The Syntagmatics of Metaphor and Idiom

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2. Norms and Exploitations

Identified by Corpus Pattern Analysis (CPA)

Goal: to associate prototypical patterns of linguistic behaviour with meaning potentials

Relationship between FrameNet and CPA.

3. A typical set of verb norms:

abate/V 185
1. [[Storm]] abate [NO OBJ]
2. [[Problem]] abate [NO OBJ]
3. [[Person | Action]] abate [[Nuisance]] (Domain: Law)
4. A corpus-based cognitive profile of storm/N (literal uses)

**WHAT DO STORMS DO?**
- Storms *blow*.
- Storms *rage*.
- Storms *break*.
- Storms *lash* coastlines.
- Storms *batter* ships and places.
- Storms *hit* ships and places.
- Storms *ravage* places.

Before it begins, a storm is *brewing, gathering,* or *impending.*
There is often a *calm* or a *lull* before a storm.
Storms last for a certain period of time.
A major storm may be associated with a certain year or may be remembered as the Great Storm.

-Storms *abate*.
- Storms *subside*.
- Storms *pass*.

People can *weather, survive,* or *ride (out)* a storm.
Ships and people may get *caught in* a storm.

**WHAT KINDS OF STORMS ARE THERE?**
There are *thunder storms, electrical storms, rain storms, hail storms, snow storms, winter storms, dust storms, sand storms,* and **tropical storms.**
Storms are *violent, severe, raging, howling, terrible, disastrous, fearful,* and *ferocious.*
Storms, especially snow storms, may be *heavy.*

An unexpected storm is a *freak* storm.
The centre of a storm is called the *eye of the storm.*

**STORMS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH** *rain, wind, hurricanes, gales,* and *floods.*

5. In CPA, every line in each random sample must be classified.

The classes are:
- Norms
- Exploitations
- Names (*Midnight Storm* is the name of a racehorse)
- Mentions (to mention a word is not to use it; the syntagmatics are different)
- Mistakes (*learned* is sometimes typed as *leaned*)
- Unassignables

6. The rest of this paper discusses just two points:

1. To what extent can syntagmatic criteria be used to distinguish metaphorical uses from literal uses?
2. What is the relationship between metaphors, idioms, and literal uses?

7. Syntagmatic criteria for metaphoricity

8. Idioms with *storm*

A storm in a teacup
Any port in a storm
To take a place by storm

And two syntagmatic contexts indicating metaphorical meaning:

- [[Causative]]/V + storm
- storm+of (Partitive)
9. Prototypical syntagmatics of these
in descending order of metaphoricity:

| A lot of fuss about a comparatively trivial event is described as a storm in a teacup. |
| Someone who is in trouble is glad to find any port in a storm. |
| A personality such as an artist, or an artefact such as a work of art or a product may take a place by storm. |
| A military force or a military officer may take a place by storm. |
| An action may cause, provoke, raise, create, or unleash a storm. |
| A bad or unpopular thing may cause a storm of protest, controversy, or criticism. |
| A successful performance may be greeted by a storm of applause or cheers. |
| Someone who is upset may burst into a storm of weeping or tears. |

10. In terms of Pustejovsky's Generative Lexicon theory

Qualia of storm (literal sense)

CONSTITUTIVE=high winds, precipitation, thunder, lightning
FORMAL=natural event
TELIC=unsettling effect
AGENTIVE=atmospheric conditions

11. [[Human]]/Subj + [[Causative]]/V = metaphorical storm

Jive comments to referees, he caused a storm by branding his players as # boozers
difficult. Then, in 1989, he caused a storm over Wild Orchid, refusing to promotwo years after Sir Claus had caused a storm when he had Zenouska before her mara storm by making the comment at an earlier atm a storm by trying to stop newspapers telling a storm with his claim that their bowlers "s a storm earlier this year when he said his a storm of protest and demanded that their r a storm of protest from Nordic governments a a storm in Sussex, which county is full of n a storm when he called English supporters de a storm of protest. The NBC show 's opening a storm last night after using the F-word in a storm yesterday by launching a campaign to a storm with his revelations OSLEAR was vote a storm in Westminster. In the interview, Mr a storm by pinning the Sandinistas ' highest a storm by declaring that God was in part th a storm about his head, the more so because a storm. Isobel Cunningham reports on the la a storm when she missed the spectacular open a storm in the kitchen. The Park Room rest a storm around its head with its plunge into a storm last night after threatening to char r leases. The leases have brewed up a storm in Darlington as landlords say they

