# Lexical Pragmatics; A Corpus-analytic investigation

# Angel

1146 lines in the whole corpus

In the first **150** occurrences of 'angel' (coming from all sub-corpora), the term is used most frequently as a **term of address** (Hi, angel!)

Only the instances I have included in the tables are relevant to our search.

## **Hypothesis**

Metaphorical uses of 'angel' are quite flexible and context-dependent, suggesting a degree of fine-tuning on each occasion of use.

# **Corpus used**

The Bank of English

# Method

Concordance lines independently of collocation

# Comments

#### **Comment A**

In each context the metaphorical use of 'angel' brings different properties into focus. The context induces fine-tunings that result in distinct ad hoc concepts ANGEL\* e.g. compare:

1.'Top mum an angel to under-privileged A WOMAN who mortgaged her home to set up one of Brisbane's church-run aged-care homes'

## to

2.' Pictures: JAMES ROBERTSON pic Glamour Pussy Who's this angel? Her name's Glamour Pussy, and she's off to storm the Pearly Gates with a glass of Baileys and ice pic Quartet Ice hot!'

In (1), 'angel' is used metaphorically to communicate a concept ANGEL\* (COMPASSIONATE AND CARING TO OTHERS), while in (2) 'angel' is used metaphorically in a kinaesthetic sense ANGEL\*\* (OF DIVINE BEAUTY).

Fine tunings also occur within the same broader discourse context. In the following examples the context is the same (a child referred to as 'angel') but the ad hoc concepts created are quite different:

3. '...was therapy today?" asks her dad. The neurotic little angel's response could have been lifted from a Woody Allen...'

4. 'The parents were astounded that they hadn't noticed anything they did not suspect their angel could be caught up in this insidious evil.'

In (3) metaphorical use of angel is combined with irony. 'angel' -contrasting with 'neurotic'- is used to echo dissociatively a metaphorical ad hoc concept ANGEL\* along the lines of WELL-BEHAVED EASYGOING child.

In (4), though, the context brings into focus a moral dimension of 'angel'. Here the communicated concept ANGEL\* is along the lines of PURE AND INNOCENT child.

A question is whether we want to say that an element of hyperbole should always be present in such metaphorical uses of 'angel' since they implicate a divine/ over-human degree of possessing the property in question. (According to Sperber & Wilson, 2006, there is.)

# Comment B

In the first 150 lines of 'angel' in the corpus there are many uses of the word 'angel' for commercial purposes. These I found extremely interesting; it is really interesting to try and identify what sort of implicatures the 'speaker' intends to evoke in each case and to what aspects of 'angelhood' they make appeal. Our sample involves diverse commercial uses from *track names:* 

5. Their contributions to tracks such as Sleeping With an Angel and If You Should Ever Be Lonely (Deep in the Night)...

through slogans for charity purposes:

6. to research in that way. The slogan we use is Be an angel, buy an angel'." Carmel wraps all the presents in

through names for nursing services:

7. number and went down the road and got a job as a Little Angel Caring Hand temp nurse and worked in an old people's

through names for perfumes, makeup products, etc:

8. Terry Mugler's Angel A truly groundbreaking and more-ish aroma...

9. ...ANGEL EYES Long, thick black lashes are instantly...

10. ...ANGEL'S KISS Fizzy, tangy orange juice tasting lip...

and finally names of operas, films, novels etc:

11. a live broadcast of Prokofiev's opera The Fiery Angel...

12. ... many films, like The Dark Angel starring Peter O'Toole

13. ... The Eye of the Everlasting Angel By Noel Virtue Peter Owen £ 14.

Finally, in many cases 'angel' refers to Christmas ornaments, sculptures, painted angelic figure,s etc. In these cases I treat the concept as used literally (no?) and simply understood as referring to a REPRESENATION OF ANGEL. In the following example for instance:

14. Transform your child into a fairy or angel in time for Christmas. To make the skirt, you will need...

What the speaker says feels very literal because he is using 'angel' in the representational sense I mentioned above. Imagine, for instance, encountering this utterance in a folk psychology textbook with tips for parents with difficult children: 'Transform your child into an angel'. This would be clearly metaphorical.

