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**THE CONCEPTUAL IMAGES OF EROTIC RELATIONS
IN SPANISH. ANALYSIS OF SOME LINGUISTIC ASPECTS
OF *THE TURKISH PASSION* BY ANTONIO GALA.**

Abstract

In this paper we try to systematize the contemporary Spanish expressions related to the erotic relations. The corpus is based on the novel by Antonio Gala *The Turkish Passion* (orig. *La pasión turca*) which, thanks to its plot with highly erotic content, constitutes an important source of linguistic material for our investigation. The analysis we propose reflects the methodology developed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson in their studies concerning the cognitive theory of metaphor. According to them, every concept consists of a source and a target domain and while expressing one idea we refer to another (Lakoff & Johnson 1980: 56). Our analysis focuses on the reconstruction of the conceptual domains by means of which the Spanish writer describes the erotic relations. Although the book does not include all the erotic vocabulary and expressions which exist in contemporary Spanish, it enables us to observe some regularities in the use of metaphors in Spanish and reveal some sociocultural phenomena encoded in the linguistic material.

Keywords: eroticism, Antonio Gala, cognitive metaphor, Spanish, linguistic conceptualization, erotic relations, desire, lust, sexual act, physical love.

1. Introduction

The following article is connected with an interdisciplinary project developed by a group of researchers from the Institute of Iberian and Ibero-American Studies at the University of Warsaw, concerning the categorization of erotic relations in Spanish and Polish literature created in the last 40 years. The aim of this paper is to try to systematize the contemporary Spanish expressions related to the erotic relations. The linguistic corpus is based on the novel by Antonio Gala *The Turkish Passion* (orig. *La pasión turca*).

The book has not been chosen at random as it is one of the most popular Spanish bestsellers of the last two decades and, thanks to its plot with highly erotic

content, it is an important source of linguistic material which constitutes the object of our investigation. Furthermore, it is quite significant that the novel belongs to the literature created after the political transformation in Spain initiated in 1975. The birth of democracy in Spanish society was linked to some ideological changes. According to the hypothesis of Sapir and Whorf that the language affects the way of thinking of its speakers and that, in this sense, the act of thinking is always verbal (Shaff 1982: 5–29), the language is first to reflect the sociocultural evolution. Such a “daring” literature like the novel by Gala did not exist in the Iberian Peninsula before Franco’s death, because the restrictions imposed by the totalitarian system were felt in all spheres of life and, logically, in the language itself as well. Eroticism was undoubtedly one of the greatest taboos of that period. Nevertheless since 1975, the Spanish society has become more open-minded, more liberal and, as a result, more “creative” in linguistic terms. In this sense, the transformation has contributed to the enrichment of the language.

Our analysis of the linguistic aspects of the novel of Antonio Gala focuses on the reconstruction of the conceptual images by means of which the Spanish writer describes the erotic relations. Obviously, the book does not include all the erotic vocabulary and expressions which exist in the contemporary Spanish. However, it enables us to observe some regularities in the use of metaphors in Spanish and to present some sociocultural phenomena encoded in the linguistic material.

2. Theoretical background and methodological models

The systematization of the Spanish erotic vocabulary we propose in this paper is based on the assumptions of the cognitive theory of metaphor developed by George Lakoff and Mark Johnson. In their framework the metaphor they consider the metaphor is central to the communication act because it shapes the human perception of the world. In other words, they claim that every concept consists of a source and a target domain and while expressing one idea we refer to another (Lakoff & Johnson 1980: 56). It turns out that we subconsciously conceive the abstract concepts in terms of our concrete experience, i.e. *love is a journey*, *love is war*, *love is madness* (Lakoff, Johnson 1980: 108). According to these American researchers, the cognitive perspective applied to linguistic analysis enables us to observe the systematic character of metaphorical concepts implicit in language structures (Lakoff, Johnson 1980: 7–9).

While describing the ways of conceptualizing the erotic relations in Spanish, we should not overlook the contributions of Zoltan Kövecses and his works on emotion vocabulary, especially the book *Metaphor and emotion*. In his opinion, the expressions people use to talk about emotions are mainly metaphorical. Moreover the metaphors rooted in language form the *cultural models* which reflect the perception of emotion tied to the culture we live in (Kövecses 2000: 114–138).

