Toward a More Textual, as Opposed to Conceptual, Approach to Metaphor Research
A Case Study of How to Cook a Husband

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How to Cook a Husband/Chicken (as Ingredient)

[General Remarks]
A good many husbands/chickens are utterly spoiled by mismanagement in cooking and so are not tender and good. Some women keep them constantly in hot water; others let them freeze by their carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew with irritating words and manners. Some wives keep them pickled, while others waste them shamefully.

It cannot be supposed that any husband/chicken will be tender and good when so managed, but they are really delicious when prepared properly.

[On Selection]
In selecting a husband/chicken, you should not be guided by the silvery appearance as in buying a mackerel; nor by the golden tint as if you wanted salmon. Do not go to the market for him/it as the best ones are always brought to the door.

Be sure to select him/it yourself as tastes differ. It is far better to have none unless you will patiently learn how to cook him/it.

[On Preparation]
If he/it sputters, do not be anxious, for some husbands/chickens do this until they are quite done. Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call kisses/magic powder; use no pepper or vinegar on any account.

[On Finishing Preparation and Preserving]
You cannot fail to know when he/it is done. If so treated, you will find him/it very digestible, agreeing with you perfectly; and he/it will keep as long as you choose unless you become careless and allow home fires/refrigerators to grow cold/too warm. Thus prepared, he/it will serve a life-long time of happiness/pleasure.

[On Serving]
Season to taste with spices, good humor/wine and gaiety/sauce preferred, but seasoning must always be used with great discretion and caution. Avoid sharpness in testing him/it for tenderness. Stir him/it gently.

“describes” relations identifies the correspondences between some kinds of (recipe) texts and the situational conceptualizations understood through superlexical patterns in them.

Research Question
Observe the lexical difference between a pseudo-recipe (for cooking a husband) for metaphor and a real recipe (for cooking a chicken). Other lexical materials are the same. This suggests (1) and poses the question in (2):

1) Metaphorical interpretation can be prepared/encoded through subtle lexical decisions/choices.
2) What is the mechanism for metaphor identification/recognition?

The Whole Story (with Hope)
If we can successfully identify what pieces of text, or collocational/superlexical patterns, evoke situational conceptualizations --- equated with reasonably fine-grained “semantic frames” in terms of FrameNet (Fillmore et al. 2003---), then we can answer the question (2) above.

To avoid circularity, the association of situational meaning and lexical/syntactic patterns needs to be specified independently. In our work, this is achieved with (Parallel, Distributed) Pattern Matching Analysis (PMA: Kuroda 2000) and Multidimensional Semantic Frame Analysis (MSFA: Kuroda, et al. 2006).