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### Daniela Bouneva Elza

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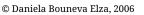
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# To Carry Across: Metaphor Invents Us

DANIELA BOUNEVA ELZA Simon Fraser University, Canada

> "Our daily speech continually fluctuates between the ideals of mathematical and imaginative harmony." Lev Vygotsky (1962)

"The real discovery is the one that will let philosophy resume thinking metaphorically when it needs to." Jan Zwicky (2003)

© Copyright 2006. The author, Daniela Bouneva Elza, assigns to Paideusis the right of first publication and educational and nonprofit institutions a non-exclusive license to use this document for personal use and in courses of instruction provided that the article is used in full and this copyright statement is reproduced. Any other usage is prohibited without the express permission of the author. "...philosophy either recognizes or invents the different categories of being in the world while metaphors feed on the violations of such categorical distinctions." Graver & Lee (1994)

### semantic anomaly

(this way ideas take fe	
November light on the Japanese maple falling in	inside: congeals I gave you the shape of
child leaves black earth.	hands hold onto
(this way a cognitive and the earth such deep (in-sight	synergy: sighs out of red
an offering century its a-priori wooden soldiers. tug-of-war	in a literal already tired of truths. plastic guns. questions.
even poppies this sorrow. (leaving me	do not seem to fit
words— turning in the pit	lumps in the throat of the stomach
and still surfacing (prayers	as pure beams of light
curled up	inside little fists.

"We feel *like* what we see *like*." Ricoeur (1978)

"Feeling is not contrary to thought. It is thought made ours." Ricoeur (1978)

> "The unity of a poem is the unity of a mood." Northrop Frye (Ricoeur, 1978)

## feeling is believing

Ricoeur tells us:

feeling is thought	made ours	
the sublimating effect of a body of words	inhabiting where	
we share icons textures	verbal of thought	
that could be muddled by	an afternoon rain	
or the way into itself.	a wing gathers	
Frye believes:		
the unity of a poem is	the unity of a mood	
already the mention in water	of an egret is a way of touching	
what cannot be a way of carrying	named across	
what resonates		
with the compelling voice of		
the image		

its clarity.

"Bachelard will ask not what is imagination? What is an image? He would ask, however, what is our comprehension of images?" Bachelard (1988)

> "Bachelard invites us to experience the essential mobility of concepts." Bachelard (1988)

"To know is to use a metaphor." M. Friquegnon

## a possible explanation (or of knowing

the front part ofa crow comes intothe picture:a grad.ual emergence

there are no trees here among an it.eration of meta pieces

the snowflake is. (un.spoken. this place could be as dry as sawdust

or as full as a savannah rain

to know is to use a metaphor.

weave a cocoon of (a possible explanation. to escape the fire of the half blade.

here

half a woman will serve you half a bread on half a scarf

the other half exists in a place

of (seeing as

where blades are another way of imagining ourselves bowing in a wind of steel.

in the slow fluidity of redefining only the numbers here are (whole

and when you turn

your head

after the crow	(you may see it
leaving	(with your one eye.

"Laughter is the sound of sudden knowledge."

"We get our authority from authenticity."

"The story itself pulls us because we are fascinated by the way time can unfold itself the end finally revealed as present in the beginning."

Weinberger (2002)

## small metaphors loosely joined

laughter is the sound of (sudden knowledge) a proximity (an intimacy) where walls are just we walk through (rain) and are absorbed in the poetic of language. the reader is grounded in what is built out of another's words. we get our authority from authenticity placed just so that we are (closer to the sound of our own knowing selves to our-(words mere vehicles) resonating the story itself pulls us through it's narrow streets cracked windows creaking stairways because we are fascinated by the way the buildings look with their green copper roofs time can unfold itself in front of the bakery the old sign the end finally revealed as Present in the Beginning the smell of the brick oven waking me up in my grandmother's house.

"The way we see fire tells more about ourselves than the external world" Bachelard (1988)

> "...nothing can be seen of the soul but it sees everything" Levchev (2006)

"Fire is more likely to smolder beneath the soul than beneath ashes." Bachelard (1988)

	•		
saying	IS	(seeing	as

the way upside down incomplete.	the eye sees something the way	
it is not in the picture will be complete	present but no picture without it.	
the way we see to believe. begins	what we have learned and the way (everything	
from a point in the distance. the soul is the eye		
nothing can be seen but it sees	of the soul everything	
the way	sometimes green	
is blue. what we have learn	the way we believe ed to see.	
the way the eye casts its fire	(the soul) on what it sees	
weightless that initial	without dimension	
point		
	. in the distance	
where convergence	is a (seeing as	
saying is)		

"In Nietzsche metaphor builds the bridge between morality and immorality." Parker (1982)

"Each new poetic world is not a pure invention, it is a possibility in nature." Bachelard (1988)

## bridging distances (or of metaphor

the fear of falling (i lack of bridges	s)	distances (over) old spaces	
that yawn (the need crumbling brick	1)	to be occupied. (marks on	
the peeled façade) words		of warehoused ruin (the witness of decay)	
the river sweeps aw	vay	distances	
(under bridges.)			
the fear of falling into rain		is turning us	
		and rain re-turns	
memory		to water.	
this twilight curled inside words	up	where	
(suddenly)			
distances become and clouds		es over old spaces hape our destinies	
to purposes dreaming of.	we do	not remember	
(the fear of falling) into	is turning us something else.		

"The kinds of phenomena and experience we address in our disparate fields are intrinsically extradisciplinary — they require diverse perspectives, a broad range of illuminating discourse." Nabhan (2004)

### cross pollination in translation

indigenous poetic knowledge and ecological scientific knowledge in between words Confusing (Butterflies with moths Ponds with nectar pods) Trash with washed organic detritus Peacocks (with macaws.) \*\*\* To translate night moths as butterflies is to obscure the meaning of the song. when things are held together by words an imprecision like that is a break in the woven web.

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#### About the Author

Daniela Bouneva Elza is a Ph. D. student in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. Having lived on three continents and crossed numerous geographic and cultural borders, Daniela is a semantic anomaly herself, a rogue scholar at heart. Her research interests are in creativity, imagination, bridging the theory-practice divide, alternative methods of inquiry, and more specifically in metaphor and how metaphor shapes our knowing. Currently she is working on two collections of poems. She can be reached at <u>daniela@livingcode.org</u>.