



## Figurative conceptualization of boredom in Persian

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### Abstract

This study explores how Persian speakers think and talk about BOREDOM. By examining linguistic expressions of BOREDOM extracted from the Dadegan Corpus and the Google Search engine, the study sheds some light on how and using which figurative devices the emotion of the concept of BOREDOM is understood in Persian. The analysis shows that the concept of BOREDOM is conceptualized in Persian through metaphor, metonymy, and the interaction between metaphor and metonymy, i.e., metaphonymy. Analyzing metaphoric expressions reveals that FIFTEEN DISTINCTIVE SOURCE CONCEPTS IN PERSIAN CHARACTERIZE BOREDOM. Among these, the conceptualization of BOREDOM as DEATH, INSANITY, ILLNESS, and a CONTAINER are the four most frequent metaphors in the data. A close analysis of metonymic expressions indicates that metonymic conceptualizations of BOREDOM in Persian are specific elaborations of two common metonymic principles: THE PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF AN EMOTION STAND FOR THE EMOTION, and THE BEHAVIORAL REACTIONS OF AN EMOTION STAND FOR THE EMOTION. More importantly, the findings suggest that not only realistic physiological effects and behavioral reactions but also metaphorical physiological effects and behavioral reactions of BOREDOM can stand for the emotion, i.e., BOREDOM, in Persian. Those conceptualizations of BOREDOM, special cases of metaphorical physiological effects/behavioral reactions, provide a clear example of the interaction between metaphor and metonymy, i.e., metaphonymy.

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