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On metaphors, models and mathematics.

Bazzini, L. et al., Proceedings of the second Italian-German bilateral symposium on didactics of Mathematics. ,. 175-187 (1994).

The concept of metaphor is generally subsumed to the domain of literature, of poetry and rhetoric. Models, as opposed to that, are rather more spoken of in the field of technology and science, and in recent times increasingly also in mathematics. Deeper relationships between metaphors and models would seem to be nonexistent. Besides, a metaphoric mode of expression would seem to have no legitimate place in mathematics if considered in the light of the efforts of logico-conceptual precision in that field. The following considerations are intended to tentatively refute such beliefs and to show that a more precise elaboration of actually existing profound interrelationships between these two are of considerable importance both for epistemology and for didactics. We shall begin by briefly tracing some of the historical lines of development in the understanding of the term of "metaphor". (From the introduction). (orig.)

Classification: E20