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THE PROBLEM OF DEFINING THE TERM "CONCEPT" IN THE SCIENCE OF LANGUAGE

Abstract: *The notion of "concept" is one of the most ambiguous and controversial concepts in cognitive linguistics. In recent years, the term has received a broad interpretation and ambiguity in the social and humanitarian sciences. This article analyzes the conceptual series of terms "concept", "notion", "meaning", which are closely related to each other and are in constant interaction in modern linguistics. Based on examples from Uzbek and English, languages, the author demonstrates that the analyzed terms have both unifying and distinctive properties.*

Keywords: *concept, word, linguistics, linguaculturology, lexical meaning, personality.*

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TILSHUNOSLIKDA "KONSEPT" ATAMASIGA TA'RIF BERISH MUAMMOSI

Annotatsiya: *"Konsept" tushunchasi kognitiv lingvistikadagi eng munozarali va muhobasali tushunchalardan biridir. So'nggi yillarda bu atama ijtimoiy va gumanitar fanlarda keng talqin oldi. Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy tilshunoslikda bir-biri bilan chambarchas bog'liq bo'lgan va doimiy o'zaro ta'sirda bo'lgan "konsept", "tushuncha", "ma'no" atamalarining konseptual doirasi tahlil qilinadi. Muallif o'zbek va ingliz tillaridan misollar keltirib, tahlil qilinayotgan atamalarning ham birlashtiruvchi, ham farqlovchi xususiyatga ega ekanligini ko'rsatadi.*

Tayanch so'zlar: *tushuncha, so'z, tilshunoslik, lingvokulturologiya, leksik ma'no, shaxs.*

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ПРОБЛЕМА ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЯ ТЕРМИНА «КОНЦЕПТ» В НАУКЕ О ЯЗЫКЕ

Аннотация: Понятие «концепт» является одним из самых неоднозначных и спорных понятий в когнитивной лингвистике. В последние годы термин получил широкое толкование и неоднозначность в социальных и гуманитарных науках. В данной статье анализируется понятийный ряд терминов «концепт», «понятие», «значение», которые тесно связаны между собой и находятся в постоянном взаимодействии в современной лингвистике. На примерах из узбекского и английского языков автор показывает, что анализируемые термины обладают как объединяющими, так и отличительными свойствами.

Ключевые слова: концепт, слово, лингвистика, лингвокультурология, лексическое значение, личность.

Introduction

The notion of "concept" is considered in linguistics in different approaches and seems to be very multifaceted. The concept is understood in the form of a notion or representation; some understand the concept in the form of meaning. Scientist Kubryakova E.S. considers concepts as ideal abstract units that a person operates in the processes of thinking, reflecting the content of experience and knowledge, the content of the results of human activity and the processes of cognition of the surrounding world in the form of certain units, quanta of knowledge [8, p.27-32]. It is noted that the essence of the concept includes information about what an individual knows, assumes, thinks, imagines about a particular fragment of the world. Concepts reduce all the diversity of observed phenomena to something single, under specific categories and classes reproduced by society. In the process of analyzing the essence of a concept, scientists pay special attention to its belonging to the ethnocultural world of a person.

The semantic essence is interpreted in the context of the forms of thought of a native speaker as an ethnocultural representation. In general, when analyzing a concept within a work of art, one should adhere to the interpretation of the concept as an invariant meaning of the associative-semantic field that is present in the writer's mind during the creation of a work of art or journalistic writing. It should be noted that the concept and category have a certain similarity, but most linguists believe that these phenomena are not identical and the concept has a broader meaning.

Literature review

In modern linguistics, three main approaches to understanding the concept can be distinguished: - a linguistic approach to the concept, - a cognitive approach to the concept, - a cultural approach to the concept. The linguistic approach is represented by the point of view of such linguists as Likhachev D.S., Kolesov V.V., Telia V.N. and is aimed at the nature of the concept. Representatives of this direction understand the concept as the entire potential of the meaning of a word, together with its connotative meaning. A concept exists for each dictionary meaning, thus it is proposed to consider the concept as an algebraic representation of significance [7, p.168]. Supporters of the cognitive approach to understanding the essence of the concept classify the concept as a mental phenomenon. In particular, the scientist I.A. Sternin and other scientists classify the concept as a mental phenomenon, defining the concept as a global mental unit [11, p.69]. The concept is understood within the framework of the cognitive approach as an operational meaningful unit of memory or mental lexicon. Representatives of the cultural approach, in particular, G.G. Slyshkin and other linguists believe that the entire culture is implied as a set of concepts and relationships between sets of concepts [9, p.38].

Research methodology

This article analyzes the conceptual series of terms "concept", "notion", "meaning", which are closely related to each other and are in constant interaction in modern linguistics. Based on examples from Uzbek and English, languages, the author

demonstrates that the analyzed terms have both unifying and distinctive properties. Comparative-typological, artistic analysis, methods were effectively used in the article.

