of OED 3, obsolete), motivated by MEMBER (PORTION OF PROPERTY) FOR CATEGORY (PORTION OF ANY ENTITY) →

5. Implicature “portions are quantifiable” (guided by ENTITY [PORTION] FOR SALIENT CHARACTERISTIC [QUANTIFIABILITY] motivates the quantitative part of sense *A number of persons or things forming part of a larger whole* (part of OED 3, obsolete) →

6. “Category” part (*same kind*) of sense *A number of persons or things of the same kind* (first main sense of OED 8a), motivated by SALIENT CHARACTERISTIC (PART-WHOLE STRUCTURE) FOR ENTITY (CATEGORY) (in turn motivated by metaphor CATEGORIES ARE COMPLEX HETEROGENEOUS PHYSICAL ENTITIES) →

7 “Universal” sense *A quantity of anything* (second main sense of OED 8a) motivated by MEMBER (PEOPLE OR THINGS [FORMING A CATEGORY]) FOR CATEGORY (ANY ENTITIES [FORMING A CATEGORY]) →

8 “Multal” sense *A great number or amount* (OED 9) motivated by WHOLE SCALE FOR UPPER END OF THE SCALE

Figure 1-1

The main motivation of the extensions is a *mixed* metonymic chain (Barcelona 2005, and in preparation). Four important comments are in order at this stage.

Firstly, the relative order of extensions 1, 2, 3 and 4 is only *hypothetical*, and is neither clearly supported nor disclaimed by the OED chronology, since the latter is somewhat inconsistent with respect to the senses corresponding to extensions 2, 3 and 4. However, the relative order of the extensions from 4 to 5 and to 6–7 (the latter two are presented almost as simultaneous by the OED and then from 6–7 to 8 seem to be supported by the OED chronology. On the other hand, the last five extensions displayed in table are the most relevant ones for the emergence of the multal quantitative meaning.

Secondly, in the foregoing analysis, the sense dates that have been taken for granted correspond to those of the earliest registered example of those senses which is cited by the OED. However, the corresponding sense may have been in actual use in speech for a variable period of time before

it was registered in writing. Therefore, even though the order of extensions 4 to 8 seems to be clearly supported by the chronology offered by the OED and can, moreover, be explained in terms of the conceptual (mainly metonymic) links between the senses, the emergence of a particular sense may have taken place long before the earliest date given by the OED. In some cases, what is viewed today as a later sense may actually have arisen at about the same time as senses that in the OED chronology appear to be earlier, both the “later” and the “earlier” senses forming part of the polysemy of *lot* at a given point in time. And in some (hopefully exceptional) cases, the putatively later sense may actually have occurred earlier.

Thirdly, not all of the ten major senses of *lot* (both current or obsolete) registered by the OED have been mentioned in the preceding attempt at identifying (some of) the conceptual factors underlying the emergence of its multal quantitative sense. Only those that seem to constitute clearly relevant stages in this path of development have been explicitly taken into account and reproduced in Figure 1-1, because each of them is clearly connected semantically to an immediately earlier or later stage while at the same time being clearly different from it. However, most of the other senses of *lot* registered by the OED in a way participate in some of the stages of this development. There is not enough space for the discussion of these other senses (to be found in Barcelona n.d.), but we can note that sense 1d reinforces (i.e. contributes to the entrenchment of) sense 1c (for example, 1d reinforces the “course of action” element in sense 1c); that senses 1e, 2b-2d and 6a-b reinforce some elements of sense 2a (for example, 6a reinforces the “assignment of portions of property” element in 2a); that senses 4a-b, 5 and 7a-b reinforce the two main elements of sense 3 (“division of anything” and “number of things forming part of a larger whole”); and that sense 8b (in the expression *the lot*, with the meaning “the whole of a certain number or quantity”), chronologically older than sense 9, reinforces the “upscaling” element of the latter (“A great number or amount”).

