

Conceptual Metaphorical Extensions of ‘Eat’ and ‘Drink’ in English and Korean: A Usage-based Approach

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Abstract

This paper discusses conceptual metaphorical extensions with ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in two typologically different languages, English and Korean. We first investigate their uses in attested data and explore their grammatical properties as well as metaphorical uses. The two languages display quite similar behavior in terms of the metaphorical extensions of the two verbs, but at the same time show differences in several respects. The paper suggests that the similarities may have to do with the fact that such ingestive events/acts involve several facets in common while the differences are caused by linguistic as well as cultural differences.

1 Introduction

Eating food and drinking liquids represent universal practices amongst humans (Newman, 1997, 2009; Wierzbicka, 2009; Naess, 2009). The two verbs ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ are conceptually similar in that both are closely related to the intake of food and beverages into the mouth and digestive tract (Newman, 2009), as exemplified in the following:¹

- (1) a. You’re not supposed to eat the bacon. (COCA, 1998, Spoken)
- b. Lindsay would drink beer and shoot pool with her brother-in-law. (COCA, 1992, Fiction)

As pointed out by Newman (2009), the two verbs, however, differ in terms of Active Zone and Force

¹COCA: Corpus of Contemporary American English

Dynamics. In other words, eating involves mouth, teeth, tongue, and palate, while drinking does not require any of these active zone components. In addition, eating includes forceful crushing and biting of food whereas drinking accompanis no change to liquid.

This paper first discusses basic semantic/pragmatic properties of ingestive verbs, focusing mainly on ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in English and Korean. The paper then investigates conceptual metaphorical extensions we find with these ingestive verbs in the two languages. In doing so, we search authentic corpus data to check real uses of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ in literal as well as metaphorical sense. The paper then discusses a contrastive analysis of the conceptual metaphorical uses of ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ while looking into the similarities as well as differences.

2 Conceptual metaphorical uses of *eat* and *drink* in English

2.1 Basic properties

In English, *eat* and *drink* can be used as transitive as well as intransitive verbs, as illustrated below:

- (2) a. You should stop at every one and eat a banana and drink some Gatorade. (COCA, 2010, News)
- b. I would drink lots of water before leaving for the hospital. (COCA, 2010, Fiction)
- (3) a. The same event of a dog eating hungrily from the bowl can be equally well described with these two verbs. (COCA, 2010, Academic)

- b. On Sunday, Grandpa never drank, but he was always hung-over. (COCA, 1991, Fiction)

Transitive uses of these verbs may conceptualize an interactive activity of the subject consumer with the food or drink. On the other hand, intransitive uses of these verbs seem to focus on encoding the experience of the consumer: the sensation of taste, satisfaction, pleasure, or displeasure.

The basic lexical semantics of ingestive verbs in English include facets such as intake, mastication, and ingestion as described in the following table (Newman, 2009; Yamaguchi, 2009; Song, 2009; Hook and Pardeshi, 2009):

Facets	Verbs	Process
INTAKE	<i>eat, taste</i>	Some solid/liquid-like substance is taken into the mouth
	<i>devour, swallow</i>	Some liquid-like substance is taken into the mouth
	<i>drink, suck</i>	Some liquid-like substance is taken into the mouth
MASTICATION	<i>chew, bite</i>	Mastication of the food takes place, involving the teeth, tongue, and the roof of the mouth
INGESTION	<i>ingest, digest</i>	The food undergoes quite drastic transformations

As can be seen here, the simple intake facet is the primary meaning part of ingestive verbs like *eat, devour, drink, and suck*, whereas the mastication facet is emphasized in ingestive verbs like *chew and bite*. Meanwhile, the ingestion facet is a pivotal part in ingestive verbs such as *ingest and digest*. This does not mean that each ingestive verb involves only one meaning facet. Metaphorical uses are extended from such basic conceptual meanings described above.

