

## CONCEPT AS THE MAIN NOTION IN COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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### **Annotation**

The article serves as the foundation for theories of categorization, linguistic meaning, metaphorical mapping, and cultural cognition, making it one of the main analytical components of cognitive linguistics. The theoretical underpinnings and applications of concepts in cognitive linguistics are examined in this article, which traces their roots in prototype theory, frame semantics, cognitive grammar, and conceptual metaphor theory. The article also discusses the implications of concepts for linguistic analysis, cross-cultural communication, and cognitive science while highlighting their cultural and psychological aspects.

### **Keywords**

Cognitive linguistics, concept, conceptualization, prototype theory, frame semantics, conceptual metaphor, cognitive grammar, embodiment, cultural conceptualization, categorization, mental representation, linguistic meaning.

### **Аннотация**

В данной статье служит основой для теорий категоризации, лингвистического значения, метафорического картирования и культурного познания, делая ее одной из основных аналитических составляющих когнитивной лингвистики. Теоретические основы и применение понятий в когнитивной лингвистике рассматриваются в данной статье, которая прослеживает их корни в теории прототипов, фреймовой семантике, когнитивной грамматике и теории концептуальной метафоры. В статье также обсуждаются последствия понятий для лингвистического анализа, межкультурной коммуникации и когнитивной науки, выделяя их культурные и психологические аспекты.

### **Ключевые слова**

Когнитив лингвистика, концепт, концептуализация, теория прототип, фрейм-семантика, концептуал метафора, когнитив грамматика, воплощение,

культурная концептуализация, категоризация, ментальное представление, лингвистическое значение.

### **Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqola kategoriyalashtirish, lingvistik ma'no, metaforik xaritalash va madaniy bilish nazariyalari uchun asos bo'lib xizmat qiladi, bu esa uni kognitiv tilshunoslikning asosiy tahliliy tarkibiy qismlaridan biriga aylantiradi. Ushbu maqolada kognitiv tilshunoslikda tushunchalarning nazariy asoslari va qo'llanilishi ko'rib chiqiladi, ularning ildizlari prototip nazariyasi, freym semantikasi, kognitiv grammatika va konseptual metafora nazariyasida kuzatiladi. Maqolada, shuningdek, tushunchalarning lingvistik tahlili, madaniyatlararo muloqot va kognitiv fan uchun ahamiyati muhokama qilinib, ularning madaniy va psixologik jihatlari yoritilgan.

### **Kalit so'zlar**

Kognitiv tilshunoslik, konsepsiya, konseptualizatsiya, prototip nazariyasi, freym semantikasi, konseptual metafora, kognitiv grammatika, timsol, madaniy kontseptualizatsiya, tasniflash, aqliy ifoda, lingvistik ma'no.

With an emphasis on the close connection between language and overall human cognition, cognitive linguistics first appeared in the late XX century. According to Chomsky cognitive linguistics contends that perception, bodily experience, cultural models, and conceptualization shape linguistic structures, rejecting the conventional generative view that views language as an independent module. The conceptual representations that speakers mentally create are the foundation of meaning rather than abstract symbols.

The concept of concept is central to this framework. Concepts serve as the mental building blocks of meaning, facilitating language expression, inference, classification, and reasoning. They show how people arrange their perceptions of the world in their minds and how linguistic forms elicit these organizational structures. Concepts are essential to any explanation of meaning because, according to Lakoff, "the structure of concepts is central to the structure of language."

This article offers a more thorough analysis of the idea in cognitive linguistics, outlining its linguistic applications, cognitive functions, and theoretical foundations. The main frameworks—prototype theory, frame semantics, conceptual metaphor theory, and cognitive grammar—are reviewed, and the interdisciplinary significance of conceptual structures is emphasized in the discussion's conclusion.

In cognitive linguistics, a concept is a mental image that arranges and preserves information about things, occasions, and relationships. In contrast to formal logic, cognitive linguistics sees concepts as: dynamic as opposed to fixed; experience-based as opposed to theoretical; culturally specific as opposed to universal; embodied as opposed to disembodied. According to Langacker, linguistic meaning is equivalent to “a specific way of construing a conceptual content,” highlighting the interdependence of concepts with perspective, profiling, and cognitive construal. Concepts therefore influence people's perceptions and conceptions of the world rather than just labeling external objects.

By demonstrating that classification is based on typicality rather than fixed boundaries, Rosch's prototype theory completely changed our understanding of categories and concepts. For example, an object is a bird if it possesses features X, Y, and Z. Classical categories presumed both necessary and sufficient features. Instead, Rosch's research showed that categories exhibit: graded affiliation, peripheral and central (typical) members, blurry boundaries, judgments that depend on context. A robin, for instance, is considered a more common bird than a penguin. As a result, the concept bird is built around a prototype rather than a rigid feature list.

By demonstrating that meanings are not inflexible but rather reflect human experience and cognitive preferences, prototype theory had a significant impact on cognitive semantics.

According to Sharifian, cultural experience has a significant influence on concepts. The study of cultural schemas, cultural metaphors, and cultural categories in relation to conceptualization is known as cultural linguistics. For example, The American, East Asian, and Uzbek perspectives on family are very different.

Language expression is influenced by cultural metaphors, such as the Uzbek metaphor of hospitality as a moral obligation. Concepts are therefore both cultural and cognitive.

It stands at the core of cognitive linguistics, since it unites various dimensions of meaning: perceptual, experiential, cultural, and linguistic. The concept also bridges other disciplines-psychology, anthropology, computation-making it a genuinely interdisciplinary construct.

While some critics argue that conceptual models cannot be directly empirically verified in the brain, cognitive neuroscience increasingly supports the distributed, embodied, and dynamic nature of conceptual systems. Thus, concepts are indispensable to any fully fledged theory of linguistic meaning.

The foundation of cognitive linguistics is conceptual understanding, which is essential for a number of reasons. Concepts are the mental building blocks that organize perception, experience, and cultural knowledge. Concepts first demonstrate how language reflects embodied cognition, demonstrating that meaning is based on affective and sensorimotor experience rather than abstract symbols. Second, the main theories of the field – “language is not an autonomous module,” “grammar is conceptualization,” and “knowledge of language emerges from use” – emphasize that general cognition and linguistic competence are inextricably linked, and that learning concepts gives students a cohesive understanding of mind-language interaction. Third, concepts serve as a link to interdisciplinary research; they are used to model classification, metaphor, and semantic memory in psychology, anthropology, artificial intelligence, and neuroscience.

In conclusion, cognitive linguistics views language not as a separate and fixed system, but as a product of human thinking, experience, and culture. It explains meaning through everyday experiences, flexible categories, and metaphors that are shaped by perception and social interaction. By bringing together ideas such as prototype theory, frame semantics, conceptual metaphor theory, and cognitive grammar, this approach shows how language is closely connected to how people understand the world. Cognitive linguistics also connects linguistics with psychology, anthropology, and neuroscience, making it a strongly interdisciplinary field. Recent research in cognitive neuroscience supports this view by showing that understanding language involves different areas of the brain related to perception and action. As studies continue to use brain research, cross-cultural data, and computer models, cognitive linguistics offers valuable insights into how language is learned, changes over time, and varies across cultures. Overall, focusing on concepts as the basis of meaning provides a more complete and realistic explanation of the relationship between language and human thought.

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