Fourthly, as has been stated above, the metonymies motivating the development of the multal quantitative meaning of *lot* seem to constitute two chains, in turn connected to each other by means of a conceptual metaphor. In Barcelona (2005, 2007; in preparation), the notion of metonymic chaining is treated at length and studied empirically on the basis of five detailed case studies; see also Hilpert 2007 on a different yet related notion of metonymic chaining. There is not enough space here for a detailed analysis of the chains operating in this case (the analysis is in Barcelona n.d.). I will only thus here briefly justify the claim that there are

two chains. The first chain involves extensions 1-5 in Figure 1-1. As can be seen, the target of the first metonymy roughly corresponds to the source of the next one and so on. On the other hand, the element “part of a larger whole” in extension 5 (sense 3b) furnishes the source PART-WHOLE STRUCTURE to the first metonymy in the second chain (involving extensions 6–8 in Table 1); this metonymy operates within the metaphor CATEGORIES ARE COMPLEX HETEROGENEOUS PHYSICAL ENTITIES, which, together with sense 3b, constitutes a conceptual link between the two chains. In the second chain, too, the target of the first metonymy roughly corresponds to the source of the next one and so on.

From a *Lot of* to the Quasi-Pronominal Noun Phrase a *Lot*

For the sake of brevity, I will omit any detailed discussion of the motivation for the emergence of the homonymous quasi-adverb *a lot* (as in *John travels a lot*).

The pronominal use of *a lot* is here claimed to emerge from the multal quasi-determiner *a lot of*, and that this emergence is motivated by a “form metonymy” i.e. by a metonymy operating only on the level of form, not of content. The earliest register by the OED of the multal quasi-determiner use of *a lot of* is older (1835), than its earliest register of the pronominal use of *a lot* (1901).⁹ Both dates are attested by sub-entry 9 in the entry for *lot* (noun) in the OED. The quasi-pronoun *a lot* seems to have emerged from the quasi-determiner *a lot of* through repeated ellipsis of the prepositional phrase governed by *of* in instances in which the quantified thing or person can be contextually recovered, given the very close meaning of the quasi-pronoun (“an identified type of entity in a great number or amount”) and the quasi-determiner (“a great number or amount of X [a variable type of entity]”).¹⁰

If this was actually the case, then the ellipsis leading to the emergence of the pronoun was guided by metonymy. The metonymy in question is SALIENT PART OF FORM FOR WHOLE FORM (a frequent metonymy; see Barcelona 2005 and Barcelona in preparation). To the extent that the complex noun phrase “*a lot of*-NP” was an entrenched construction, the most salient part of its form is the sequence *a lot*. It is comparatively salient because it provides the essential quantitative meaning to the overall construction, and because (as required by prototypical ellipsis) the ellipted prepositional phrase can be supplied from context on the basis of the prompt provided by the sequence *a lot*, but not vice versa (*of*-NP is not normally a prompt to recover *a lot*). The entrenchment of this type of

ellipsis must have led to the emergence and conventionalization of the quasi-pronoun with the meaning “an identified type of entity in a great number or amount”.¹¹

Conclusions

Metonymy appears to be a plausible factor motivating the semantic changes more or less directly. It is a *cognitive factor* interacting with other types of motivation, like experiential, cultural and ecological factors (Radden and Panther 2004, 29).

The type of semiotic relation where metonymy is claimed to have operated to motivate the polysemy of *lot* is what Radden and Panther (2004, 15) call “*content₁ motivating content₂*”. See Figure 1-2 (adapted from Radden and Panther 2004, 15).

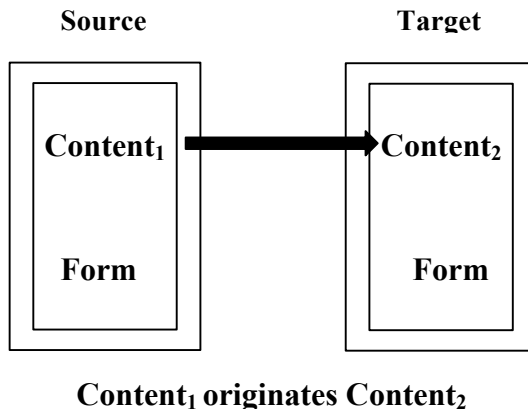


Figure 1-2

In this semiotic relation, there are two form-content pairings with the same form; one of them constitutes the source for the emergence of the second pairing, and the content of the source motivates (via metonymy) the content of the second. This semiotic relation may give rise to polysemy (although, given the very different abstract meaning of *lot* in the multal quasi-determiner and quasi-pronoun use, there can be grounds for regarding its connection to the basic sense as one of homonymy from a synchronic perspective). The semantic evolution of *lot* into its quantifier