2.2 Methodology

In order to investigate authentic uses of the two ingestive verbs *eat* and *drink* in English, we have searched the COCA (Corpus of Contemporary American English), the largest freely available online corpus of American English. The COCA consists of 560 million words of text from 1990 to 2017 and it is a balanced corpus with a variety of registers including spoken and written data.²

2.3 Conceptual metaphorical extensions of *drink*

One salient conceptual metaphor with *drink* in English is DRINKING IS PLEASANT INHALING as in (4):

²COCA is available at: <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca/>

- (4) a. She sat down in the car with the door open, drinking the fresh air. (COCA, 1997, Fiction)

- b. When I hugged her, I drank in her smells: gardenia perfume, face powder, and hair spray. (COCA, 2000, Fiction)

Although drinking literally involves intake of some liquid substance, this is metaphorically extended to gaseous substances such as *air, smell, scent, perfume, aroma, wind*, etc. Sometimes, it combines with a particle *in* as in (4b) and the event typically involves a pleasant experience as we can see the nouns *drink* occurs with.

This type of pleasant experience triggered by *drink* can be further extended to other senses such as seeing, listening, and even touching.

- (5) a. And soon his eyes had drunk her beauty up. (COCA, 1992, Fiction)
- b. He relaxed into warmth and unaccustomed security, drinking Christmas music from Galway Girl's radio with his strong tea. (COCA, 1994, Fiction)
- c. She would drink his kisses as his hands moved over her body, squeezing and stroking. (COCA, 2008, Fiction)

In these examples, *drink* does not mean consuming a liquid substance; rather, it refers to a pleasant sensing event other than drinking in its literal sense.

Another conceptual metaphor with *drink* is DRINKING IS CONSUMING RESOURCES.

- (6) a. Copters and private jets drank fuel. (COCA, 2006, Fiction)
- b. On top of that, my crane's down there drinking diesel like a drunk sailor, and I'm up here talking to you. (COCA, 2012, Fiction)
- c. That SUV just drinks gas. (COCA, 2012, Fiction)

In these examples, the agent is not a human entity; however, the verb *drink* is metaphorically used in that the agent consumes a liquid or gaseous resource to operate in a similar manner to human being needing to drink water to live.

2.4 Conceptual metaphorical extensions of *eat*

The English word *eat* has more conceptual metaphor types than *drink*. One noticeable metaphor with *eat* observed from the corpus data is EATING IS CONSUMING RESOURCES:

- (7) a. His old car was eating up the gas. (COCA, 1996, Fiction)
- b. Credit card processing fees eat up more than 5 cents per gallon. (COCA, 2005, News)
- c. All right, Hannity, stop eating up my time. (COCA, 2017, Spoken)

In these examples, what is consumed is some type of resource such as gas, money, and even time, regardless of whether the agent is an animate or inanimate entity. Note here that this conceptual metaphor involves the particle *up* in many cases and this is because in general eating is a telic event while drinking is an atelic event (Newman, 2009, Naess, 2009). Notice also that this conceptual metaphor is similar to DRINKING IS CONSUMING RESOURCES; however, this one has wider coverage of the consumed objects.

Another conceptual metaphor with *eat* involves acquiring possession:

- (8) a. In 1986, Toyota opened its first American factory. Honda, Nissan, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Hyundai, and others followed. Relentlessly, they ate into GM's market share. (COCA, 2011, Academic)
- b. The machine might eat your card. (COCA, 2012, Fiction)
- c. A few customer complaints – the dryer ate my money, rinse cycle's not long enough, that kind of thing. (COCA, 2000, Fiction)

This conceptual metaphor EATING IS ACQUIRING POSSESSION is closely related to the internalization facet of the eating process and it often has a negative connotation.

An additional crucial conceptual metaphor with *eat* concerns destroying as in (9):

- (9) a. The Jorissens saw the fire eat up a neighbor's house. (COCA, 2000, Fiction)

- b. Sea salt is eating away this rock. (COCA, 2012, Academic)
- c. Cancer doesn't just eat at your body; it also attacks you emotionally and psychologically. (COCA, 2002, Magazine)
- d. Social inequity eats at public morale. (COCA, 1997, Academic)

In these examples of EATING IS DESTROYING, the agent has an effect in such a way that the object undergoes some kind of concrete or abstract destruction and it usually contains a particle such as *up*, *away*, *at*, and *into*.

