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THE CORE AND PERIPHERAL PARTS OF THE NOMINATIVE-COMMUNICATIVE FIELD OF THE CONCEPT OF "WATER" IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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Introduction

In linguistics, the concept is one of the fundamental theoretical notions, playing a crucial role in studying the interconnection of language with human cognition, culture, and worldview. It lies at the intersection of language, culture, and cognition and is widely applied in fields such as semantics, cognitive linguistics, and cultural linguistics.

The Role of the Concept in Linguistics

Means of Expressing Thought and Worldview: A concept reflects a person's perception of the world and their understanding of various objects and phenomena. Language serves as a tool for expressing and preserving these concepts.

Central Element of the Semantic System: A concept unites the semantic meanings of words and phrases in a language. For example, a term's lexical meaning, metaphorical meaning, and cultural connotations are considered within a single conceptual framework. This understanding aids in interpreting meanings across the lexical and grammatical layers of language.

Key Notion in Cognitive Linguistics: In cognitive linguistics, a concept is studied as the foundation of how language is stored and structured in the human mind. It is a part of a person's "mental map," which helps create a general model of events and objects in the world.

Representation of the Interconnection Between Language and Culture: Concepts preserve cultural codes through language. They reflect a particular nation's historical experience, traditions, values, and worldview. For example, the concept of "water" may have different cultural and semantic layers across various nations (e.g., a source of life, a symbol of purity, a religious significance, etc.).

Role in the Communicative Function of Language: Concepts help fulfill the primary communicative function of language by acting as fundamental meaning blocks in information exchange. The communicative role of concepts in linguistics is evident in analyzing phrases, metaphors, proverbs, and other linguistic units.

Understanding Metaphors and Symbols: Concepts form the basis of metaphors. For instance, expressions like "path of life" or "weight of the situation" are explained within the framework of conceptual metaphor theory. Common linguistic imagery and symbols are shaped through concepts and contribute to generating new meanings in communication.

Language Development and Change: Concepts illustrate the dynamic evolution of language. The lexical and semantic layers of a language are enriched over time with new concepts, while the meanings of existing concepts may expand or narrow.

Water is the foundation of life, an essential resource for all living beings. In every language, the concept of water is uniquely expressed, reflecting a nation's culture, history, traditions, social life, and relationship with nature. The concept of water in English and Uzbek encompasses various semantic, pragmatic, and linguo-cultural aspects. This paper examines the core and peripheral parts of the nominative-communicative field related to the water concept. It analyzes the cultural and linguistic significance of water in the context of phraseological units, metaphors, idioms, and ecological issues.

General Characteristics of the Concept of Water

The concept of water is universal across all languages, primarily associated with notions of life, renewal, stability, and purity. Its biological and ecological significance makes it a central element in various cultures.

In English:

The concept of water is represented by lexemes such as water, rain, lake, and ocean. These core words are used in different meanings:

Natural phenomena: waterfall (waterfall), stream (stream), puddle (puddle).

Ecological issues: water pollution (water pollution), water scarcity (water shortage).

In Uzbek:

In Uzbek, the concept of water is expressed through words such as suv (water), jöl (lake), and daryo (river). These units cover the following semantic aspects:

Natural resource: Suv hayot manbai ("Water is the source of life").

Social relations: Suvni tejang ("Save water").

Cultural and religious symbolism: Water represents purity and renewal, playing a significant role in ablution and other religious practices.

Nominative-Communicative Field

The nominative-communicative field consists of all linguistic means associated with a particular concept, including its semantic layers, perceptions, and expressions. It reflects the functional possibilities of language in conveying information.

Structural Components: This field includes primary and secondary nominations related to the concept and semantic meanings expressed through language.

Primary nominations – the direct naming of the concept.

Secondary nominations – metaphorical, metonymic, symbolic, or figurative expressions.

Linguistic Means: The nominative-communicative field covers lexical, phraseological, grammatical, and pragmatic expressions of a given concept.

Function: This field integrates concepts into communicative processes, ensuring their meaning is understood in context. The primary purpose of linguistic means is to transmit information, reflect cultural connotations, and facilitate social interaction.

Cultural and Semantic Aspects: The nominative-communicative field of each concept is closely linked to culture and society, shaped by historical, cultural, religious, and social influences.

Dynamic Nature: The nominative-communicative field is dynamic and adaptable, as the linguistic expression of concepts evolves over time to fit new social, cultural, and scientific contexts.

Core and Peripheral Parts

Core Part: The core represents the fundamental functions and universal characteristics of water. In English, water and in Uzbek, suv belong to this category. This section includes the chemical composition, physical state, and essential role of water in human life.

Peripheral Part: The periphery encompasses additional meanings related to different forms, qualities, and states of water.

In English: dew (dew), splash (splash), flood (flood).

In Uzbek: buloq (spring), zirapcha (drizzle).

Cultural Context of the Concept of Water

The concept of water holds unique symbolic and practical significance in each culture. Phraseological units related to water in English and Uzbek reflect cultural values and ways of thinking.

In English:

Still waters run deep – Quiet waters are deep (reserved people are often wise).

Go with the flow – Adapt to circumstances.

In deep water – Facing difficulties.

In Uzbek:

Suvdan quruq chiqmoq – To come out of trouble unscathed.

Suv kelguncha suvchining oti charchaydi – Many challenges arise before achieving success.

Suv ichib suvga tupurma – Do not be ungrateful.

Metaphors and Phraseological Units

The concept of water serves as a basis for numerous metaphors and phraseological expressions, reflecting cultural and social contexts.

In English:

Keep your head above water – Survive financial or life difficulties.

Pour cold water on something – Criticize or dismiss an idea.

Bridge over troubled water – Help in difficult times.

In Uzbek:

Suvday o'tmoq – Pass quickly and smoothly.

Suv bosmoq – Increase in problems.

Suvning tagidan suv o'tkazmoq – Act secretly.

Ecological and Social Significance of Water

Water's ecological and social importance is more critical today than ever before.

In English:

Water conservation and climate change mitigation are global concerns.

Issues like water pollution and scarcity are widely discussed in scientific and social circles.

In Uzbek:

Water resource management is crucial, especially in agriculture.

The drying of the Aral Sea is a major ecological disaster of national and international concern.

Conclusion

The concept of water holds linguistic, cultural, historical, and social significance in both English and Uzbek languages. The core and peripheral units related to water reflect the semantic potential of language and a nation's lifestyle and worldview. Therefore, the concept of water serves as a rich material for linguistic analysis and plays a vital role in studying cross-cultural differences.

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