РАЗДЕЛ XI. ФИЛОЛОГИЯ

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Linguistic and extra-linguistic approaches to the research of abstract concepts*The National State Research University "Belgorod State University"
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Abstract

The article concerns the methods used in the research of concepts representing abstract notions. Moreover, it tries to substantiate the inclusion of both linguistic and extralinguistic theoretical concepts. It also emphasizes the importance of subjective cognition and empiric experience of an individual in the denotation of abstract entities. Finally it gives proofs that demonstrate that it is necessary to take into consideration the social and cultural heritage of an individual.

Keywords: abstract concept, mental process, nomination, cognitive, prototype meaning, consciousness, verbalisation.

Introduction: Processes concerned with understanding and uttering speech continue to take a substantial place in modern scientific research, where solving one of the most significant linguistic tasks, namely, the relationship of mental processes and language, has been and remains foremost in the minds of scientists working in different disciplines.

That is why abstract ethical concepts (friendship, love, hatred, conscience, envy, among others) seem to have become the subject of intensive cognitive-linguistic research over the last decades. Such great attention to similar concepts is explained by their ethnic-linguistic nature, as their content is defined by the morals and manners of the social community, they represent the knowledge of the inner world of the individual [1].

Abstract notions, however, cannot be observed directly, as they are devoid of the subject and sense image and can only be felt or represented in the language. In the material world something unseen and unobserved is presented 'vividly' only in the form of words. If the individual lacks the word connected with some fragment of reality, then the fragment itself is missing in his consciousness [2].

The language provides access to a concept nominating only its certain part, which may not be the most significant. A fragment of the concept, unutterable, is beyond linguistic capability. In this case, the knowledge of related sciences like philosophy, psychology, psycho-linguistics, and the study of culture, that fill a related pool of knowledge, help us to approach an understanding of a nebulous emotion such as, for example, envy. Moreover, human knowledge and cognitive processes are too complicated to be described within the limits of individual scientific disciplines [3].

Since the appearance of the cognitive discipline in linguistics, a special role is given to the interaction between the science of language and psychology. The significance of such cooperation is not only in working out a specific research program, but in the special position of the analysed entities (psychological architecture, consciousness, language) in the speech and intelligent activity of the person [3].

Methods: the basic methods of analysis of abstract concepts are conceptualisation and a prototypical approach within the bounds of the principle of categorisation as one of the main cognitive processes.

Main part: Abstract concepts are defined as 'kaleidoscopic' and, in many respects, the analysis of such concepts is subjective in character. However, such abstract emotions as

friendship, love, hatred, consciousness, and envy, cannot be observed directly on account of their lacking substance and sense image. Nevertheless, the best access to the nature of the concept is provided by the language itself, especially if it is an abstract concept [4].

According to L.O. Cherneiko, things seen (concrete names) and things unseen or unobserved (abstract substances) becomes perceptible and understood only when they are named [2].

Nomination Theory is a bona fide linguistic theory, which must explain how the notions for different fragments of the world around us and ideas about this world during the process of cognition are formed in the language, and it also should help us to find out which language means and forms are used or created for this purpose [5]. The analysis and classification of language signs accomplishing a nominative (or representative) function are linked to the meaning of units in any case.

The tendency to reflect the true cognitive moments in nominative activity was clearly defined by G.V. Kolshanskiy. In his opinion the subject matter of the nomination lies not in the idea that the sound of language sound a thing or somehow corresponds with a thing, but in its representation of some abstraction as the result of the human cognitive activity, abstraction as the display of real subjects and phenomena in consciousness [6]. In the word and its verbal definition the results of the cognitive efforts of the human intelligence are fixed. The ideal essence of the concept is caught by a word and is duplicated in its definition. The definition is established and is thought of as a set of semes, forming the sememe [1].

In this way a special role is acknowledged for the nominative potential of the word. The word, having simultaneously onomasiologic and semantic structures, is capable of representing and replacing, in the human consciousness, a certain fragment of the reality understood by them. The creates active knowledge that is connected to it, both linguistically and non-linguistically, and as a result operates with the given word as with a materialised fragment of the reality in verbal and cogitative activity [3].

This approach to the word as carrier of a securely fixed and precisely limited meaning was replaced in modern linguistics with the idea that it is necessary to attribute uncertainty, vagueness, and mobility to the number of basic features of the word meaning. As a result in linguistics there is the idea of the prototype meaning in the frameworks of the cognitive approach [7]. The Prototype Theory stems from the famous psycholinguistic research of E. Rosh. The essence of prototype meaning in linguistics involves the idea that the multiple meaning of linguistic unit represents the radial structure, in which there is a steady and important centre for the carrier and less essential peripheral meaning or meanings. Nevertheless, all the meanings of the same linguistic unit appear to be linked to a uniform network, which is, in fact, the tool demonstrating the connexity of separate sub-meanings [8].

The given interpretation is reflected in the semasiological approach to the research of linguistic units. The prototype meaning in the semasiological approach has the opposite perspective, namely, from the contents to expression. In other words, a certain concept is allocated and a set of linguistic units of the semantic and/or syntactic level is defined, which can express, transfer and designate the given concept [9].

The term 'concept' is used instead of the term 'notion' within the bounds of the cognitive approach, because the leading native cognitive scientists determine the given term as a global apprehensive unit which is the quantum of the structured knowledge. In contrast to notion and meaning of the word the concept includes extra-linguistic factors (including national or ethnic, socio-cultural, associative-subjective), which may allow us to approach to the solution of the problem of interaction and interdependence of mind and language. Words help to access concepts because they are necessary for communication, and the discussion of concepts is one of the sources of concept formation in human consciousness [10].

Conclusion: The mechanism of the modelling of abstract concepts involves the cognitive experience of mankind on the whole and of the individual in particular.

As a result, the research of abstract concepts has an interdisciplinary character which contributes to the exposure and substantiation of different implicit signs of investigated concept, having no direct expression in vocabulary definitions of representative lexemes. At the present level of linguistic development, study of the units of language does not seem to be possible, regardless of human factors such as the psychological state and the behaviour of an individual, the socio-cultural heritage and the relations between people, among other things.

Results: The interdisciplinary approach contributes to the working out of more or less unitary set of tools in the research of abstract units as complicated mental formations. Therefore the combination of linguistic and extra-linguistic procedures allow us to give the fullest and deepest analysis of the investigated event, because in the structure of abstract concepts and in the simultaneous presence of an invariant core there are a huge range of personal associations. It explains the fact that up to now the analysis of abstract concepts has relied on an individual's intuitive character to a considerable degree.

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The new verges of the Uzbek poetry

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Abstract

In this article the translations of poems (from Uzbek into English) of a well-known and gifted poet and translator UrazKhaydar (born in 1957 in Kashkadarya) are published for the first time. It is very unique that the following poems (Obstinacy / Öjarlik, The man who has been in the war / Urushkörganodam, To my grandson / Nabiramga, They say to love her / Unisevgindeysiz, Expectation / Kutish, Theft / Tunash) were translated by the author of the article herself. The lyric characteristics, the themes and the style of these poems are also introduced and described.

Keywords: lyric, Uzbek poetic classic traditions, the morality of man, a lyric confession, genre line, critical estimation.