Lastly, EATING IS FULFILLING BASIC NATURAL DESIRES is a conceptual metaphor whose examples are also frequently found in the corpus:

- (10) a. You want to eat, drink, have sex, procreate. That's your basic instincts. And so those little girls are so absolutely beautiful that you're saying, "You know, you're a doll. You're candy. I want to eat you. I want to eat you." Is it, "Do I want to eat you, or do I want to have sex with you?" (COCA, 2006, Spoken)
- b. "I would eat that girl's ass." There were enough people within earshot. Odds were someone heard. And if someone heard, they were sure to report the comment to the Davenport. (COCA, 2015, Fiction)

This conceptual metaphor is closely related to sexual activity and in examples involving this metaphor, the object can be a human entity or a human's body part. This conceptual metaphor is assumed to be extended from the "natural desire" and "pleasant activity" facets of the eating process.

3 Conceptual metaphorical uses of *mek-* 'eat' and *masi-* 'drink' in Korean

In this section, we examine basic grammatical and metaphorical uses of *mek-* 'eat' and *masi-* 'drink' in Korean, making use of corpus data. In doing so, we make comparisons with English conceptual metaphors with *eat* and *drink* discussed in the previous section.

3.1 Basic properties

Both *mek-* ‘eat’ and *masi-* ‘drink’ verbs in Korean typically occur in the transitive construction (Song, 2009; Lee, 2002, 2012). Intransitive uses are possible, encoding the generic activities of eating and drinking, as shown below:

- (11) *mek-ko masi-ko nol-ca.*
 eat-and drink-and play-SUG
 ‘Let’s eat, drink and play.’

Similar to English, multifacets of ingestive verbs in Korean can be represented as in the following table:

Facets	Verbs	Process
INTAKE	<i>mek-</i> ‘eat’, <i>maspo-</i> ‘taste’, <i>chymek-</i> ‘devour’, <i>samkhi-</i> ‘swallow’	Some solid/liquid-like substance is taken into the mouth
	<i>masi-</i> ‘drink’, <i>ppal-</i> ‘suck’	Some liquid-like substance is taken into the mouth
MASTICATION	<i>ssip-</i> ‘chew, bite’	Mastication of the food takes place, involving the teeth, tongue, and the roof of the mouth
INGESTION	<i>sepchwaha-</i> ‘ingest’, <i>sohwaha-</i> ‘digest’	The food undergoes quite drastic transformations

Just like English, Korean ingestive verbs have salient facets of the eating/drinking process such as intake, mastication, ingestion, etc., and conceptual metaphors are related to such conceptual meaning components.

One thing to note at this point is that unlike English, in Korean *mek-* ‘eat’ is a hypernym of *masi-* ‘drink’ (Song, 2009). That is, in literal uses the verb *masi-* ‘drink’ can be replaced by *mek-* ‘eat’, but the reverse is not possible.

- (12) a. *ku ai-ka wuyu-lul*
 the child-NOM milk-ACC
masi/mek-ess-e.
drink/eat-PST-DECL
 ‘(lit.) The child drank/ate milk.’
- b. *ku ai-ka phiza-lul*
 the child-NOM pizza-ACC
*mek/*masi-ess-e.*
eat/drink-PST-DECL
 ‘(lit.) The child ate/*drank pizza.’

As can be seen in (12a), *masi-* ‘drink’ as well as *mek-* can take a liquid substance *milk* as their object; however, as in (12b) only the latter can occur with a solid food entity like *pizza*. In this regard, *mek-* ‘eat’ is a hypernym of *masi-* ‘drink’ in Korean.

3.2 Methodology

In order to explore authentic uses of the two ingestive verbs *mek-* ‘eat’ and *masi-* ‘drink’ in Korean, we used the Sejong corpus as the main corpus source.³ The corpus consists of around 37 million ejels with contemporary Korean data mainly from written material (approximately 36 million ejels for the written data; fewer than 1 million ejels for the spoken data).⁴ For the description reflecting uses of *mek-* ‘eat’ and *masi-* ‘drink’ fully, we also used data from other materials including web pages and dictionaries.

