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Multimodality and its Impact on the Notion of Linguistic Disparity that Creates Humour

Humour may be accounted for via conceptual integration theory (CIT for short) created by Fauconnier and Turner. The vast research into both comedy and CIT would suggest that blending may provide a toolkit with which to explain the intricacies of humour origin and interpretation. However, what is needed at present is more experimentation into the nature of inputs which are blended, thus providing us with the incongruous and funny contents. This would certainly benefit contemporary humour studies, throwing more light on the nature of the comic, i.e. we could precisely pinpoint the kind of opposition that results in laughter. This presentation is going to provide a starting point in such research, analysing the notion of linguistic disparity within humour and specifically the impact that multimodality might bear on the incompatibility of input mental spaces as well as the meaning of humour. The initial hypothesis is that multimodality will enrich humour; to the extent that it will strengthen the comic effects in particular, but also, subsequently, the laughter of humour receiver.