[[(Human)]/Subj alternates with [[Event]]/Subj and [[Text]]/Subj:

the proposed deal which caused such a storm that it was dropped within days of some buffing up. Their book caused a storm in America last year, mainly because
12. An exceptional case

(from the Birmingham-HarperCollins Bank of English, 450m. words)

1. As the invading ships came within sight, he created a storm that drowned them all.

Over 500 occurrences of "[[Causative]] + storm" in the Bank of English. Over 99% of them are metaphorical storms.

Just this one line has an animate subject + literal sense of storm.

"he" is not in fact a person, but a deity (the Great Spirit in Ojibway legend):

Ojibway legend has it that the giant was once Nanibijou, or the Great Spirit, who lived on Mount McKay, which is today an Indian reserve. He protected his tribe, but he warned that they would perish and he would be turned into stone if the white man ever discovered their silver mine. Alas, he was betrayed, and as the invading ships came within sight, he created a storm that drowned them all. The next morning he had turned to stone and was left in the bay to guard the silver mine.

13. 'storm' + partitive 'of' = metaphorical storm

I. A STORM OF NEGATIVE REACTIONS

ollowing August. This unleashed such a storm of protest, in which branches in the Belt land is guaranteed to raise a storm of protest from residents and local politicians, warned # These people malaise, were forced to back down after odoe, a former number one, provoked a storm of protest in Leeds, with local radio stations, a former number one, provoked a storm of protest in Bedfordshire following from Roger Dikes, who provoked a storm of protest when he decided against privatisation which he had previously promised. Over 500 occurrences of "[[Causative]] + storm" in the Bank of English. Over 99% of them are metaphorical storms.

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reality, it provided no warning of the storm of
eek (as it were) during which a rotary storm of
ents that have been obscured by a dust storm of
Throughout the 1970s, in a gathering storm of
Ireland toured there in 1981 amid a storm of
and added their voices to the growing storm of
He was the first star to weather the storm of a dope scandal, emerging unscathe-
sword: Lloyd George had weathered the storm of labour unrest, and after “Black F
for the Assembly. The same month the storm of strikes at last abated, peace was
I. I STORM OF REACTIONS, PROBABLY NEGATIVE (under the influence of 1)

hopping Day at the last minute amid a storm of publicity over its tuna fishing m
pocalypse Now (1979) arrived amidst a storm of publicity attracted by its long a
iver a footpath which have aroused a storm of debate. But two Berberich District

II. A STORM OF POSITIVE REACTIONS (something odd about these?)
righthening in itself. But to hear the storm of
hole. Patrick heard the roar and the storm of
, a seven-year-old child is raising a storm of
li to within five feet of the hole. The storm of
ry ago, in 1887, to be greeted with a storm of
ed Ralph, “his real name ‘s Piggy.” A storm of

III. A STORM OF (NEGATIVE) PERSONAL EMOTIONS

at was too deep for tears. And in the
She closed her eyes, buffeted by the storm of
her heart, and begin to bring calm to the storm of
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et because you will finish your small storm of
y in earnest, abandoning himself to a storm of
on as this activity began in Vicky, a storm of
not the stone curls, and burst into a storm of

SP STUFF: it happened in the eye of a storm of
said, before suddenly bursting into a storm of
her being. After a while, that first storm of angry passion seemed to dissolve,
ime, Franca contained in her breast a storm of
y tower that spiked into her brain. A storm of
- as I judged the sensation

IV. A STORM OF OTHER THINGS

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Storm Over the Nile, there is such a storm of noise in the cinema from the dru
a blizzard of wind and sleet, like a storm of
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14. 'storm' + partitive 'of' = metaphorical storm

Only 3 examples in BNC

ere was the most awful and tremendous storm of thunder and lightning and hail t

15. Similar metaphorical partitives with other watery words

a torrent of abuse, a torrent of Greek

an ocean of consumer debt, an ocean of coolness and quiet

16. What is the relationship between metaphors, idioms, and literal uses?

AN IDIOM: to take a place by storm

Is it literal or metaphorical?

