

Compounds with the Same Denotative Meaning in Different Languages

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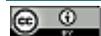
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Abstract

This article was devoted to the study of the specifics of national language thinking by representatives of different linguistic cultures in the nomination of complex nouns. The research was based on cognitive analysis, supported by the methods of semantic identification; descriptive-analytical and comparative. The quantitative method of material processing was used as required. A systematic approach to the study of compounds with the same denotative meaning in different languages needed the postulation of a meta-language, which could be a criterion for assessing a language in the light of its philological specificity. The peculiarities of cognitive comprehension of identical concepts and phenomena of the surrounding reality were revealed in the course of studying the relations of equivalence, continuity, inclusion, intersection, mixing, refinement, and contraindication, established between the CSOM components. The material of the work and the results of the study could also serve as a basis for further research in this area, in the practice of teaching English, German and Tatar languages among the English-language audience, and used in courses especially those in lexicology, comparative philology, cognitive semantics, as well as lexicographical practice.

Keywords: language; Analysis; Compounds; Teaching; Lexicology.



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1. Introduction

For the first time, the identification of national-language specificity was carried out on the materials of compounds with the same denotative meaning in English, German, and Tatar languages at the semantic-cognitive level (Chase, 1996). The most clearly reflected features of the perception of the world by different people are in the naming of the same objects of non-linguistic reality. For the first time, it was revealed in the body compounds with the same denotative meaning for classification of processes of conceptual modeling of metaphorical compounds with the same denotative meaning (hereinafter CSOM) in the languages with different systems.

The paper showed, firstly, that the commonality of CSOM cognitive mechanisms in the English, German and Tatar languages could be determined by the types of conceptual transformations of slots of metaphorical components in order to reveal the features of the conceptualization of reality by individuals of different societies. Secondly, through the prism of the Fund CSOM with an overall denotative semantics as the commonality and the difference of the linguistic and cultural stereotypes in the perception of a single non-linguistic reality in the minds of different language cultures can be detected (Croft and Cruse, 2004). The study was the first attempt to shed light on the features of the reflection of a single denotative meaning, expressed in complex words in different languages (Davletbaeva *et al.*, 2015).

The peculiarities of cognitive comprehension of identical concepts and phenomena of the surrounding reality were also revealed in the course of studying the relations of equivalence, continuity, inclusion, intersection, mixing, refinement and contraindication, established between the CSOM components (Dullieva, 2017). Moreover, six types of conceptual transformations of slots and metaphorical components of CSOM were identified.

Many researches have been completed to compare the similarities and differences between languages. For instance, in comparing English and German we find that where the surface structures of English and German contrast, English is less specified, leaving more to context (Hawkins, 1986), thus, "...German speakers are forced to make certain semantic distinctions which can regularly be left unspecified in English" (Hawkins, 1986). Furthermore, (Rogers, 1997) in "Synonymy and equivalence in special-language texts: A case study in German and English texts on generic engineering" considered synonymy and equivalence as relations between lexemes which share the same denotative meaning. In Safina (2015), indicated that the stable comparisons of Russian, English and Tatar languages have a special place in the language and thinking of each people.

In here, the material of the work and the results of the study could serve as a basis for further research in this area, in the practice of teaching English, German and Tatar languages among the English-language audience, used in courses and especially those in lexicology, comparative philology, cognitive semantics, as well as lexicographical practice (Kodekova, 2018). The prospects for further research of complex words were the study of pragmatic factors.

2. Methodology

The methodological basis of the research was the fundamental works of native and foreign researchers: (Antúnez, 2009), (Lakoff, 1990), (Leech and Svartvik, 1990).

The specificity of the study material and the objectives of the study predetermined the choice of a number of methods that allowed obtaining the most objective results complementarily. The works are written in line with the cognitive approach.

