

# VISUALIZATION AND METAPHORICAL REPRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPT OF "A TEACHER" BY STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

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## INTRODUCTION

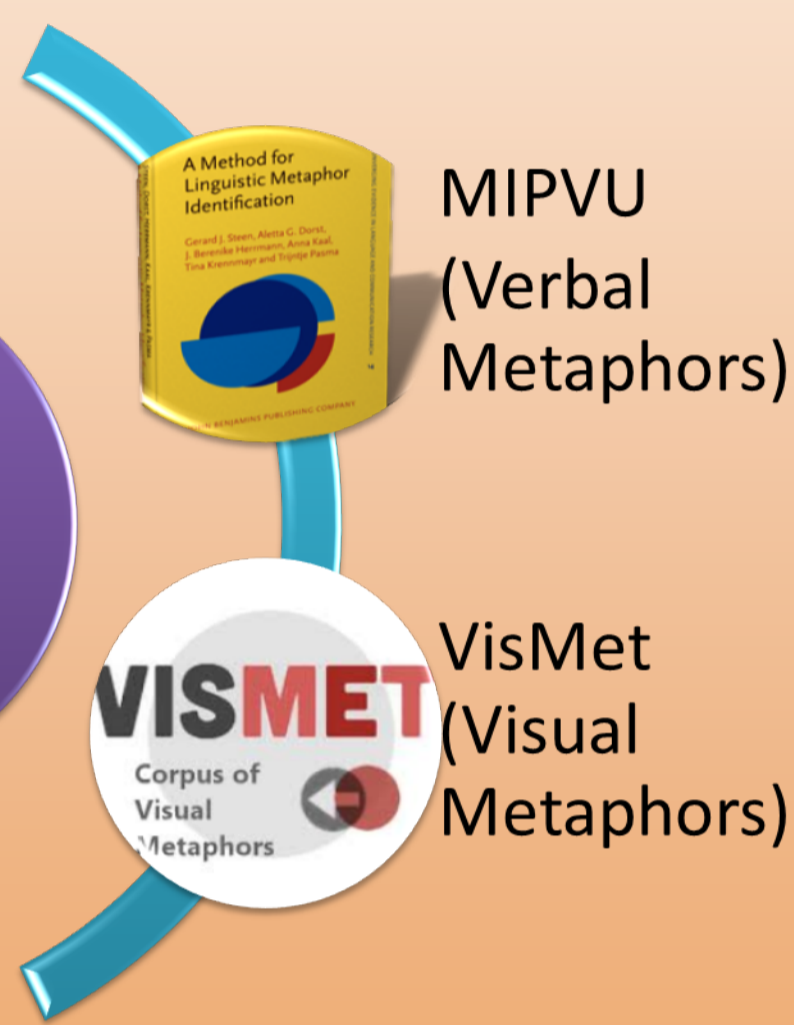
This study focuses on the metaphorical representation of the concept of "a teacher", using the visualization and verbal description of the teacher made by students from Russia, India, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Spain and France. Metaphor is researched as complex multilevel phenomenon in many aspects: cognitive, psychological, communicative and others. One of the major problems in cognitive linguistics is the categorization of the world; and metaphor, as a cognitive mechanism, has a significant role in a process of human cognition and perception of the world.



## Purpose

- To understand how students of different courses, from diverse cultural backgrounds perceive "a teacher"
- To identify common features and differences