Pattern: [[Person | Artefact]] take [[Location]] by storm

(no help)
17. Uses of 'take by storm' in different domains

I MILITARY USES OF 'take by storm'

nta Anna decided to take the Alamo by storm. He succeeded, and all the resisters were killed. Capital de Buch, took Limoges by storm and ruthlessly sacked it. Its destruction by storm, massacred its inhabitants, and then the English feared for their lives.

They took St-Léonard-de-Noblat by storm; which is very hard to do. Aratos was arksably reluctant to take the city by storm. Despite all the obvious practical difficulties, he succeeded, and all the resisters were killed. Its destruction by storm, massacred its inhabitants, and then the English feared for their lives.

They took Poitiers and took the city gates by storm. Richard and a few followers escaped by storm with all the looting, killing and destrucrion. A remnant escaped across the English feared for their lives.

II SPORTING USES OF 'take by storm'

It took the motorcycle racing world by storm 40 years ago. In the 1950 Isle of Man f young players can take the world by storm. Unfortunately it may not be this World Record who had taken the golfing world by storm to win the 1979 British Open, Seve Ballesteros, who putted the world by storm because it was revolutionary and, as the world feared for their lives.

Golf Star: Taking the Olympics by storm. Rink Outsiders: D.B. Sweeney and Moe T Andrews, the Reds take the crowd by storm with their immaculate formation rout. He can take the Centenary Olympics by storm in his other sport, hockey. Olympic gold medallist, Jerry also earned three full Intern.

Medical uses of 'take by storm'

In the end the public show n is set to take the fashion world by storm as she steps out in the latest collection. McKenzie ultimatey gains the ca take the Centenary Olympics by storm in his other sport, hockey. Olympic gold medallist, Jerry also earned three full Intern.

III USES OF 'take by storm' in the arts, fashion, business, and politics

It took the world by storm. The systems integration company was o hairstylist (which took the world by storm in the 1950s) and then to reggae, th ugging and to take the world by storm with our painting, our films, our or take the city's crazy legal world by storm. And in notebook, popular at home bu nd 20x have taken the radar world by storm, it's time for a little more radar at the time and he took the world by storm. The Junior Gaultier collection pres later they took the fashion world by storm. At the end of the first public show n is set to take the fashion world by storm as she steps out in the latest clot aken the beauty and exercise world by storm. Our telephones have not stopped ring ess, yet grew up to take the world by storm. But he was also a complex, highly s collection took the fashion world by storm, breathing new life into the stuffy rranz Anton Mesmer first took Paris by storm with his new, bizarre technique. Mes ion the latest novel to take Paris by storm, the politics of the Comédie Françai olence in LA that 's taken America by storm. Here he talks to Nell McCormick abo down And preparing to take America by storm, bringing their brand of psychedelic w cartoon series has taken America by storm. The Ren & Stimpy Show, featuring as already taken the United States by storm and is now doing the same here. Cine when he was trying to take London by storm. Foreigners always find that a diffi ak legs and cat litter take London by storm. Reminiscent of the peak days of Stu ch painters, Bonington took London by storm when he first exhibited at the Brit e show was now called, took London by storm. The street procession prior to each work that took 18th century London by storm with its rich mixture of ballads and -like cheekbones have taken Europe by storm and she is currently the toast of Ne Gorbachev took the United Nations by storm and wrongfooted the American adminis War Babies. The Teds took Britain by storm. The man who can win the allegiance
18. In a few cases, wider context is needed to determine the meaning

The domain or general context is often more helpful than extending the immediate context.