3.3 Conceptual metaphorical extensions of *masi-* ‘drink’

The most common conceptual metaphor with *masi-* ‘drink’ is DRINKING IS INHALING, as exemplified below:

- (13) a. *salam-tul-un yenki naymsay cawukhan*
 peron-PL-TOP smoke smell thick
kongki-lul masy-eya hay-ss-ta.
 air-ACC drink-CONN must-PST-DECL
 ‘People had to drink the air thick with smell of smoke. (Sejong Corpus, 1998, Book)
- b. i. *smoku-lul masi-myen am-uy*
 this smog-ACC drink-if cancer-GEN
wenin-i toy-ko, ...
 cause-NOM become-and
 ‘If you drink this smog, it causes cancer and ... (Sejong Corpus, 2003, Book)

Most of the metaphorical examples of *masi-* ‘drink’ extracted from the Sejong corpus fall into this type. This conceptual metaphor involves nouns such as *kongki* ‘air’, *kas* ‘gas’, *naymsay* ‘smell’, *sanso* ‘oxygen’, *yenki* ‘smoke’, *smok* ‘smog’, *pond* ‘gas from glue’, and *palam* ‘wind’. Note that unlike English this conceptual metaphor does not have positive semantic prosody in that the verb occurs with positive as well as negative nouns.

Observe then that this type of conceptual metaphor with *masi-* ‘drink’ can be further extended

³We used the online version of the corpus available at: <https://ithub.korean.go.kr/user/corpus/corpusSearchManager.do>

⁴Ejels are tokens occurring between white spaces and they roughly correspond to words in English.

in such a way that the verb occurs with nouns indicating some kind of mood/atmosphere.

- (14) a. phwungnyen-i tun tulnyek-ul
bumper-year-NOM enter field-ACC
talli-mye kaul-ul masy-ess-ta.
drive-while autumn-ACC drink-PST-DECL
‘(lit.) While driving along the fields with a bumper year, I drank the autumn.’ (Google, 2017, Newspaper)
- b. cikum-kkaci pwunwiki-lul
now-until atmosphere-ACC
masy-ess-tamyen icy pwunwiki-ey
drink-PST-if now atmosphere-by
chwiha-y-po-ca.
be.intoxicated-CONN-try-SUG
‘(lit.) So far we have drunk the atmosphere. Let’s now get intoxicated by the atmosphere.’ (Google, 2013, Newspaper)

In these metaphorical examples with *masi*- ‘drink’, the agent experiences the mood or atmosphere indicated/triggered by the object. Given that we can feel a certain mood/atmosphere by means of the air around the area, we can assume that these are further extended metaphorical instances of DRINKING IS INHALING.

3.4 Conceptual metaphorical extensions of *mek*- ‘eat’

The Korean ingestive verb *mek*- ‘eat’ can have various types of conceptual metaphorical extensions. One conceptual metaphor whose examples are frequently observed in the Sejong corpus is EATING IS CONSUMING RESOURCES.

- (15) a. hwaksilhi ani oto-ka
obviously well automatic.car-NOM
kilum-ul com mek-ki-n hay-twu,
fuel-ACC some eat-NMLZ-TOP do-but
pyenha-ki-n ha-nikka, ...
convenient-NMLZ-TOP do-because ...
‘Well, obviously, automatic cars eat fuel somewhat but they are convenient, so ...’ (Sejong corpus, 2001, Everyday conversation)

- b. motun kacenceyphwum-un
all home.appliances-TOP
ceon-eyse koon-ulo
low.temperature-from high-temperature-to
ollaka-l-ttay kacang cenki-lul
go.up-FUT-when most electricity-ACC
manhi mek-nun-ta.
much eat-PRES-DECL
‘All home appliances take most electricity when they go up to high temperature heat from low temperature heat.’ (Sejong corpus, 1998, Magazine)

Similar to English, in these examples, an entity denoting some kind of resource such as fuel, electricity, and even expenses occurs along with the verb *mek*- ‘eat’, indicating that such a resource is consumed.

Another conceptual metaphor we can find from authentic corpus data is EATING IS ACQUIRING POSSESSION:

- (16) a. tayhak kyoswu-tul-un pwuceng
college professor-PL-TOP illicit
iphak-ulo ton-ul mek-nun-ta.
admission-by money-ACC eat-PRES-DECL
‘College professors take money by illicit admissions.’ (Sejong corpus, 1991, Newspaper)
- b. mikwuk-un philipin-ul mek-ko
America-TOP the.Philippines-ACC eat-and
ilpon-un hanpanto-lul
Japan-TOP the.Korean.Peninsula-ACC
mek-kyess-ta-ko ha-n kes-i
eat-FUT-DECL-COMP do-REL thing-NOM
kassula-tayphutu coyak-i-pnita.
Katsura-Taft treaty-be-DECL
‘It is the Katsura-Taft agreement that states that the U.S. would acquire the Philippines and Japan the Korean Peninsula.’ (Sejong corpus, 1990, Book)

In most cases involving this conceptual metaphor with *mek*- ‘eat’, acquiring possession is done in a rather illicit manner as shown in (16a) and (16b) similarly to its English counterpart with *eat*, although in some cases it is carried out rightfully.

