

THE NOTIONS OF COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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**Annotation**

Cognitive linguists like other linguists, study language for its own sake; they attempt to describe and account for its systematicity, its structure, the functions it serves and how these functions are realised by the language system. However, an important reason behind why cognitive linguists study language stems from the assumption that language reflects patterns of thought. Therefore, to study language from this perspective is to study patterns of conceptualisation. Language offers a window into cognitive function, providing insights into the nature, structure and organization of thoughts and ideas. The most important way in which cognitive linguistics differs from other approaches to the study of language, then, is that language is assumed to reflect certain fundamental properties and design features of the human mind. As we will see throughout this book, this assumption has far-reaching implications for the scope, methodology and models developed within the cognitive linguistic enterprise. Not least, an important criterion for judging a model of language is whether the model is psychologically plausible.

**Key words:** Cognitive linguistics, scope, methodology and models, psychologically plausible.

Cognitive linguistics is a modern school of linguistic thought that originally emerged in the early 1970s out of dissatisfaction with formal approaches to language. Cognitive linguistics is also firmly rooted in the emergence of modern cognitive science in the 1960s and 1970s, particularly in work relating to human categorization, and in earlier traditions such as Gestalt psychology. Early research was dominated in the 1970s and 1980s by a relatively small number of scholars. By the early 1990s, there was a growing proliferation of research in this area, and of researchers who identified themselves as “cognitive linguists”.<sup>1</sup>

In 1989/90, the International Cognitive Linguistics Society was established, together with the journal *Cognitive Linguistics*. In the words of the eminent cognitive linguist Ronald Langacker ([1991] 2002: xv), this “marked the birth of cognitive linguistics as a broadly grounded, self-conscious intellectual movement”.

<sup>1</sup> Evans V., Green M. *Cognitive linguistics an introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh university press, 2006. – P. 8-50

Cognitive linguistics is described as a “movement” or an “enterprise” because it is not a specific theory. Instead, it is an approach that has adopted a common set of guiding principles, assumptions and perspectives which have led to a diverse range of complementary, overlapping (and sometimes competing) theories. For this reason, in this article is concerned with providing a “character sketch” of the most fundamental assumptions and commitments that characterize the enterprise as we see it.

The entire human cognition can be regarded as a developing sense of direction in the world, and this activity is connected with the need to identify and distinguish objects: there are concepts for operations of this kind. Consequently, the formation of concepts related to the knowledge of the world, with the formation of beliefs about it.

By the end of XX century, linguists have realized that the native speaker - it is a carrier of certain conceptual systems. Concepts are the mental entities. Each concept put together a fundamentally important to the human knowledge of the world and at the same time rejected irrelevant representations. The system of concepts forms a picture of the world (world view, worldview), which reflects the understanding of human reality, its special concept "drawing" on the basis of which a person thinks the world. Explication of the process of conceptualization and content of the concept is only available linguist, who is himself a native of the language. Thus, at the turn of the millennium to the fore in linguistics is a mental problem, because the concepts - mental entities.

The term concept in linguistics old and new at the same time. S.A. Askol'dov - Aleksev published article an in 1928, which named "The concept and the word", but until the mid XX century, the meaning of "concept" is not perceived as a term in the scientific literature.<sup>2</sup>

Now linguistic science can identify three main approaches to the understanding of the concept, based on a common position: the concept - it's what he calls the content of the concept, a synonym of sense.

The first approach, which is represented by J.S. Stepanov, when considering the concept of a greater attention to the cultural aspect of where the culture is understood as a set of concepts and the relationships between them. Consequently, the concept - it's the basic cell culture in the mental world of man. They occupy a position in the nuclear collective linguistic consciousness, but because their research is extremely important.

The second approach is an attraction in Cognitive Linguistics (N.D. Arutyunov and her school, T.V. Bulygina, A.D. Bumblebee and others) the semantics of the linguistic sign is the only means of shaping the content of the concept.

Proponents of the third approach is the D.S. Likhachev , E.S. Kubrjakova and others who believe that the concept did not arise directly from the meaning of the word,

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<sup>2</sup> Алефиренко Н.Ф. Современные проблемы науки о языке. - М.: Флинта: Наука, 2005, с.174-199

but is a result of the collision of the word with personal experiences and the people's rights, i.e. concept is the intermediary between words and reality.

The concept, according to E.S. Kubrjakova - is the operational unit of meaningful memory mental lexicon, the conceptual system of the brain (*lingva mentalis*), the whole picture of the world, reflected in the human psyche. In the analysis of the concept it considers justified in the use of cognitive linguistics background concepts and figures that are used in psychology to describe the sensory- perceptual processes.

According to Kubrjakova if language reflects a particular vision of the world, and it reflects the position of the observer (or conscious abstraction from it) corresponds to the total subjectivity sealed and secured in the language of concepts. However, the synonymy - a phenomenon apparent, because for each alternative token worth individual conceptual framework .

Determining the value of a conceptual framework is, according to ES Kubrjakova, a new approach to the binding of values and knowledge.<sup>3</sup>

Interesting theory concept proposed by Y.D. Apresyanom, it is based on the following assumptions:

1) each natural language reflects a certain way of perceiving and organizing the world, expressed in him the values add up to a certain uniform system of beliefs, a kind of collective philosophy, which imposed the language of all media;

2) proper way of conceptualizing the language of the world is partly universal and partly nationally specific ;

3) view of the world (the way of conceptualizing ) "naive" in the sense that it is different from the scientific world, but it is not primitive notions.<sup>4</sup>

Common to these approaches is the undisputed assertion communication language and culture, the discrepancy is due to different visions of the role of language in the formation of the concept. Objects of the world become "cultural object" only when the concept of ethno-linguistic thinking they are structured in the form of certain "quantum" knowledge of a concept.

This term is still no single definition, although it is firmly established in modern linguistics.

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<sup>3</sup> Кубрякова Е.С. *Язык и знания*. - М.: 2001, С.32

<sup>4</sup> Апресян Ю.Д. *Основы семантики*. - М.: 1995, С.39

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