

MODERN APPROACHES TO THE CONCEPT OF "CONCEPT"
IN COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

Nabijonova Laylokhon Qahramon qizi

Master's Student in Linguistics (English Language)

Department of Tourism and Translation, Faculty of Language and Translation

Is'hoqxon Ibrat Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages

Namangan, Uzbekistan

E-mail: qoraqizqoraqiz7@gmail.com

Аннотация: Данный тезис посвящен анализу различных научных подходов к термину «концепт» как центральному понятию когнитивной лингвистики. В исследовании сопоставляются когнитивная и лингвокультурологическая парадигмы, выявляется роль концепта в языковой картине мира.

Ключевые слова: концепт, когнитивная лингвистика, лингвокультурология, ментальная структура, языковая картина мира, понятие.

Abstract: This thesis is devoted to the analysis of various scientific approaches to the term "concept" as a central notion of cognitive linguistics. The study compares cognitive and linguoculturological paradigms and identifies the role of the concept in the linguistic picture of the world.

Key words: concept, cognitive linguistics, linguoculturology, mental structure, linguistic picture of the world, notion.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tezis kognitiv tilshunoslikning markaziy tushunchasi bo'lgan "konsept" terminining turli ilmiy yondashuvlari va uning lisoniy manzaradagi o'rnini tahlil qilishga bag'ishlangan. Tadqiqotda kognitiv va lingvokulturologik paradigmlar qiyoslanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: konsept, kognitiv tilshunoslik, lingvokulturologiya, mental tuzilma, lisoniy manzara, tushuncha.



INTRODUCTION

The emergence of the cognitive paradigm in linguistics at the end of the 20th century led to a fundamental shift from studying language "in itself" to studying language as a tool for information processing and storage. The term "concept" stands at the intersection of psychology, philosophy, and linguistics, acting as the fundamental unit of human mental resources. Unlike a traditional "notion" (tushuncha), which is often limited to a set of essential features of an object, a concept is a multidimensional cultural and psychological formation. It includes not only descriptive characteristics but also emotional, evaluative, and associative layers that reflect the collective experience of a nation. The relevance of this study lies in the need to systematize the diverse definitions of "concept" and to determine its functional boundaries within modern linguistic research.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this research is based on a comparative and descriptive analysis of existing linguistic schools. We rely on the works of scholars such as S. Askoldov, who was the first to introduce the term into Russian linguistics, defining it as a mental formation that replaces an indefinite variety of objects of the same kind [1, B. 269]. D. Likhachev further expanded this by viewing concepts as the "buds" of meanings, which exist not for the language itself, but for the human soul [2, B. 28].

In modern science, three main approaches are identified:

The Cognitive Approach: Represented by E. Kubryakova and N. Boldyrev, where the concept is seen as a unit of memory and mental lexicon [3, B. 90].

The Linguoculturological Approach: Developed by Y. Stepanov and V. Karasik, focusing on the concept as a "clot of culture" in the human mind [4, B. 40].

The Psycholinguistic Approach: Where the concept is an integrated mental image encompassing sensory and emotional data.



DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The core of the debate lies in whether a concept is purely a mental category or a purely linguistic one. Our analysis shows that a concept is a mediator between the world and the language. It is broader than a word's meaning because it includes encyclopedic knowledge that is not always verbalized. For instance, the concept of "Bread" in different cultures carries vastly different emotional weights and historical associations that a dictionary definition cannot fully capture.

To illustrate the differences between the two primary approaches, we have compiled the following table:

Table 1: Comparison of Cognitive and Linguoculturological Approaches

Feature	Cognitive Approach	Linguoculturological Approach
Object of Study	Mental representations of knowledge	Cultural values and national identity
Unit of Analysis	Information block/frame	Cultural constant/symbol
Goal	To understand how the brain processes data	To understand the national "spirit"
Relation to Language	Language is a window to the mind	Language is a vessel for culture

Furthermore, the structure of a concept is often described as having a "nucleus" (the dictionary definition) and a "periphery" (individual and cultural associations). Based on the analyzed data, the distribution of conceptual layers can be categorized as follows:

Table 2: Structural Components of a Concept

Layer Type	Content Description	Linguistic Representation
Conceptual Nucleus	Main logical characteristics	Denotative meaning of the word



Layer Type	Content Description	Linguistic Representation
Evaluative Layer	Positive/negative social attitude	Connotations and idioms
Associative Periphery	Individual/Subjective experiences	Metaphors and personal contexts

As seen in Table 2, the conceptual nucleus remains the most stable part, while the periphery is dynamic and changes according to social and historical transformations [5, B. 12].

CONCLUSION

The concept is a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that cannot be restricted to a single definition. It serves as a bridge between the individual's mind and the collective culture. Through our analysis, we have concluded that:

Concepts are the fundamental units of human cognition, allowing for the categorization of the surrounding world into manageable mental structures.

While the "notion" is a logical category, the "concept" is a cognitive and cultural category that includes emotions, values, and historical memory.

The study of concepts is essential for understanding the "linguistic picture of the world," as it reveals how different nations perceive the same reality through different mental prisms.

Modern linguistics must continue to integrate cognitive and cultural methodologies to fully map the human conceptual sphere, as isolated approaches fail to capture the holistic nature of communication.

The stability of a concept's nucleus ensures mutual understanding among speakers, while the fluidity of its periphery allows language to evolve and adapt to new social realities.

Future research should focus on "cross-cultural conceptualization" to determine how universal human values are uniquely shaped by specific linguistic



environments. This will be vital for improving machine translation, intercultural communication, and cognitive psychology.

REFERENCES

1. Аскольдов С. А. Концепт и слово — Москва: Русская речь, 1928. — 270 б.
2. Лихачев Д. С. Концептосфера русского языка — Санкт-Петербург: РАН, 1993. — 35 б.
3. Кубрякова Е. С. Краткий словарь когнитивных терминов — Москва: МГУ, 1996. — 245 б.
4. Степанов Ю. С. Константы: Словарь русской культуры — Москва: Академический проект, 2001. — 990 б.
5. Карасик В. И. Языковой круг: личность, концепты, дискурс — Волгоград: Перемена, 2002. — 477 б.

