

metaphor

Love is a Journey

| Source domain | → | Target domain |
|----------------|---|---------------|
| <i>Journey</i> | | <i>Love</i> |
| travelers | | lovers |
| destination | | goals |
| vehicle | | relationship |
| impediments | | difficulties |

Expressions of the metaphor:

- > **Our relationship has hit a *dead-end street*.**
- > **Look how *far we've come*.**
- > **It's been a *long, bumpy road*.**
- > **We can't *turn back* now.**
- > **We're at a *cross-roads*.**
- > **We may have to *go our separate ways*.**
- > **The relationship *isn't going anywhere*.**
- > **We're *spinning our wheels*.**
- > **The marriage is *on the rocks*.**

} the nature of metaphor

- Metaphor is the main mechanism through which we comprehend abstract concepts and perform abstract reasoning.
- Much subject matter, from the most mundane to the most abstruse scientific theories, can only be comprehended via metaphor.
- Metaphor allows us to understand a relatively abstract or inherently unstructured subject matter in terms of a more concrete, or at least more highly structured, subject matter.

} the structure of metaphor

- Metaphors are mappings across conceptual domains.
- Each mapping is a fixed set of ontological correspondences between entities in a source domain and entities in a target domain.
- Mappings are not arbitrary, but grounded in the body and in everyday experience and knowledge.

} some aspects of metaphor

- The system of conventional metaphor is mostly unconscious, automatic, and used with no noticeable effort, just like our linguistic system, and the rest of our conceptual system.
- Our metaphor system is central to our understanding of experience and to the way we act on that understanding.
- Metaphorical mappings vary in universality; some seem to be universal, others are widespread, and some seem to be culture specific.