

## Categorization in Modern Linguistics

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**Abstract:** The article reveals the concept of categorization from the point of view of cognitive linguistics, the definition of categorization as a cognitive-semantic activity, the formation of categories in the form of concepts that fully generalize and classify the results of human cognitive activity. The article presents relevant empirical studies and discusses various ways of theorizing categories and prototypes.

**Key words:** categorization, category, prototype, cognitive linguistics, cognitive-semantic analysis, categorization, category, prototype, cognitive linguistics, cognitive-semantic analysis

### Introduction

Categorization is a fundamental cognitive process associated with the ordering of the entire variety of data that a person encounters every day. The distribution of objects by classes has a linguistic character, therefore, language as a means of cognition and communication can act as a material for the study of the categorization process. The purpose of this work is to study the prerequisites of categorical division of reality on the basis of a verbalized situation of cognition of a feature. The fragments selected from the German language corpus are used as material, in which the situation of cognition of an object's attribute through the olfactory perceptual channel is objectified. The goal defined a range of consistently considered issues: firstly, what is categorization and what aspects of it are the subject of cognitive linguistics; secondly, what place does categorization occupy in the cognitive cycle; thirdly, how categories can be studied through the analysis of a language fragment and which categories are revealed in the field of olfactory sign cognition.

### Theoretical framework

The interaction of linguistic and mental structures is a central problem of cognitive linguistics. Along with the modeling of speech-thinking processes, the study of various formats of knowledge, significant cognitive strategies, the range of issues of this science includes the development of categorization theories. The prerequisite for the existence of such works is the idea that the study of language material is the key to the structures of human consciousness. Indeed, a significant part of the experience is transmitted to us through language; through language units of various levels, a person encodes the information processed by him, while reflecting his view of the world. In addition, categorization has a linguistic character: the distribution of cognizable objects into types and classes is accompanied by the creation of a language binding and a comparison of the adequacy of attributing an object to a certain category based on the semantic content of its name.

In the history of the development of science, there are many works devoted to explaining the essence and specifics of the categorization process; there are also reviews that organize these concepts and allow us to trace the evolution of views on the problem under consideration. The problems of

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categories and categorization were dealt with by representatives of philosophy and psychology; the terms "category" and "conceptual category" were used in the works of linguists.

At the present stage of the development of the science of language, the study of categories has not lost its relevance, on the contrary, it has been further developed within the framework of cognitive linguistics. Modern domestic and foreign cognitive scientists write about the importance of language as a source of data on categories.

The difference in approaches to the mental process under study lies in the fact that in philosophy, categorization is considered the division of things, their signs, events, processes and other into ontological classes; in psychology, categorization is a form of mental activity of a person included in the processes of perception, thinking, imagination. In cognitive linguistics, priority in understanding categorization is given to the function of ordering knowledge by assigning perceived objects and phenomena to a certain class, and a category is understood as a set of elements of the surrounding reality, behind which there is a certain unifying content expressed by a set of linguistic means.

### **Materials**

Cognition of the surrounding world is a complex and multifaceted process that can be considered as a sequence of steps leading from ignorance to knowledge. Sensation and perception are considered as the initial stage in psychology. Sensation is understood as "the initial processes of detecting and encoding the energy of the physical world".

The linguistic nature of categorization has led to the emergence of linguistic works, one of which considers a three-level model of the cognitive cycle, the ultimate goal of which is to present the results of cognition in verbal form; the model includes "the level of perception of the situation, the level of conceptual structuring of information about it, the level of its language coding, which allows you to combine the world, human thinking and language". The conceptual structuring of information consists in the formation of mental representations, which, in fact, can be considered as the main content component of human consciousness, which is the result of processing sensory data. Moreover, as noted by J. Lakoff, "people have different ways to organize things, so there are many different taxonomies". Awareness and categorization of objects of the real and ideal world are carried out with the help of "idealized cognitive models", the use of which depends on the essence of the cognizable phenomenon (degree of abstraction, categorical affiliation, imagery, etc.); among them are propositional, figurative-schematic, metaphorical and metonymic. Described by J. Lakoff models represent the mechanisms by which objects and phenomena of the surrounding world are categorized. The results of categorization ordered by consciousness with language binding can be considered as language categories, "language categories are part of our cognitive system, and it is impossible to study our cognitive system as a whole if language categories are not included in it".

