

PhD Project: Studies on concepts of fire in Ancient Egypt

International Conference
„Language, Semantics and Cognition: Saying and conceptualizing the world from Ancient Egypt to Modern Times“, Yale University
(16.–18. April 2021)

Introduction

Research subject

- Previous work in Egyptology has only been dedicated to selected aspects of fire, warmth, and heat
- Examining the different connotations and conceptions for fire, warmth, and heat in ancient Egyptian texts



Image 1: Relief showing a man lying next to a fire (detail), ca. 1352–1332 B.C.



Image 2: Book of the Dead of the Imhotep (detail), ca. 332–200 B.C.

Selected research questions

- How were fire, warmth, and heat described and understood in ancient Egyptian texts?
- Which fire, warmth, and heat metaphors existed?
- What concepts of fire, warmth, and heat are attested?
- What are the similarities and differences that can be observed in the conceptualization of fire, warmth, and heat cross-linguistically and cross-culturally?

Material & Methodology

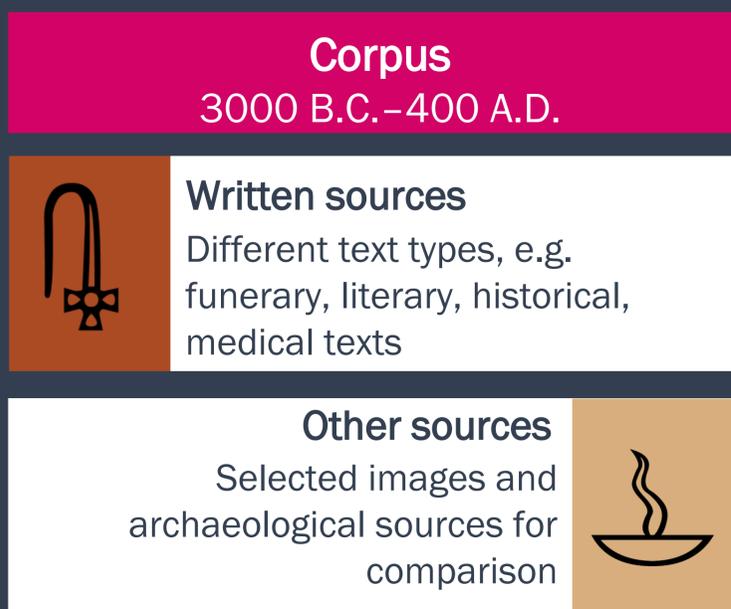


Image 3: Corpus.

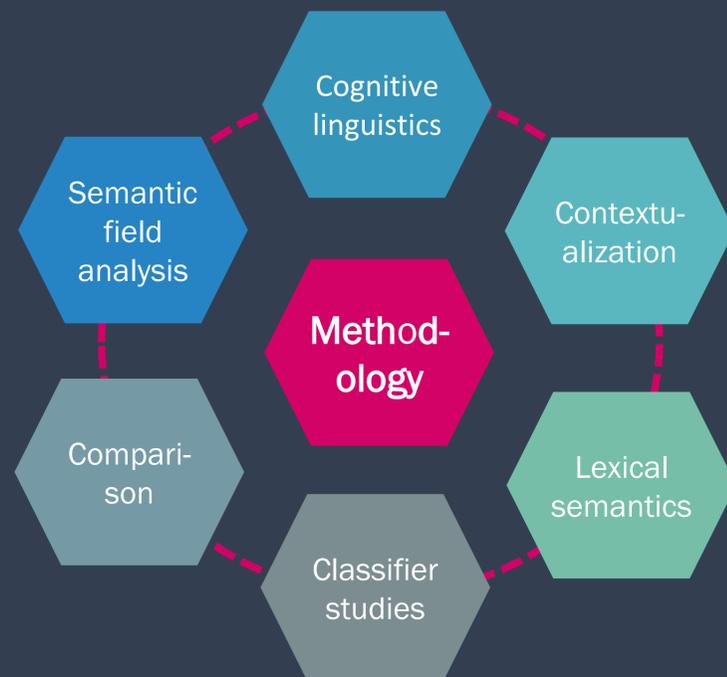


Image 4: Methodology and approaches (selection).

Case study

Example: pBremner-Rhind (pLondon BM EA 10188), col. 30,23, Thebes, ca. 305 B.C.



(...) *tm.n=s <tw> 3pp* (...) *h.t r=k ws^c=s iw^f=f* (...)

“(...) And she (= a goddess) has annihilated <you> **Apophis**. (...)”

Fire is against you, by consuming your flesh. (...)“

*** Conceptual Metaphor: FIRE IS A HUNGRY ANIMAL**

Some first results (selection)

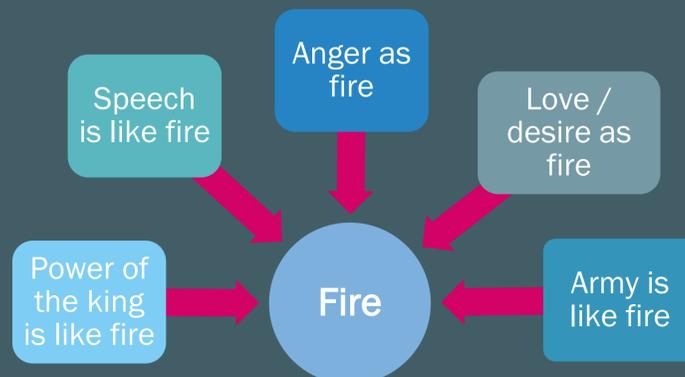


Image 5: Conceptualization of fire (selection).



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