## Research Methods



## Thematic groups of metaphors

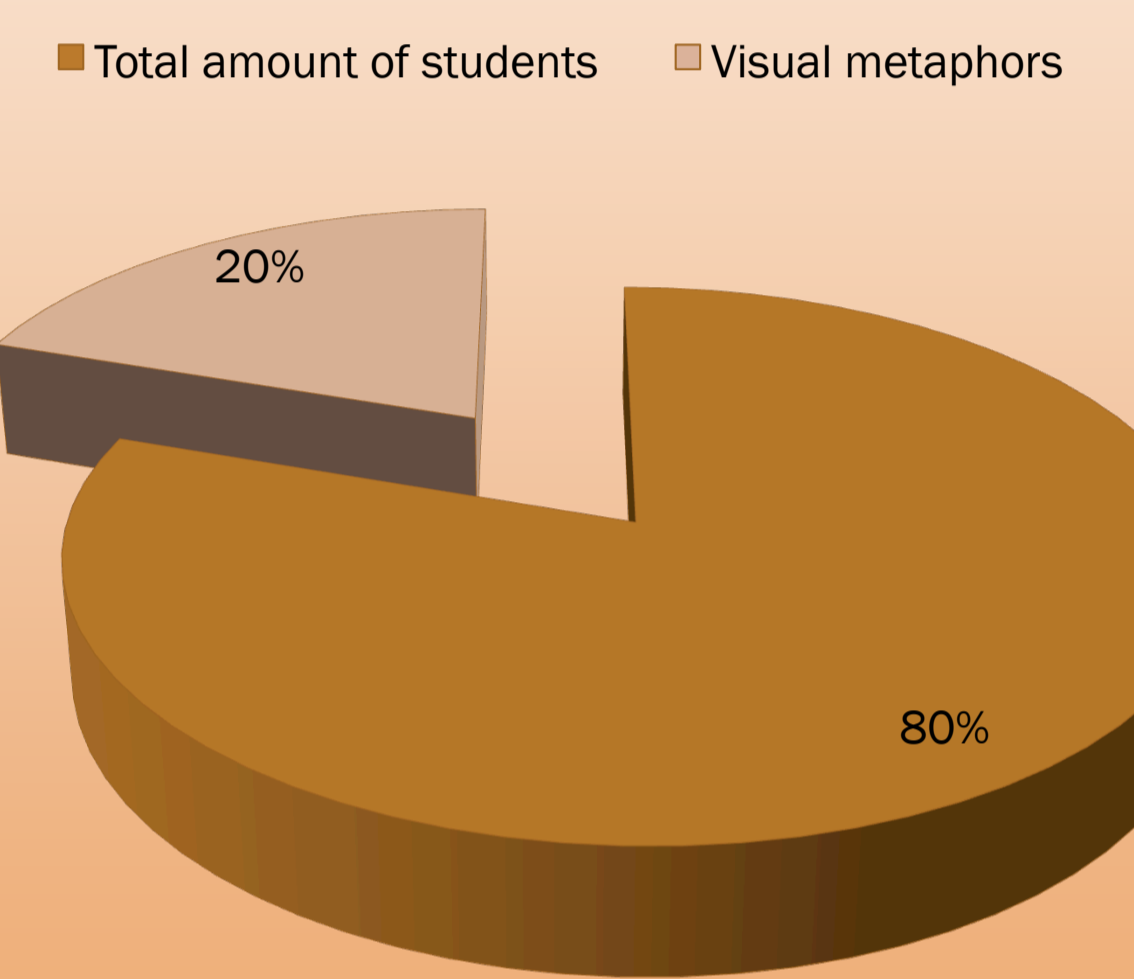
### Visual metaphors

- 6 Cognitive process (and brain, light bulb)
- 4 A book
- 2 Different physical objects, not related to school (tea cup, octopus)
- 2 Nature
- 1 Another profession (gardener with carrots)
- 1 Collective image (the purchase of knowledge using money = 10,000 P)

### Verbal metaphors

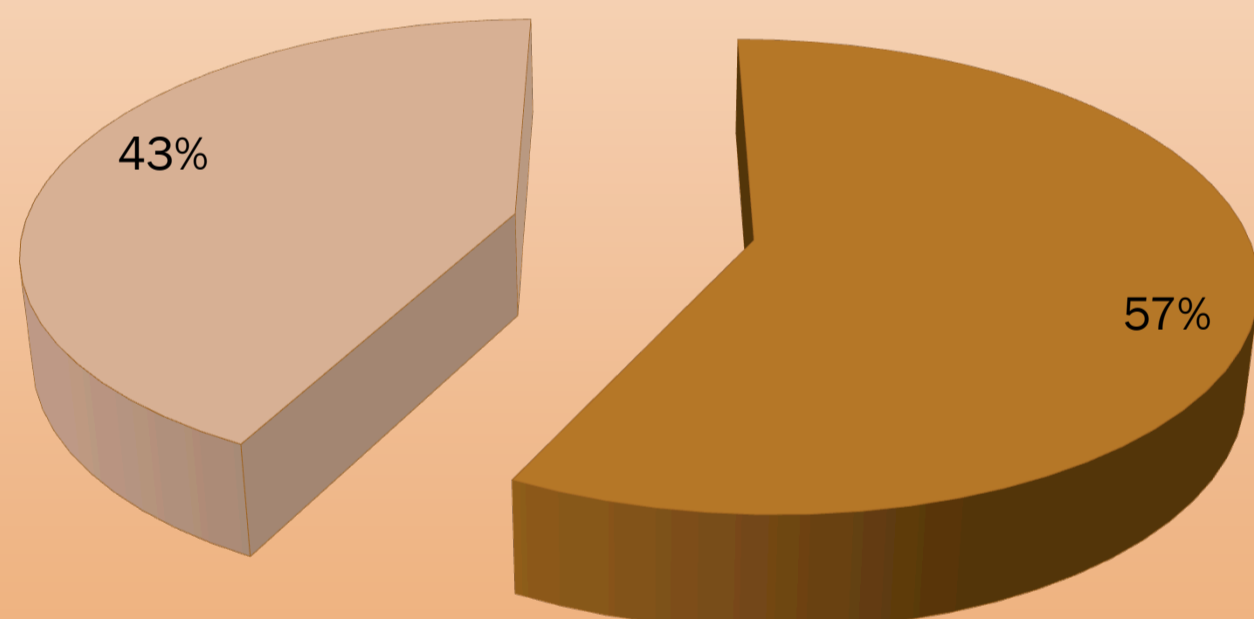
- 10 A teacher has a higher status (a guide, a mentor)
- 7 Family relationship (mother, the second mother, close relative)
- 7 A book (student book, encyclopedia, library)
- 6 Different physical objects (conductor, octopus, brain, projector, old chest with treasures, portal, light bulb)
- 6 Other professions (inventor, researcher, gardener, hero, sculptor)
- 6 A friend
- 6 Source of light (polar star, candle, ray of light)