Our analysis of the linguistic material from Antonio Gala’s novel follows, basically, the methodology offered in the cases studies of ANGER and OVER by George Lakoff in his work *Women, Fire and Dangerous Things* (1986: 380–461) and in the case study of DESIRE in Spanish by Carlos Muñoz Gutiérrez (n.d.: 21–23). Nevertheless, taking into account the subject of our investigation that is connected to

the eroticism, we adopt as well some research methods from Eliecer Crespo Fernández who, in one of his publications, presents a detailed analysis of the conceptual metaphors related to the sex-related euphemism and dysphemism (Crespo Fernández 2008: 95–110). The third model we base on while systematizing the corpus from *The Turkish Passion* in terms of the conceptual images of erotic relations embodied in Spanish is the study of Antonio García Olivares into some love metaphors which appear repeatedly in tango lyrics (García-Olivares 2007: 139–179).

3. Summary of Antonio Gala's novel

Before delving into analysis of some linguistic aspects of Antonio Gala's novel we consider necessary to provide a short summary of the book. *The Turkish Passion* is a history of Desideria Oliván (Desi) who, after going through a disappointing marriage, falls in love with Yamam, a Turk met by chance during her holidays in Istanbul. Attracted to Yamam, she decides to leave Spain, abandon her husband and start a new life in Turkey. The love affair turns into a turbulent relationship, filled with eroticism, that gives birth to a series of dramatic situations.

In our opinion it is particularly relevant when analyzing the erotic expressions used in the book that the novel consists of four books which are personal memories of Desi. In other words, the story is told by a female narrator, what is quite significant, not to say surprising, in reference to the male author, especially in the context of describing the erotic relations.

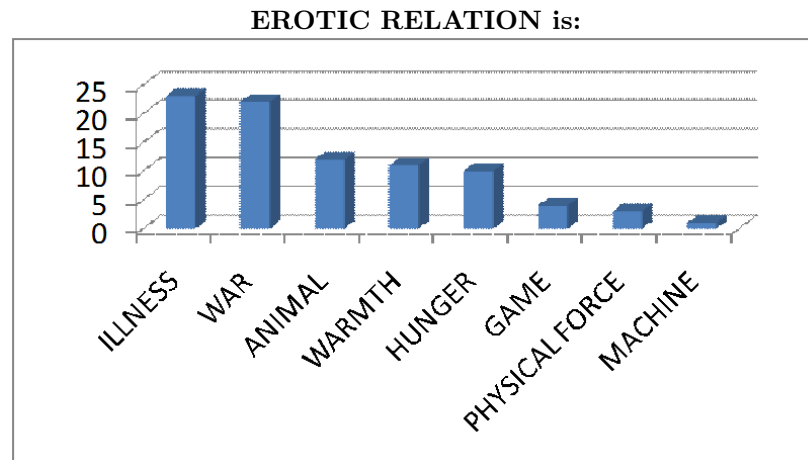
4. Categories which refer to the erotic relations

In order to be able to analyze the conceptual images of erotic relations and to avoid ambiguity we have to define first the categories which refer to this concept. In our view we should point out three of them: DESIRE or LUST [equivalents of *DESEO* in Spanish] — as something which precedes and evokes the erotic relation, SEXUAL ACT and PHYSICAL LOVE — as evidence of a fulfilled desire. Consequently, for the purposes of this research paper, our linguistic corpus is limited only to those expressions from the book which are directly tied to the categories mentioned above.

There are already some published studies that try to systematize the DESIRE / LUST metaphors encoded in Spanish. To be more precise, according to Carlos Muñoz Gutiérrez, whose work we mentioned previously (Section 2), it turns out that DESIRE / LUST is conceived in Spanish in terms of: WAR [*Sp. guerra*], PHYSICAL FORCE [*Sp. fuerza física*], HUNGER [*Sp. hambre*], WARMTH [*Sp. calor*], ILLNESS [*Sp. enfermedad*] and GAME [*Sp. juego*]. At the same time, the Spanish investigator observes that A PERSON WITH DESIRE IS AN ANIMAL and A MACHINE IN OPERATION [*Sp. una persona con deseo es un animal y una máquina en funcionamiento*]. As we regard the DESIRE / LUST to be a basic category that designates the erotic relation (a desire can be satisfied or not – in the first case it is nothing but a sexual act or physical love), we assume that we may apply the source domains proposed by Carlos Muñoz Gutiérrez to systematize the expressions related to the concept of erotic relation in general.

