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COGNITIVE EXPLORATION OF THE ONTOLOGICAL CONCEPTS
OF SPACE, TIME AND MOTION

At the contemporary level of the linguistics development language is understood as a “cognitive phenomenon”. Since cognition is the fundamental functional characteristic of a human being, cognitive linguistics is, naturally, concerned with the human factor and with cognitive structures categorized and represented in language. The study of the representation of the ontological categories of Space, Time and Motion has a very long tradition, originating from the Aristotle time. Nowadays cognitive linguistics allows complex investigation of these concepts on the language level.

As we move through the world, new visual, auditory and sensor inputs are continuously presented to the brain. Given such constantly changing input, it is remarkable how easily we are able to keep track of all the things and events. Spatial and temporal aspects of the common picture of the world are the faculties that allow us to do so.

Language offers us a window into cognitive background of Space, Time and Motion, providing insights into their nature and organization. The correlation of those concepts is vividly manifested in the language, as we think of Time in terms of Space and see Motion of Time through Space. For instance, Time is measured, by means of various artifacts, beginning with ancient calendars through sun-clocks, water-clocks, hourglasses and finally the mechanical clocks developed around 14th century AD, based on Motion of various bodies in Space.

A projection mapping projects are commonly used for analyzing abstract concepts, as they structure from one domain onto another. In the conceptual metaphor Time is the Motion of the Object Time is conceptualized in terms of Motion. In the sentences “Winter has come” and “The day is approaching”, temporally framed notions expressed by *winter* and *day* are structured in terms of Motion. Temporal notions cannot undergo literal Motion because they are not physical objects.

However, these conventional metaphoric mappings allow us to understand, visualize and model abstract concepts like Time in terms of Motion.