## Visual metaphors



## Verbal metaphors

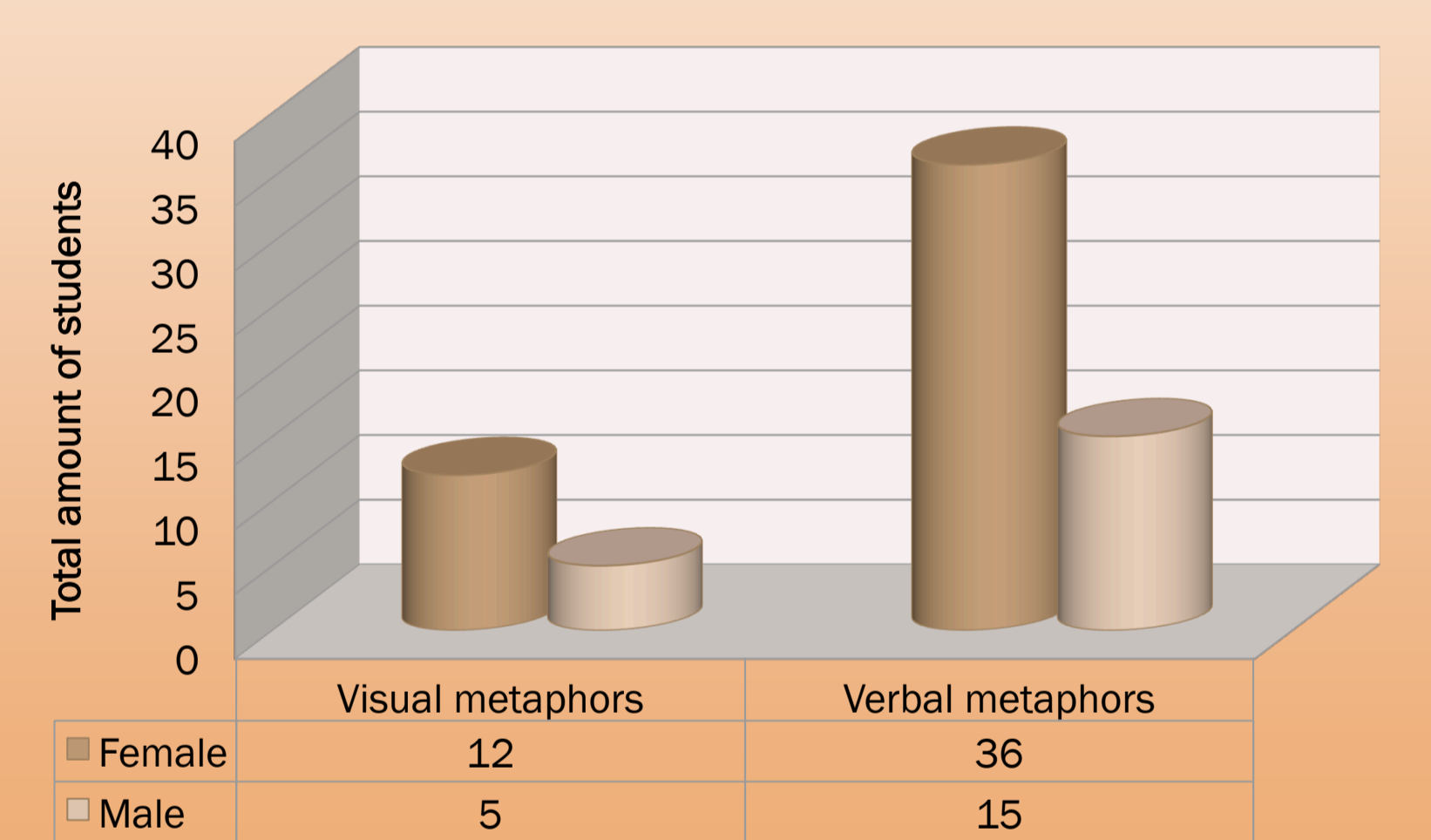
Total amount of students Verbal metaphors