5. Realization of the metaphors proposed by Muñoz Gutiérrez in *The Turkish Passion*

Following the classification of conceptual metaphors provided by Carlos Muñoz Gutiérrez, we have selected and analyzed some expressions used by Antonio Gala in his novel which refer to all of the distinguished categories that designate the erotic relation. As a result we have observed that the prevailing source domains that appear in the book in this context are ILLNESS (25 realizations) and WAR (21 realizations). The examples of conceptualization of the erotic relation as an ANIMAL (more precisely, the conceptualization of a person involved in erotic relation as an animal), WARMTH or HUNGER in *The Turkish Passion* are less frequent but still quite numerous (aprox. 10 realizations of each of them), while the conceptual metaphors of erotic relation as a GAME, PHYSICAL FORCE or MACHINE are hardly noticeable in the text. These tendencies are well reflected in a graph presented below.



Graph 1

5.1. Erotic relations is illness

As far as we observed, one of the most developed source domain in Gala's book while talking about the erotic relations is ILLNESS. The most representative examples of this conceptual metaphor from the novel are shown in the table below. The analysis of the linguistic realizations of EROTIC RELATION IS ILLNESS metaphor enables us to observe some metonymic extensions of the principal source domain. Depending on the interpretation of a specific expression, in some cases it is more than noticeable that the erotic relation is not only conceptualized in terms of ILLNESS but, at the same time, in terms of MADNESS, ALTERATION IN BRAIN FUNCTION and EFFORT (star marked examples).

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Flaquear las piernas	To falter the legs
Yo apretaba su sexo turgente	I was pressing his plump sex
Escalofríos / Estremecimiento	Chills / Shivering
Con la cabeza atrás yo jadeaba	With the head back I was gasping
Se me nubló de nuevo el mundo	The world clouded over to me again
Dolor espiritual y dolor del cuerpo / Cuerpo dolorido	Spiritual pain and body pain / Aching body
Estar desmadejada / enferma / descom- puesta	To be weak/sick/drained
Sudar la frente	[To make] the forehead sweat → *EF- FORT
Temblor	Tremor
Ser dañado	To be damaged
Cuerpo dolorido	Aching body
Escuchar su propia respiración agitada	To listen to one's own agitated breath- ing → *EFFORT
La pasión que [...] se desangra	The passion that is bleeding
Desvanecerse	To faint
Caminar como una sonámbula	To walk like a sleepwalker
Perder la razón / Perder la cabeza	To lose one's head → *MADNESS
Furor desconocido	Unkonwn fury → *MADNESS
Estar en trance de elegir	To be in a trance of choosing → *AL- TERATION IN BRAIN FUNC- TION

Table 1

5.2. Erotic relations is war

Other metaphor mentioned before, which is frequent in the studied text, is EROTIC RELATION IS WAR. The table below offers some interesting examples.

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
El poder de invadir a alguien / de anadar a alguien	The power to invade someone / the power to annihilate someone
Conquista / Reconquistar a sangre y fuego	A conquest / To Reconquer through blood and fire
Aniquilamiento	Annihilation
Asaltar / Asalto	To assault / The assault
Derrota / Fracaso	Defeat / Failure
Una batalla y paz instintivas	An instinctive battle and peace
El temor de ser agredido por el amante	The fear of being attacked by the lover
Nos asaltamos igual que si del asalto dependiera nuestra vida y la tuviésemos que defender rabiosamente	We assaulted each other as if our life depended on it and we had to defend it furiously
Torturar	To torture
La pasión que sueña y que combate	The passion which is dreaming and fighting
Ahora sí que mi corazón no sólo mi sexo pudo cantar victoria	Now my heart not only my sex could claim victory
Trofeo	Trophy
Enzarsarse	To engage → * FIGHT / CONFLICT

Table 2

The exploration of a WAR source domain encoded in erotic relation expressions in Antonio Gala's novel reveals one metonymic extension (star marked example). The Spanish verb "enzarsarse" means, in one sense, "to get involved in a dispute" (Diccionario CLAVE 2003: 794¹). Therefore, in this context, the WAR source domain entails the FIGHT or CONFLICT domain.

¹ The translation is ours.