Analysis and results

A concept is understood in the cultural approach as the main cell of culture in the mental world of a person. When considering various aspects of a concept within the framework of the cultural approach, attention should be paid to the importance of the cultural information that it conveys.

The concept has the following basic characteristics:

- 1) Concepts are hypertextual, in other words, they are based not on temporal deployment, but on the principles of reference.
- 2) Concepts are hierarchical, systemic relations form an image of the world, a picture of the world. Some of the most successful definitions expressing the systemic connections of concepts both as cognitive structures and as linguistic embodiments are the terms *lingua-rhetorical picture of the world* and *linguistic image of the world*, since the system and structure of the *lingua-theoretical picture of the world* are formed by cultural concepts [6, p.158].
- 3) The concept belongs to cultural phenomena: the concept constantly exists, moving from the center to the periphery and from the periphery to the center, the content is also unlimited.
- 4) The concept has a special function in human consciousness and participates in the thought process. The term concept includes the following structural components: the importance of the cultural information that it conveys is emphasized.

The term concept includes the following structural components. The core of the concept is a set of prototypical cognitive layers with the greatest sensory-visual concreteness, the primary most vivid images; more abstract features form the periphery of the concept. The cognitive layer is a set of cognitive features representing a discrete unit of the concept at a certain level of abstraction, having linguistic means of objectification. Linguistic means representing the concept are a word, a series of synonyms, a phraseological unit, a lexical grouping [4, p.43].

Based on the analysis of the approaches of linguists, in particular, Yakovleva E.S. the concept has the following basic features [12, p.48]:

- the concept is a mental entity or semantic formation that accumulates the knowledge of society or a social group about a fragment of reality and can be expressed in language;
- the concept is a unit of mentality, which is formed in the collective consciousness and can be expressed in language;
- a concept has no obligatory connection with a word or other linguistic means of verbalization; a concept can be verbalized, while a concept can also be non-verbalized by linguistic means;
- a concept is a part of the conceptual sphere or picture of the world for a certain community of people living in a linguacultural environment;
- a concept has a certain structure, which is not strict, but represents a condition for existence and entry into the conceptual sphere; - a concept can be understood differently in the minds of representatives of one community;
- concepts can be attributed to phenomena of the evaluative type, which include behavioral, emotional, figurative and logical aspects;
- concepts are internally organized according to the field principle and include a sensory image, information content and an interpretative field;

Let us delve into the comparison of the terms "concept" and "person" in both Uzbek and English, highlighting the linguistic and cultural nuances that emerge.

"Concept" (Tushuncha):

- Uzbek: "Tushuncha" is the most common term for "concept" in Uzbek, encompassing any idea, notion, or general understanding. It emphasizes the process of understanding and comprehending.
- English: "Concept" is a direct equivalent in English, with a similar broad meaning. However, it emphasizes the idea or abstract notion itself.

"Person" (Odam, Kishi, Yigit/Qiz):

- Uzbek: Uzbek offers a range of terms for "person," each with specific connotations:

"Odam": This is the most common term, used in everyday contexts and often translates to "person" or "individual."

"Kishi": This carries a more respectful and formal tone, used when addressing someone older or of higher social standing.

"Yigit" and "Qiz": These denote gender and are used in everyday speech, signifying specific aspects of the human experience.

- English: "Person" is the standard term for "person" in English, encompassing all individuals and reflecting a more individualistic cultural perspective.

Comparison:

- Concept vs. Person: While both languages have direct equivalents for "concept," Uzbek offers a more nuanced vocabulary for "person," reflecting the importance of social hierarchy and gender in Uzbek culture.

The use of "tushuncha" in Uzbek emphasizes the act of understanding and comprehending, reflecting a cultural value on knowledge and learning.

- Cultural Nuances: The specific terms for "person" in Uzbek highlight cultural values like respect for elders, gender roles, and social hierarchy.

The use of "person" in English might reflect a more individualistic cultural focus, while Uzbek terms for "person" often emphasize social roles and relationships.

Let's compare how the two languages might address the concept of "freedom":

- Uzbek: "Erkinlik tushunchasi" (concept of freedom) might emphasize understanding and interpreting the meaning of freedom in Uzbek culture.

- English: "The concept of freedom" might explore the philosophical and historical aspects of freedom, potentially emphasizing individual rights and autonomy.

Conclusion

Examining the terms "concept" and "person" in both Uzbek and English reveals distinct linguistic and cultural nuances. The choice of words reflects the unique values, perspectives, and social structures of each language and culture. This comparison highlights the importance of cultural awareness and sensitivity when navigating communication and understanding across languages.

Thus, we can make a general conclusion that lexical and phraseological units objectify and represent various concepts in speech. Concepts can be expressed or not expressed in language, since they represent mental entities. The study of features and comparison of fragments of worldviews in different languages is one of the main tasks of conceptual research work.

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