

CONCEPT AS THE BASIC TERM OF THE COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

The given article discusses concept and conceptualization as the main task in cognitive linguistics. The author shows some features of the concept and shows its peculiarities. Lexical meanings are closely related to concepts. The author states that concepts that have only subjective and occasional nominations without the name of concept and supports his idea with examples.

Keywords: linguistics, understanding, concept, cognitive analysis.

АННОТАЦИЯ

В данной статье рассматриваются концепт и концептуализация как основная задача когнитивной лингвистики. Автор показывает некоторые черты концепта и показывает его особенности. Лексические значения тесно связаны с понятиями. Автор констатирует, что концепты имеют только субъективные и окказиональные номинации без названия концепта и подкрепляет свою мысль примерами.

Ключевые слова: лингвистика, понятие, концепт, когнитивный анализ.

INTRODUCTION

Conceptualization is the process of the creation and construction of concept in the human recognition. It is also the process of thought concerning the new information that causes the creation of concept. The cognitive activity of the human is the skill to orient in the world. This activity also combines the need to distinguish objects. So concepts appear in order to provide this operation. The formation of concepts is based on the recognition of the world and formation of the images about it. The study of concept is the main task of the cognitive linguistics. Every attempt to realize the nature of concept causes the realization of the fact of presence of closely-related concepts and terms. Concept is the intellectual category that may not be recognized visually. This fact causes the presence of the wide area for the interpretation of concept. Every language mark represents concept in the language, but it does not represent concept in a whole. With the assistance of its meaning the language mark represents several conceptual features that are relevant for the transmission of the information. If we need to express concept in a whole, it is necessary to apply different linguistic means and the whole nominative field of

concept. So both concept and its compounds may be verbalized and non-verbalized. It is difficult to define concepts that are non-verbalized.

The native speaker is the origin of widening of some conceptual systems. Concepts are the essence of the mental reality. Every concept combines knowledge about the world and unreal imaginations. The system of concepts creates the world picture that reflects the human comprehension of the reality and its peculiar conceptual picture. The human understands the world on the base of the mentioned conceptual picture. The word is the main mean of the access to the conceptual knowledge. Due to the mentioned access we have an ability to add other conceptual features to the intellectual activity even in case if these features are not named by this word. The linguistic nomination is the key mean for the use of concept in the intellectual activity. The word brings concept into our recognition, makes it active and causes the process of thought.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Lexical meanings are closely related to concepts. They are sometimes identified with concepts. But concept is a purely logical category, whereas meaning is a linguistic one. In linguistics it is necessary to view meaning as the representation of a concept through one of its properties. Concept, as is known, is versatile; it is characterized by a number of properties. Meaning takes one of these properties and makes it represent the concept as a whole. Therefore, meaning in reference to concept becomes, as it were, a kind of metonymy. This statement is significant inasmuch as it will further explain the stylistic function of certain meanings. The same concept can be represented in a number of linguistic manifestations (meanings) but, paradoxal though it may sound, each manifestation causes a slight (and sometimes considerable) modification of the concept, in other words, discloses latent or unknown properties of the concept.

Besides concept are the idea that combines the abstract, concrete-associative and emotional-estimate features and history of the conception. *Concept* is the personal interpretation of the objective meaning and conception as the minimum of the meaning. Concept is also the abstract scientific conception expressed by its forms of the meaning. These forms are: image, conception and symbol.

Concepts may be classified according to the type of knowledge and reflection of reality because these types are the foundation of the method of the assignment and description of concept.

The most wide-spread features of concept are following:

- 1) concept is the minimum unit of the human experience in the ideal imagination that is verbalized with the assistance of the word;
- 2) concept is characterized by the field structure;
- 3) concept is the main unit of processing, keeping and transmission of knowledge;
- 4) concept has the mobile borders and concrete functions;
- 5) concept is social; its associative field causes its pragmatics;
- 6) concept is the main cell of culture;

So concepts represent the world in the human recognition creating the conceptual system. Besides, the marks of the human language codify the content of this system in the world. Concepts appear in the human recognition as a result of the activity, interpretation of the world and socialization. Every concept includes the generalized content of different forms of expression in the natural language and in spheres that are based on the language and their presence is impossible without language. Concepts as the results of the intellectual activity should be verbalized. The language connects the people into the nation with the assistance of concepts. Concepts can be also divided into group and individual, abstract and concrete. These classifications are topical for the linguistic-cognitive study because these types of concept need different methods of analysis and description. Some concepts are typical for limited quantity of people. They are group concepts. They are not applied by the nation in a whole. They also may be irrelevant in communicative side. At present concept is the synonym of the conception and content. Concept is the unit of the conceptual sphere or, in other words, totality of the units of the national thought. It includes all mental features of some phenomenon that are reflected during some period of the development of the nation.