5.3. A person involved in erotic relation is an animal

While analyzing the textual realizations of the next metaphor related to the erotic relations and proposed by Carlos Muñoz Gutiérrez (A PERSON INVOLVED IN EROTIC RELATION IS AN ANIMAL), we remarked that the Spanish author, when describing the sexual acts, tends to refer, by the expressions he employs in the book, to some concrete species of the animals, i.e. dog and wolf.

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Forma arrebatada y animal	Violent and animal way
Actuar bajo un impulso ciego	To act on a blind impulse
Ferocidad	Ferocity
Olfateaba sus caderas estrechas y cada rincón de su cuerpo	I was sniffing his narrow hips and every part of his body
Acto sexual: un desorden de aullidos	Sexual act: a disorder of howls
Morder la nuca / Morderle los labios	To bit the neck / To bit sb's lips
Lamer / Lamía mis aureolas	To lick / He was licking my areolas

Table 3

5.4. Erotic relation is warmth

Other source domain of erotic relation in Spanish which has its realizations in *The Turkish Passion* is WARMTH, with some methonymic extensions to the FIRE domain (star marked examples).

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Ardor sin límites / Ardiente arrebató / Enardecimiento / Amar con enardecimiento	Unlimited ardor / Burning outburst / Ardor / Love with ardor
Calor	Heat
Derretirse	To melt
Aparatoso incendio de mi cuerpo	A spectacular fire in my body → * FIRE
La incertidumbre que quema el corazón / Quemarse como una vela encendida por los dos cabos	The uncertainty that burns the heart / To burn like a candle lit on both ends → * FIRE

Table 4

5.5. Erotic relation is hunger

If we focus on some quotes from the analyzed book which embody the cognitive metaphor of erotic relation as hunger, it turns out again that the systematization of DESIRE/LUST source domains in Spanish elaborated by Muñoz Gutiérrez and applied to the concept of erotic relations in general is well reflected in the novel. In the table below we can observe that the HUNGER source domain often entails the EATING source domain (star marked examples). Furthermore, for the first time we come across the phenomenon of the overlapping metaphors. The expressions *morder la nuca o morderle los labios* have already appeared in the context of the conceptualization of a person involved in erotic relation as an animal (subsection 5.3.)

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Transmitirse una avidez sólida y confirmada	To transmit a strong and confirmed avidity
La pasión consumida	Consumed passion
Amor voraz	Voracious love
Nuestro agua y nuestro pan	Our water and our daily bread → * EATING
Recipiente de la carnalidad insaciable	Container of insatiable carnality → * EATING
Morder la nuca / Morderle los labios	To bit the neck / To bit sb's lips → * EATING
Tú eres para mí la mejor delicia turca.	You are the best Turkish delight for me. → * EATING
Mordisqueaba mis pezones	He was nibbling my nipples. → * EATING

Table 5

5.6. Erotic relation is a game, physical force and a machine (in operation)

As it is shown in the graph number 1, not all the metaphors distinguished by Muñoz Gutiérrez are so numerous in *The Turkish Passion* in reference to the concept of erotic relations. We managed to find only one textual realization of the MACHINE (IN OPERATION) source domain and only a few examples of the GAME and PHYSICAL FORCE source domains. Below we present only these quotes which we consider the most representatives for each metaphor.

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
EROTIC RELATION IS GAME	
Juego de los instintos	Game of instincts
Él jugueteaba a poseerme	He was fiddling to possess me
EROTIC RELATION is A MACHINE (IN OPERATION)	
Máquina de placer	The machine of pleasure
EROTIC RELATION is PHYSICAL FORCE	
Esfuerzo violento	Violent effort → * VIOLENCE
Me flagelaba con su miembro	He was whipping me with his member → * VIOLENCE
Él restregaba su boca contra mis pechos	He rubbed his mouth against my breasts
Torturar	To torture
Nos asaltamos igual si del asalto dependiera nuestra vida y la tuviéramos que defender rabiosamente	We assaulted each other as if our life depended on it and we had to defend it furiously → * VIOLENCE

Table 6

It is necessary to emphasize that the PHYSICAL FORCE source domain not only has some metonymic extensions (the star marked examples related to the erotic relations may be understood in terms of the VIOLENCE source domain) but it also overlaps with the EROTIC RELATION IS WAR metaphor (see the last two examples).