# Search

Search by 'angel'

Orthographic Conventions

L = LITERAL USE	N = NARROWING	A= APROXIMATION	/ = and in parallel
H = HYPERBOLE	MR = METAPHOR	@=NOT APPLICABLE	MET/MY=METONYMY

1-50 of 1146 lines of 'angel'

was therapy today?" asks her dad. The neurotic little angel's response could have been lifted from a Woody Allen	irony
as always) in my sorrow about the disappearance of this angel. But the world's a funny place. It's just	???
embles a screwdriver there are always lumps that never melt down.  I could go on about cockroaches up the tubes, but I won't, because it all gets too yucky.  It seems that I'm on my own (as always) in my sorrow about the disappearance of this >>>> angel. <<<<< <p> But the world's a funny place.  It's just possible that as we sup our lumpy brews in our polycrumble cups, a secret laboratory in some university has found enough genetic DNA to recreate the lost wonder of the workplace and that before long,</p>	
Dennis Becker, and Stuart Margolin as Jack-of-all-trades Angel It's really funny," Garner says, `I'm doing the same	@ proper name?
ow, after years of offers, he's returning to Rockford. The TV movies will bring back nearly all the staples of the popular series: the trailer, the Firebird, Joe Santos as the eternally upon Dennis Becker, and Stuart Margolin as Jack-of- all-trades >>>> Angel <<<<< It's really funny," Garner says, `I'm doing the same things I did almost 40 years ago. Maverick and Rockford in the same year!"  He chuckles.  I just can't get ahead in this world." Then he yawns.  I'm sorry if I yawn in your ear," he	
the awkward truth that the ability to write like an angel eludes the politically correct net. Interesting	simile
himself, Eric Liu (Chinese American).  Virtually all the writers expound on their generation from the viewpoint of these categories, and while the result is	

informative the reader cannot escape the awkward truth that the ability to write like an >>>> angel <<<< eludes the politically correct net. <p>Interesting though it is to read Lisa Palac's account of how pornography helped liberate her Polish Catholic sexuality one is not arrested in one's tracks as happens when Elizabeth Wurtzel delicately translates</p>	
level'. FIRST PERSON Every mother needs an angel By Anne Jackson L AST week a lettuce saved me from	? protector?
into a touch-finder under the watchful eye of Jason Little at Ballymore yesterday.  Lynagh broke his own Test record by compiling 28 points. Picture: GEOFF mclachlan BOB DWYER at a higher level'. <h> FIRST PERSON </h> Every mother needs an >>>> angel <<<< By Anne Jackson L AST week a lettuce saved me from divorce.  The saga began w hen I opened my bedside table drawer to find an empty spot where my new engagement ring should have been.  My housekeeping skills are not infallible, so I didn't panic	
and in 230 other cities in 40 countries. Top mum an angel to under-privileged A WOMAN who mortgaged her home to	MR/H
A new trend was the number of HIV/AIDS sufferers now moving interstate to Queensland, he said.  Candlelight vigils will be staged in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns this evening, and in 230 other cities in 40 countries. Top mum an >>>> angel <<<<< to under-privileged A WOMAN who mortgaged her home to set up one of Brisbane's church-run aged-care homes was last night named Mother of the Year.  Beryl Wiltshire, 74, of New Farm, mother of prominent Queensland academic and author Professor Ken millionaire businessman Dick Smith was the `guardian angel" who came to the rescue last year when Gallaher's Essge	
they hadn't noticed anything they did not suspect their angel could be caught up in this insidious evil. The	MR
even brought him back his own `bong" from Malaysia, and the schoolboy kept it hidden on the roof of the laundry at home when he wasn't taking it to school. The parents were astounded that they hadn't noticed anything they did not suspect their >>>> angel <<<< could be caught up in this insidious evil.  The account did not cause Drug Arm chief Dennis Young to raise an eyebrow.  He'd heard it all before in his 20 years as a Queensland cop, or his brief term as a Liberal MP, or more recently in his	
call her the `g oddess of song" because she sings like an angel, and Sunshine Coast opera lovers will have the	simile
Their contributions to tracks such as Sleeping With an Angel and If You Should Ever Be Lonely (Deep in the Night)	
was the love audiences bewitched by his pixie face, his angel voice, and the poetry of his dancing, which he	Kinaesthetic metaphor
by a statue featuring a rather familiar looking golden angel. Bono, the singer from the band U2, draped himself	L rep
Traffic passes by and no one takes the slightest notice.  The road by the Tiergarten is dominated by a statue featuring a rather familiar looking golden >>>> angel. <<<< <p> Bono, the singer from the band U2, draped himself around it and surveyed Berlin in the clip of Faraway, So Close.  The statue though, was built in 1872 to commemorate a German victory over France and so it faces, rather spitefully in its</p>	

