

The Concept of "Pride" in the English Language and its Structure

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Annotation: This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the concept of "pride" in the English language, analyzing its conceptual structure and the various interpretations across different contexts. The article delves into both positive and negative connotations of pride, showing how it is deeply connected to social status, moral virtues, and individual self-perception. Drawing on the perspectives of historical figures like Aristotle and C.S. Lewis, the article discusses pride as a virtue, its role in moral philosophy, and the ethical challenges associated with excessive pride. It also addresses how pride manifests in various cultural, national, and familial contexts. The concept of pride is analyzed through distinct categories such as personal pride, national pride, and cultural pride, showing its flexibility and complexity in different sociocultural settings. Finally, the article emphasizes the fine line between pride and arrogance, exploring how these ideas are culturally and ethically shaped within English-speaking societies.

Key words: Pride, conceptual analysis, social status, cultural context, virtue, positive and negative connotation, moral philosophy, ethics, cultural identity, national pride.



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Language reflects not only the history of a nation but also the changes in its social conditions, way of life, and thinking. When a language becomes a primary means of communication for several nations, the process of these changes accelerates. The language used by representatives of different nations becomes an expression of free thought, far from fixed patterns, and a product of free cognition.

The concept of "pride" in English is not limited to the upper social class, but it expresses a broader phenomenon. One definition of this concept is as follows: "Pride seems to be a sort of crown of the virtue; for it makes them greater, and it is not found without them. Hence, it is hard to be truly proud; for it is impossible without nobility and goodness of character." According to this interpretation, pride is like the crown of virtues; it makes them greater, and it cannot exist without other virtues. Indeed, it is hard to be truly proud because it is impossible without dignity and good character. Aristotle views pride as a virtue, but this virtue is only true when it is connected to a person's real nobility and moral value. In his view, pride is linked to a person's other virtues and strengthens them. In other words, a person feels pride through their good deeds and moral excellence. For Aristotle, pride is not a simple emotion; rather, it is a feeling of respect and appreciation for oneself, resulting from the proper and good actions of a person. Here, Aristotle explains that it is difficult to possess true pride because it is based only on a person's

high moral qualities. Pride arises from the combination of other virtues, such as justice, courage, and wisdom. According to Aristotle, empty pride or overestimation of oneself (arrogance) is not considered pride, because true pride stems from a person respecting themselves after having achieved certain values.

As understood, in the consciousness of English-speaking people, "pride" is primarily linked to a sense of satisfaction with one's life. In this context, instead of deductive thinking—where a solid belief brings meaning to life—pride reflects inductive thinking, which sees reality as a personal journey to understanding and setting goals with deep emotional involvement. However, the English scholar C.S. Lewis analyzes the role of pride in human life in his work *Mere Christianity*. He defines pride as "the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. It was through pride that the devil became the devil: pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." According to Lewis, the concept of pride is connected to a person's desire to place themselves above others, to be noticed, and to compare themselves to others in order to be superior. He considers pride to be the root of all moral corruption. Pride convinces a person that they are superior to others, leading to arrogance. Lewis argues that pride is more dangerous than other moral faults because it not only damages a person's self-worth but also disrupts relationships with others.

The concept of "pride" in English creates both positive and negative connotations in different contexts, varying between excessive self-respect and self-glorification. The positive or negative meanings of the "pride" concept in English culture depend on the context and may range from personal achievement and dignity to arrogance and excessive self-valuation. The following table (1.1) presents an analysis of the positive and negative connotative meanings of the concept of "pride"

Positive Connotation	Negative Connotation
Accomplishment	Arrogance
Achievement	Conceit
Excellence	Egotism
Honor	Hubris
Integrity	Narcissism
Respect	Pomposity
Self-confidence	Self-importance
Self-esteem	Superiority
Success	Vanity
Virtue	

Table 1.1: Positive and Negative Connotations of the Concept of "Pride"

When analyzed from a religious and ethical perspective, pride in Christianity is often regarded as one of the "seven deadly sins" and understood as a moral weakness. According to this view, putting oneself above God and despising others is a sin, as it is associated with arrogance and excessive self-regard. In general, the concept of "pride" in English culture is complex and seen from various perspectives. Positively, it can be expressed as pride in one's work, family, or achievements, as well as in self-respect. On the negative side, it can refer to overestimating oneself and placing oneself above others, which is seen as arrogance. Therefore, this emotion must remain balanced within cultural and moral boundaries, or it could lead to negative consequences.

An example of the differing understandings of the concept can be seen in how abstract concepts like "pride" have different frames and scripts in the minds of different cultures. In English, "pride" is not only a result of religious and other existing beliefs but also a form of self-awareness where individuals understand their personal beliefs in conjunction with the social norms of their culture.

The English concept of “pride” can be analyzed through the following frames (Table 1.2):

Frame	Analysis	Examples
Civic Pride	Positive feelings and recognition of one’s society or country.	Volunteering, community service, local development, public leadership.
Collective Pride	Pride in group or societal achievements or goals.	Teamwork, shared accomplishments, group unity, mutual support.
Community Pride	Pride in supporting and contributing to one’s local community.	Neighborhood events, community festivals, local activism.
Cultural Pride	Pride in one’s ethnic or cultural heritage.	Cultural festivals, heritage preservation, traditional celebrations.
Family Pride	Pride in one’s family’s achievements or heritage.	Family achievements, generational success, parental pride.
Martial Pride	Pride in military service or combat achievements.	Military service, national defense, soldier’s honor.
Masculine Pride	Pride in masculine traits and roles in society.	Strength, resilience, leadership, responsibility.
Morality Pride	Pride based on moral values, integrity, and ethical behavior.	Integrity, justice, honesty, fairness.
National Pride	Pride in one’s country and its achievements.	Patriotism, national flag, national celebrations.
Personal Pride	Pride in personal achievements or actions.	Self-respect, personal success, confidence.
Patriotic Pride	Pride in loyalty to one’s country or nation.	National loyalty, freedom, civic duty, sacrifice.
Racial Pride	Pride in one’s racial or ethnic identity.	Racial identity, equality, anti-racism.
Religious Pride	Pride in one’s religious faith or traditions.	Faith, religious rituals, community devotion.
Traditional Pride	Pride in one’s cultural traditions or ancestral legacy.	Heritage, customs, family legacy, traditional practices.

Table 1.2: Frame Analysis of the Concept of "Pride"

The distinctness reflected in these frames plays a key role in shaping national consciousness. A nation’s belief system, way of life, and common goals are expressed in its language through concepts that are unique to that nation. Therefore, by understanding how a single concept is broken down into different components in the mind of a particular culture, one can gain insight into a nation’s past and future.

In English, “pride” is characterized both by religious and social beliefs, as well as by a more personal sense of dedication and self-respect. As such, “pride” can be seen as a positive force that reflects an individual’s commitment to achieving greatness and distinguishing themselves from mediocrity. This is the distinction between pride and arrogance—pride involves personal investment in one’s abilities and achievements, whereas arrogance stems from an inflated sense of self-worth.

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