6. Other conceptual metaphors of erotic relations in *The Turkish Passion*

Apart from the source domains proposed by Muñoz Gutiérrez, our analysis of the language of Antonio Gala's novel enabled us to observe that the erotic relations are conceptualized in Spanish as well in terms of INNER TRANSFORMATION, DEATH, SUBMISSION / OBEDIENCE, DOMINATION, SUFFERING /

(PAIN), SUBMERGENCE, TRANSGRESSION / (LIBERATION OF A PRISONER), UNITY, GIFT, MAGIC, APPROACHING THE DIVINE, FOG, FORCE OF NATURE, WAKING UP, MIRACLE and COEXISTENCE OF OPPOSITES.

6.1. Erotic relations is inner transformation

Among the metaphors mentioned above one of the most frequent in *The Turkish Passion* is EROTIC RELATION as INNER TRANSFORMATION. It is interesting to observe that the INNER TRANSFORMATION source domain extends to the EVICTION source domain (the last example in the chart below).

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Transformarse	To transform oneself
Modelar otra dentro de mi	To model another person inside of me
El cuerpo deja de ser suyo	The body ceases to be yours
Dejar de existir	To stop existing
Desprenderse de sí	To divest oneself (of oneself)
Dejar de habitar en nuestro cuerpo e instalarnos en el cuerpo del otro	To stop living in one's body and settle oneself in the body of another person → *EVICTION

Table 7

6.2. Erotic relations is death

Similarly to the INNER TRANSFORMATION source domain, in the novel there are quite a lot of examples of the conceptualizations of erotic relation in terms of DEATH. Moreover, as it is shown in the following table, this metaphor overlaps with two others mentioned previously, i.e. EROTIC RELATION IS INNER TRANSFORMATION [*Dejar de existir*] and EROTIC RELATION IS ILLNESS [*Estar sin respiración*]. At the same time, the DEATH source domain in at least one case entails the SUICIDE source domain (star marked example).

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
Dejar de existir	To stop existing
Morir de gusto	To die of pleasure
Estar muriendo de alegría	To be dying of happiness
Estar sin respiración	To be out of breath
Acatar el instinto de muerte y del asesinato	To comply with the instinct of death and murder
Saltar al vacío	To throw oneself into the void → *SUICIDE

Table 8

6.3. Erotic relation is submission, suffering, submergence, transgression, domination

If we take into account the frequency of appearance of the conceptual images of erotic relations we mentioned in the section 6, we may create a separate group of the metaphors that have approximately 5–7 realizations in the analyzed book (each of them). As it is shown in table number 9, this group is formed by five metaphors (EROTIC RELATION IS SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE [of Woman to Man], EROTIC RELATION IS SUFFERING / (PAIN), EROTIC RELATION IS SUBMERGENCE, EROTIC RELATION IS TRANSGRESSION / LIBERATION OF PRISONER, EROTIC RELATION IS DOMINATION [over Woman]). The DOMINATION source domain and the SUFFERING source domain overlap with the SUBMISSION source domain (cross marked examples). Moreover, the SUFFERING / (PAIN) source domain coincides as well with the ILLNESS source domain (*cf.* table 1 and triangle marked example in table 9). As far as we have observed, only the SUBMERGENCE source domain has its metonymic extensions, as some expressions also entail the DISSOLUTION source domain (star marked example).

The following table includes only some selected textual realizations of each metaphor, not all of them.

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
EROTIC RELATION is SUBMISSION & OBEDIENCE (of Woman to Man)	
Desaparecía mi voluntad en la suya sin defender su propia independencia	My will was disappearing in his without defending its own independence
Estaba suspendida de sus labios	I was hanging on his lips
[...] cuando obedecí lo que mi nuevo corazón [...] me ordenaba	[...] when I obeyed what my new heart ordered me [...]
Quiero ser tuya. Ven ya.	I want to be yours. Come now.
Mi corazón se encuentra literalmente embargado por un dueño.	My heart is literally seized by the master + DOMINATION
Ramiro la hizo suya.	Ramiro made her his + DOMINATION
EROTIC RELATION is DOMINATION (over Woman)	
Ramiro la hizo suya.	Ramiro made her his + SUBMISSION
Mi corazón se encuentra literalmente embargado por un dueño	My heart is literally seized by the master + SUBMISSION
Un dominador y un dominado	One dominating and one dominated