The article carried out the study of CSOM in the following areas: 1) definition of areas, interpreted and lexicalized through CSOM in English, German, and Tatar languages, 2) establishment of conceptual spheres, involved in the process of formation of substantive composites-correlates in the compared languages, and 3) classification of conceptual modeling of metaphorical composites-correlates in English, German, and Tatar languages.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of the analysis of the texts of conceptual transformations of CSOM component slots in the compared languages demonstrated the quantitative features of the distribution of the selected types of conceptual transformations of the slots of metaphorical components of denotative correlates in English, German and Tatar languages.

In 14% of OSS, there was a replacement of the content of the sub-slot with the non-characteristic one and the reduction of the frame to the slot with the non-characteristic sub-slot. In the formation of the same number of considered OSS, the processes of introducing a non-characteristic slot (with its inherent content) into the source frame and reducing the resulting frame to this source frame were demonstrated (Bazarova and Gilyazeva, 2017).

The minimum number of OSS was represented by transformation types:

- Introduction of non-characteristic conceptual content of the resulting frame slot (7%);
- Replacement of the content of the slot by uncharacteristic content and elimination (part) of the slots (5%).

Conceptual transformations characterized by the reduction of the resulting frame to the source frame slot (with simultaneous elimination (part) of the source frame slots) were also manifested in 18% of denotative correlates of English, German, and Tatar languages.

In the vast majority of OSS (42%), conceptual transformations were established, based on the transfer of the conceptual content of the original frame to the corresponding slot of the resulting one.

Conceptual modeling of metaphorical meaning has great explanatory power. It also allows analyzing the semantics of metaphors as a linguistic phenomenon that combines the whole complex of linguistic and extra-linguistic knowledge. The identification of the mechanisms of interaction of different types of knowledge induced in the memory of native speakers similarly allows us to present the inter-language semantic equivalents as a modification of the frame - like conceptual structure - a prototype based on the transformation in which there are regular rules for the transformation of the content of slots. Linguoculturological analysis is also aimed at revealing cultural meanings implicit in semantics and features of the functioning of linguistic units of different levels in speech, in various types of discourse, by combining traditional theoretical and experimental linguistic methods and attracting encyclopaedic, cultural urological data (Rosch, 1978).

This work confirmed the central problems of cognitive approach to language learning. "People are characterized by models of cognitive apparatus, which are universal" (Smirnova *et al.*, 2016). This is, firstly, propositional; secondly, a schematic model image; thirdly, a metaphorical model, and fourthly, a metonymic model.

The concept of prototypes in the cognitive theory of semantics reflects the intuition of Gestalt psychologists. Language refers to the conceptualization of the world.

3. Summary

The problem of cross-linguistic lexical correspondences requires close attention. The resolution of this problem allowed us to reveal the essential features of languages and cultures, and most clearly reflected all the subtleties and depth of cross-linguistic and intercultural communication. The components with the same denotative meaning were further analyzed. The difference in the meanings of words denoting the same concept in English, German, and Tatar languages indicated the characteristic relations of language units with the surrounding reality (Subich *et al.*, 2016). Values were also closely related to a person's ability to create global social ideals (Swan, 1984). Moreover, compound was used as a motivated unit of the language system whose explanation required knowledge of the values of the units that motivated it.

Research of multilingual denotative correlates with general semantics could also raise the question why there were different ways of designations for the same realities. Resolving this issue required consideration of various factors.

The identification of the values of the representatives of the English, German, and Tatar language cultures was also possible via referring to the internal form of the word and determining the subjective motives. Plunging into the

lexical depth, one can see “everything that is the subject of knowledge and expression, everywhere surrounded by the world horizon of language” (Taylor, 1995).

The main methods used in this work were descriptive-analytical and comparative. In the study of semantic features of composites (compounds) with the same denotative meaning, the method of semantic identification based on the integration of component analysis and a prototypical approach in the analysis of language units was used.

The types of conceptual transformations of slots and components of CSOM in English, German, and Tatar languages, based on the proposed typology of the main conceptual transformations of slots, were highlighted in this study:

1) Replacement of the content of the sub-slot with a non-characteristic one and reducing the frame to a slot with a non-characteristic sub-slot.

