

# Women, Fire and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal About the Mind

*George Lakoff*

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*What Categories Reveal  
about the Mind*

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#118023 in Books 1990 1990-04-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 1.60 x 6.50 | 2.08 #File Name: 0226468046632 pages | File size: 59.Mb

**George Lakoff : Women, Fire and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal About the Mind** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Women, Fire and Dangerous Things: What Categories Reveal About the Mind:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A valuable work illustrating the link between modern neuroscience and linguistics by a pioneer in the field  
By Aquagem  
From one useful perspective, the human (mammalian) brain is generator of classifications, creating (realizing) neural connections between associated items encountered in the world. "Women, fire, and dangerous things," for example, represent a cluster of related objects in the experience of one

culture. Our own (western) associations are metaphorical representations of the way our own brains are "programmed" through experience and education, and trend, not surprisingly, toward the rational and scientific, with a deep underlayment of ideas and understandings that are the legacy of ages. The book is useful in bringing to consciousness much of the linguistic/conceptual baggage we carry unconsciously from the past, and which we need to re-evaluate in a very different present. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer VERY dense read but its interesting 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting thought process, unconvincing results By Daniel Barnett Considering how influential Lakoff is and how much technical data he amasses, I ultimately found his conclusions unsupported. His work on metaphor seems much more central to me than this work on categories. If he presented with a bit more tentativeness I think i would have found then results more credible.

"Its publication should be a major event for cognitive linguistics and should pose a major challenge for cognitive science. In addition, it should have repercussions in a variety of disciplines, ranging from anthropology and psychology to epistemology and the philosophy of science. . . . Lakoff asks: What do categories of language and thought reveal about the human mind? Offering both general theory and minute details, Lakoff shows that categories reveal a great deal." David E. Leary, American Scientist

From Library Journal Lakoff reviews a wide range of studies in "cognitive semantics," a new field that attempts to understand mind through empirical studies of the way people categorize. He provides several detailed conceptual "case studies," which aptly bring out the richness of the English language, and Whorfian-type examinations of the way different cultures view the world as exemplified in their language (the book's title derives from a classification in Dyirbal, an aboriginal language of Australia). Though this new "science" is supposed to yield insights more accurate and useful than traditional (i.e., "non-empirical") philosophy, the approach to philosophy here is superficial. For academic linguistics collections. Leon H. Brody, U.S. Office of Personnel Management Lib., Washington, D.C. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover This book presents some of the most stimulating ideas on mind and meaning I have ever read. It is a book that has far-reaching consequences and is sure to rattle the foundations of thinking and research in the cognitive sciences. About the Author George Lakoff is Distinguished Professor of Cognitive Science and Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books.