Concept provides the intelligent interpretation of reality. The conceptual sphere is the totality of the national concepts and informational base of the intellect. The cognitive linguistics represents the study concerning different national conceptual spheres. So we have an ability to define the similar phenomenon of different nations. There are some peculiarities of the description of concept. For instance:

- 1) traditional linguistic and experimental methods are applied in case of the description of concept;
- 2) during the creation of the model of concept the cognitive features instead of the separate means are determined;
- 3) description of the image, informational content and interpretative field is applied in case of the analysis of the structure of concept;

4) the content of concept is described as the totality of the cognitive features organized according to the principle of the nucleus to the near, far and last periphery.

Words may be classified according to the concepts underlying their meaning. This classification is closely connected with the theory of conceptual or semantic fields. By the term “semantic fields” we understand closely knit sectors of vocabulary each characterized by a common concept. For example, the words **blue, red, yellow, black**, etc. may be described as making up the semantic field of colors, the words **mother, father, brother, cousin**, etc. – as members of the semantic field of kinship terms, the words **joy, happiness, gaiety, enjoyment**, etc. as – belonging to the field of pleasurable emotions, etc. Semantic dependence of the word on the structure of the field may be also illustrated by comparing-members of analogous conceptual fields in different languages. Comparing, for example, kinship terms in Russian and in English we observe that the meaning of the English term mother-in-law is different from either the Russian as the English term covers the whole area which in Russian is divided between two words.

The theory of semantic field is severely criticized by the linguists mainly on philosophical grounds since some of the proponents of the semantic field theory hold the idealistic view that, language is a kind of self-contained entity standing between man and the world of reality.

Words making up such semantic fields may belong to different parts of speech. For example, in the semantic field of space we find nouns: expanse, extent, surface, etc.; verbs: extend, spread, span; adjectives: spacious, roomy, vast, broad, etc.

The nominative field of concept is the totality of all linguistic means that concept objectification during some period of social development. The nominative field is characterized by the complex structure and includes the lexico-semantic group, lexico-semantic field, lexico-phraseological field, synonymic line, associative field, etc. Some concepts are characterized by the presence of the wide nominative field which may be found easily. Other concepts are characterized by the limited nominative field which has not synonymic lines and hyperhyponymic character. There are also concepts that have only subjective and occasional nominations without the name of concept.

The nominative field includes the following components:

- 1) direct nominations of concept (the key word-represent and its methodical synonyms);
- 2) derivative nominations;

- 3) one-root words, units of different parts of language connected with the main lexical means of the verbalization of concept;
- 4) similar;
- 5) contextual synonyms;
- 6) occasional individual nominations;
- 7) stable word combinations that are synonyms of the key word;
- 8) phraseological units that include the name of concept;
- 9) proverbs, aphorisms, etc.;
- 10) metaphorical nominations;
- 11) stable comparisons that include the key word;
- 12) free word combinations that include features for the characteristics of concept;
- 13) associative field as a result of the experiment on the word-stimulus that names concept;
- 14) subjective word definitions proposed for the interpretation of concept;
- 15) lexical interpretation of language units that objectificate concept;
- 16) articles of the encyclopedia or reference book (informational-explicative texts);
- 17) thematic texts that represent the content of concept;
- 18) sociopolitical texts and belles-lettres that represent the content of concept;
- 19) totality of the texts in case of need in explication or discussion of the content of complex, abstract or individual concepts)

It is necessary to notice that the proportion between the word and concept is the main theoretical problem of the cognitive linguistics.

Meaning is the unit of semantic area of language. So it is the element of the totality and system of meanings of the concrete language. Meaning includes a small quantity of semantic features that are famous in some social environment. These features are connected with the functioning of the sound cover. The semantics of the word provides the mutual comprehension in the process of communication.

The description of the units of the nominative field gives an ability to image the content of concept in the form in which it is reflected and fixed in the language. It also gives an ability to reconstruct and describe only a part of concept. This part includes the most relevant features. If the nominative field of concept is characterized by the larger volume and a greater quantity of units the results of the reconstruction and the description of the content and structure of concept are better.

The construction of the nominative field of concept is the definition and description of the totality of linguistic means that represent concept and its separate features. It is possible to determine only the direct nominations (key words and its synonyms). This method gives an ability to create the nucleus of the nominative field. Besides it is possible not to make such limitations and determine the nominative field in a whole. The key word is the lexical unit that is characterized by the nominative function concerning concept.

The nucleus of the nominative field is usually determined by the following ways:

- 1) with the assistance of the synonymic widening of the key word (it is necessary to use dictionaries in this case);
- 2) with the assistance of the analysis of the contexts that are characterized by the nomination of concept we are interested in.

CONCLUSION

The tasks of our study were to learn the concept as the basic term of cognitive linguistics, to generalize the notion of theatre. Having made our study, we can make some conclusions. As remembered conceptualization is the process of the creation and construction of concept in the human recognition. It is also the process of thought concerning the new information that causes the creation of concept. The study of concept is the main task of the cognitive linguistics. Every attempt to realize the nature of concept causes the realization of the fact of presence of closely-related concepts and terms. Concept is the intellectual category that may not be recognized visually. This fact causes the presence of the wide area for the interpretation of concept.

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