

COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS: CONCEPT, ASPECTS, PROBLEMS

Sitora Samandarova
Navoiy Innovations University
An English Teacher

Abstract

This article examines the idea of cognitive linguistics, a branch of linguistics that is strongly associated with neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics. The study of cognitive linguistics examines the relationship and mutual interaction between language and thought. The relationship between language's semantic structures and cognitive functions, as well as how they influence how people see the world, are the main topics. The foundation of cognitive linguistics is the notion that language is more than just a collection of signs; it also represents the mental processes by which individuals view and understand the world. This line of inquiry focuses on the connections between the different categories and concepts found in language and more general cognitive systems. The study of the relationship between language and the cultural and cognitive traits of particular societies is one of the key facets of cognitive linguistics. Several schools are taken into consideration in this context, each offering a unique perspective on how to comprehend language as a component of the cognitive picture of the world. Every school investigates how language affects how people see and understand the world, as well as how they interact with one another and the environment.

Keywords: Cognitive linguistics, metaphor, psycholinguistics, eurolinguistics, cognitive structures.

Introduction

The approach to language that is now commonly understood as cognitive linguistics in a narrower sense has its roots in criticism of some linguists, namely Noam Chomsky's generativism. His theses began to be seriously questioned in the second half of the 1970s: opponents (including former students) tried to show that Chomsky's mentalism was not the declared "cognitive revolution" [1], that it was necessary to investigate the connection between language and cognition and to deal with meaning in the position in which it is anchored in human experience. According to researchers J. Lakoff and M. Johnson, meaning has very little to do with what people consider significant in their lives [2].

METHODS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

In their first book, J. Lakoff and M. Johnson not only talk about metaphors and imagination as the main human cognitive mechanism, but they also anticipate a number of other related topics, which they then address in their next books: they mention categorization, to which J. Lakoff devoted an important section in the book "The Body in Thinking." The book talks about the

fundamental role of corporeality in our relation to the world, about a new approach to science, truth, thinking and language in general, which are characterized as empirical realism. According to these linguists, the formalizing approach to meaning, together with the “myth of objectivism,” does not take into account human experience, is counterintuitive, and does not explain how we humans actually understand things or how this understanding is related to language [2, 3].

In the linguistic context, the term cognitive linguistics is understood in approximately three positions. The main one is the one just mentioned: the combination of the American branches of Lakoff-Johnson and Langacker with the Polish semantic schools, which consider (with very similar starting points) different positions of the linguistic picture of the world. In these intentions, cognitive linguistics acts as an approach to language that complements the structural-communicative approach. This is an approach that emphasizes the relationship between semantic and cognitive structures, as well as the relationship of language to the general cognitive structures of a particular community [2]. For some researchers, cognitive linguistics is rather an interdisciplinary discipline at the level of psycholinguistics or neurolinguistics, in the opinion of many of them even indistinguishable from them, focusing on topics at the intersection of interests of psychology (or also neurology) and linguistics. This concerns, for example, a child's acquisition of speech, neuropsychic processes occurring during the production and reception of speech, speech pathologies, for example, aphasia, etc. Such a concept can be found, for example, in the book of the German researcher Monika Schwarzova [5].

RESULTS

The functions of symbolization and communication are considered the main functions of language. Cognitive linguistics clearly emphasizes ("profiles" in the intentions of its own terminology) the first of them, i.e. the one that is associated with the operations that occur in the human consciousness: we are talking about how a person (as a carrier of a certain language, and therefore a representative of a certain community and a certain culture) perceives reality, how he divides it into its various parts and "parts of parts", how he forms concepts, how he "sees" the world (and how this is shown in language). It is in this regard that experimentalism and anthropocentrism, the emphasis on corporeality, sensuality and everyday experience as the basis of cognitive processes and methods of conceptualization, are an important starting point. These principles are, first of all, metaphor (in the last two or three decades, thematized in a large number of cognitive-oriented studies devoted to the conceptualization of emotions, morality, politics, etc.) and metonymy (which has come to the forefront of research in recent times [7].

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Other phenomena are related to these phenomena: image schemas, mental spaces and their blending, narrative and its projection or parabola, etc. Another major theme, categorization, then in connection with the conception of meaning, is related to schematism, radial categories,



the establishment of levels of categorization (especially the so-called basic level), an idealized cognitive model, a domain or frame [8].

The fact that we think not only in metaphors but also in stories, and that these stories can also be viewed through the prism of certain genres, is the subject of much research not only in the field of literary studies (where the study of narrativity is a long-established theory), but also in cognitive psychology.

CONCLUSION

Thus, cognitive linguistics has long been established in the world as a progressive approach to language. The journal "Cognitive Linguistics" has been published for more than twenty years, the organization ICLA (International Cognitive Linguistics Association) and its now separate branch (Slavic Association of Cognitive Linguistics) are operating. Literature, including Internet resources, is unusually rich, cognitive linguistics, including its applications and various branches, for example, within the framework of cognitively oriented literary studies, is becoming a fashionable and attractive direction [6].

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