THE ARROWS OF LOVE

CULTURAL GENESIS

AND

CONCEPTUAL INTEGRATION
greek thesaurus
σοὶ δ´ ἔστι μὲν νοῦς λεπτός – ἀλλ´ ἐπίφθονος λόγος διελθεῖν, ὡς Ἐρως σ´ ἡνάγκασε τόξοις ἀφύκτοις τούμον ἐκσῴσαι δέμας.

You have a fine wit, but you are ashamed to admit that Eros forced you, with his inescapable arrows, to save my life.
Classical philology

Who invented it?
Spatafora’s addition

ἄφυκτον ὀμμα, “inescapable glance” (Aeschylus
Prometheus Bound 903)

+ ὀμματος θελκτήριον τόξευμα, “enchanting arrow from the eye” (Aeschylus Suppliants 1004-1005)

= τόξοις ἀφύκτοις, “inescapable arrows” (Medea 531, referred to Eros).
Pace’s earlier chronology

• Aphrodite, “lady of the most sharp arrows”
  (πότνια δ’ ὄξυτάτων βελέων)
  Pindar, Pythic IV, 213
  (462 b. C.)
Classics

• **G. Spatafora** (1995)
• **C. Pace** (2001)

Original invention by an individual or group and then influence or intertextuality. Documents: Euripides, Pindar, possibly Anacreon (?) vase paintings, etc.

PROBLEMS: We’ve got less than 3% of ancient Greek literature or art to trace influences. *Who* is not the right question.
Cognitive linguistics

What is the relation with everyday language?
Cognitive linguistics

• E. Sweetser (1995)
  Image metaphor for Eros’ penis. Analogy with Apollo’s arrows (=sunrays) and Artemis’ (=moon rays), and with English and modern Greek colloquial expressions.
  PROBLEMS: The arrows come centuries earlier than the association Apollo-Sun, Artemis-Moon. Aphrodite as archer. The meaning of the arrows is not phallic neither in Apollo nor in Eros.
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT’S BEST TO STICK WITH THE OLD FASHIONED WAYS
“Sometimes I think about buying a gun.”
CONCEPTUAL BLENDING THEORY
“No, no, no! It’s longer with a bigger blade!”
Human Death

Causal Terminology

Death

Reaper

Killer

Death: The Grim Reaper

Reaping/Killing/Causing Death

Plant/Victim/Person who dies

Blend: Death The Grim Reaper
archer causes being shot an arrow
shoots arrow at victim, receiver of arrow

Eros/Aphrodite (Love in general as archer)
shoot arrows/endear/cause love
victim-arrow receiver/lover/person who falls in love

Beloved causes love
enamors lover

specific cause and event of feeling love
by specific means person who falls in love

A causes a result R in B
causation-emission link
A causes a result R in B

E: vital event or experience (love, death, etc.)

Causal Tautology

personal agent x
causes X
acts upon passive subject of X

personal agent e
causes E
acts upon passive subject of E

E in general
causes E
by specific means person who experiences E

E the x
(E in general as x)
by means of action X causes E
in passive subject of X/E/person who experiences E
THE EMISSION SCHEMA

A emits X towards B, B receives X, B undergoes change.

Abstracted from everyday experiences such as throwing, pouring, light irradiation, etc.
INPUT 1
TYPICAL LOVE
CAUSATION SCENE
A person provokes love in another person

INPUT 2
EMISSION
SCHEMA
A emits X towards B, causing results R in the receiver

BLEND
A ‘beloved’ emits X towards a potential lover, causing love, R and maybe R’ (emergent results)

GENERIC
BASIC CAUSATION
SCHEMA
A causes C in B
LIGHT EMISSION AND GLANCE:
PINDAR’S ENCOMIUM OF THEOXENUS

tὰς δὲ Θεοξένου άκτινας πρὸς ὄσσων 
μαρμαροζόiswa δρακείς 
ὅς μὴ πόθω κυμαίνεται, ἐξ ἀδάμαντος 
ἡ σιδάρου κεχάλκευται μέλαινα καρδίαν 
ψυχρὰ φλογί… (Snell and Maehler 123: 2-6)

but he who, contemplating the glowing 
beams from Theoxenus’ eyes, 
is not shaken by waves of desire, on steel 
or iron has he had his black heart forged 
with a cold flame…
KILLING GESTURE AND THE DRILLING WATER DROP: A MEDIEVAL FOLK COUPLET

Στάλα τη στάλα το νερό τρουπάει το λιθάρι, κ’ η κόρη με τα νάζια της σφάζει το παλληκάρι.

