

**METAFORE ATMOSFERICHE INDICANTI LA (GRANDE)  
QUANTITÀ: DAL DILUVIO DI PAROLE ALLA TEMPESTA DI GUAI**

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**Abstract:** *The paper puts forward the analysis of the transition from the literal to the figurative meaning of the lexemes belonging to the lexical field of Natural Phenomena. It examines nouns that denote rainfall, winds, natural disasters and their corresponding verbs, adjectival or adverbial phrases. Transferred to the metaphorical field, these lexemes acquire meanings such as '(large) amount of x', 'large number of y' or similar meanings such as 'often', 'dense', etc. The transition from the literal meaning to these figurative meanings is analysed as a transfer of lexemes from the issuing field to the recipient field. The analysis is based on a corpus of more than one hundred examples extracted, for the most part, from dictionaries and is done along two axes: on the vertical axis we have noticed relations of hypo-/hyperonymy that lead to the formation of microfields consisting of lexemes with the same core meaning; on the horizontal axis, the barriers between these fields are removed, which leads to the creation of synonymy relations between the lexemes belonging to the metaphorical field.*

**Keywords:** *semantic field; metaphorical field; issuing field; recipient field; literal meaning; figurative meaning*