Un esclavo y un amo	A slave and a master
Dominar por la fuerza	To dominate by force
Poseer (hombre a la mujer)	To possess (man to woman)
EROTIC RELATION is SUFFERING / (PAIN)	
Cuerpo dolorido	Aching body▲ ILLNESS
Dolor espiritual y dolor del cuerpo	Spiritual and body pain ▲ ILLNESS
Echar de menos	To miss
Desilusión	Disappointment
Someterse libremente al sacrificio	To submit freely to the sacrifice + SUBMISSION
EROTIC RELATION is SUBMERGENCE	
Mi conciencia se anegaba en la suya	My conscience was drowning in his
Inundar el amor en el placer	To flood the love with the pleasure
Hundirse en el fondo del brocal	To sink in the bottom of the funnel
Disuelto en el placer	Dissolved in pleasure → *DISSOLUTION
EROTIC RELATION is TRANSGRESSION / LIBERATION OF PRISONER	
[...] todavía tengo las rozaduras de las esposas y de los grilletes en muñecas y tobillos: residuos, resentimientos, ansiedades a los que aún no me atrevo a darles libertad.	[...] I have still chafing of the handcuffs and shackles on my wrists and ankles: some waste, some resentment and anxieties to which I don't even dare to give freedom
Gozar de la libertad, efímera y compartida, que lleva de la celda común a la huida común.	To enjoy the freedom, ephemeral and shared, that leads from the shared cell to the escape

Table 9

6.4. Erotic relation is fog and a force of nature

Other group which might be separated from the collection of metaphors listed in the beginning of section 6 has to do with some meteorological phenomena. It turns out that *The Turkish Passion* abounds in expressions that appear in the context of erotic relations and refer to the FOG and FORCE OF NATURE source domains. As it is reflected in the table below, Spanish tends to allude to some specific natural phenomena, like wind or earthquake, while referring to the erotic relations. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the FORCE OF NATURE source domain has one metonymic extension. In some cases it entails the ROUGH SEA source domain (star marked example). At the same time, we may observe another evidence of overlapping metaphors, because in one context the conceptualization of

erotic relation in terms of FOG coincides with one of the linguistic realizations of EROTIC RELATION IS ILLNESS metaphor (triangle marked example; cf. table 1)

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
EROTIC RELATION is FOG	
Las brumas del deseo que no dejan ver la realidad	The mists of desire that make impossible to see the reality
Las nieblas del deseo urgente	The mists of urgent desire
Se me nubló de nuevo el mundo	The world clouded over to me again ▲ ILLNESS
EROTIC RELATION is FORCE OF NATURE	
La pasión avienta como un vendaval	The passion throws oneself like a hurricane → WIND
Pradera sacudida por un terremoto	The meadow struck by an earthquake → EARTHQUAKE
Seísmo	Seism → EARTHQUAKE
Deseo como una ola que arrastra al amante	A desire as a wave that carries the lover → *EROTIC RELATION IS ROUGH SEA

Table 10

6.5. Erotic relation is a gift, magic, approaching the divine, waking up, unity, miracle, and the coexistence of opposites

Finally, we shall quote some examples of the less frequent, but still important, erotic relation conceptual metaphors in Spanish that appear in Antonio Gala's novel. A detailed study of the language employed by the author enabled us to establish 7 more source domains related to the erotic relations and encoded in Spanish. All of them, as well as some of their realizations in the book, are listed in the chart below. We did not observe any case of overlapping metaphors or source domain metonymic extensions.

Antonio Gala <i>The Turkish Passion</i>	Literal English translation
EROTIC RELATION is A GIFT	
Recibimiento / Entrega	Reception / Delivery
Presencia del amante como obsequio	The presence of the lover as a gift
EROTIC RELATION is MAGIC	
Embrujar a alguien	To charm someone
Hechizar	To bewitch
EROTIC RELATION is APPROACHING THE DIVINE	
Transplantarse a alguien al séptimo cielo	To transfer someone to seventh heaven
Un éxtasis divino, lindante con los dioses	A divine ecstasy, bordering with the gods
EROTIC RELATION is WAKING UP	
Despertar el cuerpo / Despertar el placer	To awaken the body/ To awaken the pleasure
EROTIC RELATION is UNITY	
Una comunión de la carne más generosa y más segura	A communion of the flesh more generous and more secure
Hondos lazos de afecto	Deep bonds of affection
EROTIC RELATION is A MIRACLE	
Un hombre capaz de convertir el agua en el vino	A man capable of turning water into wine
Cumplirse el milagro	To realize a miracle
EROTIC RELATION is THE COEXISTENCE OF OPPOSITES	
Amor: construcción y destrucción	Love: construction and destruction
Graves sufrimientos y grandísimos deleites	Severe suffering and very great pleasures
Sufrir y gozar	Suffer and enjoy

