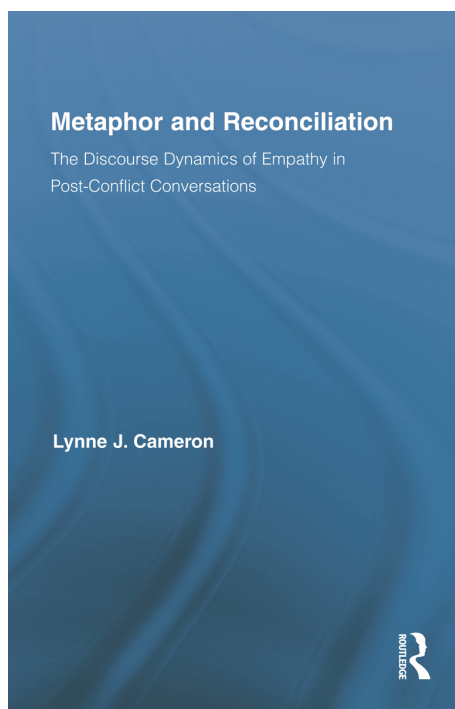


Metaphor and Reconciliation

The Discourse Dynamics of Empathy in Post-Conflict Conversations

Lynne J. Cameron, Open University



Sixteen years after her father was killed by an IRA bomb, Jo Berry had her first conversation with the man responsible. She had made a long journey, “walking the footsteps of the bombers” as she put it, determined not to give in to anger and revenge but to try to understand his motivations and perspective. Her preparedness to meet Pat Magee opened up a path to empathy that developed through their conversations over the following years. This book studies their growing understandings of each other by focusing on the rich networks of metaphors that appear in their conversations, and how these evolve in the process of reconciliation. The innovative research method, reported in a rigorous but accessible style, together with the rich and often poignant data, make this book a valuable addition to the study of metaphor and discourse. In uncovering the development of empathy between these two extraordinary people, Cameron illuminates the moral necessity, and the potential rewards, in trying to imagine the world and mind of the Other. Implications are drawn for how mediators in reconciliation contexts might make positive use of metaphor in supporting the dynamics of empathy.

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Lynne J. Cameron is Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Open University, UK, and Research Fellow in the Global Uncertainties program of the UK Economic and Social Research Council. Publications include *Researching and Applying Metaphor* (with Graham Low, 1999), *Metaphor in Educational Discourse* (2003), *Metaphor Analysis: A guide to research practice* (with Robert Maslen, 2010).

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