2) Introduction of a non-characteristic slot (with its content) into the source frame and reduction of the resulting frame to the given source frame.

3) Introduction of non-characteristic conceptual content into the resulting frame slot.

4) Replacement of the content of the slot on the non-characteristic one and elimination of (part of) slots, etc.

The results of the study were shown on the basis of the analysis of the process of conceptualization of reality of the Anglo-German-Tatar society considering six types of conceptual transformations of the slots of the metaphorical components of the composites (compounds) with the same denotative meaning. The problem of choosing the word as a process with different operations included: firstly, the speaker, supported by the knowledge of native language as a system, analyzed the differential semantic features and their potential pragmatic opportunities on the level of inner preparation; secondly, the choice of secondary nomination was determined by the inner lexicon of the speaker, their individual worldview, because thinking means introducing new words; thirdly, the inner preparation was not separated from external, terminative level, so that it aimed at an activity which allowed to achieve the desirable effect (Zinovieva and Aleshin, 2014).

The revealed types of the conceptual transformations of slots of metaphorical components reflected a vivid picture of the common cognitive mechanisms of composites of the common denotation in English, German, and Tatar languages. These studies could be also used in lexicographical practice in the preparation of special dictionaries of words with common denotative semantics in non-system languages. A more modern direction of cognitive linguistics development was also connected with the experimental approach. This approach was directly related to the theories of prototypes and natural categorization.

4. Conclusion

The choice of the topic was determined by the prospects of studying the problem of cross-linguistic lexical correspondences at the level of word structure from the standpoint of cognitive linguistics.

The paper investigated the actions of cognitive mechanisms applied to word-formation processes. The novelty was also determined by the fact that the cognitive basis of complex words and the cognitive modeling of the complex words were studied for the first time, which contributed to the further development of the theory of conceptualization and theory of cognitive word formation.

The research did not pay attention to the knowledge of complex words as a special way of linguistic consolidation of various structures of knowledge in the acts of knowledge and evaluation of the human world (Zyuzin, 2015). Previously, both formal and structural features of complex words and semantic ones had been considered.

The work also presented an analysis of the cognitive bases of the formation of semantically complex words in the studied languages, revealed the connections and relationships that existed between the concepts of the components of a complex word and linked to the propositional structure represented by a complex word.

Special attention in the present work, more precisely as in the project 2009-2013, was paid to the identification of propositional structures, correlated with the word-formative meanings of complex words in non-system languages.

The main conclusions drawn in this respect were that the peculiarities of the process of conceptualization of reality by the Anglo-German-Tatar societies were described on the basis of the allocation of six types of conceptual transformations of metaphorical components of single-denotative complex nouns in the languages to be compared (Osgood, 1952). The vast majority of the OSS had conceptual transformation, based on the transfer of the conceptual content of the original frame in the corresponding slot of the resulting frame. It was revealed that the acceptability of any construction from recipient's point of view could be determined by correlation with a linguistic norm and the corresponding model and also ability to its logically correct interpretation (Wierzbicka, 1985). The conceptual transformations characterized by the reduction of the resulting frame to the source frame slot, the replacement of the content under the slot with the non-characteristic one and the reduction of the frame to the slot with the non-characteristic sub-slot, the introduction of the non-characteristic slot (with its inherent content) into the source frame and the reduction of the resulting frame to this source frame were productive. Moreover, the revealed types of conceptual transformations of slots of metaphorical components reflected a vivid picture of the generality of cognitive mechanisms of the OSS in the English, German, and Tatar languages.

Considering that conceptual modeling of metaphorical meaning has a great explanatory power and allows analyzing semantics of metaphor as a linguistic phenomenon that combines the whole complex of linguistic and extra-linguistic knowledge, representation of metaphorical meaning as a set of cognitive procedures over knowledge at the same time cannot fully reveal the inexhaustible potential of metaphors.

Thus, further research is required in the comprehensive study of single-denotative compound nouns in different languages in all the varieties of interactions of cognitive and pragmatic factors.

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