or newcomer Michael Rymer's tortured love story, Angel Baby, about the relationship between two schizophrenics	
acklustre year for Australian film, major winners at awards are expected to be come from either Hotel Sorrento, Richard Franklin's screen adaptation of Hannie Rayson's play, which has 10 nominations, or newcomer Michael Rymer's tortured love story, >>>> Angel <<<< Baby, about the relationship between two schizophrenics which has seven. Hotel Sorrento has screened in Brisbane and Angel Baby is currently showing. That Eye The Sky, directed by John Ruane from Tim Whitton's novel, has nine nominations.	
moulds CREATE homemade Christmas gifts with a set of angel moulds and cutters dollar; 1.95 each from Myer.	L rep
children's names on them in the United States. The angel on the top of the tree is the last thing to go on and	L rep
You can manipulate the branches so you can fill it with decorations."  Her favourite decorations are angels, bows and bells.  I bought two hand- painted teddy bears with the children's names on them in the United States. The >>>> angel <<<< on the top of the tree is the last thing to go on and is special to me because she looks so happy.	
to research in that way. The slogan we use is Be an angel, buy an angel'." Carmel wraps all the presents in	MR/H
in that way. The slogan we use is Be an angel, buy an angel'." Carmel wraps all the presents in the same colour	63
animated decorations. One example is the `fluttering angel" for \$ 69, which glides up and down a pole	L rep
up and down a pole hidden in the tree. The fluttering angel is a long sleigh ride from Steven Clegg's elegant	L rep
Pictures: JAMES ROBERTSON pic Glamour Pussy Who's this angel? Her name's Glamour Pussy, and she's off to storm	Kinaesthetic metaphor
The old airport has finally found its niche: it was so lit up last night, the new model across the tarmac looked positively dull. What a razz! KEN LORD Pictures: JAMES ROBERTSON pic Glamour Pussy Who's this >>>> angel? <<<< <p>Her name's Glamour Pussy, and she's off to storm the Pearly Gates with a glass of Baileys and ice pic Quartet Ice hot! Donny Gambaro, Ailson Herbert Selene Wallace and Johnny Gambaro at the White Ball pic Helen Feathers, fluff and wowee!</p>	
Probably the most magical and yet disturbing story is Angel Thing by Peter ina Smith, in which a strange, crippled	Literal?
Frahm both do chilling things with the notions of female obsession when neglected or spurned by their `other", and create some poetic imagery and emotional intensity which lingers and grows.  Probably the most magical and yet disturbing story is >>>> Angel <<<<< Thing by Peter ina Smith, in which a strange, crippled thing is left in the care of a pair of women who are in turn at the mercy their men. <p> The cripple is sadly scarred, and is in fact an angel the poignancy of this story stays with you long</p>	'The cripple is sadly scarred, <u>and is in fact an</u> <u>angel'</u> does he mean real angel?
men. The cripple is sadly scarred, and is in fact an angel the poignancy of this story stays with you long after.	"
money I work as a cleaner." Lovejoy works for Dial An Angel because of the flexible hours. I'd much rather	??? what is this 'Dial An

If a customer was rude to me I'd be rude right back," Lovejoy confides. It's not that I think I'm too good to be a waitress because for extra money I work as a cleaner."  Lovejoy works for Dial An >>>> Angel <<<< because of the flexible hours.  I'd much rather clean houses than wait tables.  I just put on some music and I dance around in my own world. ve even been inspired to write songs while I'm working about being a cleaning lady and no.  John	Angel thing'? Some hotline maybe?
number and went down the road and got a job as a Little Angel Caring Hand temp nurse and worked in an old people's	MR
and books. Supplied with a black ink pad if required, the angel stamp can be personalised with up to 3 lines of 14	?
the SS, and who was transformed by the war into an <u>angel of mercy</u> . An unforgettable tale, all the more This Booker Prize-winning novel re-creates the story of Oskar Schindler, an Aryan who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland, who continually defied and outwitted the SS, and who was transformed by the war into an >>>> angel <<<<< of mercy. An unforgettable tale, all the more extraordinary for being true. Exclusive Edition OFFER PRICE £ 25p	idiom
shot which really does create the illusion of an angel in flight, Wim Wenders' new film, his long-awaited	Kinaesthetic metaphor
Friday 9 September to Thursday 15 September 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30 Wim Wenders'  FAR AWAY SO CLOSE  With a magnificent opening sequence, a beautiful, soaring helicopter shot which really does create the illusion of an >>>> angel <<<< in flight, Wim Wenders' new film, his long-awaited companion-piece to Wings of Desire, revisits a now united Berlin, a city vastly changed and looking for a new identity but finding in the eyes of the returning angels (Bruno Ganz and Otto Sander) only	
increasingly despondent at being a mere observer, an angel, Cassiel, joins the human race, but is closely watched	L