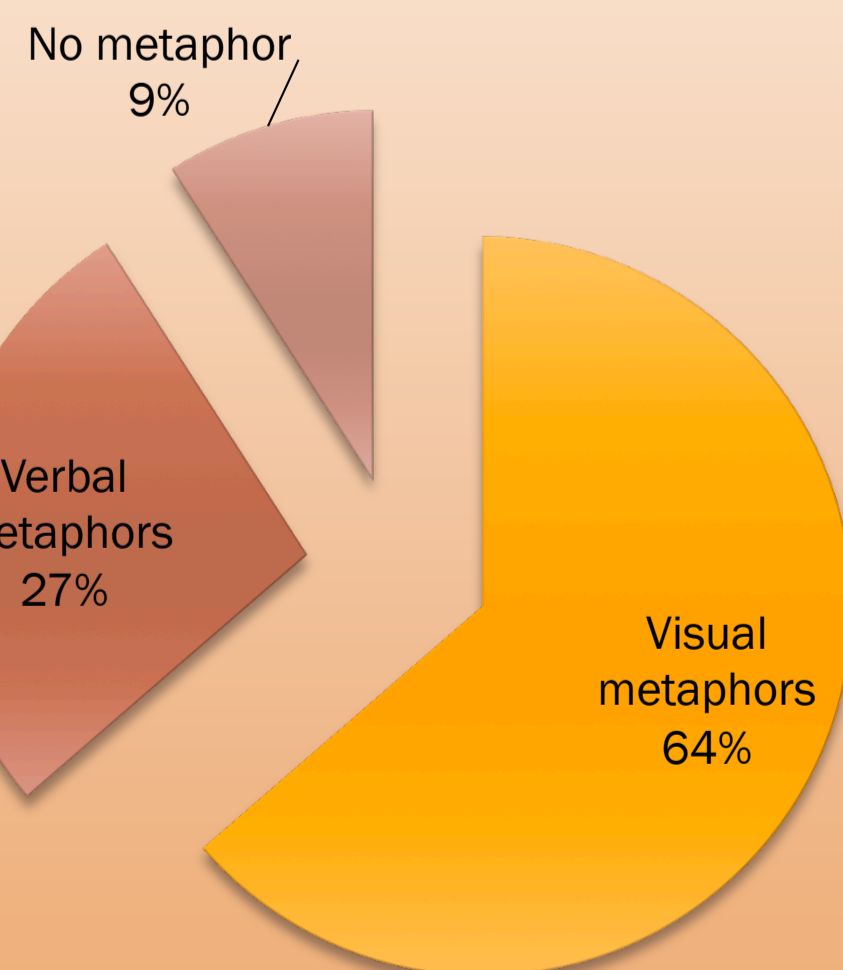
## NATIONALITY

Nationality	Total amount of students	Use of visual metaphors	Use of verbal Metaphors
Russian	59	12	36
French	1	0	1
Spanish	4	1	3
Indian	2	2	2
Malaysian	1	0	0
British	1	0	1
Irish	1	0	1

## Gender factor



## Total amount of correlations



## CONCLUSION

The current study revealed how students from six different countries perceive the concept of "a teacher". This piece of research revealed six emerged themes in terms of visual representation, as well as eight themes of verbal metaphorical representation. This study concludes that female students tend to more frequently use verbal metaphors in describing "a teacher", whereas the number of visual metaphors used by male and female participants does not differ significantly. Interestingly, the representatives from diverse cultural backgrounds do not have significant differences in the metaphors used to visually represent and verbally describe "a teacher". Despite age, cultural diversity, and various spheres of education, we see teachers as close friends, sources of knowledge and light, as well as perceive them close, like a family.

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