In Korean, *mek-* ‘eat’ can also be metaphorically extended to the concept of suffering as in (17):

- (17) a. etten accessi-eykey yok-ul
certain mister-by swear.word-ACC
mek-ess-ta.
eat-PST-DECL
‘I got swear words from a middle-aged man.’ (Sejong corpus, 1991, Book)
- b. ku nyeseok kemanhay. kolthang com
the punk arrogant trouble some
mek-ye-yaci.
eat-CAUS-want
‘The punk is arrogant. I’d like to put him through trouble.’ (Sejong corpus, 1985, Book)
- c. kumnyen-ey-nun tewi-lul mek-ci
this.year-in-TOP heat-ACC eat-CONN
ma-la.
not-IMP
‘Don’t suffer heatstroke this year.’ (Google, 1987, Book)

Metaphorical examples of this type contain verbal nouns like *yok* ‘swear word’, *cingpel* ‘punishment’, and common nouns like *kolthang/ay* ‘trouble’, *tewi* ‘heat’. Some of them are concrete nouns such as *han pang* ‘one punch’ and *pheynelth kol* ‘penalty goal’, while others are rather abstract ones such as *tewi* ‘heat’ and *ay* ‘trouble’.

Furthermore, the Korean ingestive verb *mek-* ‘eat’ can be metaphorically extended to winning/competing, inducing EATING IS WINNING/COMPETING as in (18):

- (18) a. aye ephu mek-ul sayngkakha-n
at.all F eat-REL think-REL
ay-tul-un an nao-nikka, ...
child-PL-TOP not come-because,
‘Those students who are thinking about getting an F do not come to this class at all, so ...’ (Sejong corpus, 2003, Everyday conversation)
- b. emma na il-tung mek-ess-e.
mom I first-place eat-PST-DECL
‘Mom, I won the first place.’ (Google, 2017, Newspaper)

Getting a good or bad grade involves competition and participating in an event which ranks participants based on a certain criterion also involves competition. Note that in cases like these the verb *mek-* ‘eat’ can co-occur with positive words like *il-tung* ‘first place’ and *eyi* ‘A’ and their negative counterparts like *kkol-tung* ‘last place’ and *ephu* ‘F’ as well.

Next, we also have the conceptual metaphor EATING IS HAVING THOUGHTS/FEELINGS:

- (19) a. tantanhi mam-ul mek-ko cip-ul
firmly mind-ACC eat-and home-ACC
nase-ss-ta.
leave-PST-DECL
‘I made up a firm mind and left home.’ (Sejong corpus, 1991, Newspaper)
- b. ce chwungkyek mek-e kacikwu
I shock eat-CONN because
kunyang nawa-ss-eyo.
just come.out-PST-DECL
‘I was shocked, so I just came out.’ (Sejong corpus, 2002, Topic conversation)

This conceptual metaphor seems to be derived from the internalization facet involved in the eating process.

We can often find metaphorical examples with *mek-* ‘eat’ that are related to lives in certain cultures or groups as well.

- (20) a. nwukwu-n tayhak mwul an mek-e
who-TOP college water not eat-CONN
poa-ss-na?
see-PST-QUE
‘Who hasn’t been in college?’ (Sejong corpus, 1993, Book)
- b. koawenpap-ul han sipnyen
orphanage.rice-ACC about ten.years
mek-ess-ta.
eat-PST-DECL
‘I lived in an orphanage for 10 years.’ (Sejong corpus, 1994, Book)

In most cases of this conceptual metaphor EATING IS LIVING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CULTURES/LIVES,

the verb *mek-* ‘eat’ combines with complex nouns involving *mwul* ‘water’ and *pap* ‘rice’.

One more conceptual metaphor with *mek-* ‘eat’ concerns EATING IS GAINING AGE.