13. [From a Christian religious tract about heaven] There are no gate-crashers; it cannot be taken by storm. To enter the Kingdom of Heaven one has to come as a little child.

14. [From a review of a classical music recording] The very Spanish serenader of Debussy's "La sérénade interrompue" [as played by Cortot] takes his intended by storm rather than stealth.

15. [From a review of a performance of Wagner's Meistersinger] Transfers are good, though not of the sort that take the unsuspecting listener by storm.

16. [From a book about living in the English countryside] I love to be here, private, subversive and free, in friendly company, where pigs on tip-toes piss with such a haunted look, you'd swear there was something amiss, and sleep-walking cattle dump wherever they go. Hens are galleon-hulled: we take them by storm, plucking the eggs from under their bodies, bony and warm freebooters against a proud and panicky-wheeling armada.

19. Identifying Metaphorical Uses by Classifying Adjective or Noun Modifier

g up a rescue plan amid a political storm that resulted in the resignation of two government ministers. The other inflamatory announcement to ride out the political storm surrounding its compulsory repatriation policy was well received. A political storm has also been sparked by the closure, political storm by heading for his holiday home at Cam, political storm created, but by Pilkington's better plan. It followed shortly after the Westlan political storm generated in 1986 by the proposals to political storm. And he suggested she had responded with political storm erupted today over suspicions -- not about a political storm which had developed in September around a political storm has blown up over public grants to Ame...
20. Identifying Metaphorical Uses by Less Clearly Structured Collocates

- Storm over race killers’ sentences
- Archbishop in storm over contraception

A week to try to sort out the storm over the Pakistanis. But he may well have rather than harming it. In this storm over the “Squidy” tapes kept the president, said he is concerned about the storm surrounding his MP. Off-licence men su the government from an approaching storm. But the military failures revealed vent. Bann in calm before storm MEN’S HOCKEY. An afternoon in August 1914, and the gathering storm in 1938-39. This too affected the soci nails. He could sense the gathering storm in the room, and knew it was only a ma om of storm in nature, the drama of storm in life, is indeed the best. By its t t seemed best to counter a possible storm by innocent guile. I now see the meani as the one rock in his own private storm. From that day, early in the October happy words which quell the rising storm wrote one of them. His gentle wit wa ivate sectors, Cuckney rode out the storm calmly. Once the Prime Minister had de away, Cullam, explain it away. The ey watches the champion weather the storm with mixture of shots to mount a spiri er drew its horns in to weather the a record victory. In the eye of the of a new product. We are riding the storm at the moment but things are getting w wpenalty area. Norwich weathered the hangers-on from the Civil List. The donna likes being in the eye of the ater. Then came the lull before storm. From the mid-60s, things were never t r his departing figure, a turbulent storm gathering momentum in her green eyes. irachs ’s sculptures for the cathedral have placed him at the centre of a storm.

21. Conclusions

- Idioms are phrases where the meaning is more than the sum of the parts.
- When a word is used metaphorically, its meaning is less than the meaning of the whole.
- Idioms are conventional phrases in which at least one term is used metaphorically.
- Idioms are norms – prototypical patterns – like single words.
- Conventionalized metaphors are also norms. Typically, they are distinguished from literal meanings by their syntagmatics.
- Metaphoricity is a gradable. Some metaphors are more metaphoric than others.
- Conventionalized metaphors, or idioms, are themselves norms and can be exploited.
- In addition to semantic criteria for identifying idioms and metaphors, prototypical syntagmatic criteria can also be identified.
- This task is not easy. It can be carried out effectively by systematic classification of observed uses as either norms or exploitations in a procedure known as corpus pattern analysis (CPA).
- Prototypicality is recursive. Exploitations of prototypical patterns become conventionalized as idioms or conventional metaphors, and are then themselves available as prototypes for exploitation.
- If we’re doing this right, CPA norms and Framenet’s semantic frames should ultimately be compatible, no doubt with some minor adjustments.