

## Linguocognitive Aspect of the Study of Phraseology

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**Abstract:** The article is devoted to investigation of the cognitive aspect of phraseological units. Knowledge is a systematized information base stored in human memory, but it is very difficult to study the composition and mechanism of this base. The acquisition of knowledge and its storage, as well as the language system as a means of their application in practice, are objects of cognitive analysis.

**Keywords:** cognitive science, knowledge structures, information processing, perception, concentration, memory.



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Throughout the centuries-old history of linguistic science, new problems have arisen at every stage of its development, and it has sought to solve various problems. Increasingly, in modern linguistic theories, language is considered as a source of data on the nature of human thinking abilities, on the course of mental processes, on the organization of consciousness and the principles of processing information coming to a person through various channels, on ways of its concentration and storage [5, p. 48].

The approach to language from such positions led to the formation of a new direction in the science of language, called cognitive linguistics. Its focus is on cognitive abilities such as perception, assimilation and processing of information, planning, problem solving, reasoning, as well as the presentation, use and transfer of knowledge. One of the most important achievements of this science is the collection of information about logical and linguistic systems of constructions in the form of categorical concepts, which are a kind of "traces" of previous experience and remain in memory as a result of human cognitive activity [1, p. 27].

As in all other linguistic studies, the object of cognitive linguistics is language, or language activity, and its product. The content of the term "cognitive linguistics" is related to the English word "cognitive" - "related to cognition".

Sometimes cognition is directly related to understanding and knowledge. The knowledge acquired in the process of thinking has different types and features. First of all, this is due to how and for

what purpose this knowledge was acquired. Knowledge can be the result of the manifestation of culture. The categorical apparatus and methods of cognitive linguistics allow a new approach to a number of stylistic techniques – generally recognized means of increasing semantic and especially emotional and aesthetic potential [3, p. 32].

Being a complex field, cognitive linguistics summarizes the scientific data of linguistics, psychology, the theory of artificial intelligence, psycholinguistics and neurolinguistics, which makes it possible to define this vast field as mechanisms of mastering human language, as well as a systematic description and explanation of the composition of these mechanisms.

There is another important point: the process of linguistic naming of an object or phenomenon must go through a cognitive stage. It is the structure formed at this stage that is called "perception". In Longman's Dictionary of Modern English, the word "perceive" is given the following interpretation: to have or receive knowledge about something with the help of one of the senses or with the help of the mind. Consequently, "perception", in addition to physiological processes, is also mental processes (consideration, understanding and comprehension) [4, p. 12].

Asserting the cognitive nature of linguistic phenomena and seeing in it a direct manifestation of the connections of the real world, cognitive activity and language, scientists seek to penetrate into the secrets of the formation of language categories, and thereby into the essence of the meaning of linguistic units, including phraseological ones. At present, along with the ever-increasing flow of works by linguists, sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, we can talk about the development of cognitive phraseology.

For the first time, the term cognitive phraseology is distinguished by Russian linguists, finding sufficient general methodological and linguistic justifications for this. This is a relatively new and not yet fully theoretically formed direction.

The need to pose this problem has been prepared by the entire history of the development of linguistic science: on the one hand, the development of problems related to the use of databases, encyclopedic knowledge in the process of accumulation and processing of information using language; on the other hand, the presence of secondary, indirect ways of linguistic expression of certain conceptual content.

In other words, the appeal to this problem is caused by the need to comprehend secondary phenomena in language from the perspective of new scientific knowledge. Cognitive phraseology is part of the general cognitive approach to language. This is a cognitive-oriented study of culturally specific forms of communication. In the cognitive-oriented approach, the subject of the search is not semantic elements in the structure of phraseological units, but phenomena from the field of knowledge.

Linguistic phenomena are conditioned by the need to convey conceptual content. They manifest the basic law of development and thinking, which presupposes the accumulation of knowledge and the acquisition of primary and secondary representation as two different ways of representing knowledge in language.