- (21) a. *icey-n nai-lul nemwu manhi*
 now-TOP age-ACC too much
mek-ess-e.
 eat-PST-DECL

‘I am now too old.’ (Sejong corpus, 2002, Book)

- b. *yel sal mek-un cokhaay-ka enni*
 ten age eat-REL nephew-NOM older.sister
aph-ul kalomak-ass-ta.
 front-ACC block-PST-DECL

‘My nephew who is 10 years old got in my sister’s way.’ (Sejong corpus, 2001, Book)

Given the general assumption that we usually eat three meals a day, the more meals we eat, the older we are. In this regard, this conceptual metaphor EATING IS GAINING AGE has a bearing on the relationship between eating meals and gaining age.

The Korean verb *mek-* ‘eat’ also licenses a metaphorical extension to destroying:

- (22) a. *ely-ess-ul-ttay-nun Attoatto-ka*
 young-PST-REL-when-TOP Attoatto-NOM
ai-tul-ey tayhan kiek-man-ul
 child-PL-to about memory-only-ACC
mek-nun-ta-ko
 eat-PRES-DECL-COMP
sayngkakha-yess-supnita.
 think-PST-DECL

‘When I was young, I thought that Attoatto only ate children’s memory.’ (Sejong corpus, 2002, Book)

- b. *keyulum-i insayng-ul mek-e*
 laziness-NOM life-ACC eat-CONN
chiwu-n-ta.
 throw.away-PRES-DECL

‘Laziness eats away your life.’ (Google, 2007, Blog)

Just like the English verb *eat*, its Korean counterpart *mek-* ‘eat’ can be metaphorically extended in such a

way that the agent affects some type of destruction of the object.

Like the English ingestive verb *eat*, the Korean verb *mek-* ‘eat’ can be metaphorically extended to sexual activity, too:

- (23) *ku-nun pelsse yele yeca-lul*
 he-TOP already several woman-ACC
mek-ess-ta.
 eat-PST-DECL

‘He has already slept with several women.’
 (Google, 2016, Dictionary)

This is more of a slang expression but still is a type of conceptual metaphor with *mek-* ‘eat’ with high enough frequency.

Finally, with *mek-* ‘eat’, the conceptual metaphor EATING IS BEING EFFECTIVE is available:

- (24) a. *ilen nonli-ka elmana*
 this logic-NOM how
mek-hi-lci-nun uymwun-i-ta.
 eat-PASS-QUE-TOP question-be-DECL

‘The question is how effective this logic will be.’ (Sejong corpus, 2003, Newspaper)

- b. *ta phokiha-yess-ten caccen-i tutie*
 all give.up-PAST-PST strategy-NOM finally
mek-hi-n kes-i-ta.
 eat-PASS-REL thing-be-DECL

‘The strategy that we had almost given up was finally effective.’ (Sejong corpus, 2002, Book)

This conceptual metaphor always involves the passive form of the verb *mek-* ‘eat’.

4 Comparisons between English and Korean

In this section, we discuss similarities between metaphorical extensions of *eat* and *drink* in English and their Korean counterparts and their differences.

4.1 Main similarities

The two typologically different languages, English and Korean, exhibit similar behavior in diverse respects, in terms of conceptual metaphorical extensions with *eat* and *drink* verbs.

- (25) DRINKING IS INHALING
- a. We drink the air before us. (COCA, 1993, Academic)
- b. malkun kongki-lul masi-myense, ...
fresh air-ACC drink-and, ...
‘We drank fresh air and ...’ (Sejong corpus, 2002, Book)

- (26) DRINKING/EATING IS CONSUMING RESOURCES
- a. His old car was eating up the gas. (COCA, 1996, Fiction)
- b. hwaksilhi ani oto-ka
obviously well automatic.car-NOM
kilum-ul com mek-ki-n hay-twu,
fuel-ACC some eat-NMLZ-TOP do-but
pyenha-ki-n ha-nikka, ...
convenient-NMLZ-TOP do-because ...
‘Well, obviously, automatic cars eat fuel somewhat but they are convenient, so ...’ (Sejong corpus, 2001, Everyday conversation)

