



‘HEAD’, ‘EYES’, ‘EARS’: Words and meanings as clues to common human thinking

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [Cahiers de lexicologie](#)
2021 - 2, n° 119. [Lexique et corps humain](#)

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Abstract: Are there any ways of thinking about the body that are shared by people everywhere? We propose NSM semantic-conceptual explications for three body-part words and argue that they are plausible language universals, once polysemy and other complications are taken into account. The analysis shows that conceptual understanding of the body and its parts is much richer than often recognised, involving whole-part relations, position, size, spatial relationships, and functional affordances.

Pages: 125 to 150

Journal: [Journal of Lexicology](#)

CLIL theme: 3147 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Lettres et Sciences du langage -- Linguistique, Sciences du langage

EAN: 9782406128120

ISBN: 978-2-406-12812-0

ISSN: 2262-0346

DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-12812-0.p.0125

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 01-12-2022

Periodicity: Biannual

Language: English

Keyword: body-part words, paronymy, cognitive development, semantic primes, NSM approach

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