Drop by drop the water drills the stone, and the girl with her mincing slaughters the lad.
GESTURE AS EMISSION OF EROTIC ODOUR: A SONG BY ODYSSEAS ELYTIS

Και στα σεντόνια μισοξαπλωμένο ένα κορίτσι – πώς το περιμένω!
Κάθε που το ’να γόνατο σηκώνει μια μυρωδιά κανέλας με λιγώνει

Leaning on the sheets
a girl – I was expecting her so much!
Everytime she lifts one of her knees
a scent of cinnamon makes me faint
**Generic Basic Causation Schema**

A causes C in B

**Input 1**

Love Causation

**Input 2**

Emission Schema

**Blend**

A deity emits X towards a potential lover, causing love for a 'beloved', along with a number of possible results (R and/or R')

**Blended Input 3**

Causal Tautology

+ Divine Sending

General cause causes event

Divine entity sends (usually down) event to humans
THE GOD AS EROTIC EMITTER: ANACREON’S BALL GAME

its purple ball again
throwing at me, golden haired Eros
invites me to play
with a girl wearing colorful sandals.
FURTHER EVIDENCE FOR THROWING AS EROTIC EMISSION: FRUITS

• Wedding ritual of throwing fruits to bride
• Atalanta’s myth
• Stesichorus’ description of Hellen’s wedding procession
• Athenian expression: “being hit by an apple”
• Eris’ apple thrown in the middle of the nuptial banquet of Thetis and Peleus
EMITTING LETHAL DISEASE: APOLLO AGAINST THE GREEKS AT TROY

Ὄς ἐφατ’ εὐχόμενος, τοῦ δ’ ἔκλυε Φοῖβος Ἄπολλων, βῆ δὲ κατ’ Οὐλύμπιοι καρήνων χωόμενος κήρ,
tόξ’ ὡμοισιν ἔχων ἀμφηρεφέα τε φαρέτρην·
ἐκλαγξαν δ’ ἄρ’ ὅιστοι ἐπ’ ὡμων χωμένοιο,
αὐτοῦ κινηθέντος· ὃ δ’ ἥιε νυκτὶ ἐοικὼς.
ἐξετ’ ἐπειτ’ ἀπάνευθε νεῶν, μετὰ δ’ ἴον ἔηκε·
δεινὴ δὲ κλαγη ἐγενετ’ ἀργυρέοιο βιοῖο·
οὐρῆας μὲν πρῶτον ἐπφύχετο καὶ κύνας ἄργους,
αὐτὰρ ἐπειτ’ αὐτοῖς βέλος ἐχετευκὲς ἐφιεῖς
βάλλ’· αἰεὶ δὲ πυραι νεκύων καίοντο θαμειαί.

(Homer, Iliad I, 43-52)
EMITTING LETHAL DISEASE: APOLLO AGAINST THE GREEKS AT TROY

So he spoke in prayer, and Phoibos Apollo heard him. Down he came from the peaks of Olympos with anger in his heart, the bow on his shoulders, and the enclosing quiver. The arrows clattered on the shoulders of Apollo in his anger, as the god himself rushed down: and his coming was like night. He settled then at a distance from the ships, and let fly an arrow: and there came a fearful twang from the silver bow. First he attacked the mules and the quick-running dogs: but then he sent his sharp arrows at the men themselves, and kept shooting them down. And constantly there burned, close-packed, the pyres of the dead.

(Translation by Martin Hammond)
Apollo and Gamab: the grim archers

• Gamab: Bergdama people, SW Africa.
• Apollo and Gamab: arrows of death, not disease. Death cannot be cured.
• Neither love.
Blend: Death The Grim Reaper
THE CULTURAL GENESIS OF THE ARROWS OF LOVE: MAIN INGREDIENTS

• Divine sendings in archaic Greek religion
• APOLLO THE ‘GRIM’ ARCHER blend
• Erotic emission blends
• Love-extreme illness connection
• The arrows of glance?

The arrows of love at this time are not a kind, playful game, but an aggression, often with fatal consequences: Medea.
THE FIRST EVIDENCE FOR THE ARROWS OF LOVE: APHRODITE

- Pindar’s epithet for Aphrodite: *lady of the most sharp arrows*. Pythian Ode IV, 213 (462 a.C.)
- Euripides’ *Medea* 627-633, 431 b.C.
  When love in excess comes, it brings neither a good name nor virtue to men: but if with measure the Cypriot comes, no deity can be so delightful. Do not shoot at me, my Lady, from your golden bow, the inescapable dart smeared with desire
THE FIRST EVIDENCE FOR THE ARROWS OF LOVE: EROS

- The Fort North lekythos (490-470 b.C.)
- Euripides’ Medea 529-531 (431 b. C.)
  You have a fine intelligence, but you hate to admit that Eros forced you, with his inescapable arrows, to save my life.
- Euripides’ Hippolytus 533-536 (428 b. C.)
  Neither the arrow of fire nor that of the stars is more intense than that of Aphrodite, the one that Eros, son of Zeus, shoots with his own hands.
Hypothesis

- The arrows of love were a process of conceptual integration carried out by the collective imagination of Greek popular religion, centuries 7-6 b. C.
- They emerged by importing Apollo’s arrows of death as an erotic emission and divine sending, also exploiting the connection love-extreme illness.
- Probably Aphrodite undertook the archer’s role first.
- Their success is due, besides historical factors, to the fact that they are a great blend: a very simple spatial story to explain a complex and diffuse causal process. The emission schema is grounded on everyday experience and offers many possibilities.
Running the simulation opportunistically: more emission means stronger effects (well, it should)
Running the simulation opportunistically: specific place wounded is more affected
MAYBE YOU SHOULD THINK OF A DIFFERENT CAREER...
So these two guys are sort of family, after all...