- (27) EATING IS ACQUIRING POSSESSIONS
- a. Asia is eating into corporate profits. (COCA, 1998, Spoken)
- b. mikwuk-un philipin-ul mek-ko
America-TOP the.Philippines-ACC eat-and
ilpon-un hanpanto-lul
Japan-TOP the.Korean.Peninsula-ACC
mek-kyess-ta-ko ha-n kes-i
eat-FUT-DECL-COMP do-REL thing-NOM
kassula-tayphutu coyak-i-pnita.
Katsura-Taft treaty-be-DECL
‘It is the Katsura-Taft agreement that states that the U.S. would acquire the Philippines and Japan the Korean Peninsula.’ (Sejong corpus, 1990, Book)

- (28) EATING IS DESTROYING
- a. Jealousy eats away at the soul, you know, Benjamin. (COCA, 1990, Spoken)

- b. keyulum-i insayng-ul mek-e
laziness-NOM life-ACC eat-CONN
chiwu-n-ta.
throw.away-PRES-DECL
‘Laziness eats away your life.’ (Google, 2007, Blog)

- (29) EATING IS FULFILLING BASIC NATURAL DESIRES
- a. Somebody else ate her pussy, sure. (COCA, 2010, Fiction)
- b. ku-nun pelsse yele yeca-lul
he-TOP already several woman-ACC
mek-ess-ta.
eat-PST-DECL
‘He has already slept with several women.’ (Google, 2016, Dictionary)

As demonstrated in these examples, English and Korean use similar conceptual metaphors with ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs in several different domains and this can be attributed to basic conceptual meaning components the two languages have in common for those ingestive verbs. Note, in addition, that all the conceptual metaphors with *eat* found in English are a subset of conceptual metaphors with *mek-* ‘eat’ in Korean, meaning that the Korean verb *mek-* ‘eat’ has more diverse conceptual metaphorical extensions than the English verb *eat*.

4.2 Main differences

Although English and Korean show similar behavior in a variety of respects with respect to conceptual metaphorical extensions with *eat* and *drink* verbs, they also display differences in some respects. For instance, different conceptual metaphors are observed frequently and some are given in the following table:

Conceptual metaphor	Korean	English
DRINKING IS LISTENING	*umak-ul masita	drink music
EATING IS SUFFERING	yok-ul mek-ta	*eat swear words
EATING IS WINNING/COMPETING	il-tung mek-ta ephu-lul mek-ta	*eat the first place *eat an F
EATING IS HARBORING THOUGHTS/FEELINGS	maum-ul mek-ta chungkyek-ul mek-ta	*eat a mind *eat shock
EATING IS LIVING DIFFERENT TYPES OF CULTURE/LIVES	tayhakmwul-ul mek-ta koanwenpap-ul mek-ta	*eat college water *eat orphanage rice
EATING IS GAINING AGE	nai-lul mek-ta	*eat ages
EATING IS BEING EFFECTIVE	nonli-ka mek-hi-ta	*logic is eaten

Some of these differences come from cultural differences between Korea and U.S., while others are just idiosyncrasies in the two languages. For instance, historically speaking, in Korea eating had not been an easy thing to do for normal people until very recently (Song, 2009). This provides an explanation why we have the conceptual metaphor EATING IS SUFFERING in Korean and other conceptual metaphors with *mek-* ‘eat’ have negative semantic prosody, which is not observed in English. In addition, steamed rice is the most crucial part in the traditional Korean meal; thus, we have numerous examples with *pap* ‘rice’ in the EATING IS LIVING DIFFERENT CULTURES/LIVES. Furthermore, eating meals is a daily activity and the more meals we eat, the older we are. This conceptualization is realized in the metaphorical extension with *mek-* ‘eat’ in Korean, but it is not the case in English. On the other hand, the conceptual metaphor EATING IS BEING EFFECTIVE is idiosyncratic in the sense that it is available only in Korean with the passive marker on the verb *mek-* ‘eat’, but not in English.

5 Conclusion

This paper has examined conceptual metaphorical extensions with ingestive verbs in English and Korean with particular focus on ‘eat’ and ‘drink’ verbs on the basis of authentic corpus data. We have seen that both English and Korean employ varied metaphorical extensions of the two ingestive verbs. We have also observed that the two languages overlap in many different conceptual metaphorical extensions, but display some different conceptual metaphorical extensions as well. The differences may be caused by linguistic as well as cultural differences.

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