Table 11

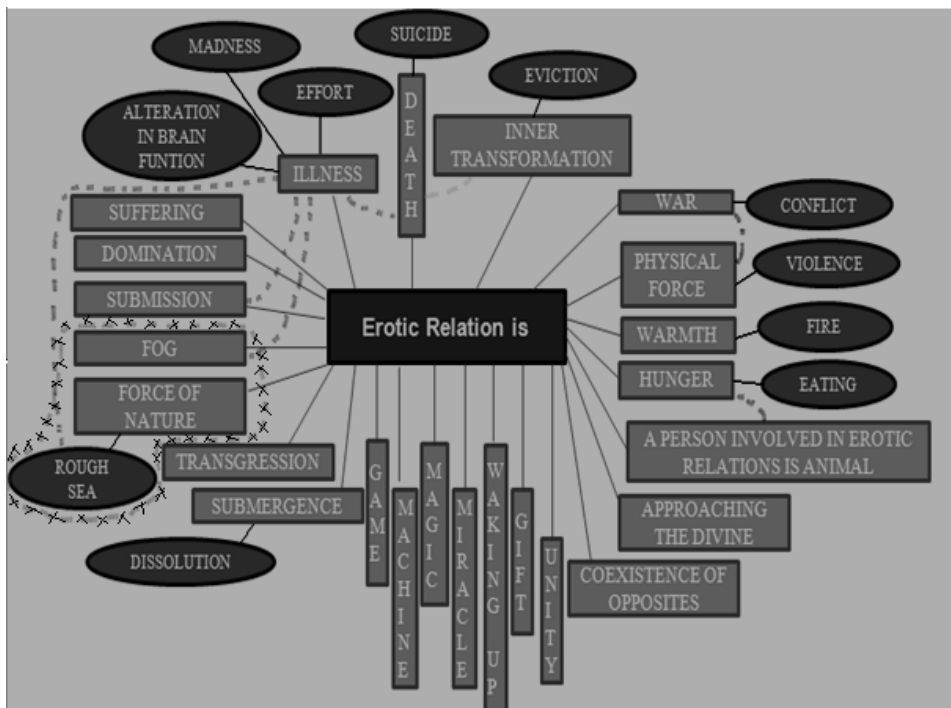
Conclusions

Our analysis of the linguistic corpus from Antonio Gala's novel has revealed the existence of 24 conceptual metaphors of erotic relations in Spanish. We observe that among them there is a noticeable diversity in terms of frequency of their appearance in the book. The results of our study show that the predominant source domains to which Spanish refers in the context of erotic relations are: ILLNESS, WAR, DEATH, WARMTH, HUNGER, INNER TRANSFORMATION

and the conceptualization of a person involved in erotic relation as an ANIMAL. Furthermore, our study of the linguistic material shows large collection of examples of overlapping metaphors (i.e. EROTIC RELATION IS ILLNESS and EROTIC RELATION IS FOG; EROTIC RELATION IS DEATH and EROTIC RELATION IS INNER TRANSFORMATION; EROTIC RELATION IS WAR and EROTIC RELATION IS PHYSICAL FORCE etc.). At the same time we can observe that it is quite common that the principal source domain has some metonymic extensions (e.g. HUNGER↔EATING / WARMTH↔FIRE etc.). Since the object of our study has been a literary text, it remains to be seen if all metaphors included in our overview are elaborated by the everyday language. Unquestionably, as the ordinary language normally differs in some aspects from the artistic discourse, our analysis may result a bit far-going. Nevertheless, the analysis we propose enables us to observe a systematic use of erotic relation conceptual metaphors in Spanish.

Since the subject of this paper are the conceptual images of erotic relations in Spanish, to sum up, we would like to present our results as an image. In the graph below elaborated we have reconstructed and systematized the source domains by means of which the erotic relations are conceptualized in Spanish. The grey colour squares present the principal source domains, the black oval circles serve to mark their metonymic extensions (if present). The dotted lines show the overlapping of some metaphors and the crossed line denotes a group of meteorological metaphors.

CONCEPTUAL IMAGES OF EROTIC RELATIONS IN SPANISH



Graph 2

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