More Exercises on Semantic Change
complete the pages and bring to section

Transfer of Meaning in
Metaphor, Synecdoche, Metonymy, and Synesthesia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF CHANGE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>STANDS IN FOR</th>
<th>DIRECTION OF CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>the foot of a mountain</td>
<td>The lowest part of the mountain, analogous to the lowest extremity of an animal.</td>
<td>A name, idea or phrase is transferred to something different from but analogous to that to which it is literally applicable: “Life is a journey”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synecdoche</td>
<td>all hands on deck</td>
<td>sailors ship</td>
<td>A part is used for the whole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>crown</td>
<td>king</td>
<td>A property of or something associated with a thing (but is not a part of it) that is used to denote the thing itself. The association is by contiguity rather than by similarity (vs. metaphor).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synaesthesia</td>
<td>I sing the blues</td>
<td>melancholy music</td>
<td>Meaning is transferred from one sensory faculty to another</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look up each word below in the OED, and, by referring to the table above, fill in the kind of change it has undergone over the years.

______ harsh: now “discordant in sound,” from “rough to the touch”
______ dish: now “the food served in a dish”
______ crane: now “a machine for lifting heavy objects,” from “a bird with a long neck and bill”
______ board: now “daily meals,” (“room and board”) from “table”
______ plastic: now “credit card”
______ heavy: now “abstract, difficult to understand”
______ bar: now “the legal profession,” from “barrier in the Inns of Court which separated students from senior members”
______ cork: now “stopper,” from “bark of an oak tree”
______ high: now “shrill, sharply pitched,” from “extending upwards in space”
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_______ fret: now “worry, be distressed,” from “eat, gnaw”
_______ the press: now “the news media”, from “printing press”
_______ the White House: now “the President of the United States and his administration”
_______ the deep: now “the ocean”
_______ clear: now “intelligible”

Also: Find “Blind mouths!” in John Milton’s Lycidas and examine it in context. (You can google it.) How does it combine more than one of the figurative uses above?

Other Kinds of Semantic Change: Subjective and Objective Meanings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF CHANGE</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>OLD DEFINITION</th>
<th>DIRECTION OF CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subjective</td>
<td>fear: “terror”</td>
<td>once “danger”</td>
<td>Transfer to describe the person who experiences fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>pitiful: “deserving of pity”</td>
<td>once “full of pity”</td>
<td>Transfer to describe the object that causes pity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Identify the kind of change in each of these words: S or O

___ angry: now “wrathful, raging,” once “troublesome, causing sorrow”
___ anxious: now “feeling anxiety about something,” once “causing anxiety in someone”
___ hateful: now “filled with hate,” once “inspiring hate”
___ joyous: now “causing joy, delightful,” once “experiencing joy”
___ knowledgeable: now “possessing knowledge,” once “capable of being known”
___ excitement: now “the state of being excited,” once “something that causes activity or feeling”

Extra Credit:

Provide one example of back-formation and one example of a calque