Cognitive phraseology proceeds from the fact that the conceptualization of the unobservable passes through the observable according to the rules of metaphorical transference based on knowledge. Within the framework of cognitive phraseology, it is possible to describe national phraseoconcepts, compare the mental spaces of speakers of a certain culture, investigate the mechanisms of transformation of sensory and mental categories in the linguistic structure, study the mental essence of phraseological units of a particular language [2, p.8].

A holistic, global image of the world, created in the consciousness of a person, is formed by him in the process of comprehensive comprehension and cognition of the surrounding real world. This image of the world consists of reflected fragments of the surrounding reality fixed in the form of

concepts with the participation of all forms of consciousness and inevitably bears the features of human perception and development of the world.

Actualization of the complex meaning of PhU and its adequate interpretation has a direct connection with the cognitive base of the sender / recipient of information, since it provides the necessary information, knowledge, associations, ideas about any object of utterance, i.e. there is a direct relationship between phraseological units and their mental representations.

Social and household knowledge includes concepts such as social norms, social and household relations, social role, etc. This includes such PhU as: *cut somebody off with a shilling* "to deprive someone of an inheritance", *good wine needs no bush* "good wine does not need a label", = "a good product praises itself", *rob Peter to pay Paul* "to support one to the detriment of another", "take from one to give another (debts)", *sit above the salt* "to occupy a high position in society" and *sit below the salt* "to occupy a modest position in society", etc.

The semantic structure of the PhU contains a large stock of religious knowledge. For example, PhU *cast the first stone at somebody* - "to throw (the first) stone", "to be the first to condemn someone" is clearly realized with the knowledge of the event when the scribes and Pharisees, tempting Jesus, brought to him a woman caught in adultery, he told them: He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone at her.

Let's give another example of the PhU *wash one's hands (of something)* "to wash one's hands", "to get rid of responsibility for anything", the actualization of which is connected with the knowledge of the biblical event that Pilate, who gave Jesus to execution, washed his hands in front of the crowd, thereby showing his innocence and non-involvement in this execution.

The cognitive nature of PhU presupposes a rich potential of historical knowledge: so, PhU "*The best of British luck to you!*" it is impossible to interpret correctly without knowledge of the historical event of the Boston Tea Party, on the basis of which this PhU is built, carrying a negative charge: "So that you are not so lucky!".

Another example is PhU *the three tailors of Tooley Street* "a small group of people who consider themselves representatives of the whole people" (according to the testimony of the English politician D. Canning, 1770-1827, three tailors appealed to parliament with a petition beginning with the words: "We, the people of England ...").

The use of the word Dutch in a number of PhU with a negative meaning goes back to history, namely, to the Anglo-Dutch competition on the seas and wars in the XVII century: *a Dutch bargain* "one-sided bargain"; *a Dutch defense* "feigned defense"; *a Dutch feast* "a feast at which the owner gets drunk first" and others.

A significant number of phraseological units reflect the psychological behavior and mental state of a person. This includes problems related to diseases, physical and mental disabilities, death of people: *have (got) a bone in one's throat*, etc. "being unable to say a word", *booted and spurred* "on full alert", *go to bed in one's boots* (rude) "being dead drunk", *as crazy as a bed-bug* "completely crazy", *to quit the scene* (bookish) "die", *to join the angels* (joke) "to go to a better world", etc.

Great potential knowledge of the inner world, nature and human behavior contain phraseological unit type: *hit the booze* "binge drinking", *a fall guy* "scapegoat", *hairy about (at, in) the heel* "uncouth", "rude", *a publicity hound* "amateur self-promotion", "bouncer", *a hot-air artist* "chatterbox", *a knight in shining armour* "valiant knight", "gallant cavalier", etc.

Thus, the semantic nature of phraseological units represents a rather large stock of knowledge embedded in them and updated in the process of communication.

But, it is necessary to note the other side of this process: the actualization of the semantics of such phraseological units (in the semantic structure of which knowledge is embedded) depends on the cognitive (intellectual) base of the sender/ recipient of information, since without it is impossible to understand the true meaning of a particular PhU.

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