Any act of categorization can be considered, thus, as a process of recognizing objects of varying degrees of complexity by essential or non-essential features, searching in the knowledge system for the categories already formed and established in consciousness, the characteristics of which partially or completely coincide with the characteristics of the object being categorized.

### **Methods**

The cognitive approach to language analysis is to identify and explain the processes of categorization and conceptualization that are reflected in the language. The unit of conceptualization in cognitive linguistics is a concept understood as a result of cognition. In the concept, according to the

cognitive and linguistic-cultural approach, not only the semantics of the language unit is concentrated. The concept is a unit of the mental lexicon and represents a set of meanings, values and norms as a result of human cognitive activity. In the mental lexicon of a person, not only meanings are stored, but also "presages" (D. S. Likhachev), all sensory images evoked by this word, meanings, assessments and connotations, personal and collective, refracted through the prism of a particular culture in the linguistic consciousness.

A concept in cognitive linguistics is a unit that opens access to understanding "how the world is conceptualized through the prism of language and what kind of world picture the language we study and a single language demonstrates" (Kubryakova 1997, p. 46). Linguistic projections of concepts represent not only the linguistically mastered world in the form of a linguistic picture of the world, but also the originality of the way of mastering the world.

We need to clarify what is: a) conceptualization; b) category, categorization.

### **Results**

According to this theory, people who speak different languages see the world differently, therefore, each language has its own logic of thinking. Humboldt argued that every language describes a circle around the people to whom it belongs. And you can get out of this circle only if you enter another circle. In different languages, signs are not different designations of the same object, but different visions of it. The most striking examples are related to words denoting colors in different languages. So, some African tribes have only two words for the names of colors: one for "warm" (this includes red, orange, yellow) and one for cold (blue, purple, green).

Thus, a word is a sign, but it is also a special entity that is located between external phenomena and the inner world of a person. And now you must understand that learning foreign languages is much more than learning vocabulary and grammar, it is the acquisition of a new point of view, a new view of the world.

For today's science, it is obvious that it is language that provides the most natural access to consciousness: "... we know about the structures of consciousness only thanks to the language that allows us to report about these structures and describe them in any natural language ..." (Kubryakova 1997, p. 21).

A person learns language in the same way as the whole surrounding reality; conceptual, logical and linguistic pictures of the world are formed in his mind. Already in the 80s of the XX century, in the works on philosophy and psycholinguistics, the view was expressed that the conceptual picture of the world is a phenomenon of a higher order than the linguistic picture of the world. The word acts as the basic unit of the linguistic picture of the world, the concept is the unit of the conceptual picture of the world. Concepts are combined into conceptual spheres and form a conceptual picture of the world.

### **Discussion**

A concept is a scientific abstraction. It is nominated by the word that conveys its meaning in the most concentrated and adequate way. However, in addition to the meanings that are fixed for this word sign in dictionary definitions, the concept combines in its field those concepts and meanings that make up its periphery and are not fixed by explanatory dictionaries. The concept is implemented through a frame (construct, gestalt, script).

Concepts are understood as "clusters of meaning" that carry important cultural information and find their concrete expression in the form of signs. He takes into his field not only explicit, but also implicit knowledge, connected in the mentality of a person-speaker (writing, reading, thinking, reflecting) with this concept, materialized through a sign word. The concept, by definition, is Yu. S. Stepanova is the "cell" of culture in the mental world of a person (Stepanov 2004), and culturally mastered meanings are not only direct connections with the referent, but also those invisible threads of associations that are based on the common cultural memory of the people—the bearer of linguistic consciousness.

### Conclusion

Cognitive linguistics recognizes that the dictionary definition presents only a meaningful minimum, which is an actualization of the concept, but always partial and subjective to the semantic potential. This is confirmed by a well-known fact: each dictionary is a reflection of the author's subjective interpretation of objective content.

A concept in cognitive linguistics is a unit that provides access to understanding how the world is conceptualized through the prism of language and what kind of world picture the language we study and a single language demonstrates.

The process of categorization of the world should be considered as a result of cognitive activity of a person classifying the functions of his consciousness. Categorization is an important stage of the cognitive cycle: already at the stage of perception, a person relates cognizable phenomena to one or another category. Language is an important characteristic of the categorization process, which opens up prospects for its study through the analysis of language fragments. The mental representation of the situation of cognition of a feature is an event concept that includes a certain number of categorical nodes, the description of which is possible through the lexical meanings of the corresponding words.

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