



BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



Synecdoche: What It Is and Examples

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Long time no see!

After a nearly two-month hiatus, I am happy to report that Borderless Defined is back.

I look forward to discussing relevant and timely language-related topics again!

A few weeks ago, I encountered the word "synecdoche" (提喩、シネクドキ) in an article for the first time. Its definition seems to have evolved over time and its distinction from metonymy appears often blurred, but here are a few definitions to help us understand the concept better.

Synecdoche

[Merriam-Webster](#): a figure of speech referring to when a part of something is used to refer to the whole, such as in the phrase "all hands on deck," where "hands" are people.

[Cambridge Dictionary](#): a word or phrase in which a part of something is used to refer to the whole of it, for example "a pair of hands" for "a worker," or the whole of something is used to refer to a part, for example "the law" for "a police officer"

[Longman](#): the practice of using the name of a part of something to refer to the whole thing, or using the name of a whole thing to refer to part of it. An example of synecdoche is saying "There are some new faces in the team" rather than "There are some new people in the team".

[Oxford Dictionary of English](#): a figure of speech in which a part is made to represent the whole or vice versa, as in *England lost by six wickets* (meaning 'the English cricket team'). (I found this entry in my XD-SR20000 electronic dictionary.)

Here are some other examples of synecdoche:

(Part) (Whole)

Wheels vs. Car

Sails vs. Ships

Threads vs. Clothing

Bread vs. Food

Boots vs. Soldier

お茶 vs. 飲み物

ご飯 vs. 食事

While synecdoche relies on the part-whole relationship of words, [metonymy](#) can be described as a technique of substituting an entity with another that is closely associated with it. (As such, synecdoche is commonly considered a type of metonymy.)

For example, [Merriam-Webster](#) explains "the use of *press* to mean 'journalists'" as an example of metonymy based on what is referred to as the "relationship of adjacency" between the two concepts.

The next Borderless Defined will be in your inbox in the week of August 9th!

Take care,

Noriko Rogers

Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

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