# 101-150 of 1146 lines of 'angel'

a live broadcast of Prokofiev's opera The Fiery Angel from Leningrad and two programmes about the arts and	
purse and a make-up mirror. photos with captions Angel harmonies Terry Mugler's Angel A truly	Kinaesthetic metaphor
with captions Angel harmonies Terry Mugler's Angel A truly groundbreaking and more-ish aroma: Mugler	63
to embody his avant-garde designs. A new oriental, Angel has an appetising fruit-and-honey heart and an	63
that comes in a twinkling, hand-polished glass star than Angel? Mugler designed the flask himself, drawing inspiration	63
far too much time alone in the house these days but the angel appears not to mind at all. It's rather difficult not	MR/ H
Luke really enjoyed Arash's card.  How much do I owe you?  I must rush off now and rescue poor Luke who spends far too much time alone in the house these days but the >>>> angel <<<<< appears not to mind at all. It's rather difficult not to misuse such a l;aid back easy going fella. Today they had their jag but of course he wasn't bothered about that either. The Dr says he thinks its a nonsense as if they aren't still immune from	
are (greatest first list of ingredients ANGEL EYES Long, thick black lashes are instantly	Kinaesthetic metaphor

are (greatest first list of ingredients ANGEL'S KISS Fizzy, tangy orange juice tasting lip	Kinaesthetic metaphor
resurrection the need for blood. Pursued by the evil Angel he must choose between the pleasures of addiction to	L
St John in the New Testament. These tell the story of the angel Lucifer and his gang of angels being thrown out of	L
of his past; a baby alligator is found in a shoe box, an angel perches on the branches of a tree This sort of	L
When he is called in to solve a murder, he is haunted by mysterious reminders of his past; a baby alligator is found in a shoe box, an >>>> angel <<<< perches on the branches of a tree <p> This sort of thing could become unbearably whimsical, but Hoffman draws her readers so artfully into her dream world, writing with such clarity and soft sensuality, that somehow</p>	
you believe everything she says.	
these towers, merrily cradling crania in their laps. The angel's pink skin is the only reference to flesh in the bone	L rep
each skull's mouth is a thighbone, prompting the observation that the Latin word os (from which ossuary clearly is taken) is the same for both mouth and bone.  Plump angels perch on top of these towers, merrily cradling crania in their laps. The >>>> angel's <<<<< pink skin is the only reference to flesh in the bone house, and it makes them stick out like overdressed guests	
at a party. A sofa, side chairs, and a table beneath the elegant chandelier are	
all that's missing to complete the ambience. of in South Ken on a Thursday night, to feast instead on angel food cake, caprice des dieux (that's cheese) and los	?
such as On the Up, and many films, like The Dark Angel starring Peter O'Toole. Currently, he is working on a	
bookout The Eye of the Everlasting Angel By Noel Virtue Peter Owen £ 14.	
party. Above the action is the ethereal presence of Angel sitting aside Toby's memory of his Gran. Stranger	L
the book includes an odd assortment of somewhat mythical characters: scheming archetypes, noble vagrants and an enigmatic agent, Antony, who	
takes the unwitting Toby to his first transvestite party. Above the action is the ethereal presence of >>>> Angel <<<<< sitting aside Toby's memory of	
his Gran. Stranger indeed, but this is a novel of substance, charm and distinction, nonetheless.	
in chalk. Highlights include a drawing of the head of an angel for the Vision of St. Bernard and a life portrait of	L
in faux marble and trompe-l'oeil draperies. A Tiepolesque angel soared dizzingly over our heads into the bluest painted	L rep
and a smattering of affluent looking tourists who might have wandered over from nearby Blakes. We settled into our neo-classical chairs and admired the Pompeian walls, expertly befrescoed in faux marble and trompe-l'oeil draperies. A Tiepolesque >>>> angel <<<< soared dizzingly over our heads into the bluest painted sky in sw5.  The menu flirts with the unusual and so did we.	
princess 1 Transform your child into a fairy or angel in time for Christmas. To make the skirt, you will need	?* Imagine encountering this utterance in a folk psychology textbook with

tips for
parents with
difficult
children:
'Transform
your child
into an angel'