



ABSTRACT NOUNS IN DIGITAL DISCOURSE: A COGNITIVE-SEMANTIC AND PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS

Abdurakhmanov Khudoynazar Abdiraimovich

(PhD) Associate Professor

Independent Researcher, Karshi State University,

Email: suhratabdurahmonov120@gmail.com

Abstract

This article comprehensively studies the linguistic nature of abstract nouns at the intersection of semantics, cognitive linguistics, and discourse analysis. The study sheds light on the referential properties of abstract nouns, their conceptual nature, and their differences from concrete nouns on a scientific basis. The use of abstract nouns in the digital environment is explained by the expansion of their semantic and pragmatic functions. Based on a cognitive approach, abstract units are interpreted as linguistic expressions of concepts in human thinking. Also, the relationship between different levels of abstraction, semantic generalization, and conceptual categorization processes is analyzed. The results of the study show that abstract nouns do not represent real reality directly, but through a conceptual model formed in the human mind, and are an important tool for concisely conveying complex social, psychological, and cultural concepts in digital discourse.

Keywords: Abstract nouns, digital discourse, cognitive linguistics, semantics, conceptualization, semantic generalization, categorization, preferentiality, pragmatics, discourse analysis



АБСТРАКТНЫЕ СУЩЕСТВИТЕЛЬНЫЕ В ЦИФРОВОМ ДИСКУРСЕ: КОГНИТИВНО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЙ И ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЙ АНАЛИЗ

Абдурахманов Худойназар Абдирайимович
Каршинский государственный университет,
Независимый исследователь, доцент

Аннотация

В данной статье всесторонне изучается лингвистическая природа абстрактных существительных на стыке семантики, когнитивной лингвистики и дискурса-анализа. Исследование проливает свет на преференциальные свойства абстрактных существительных, их концептуальную природу и отличия от конкретных существительных на научной основе. Использование абстрактных существительных в цифровой среде объясняется расширением их семантических и прагматических функций. На основе когнитивного подхода абстрактные единицы интерпретируются как лингвистические выражения понятий в человеческом мышлении. Также анализируется взаимосвязь между различными уровнями абстракции, семантической генерализацией и процессами концептуальной категоризации. Результаты исследования показывают, что абстрактные существительные не представляют реальную реальность напрямую, а посредством концептуальной модели, сформированной в человеческом сознании, и являются важным инструментом для лаконичной передачи сложных социальных, психологических и культурных концепций в цифровом дискурсе.

Ключевые слова: абстрактные существительные, цифровой дискурс, когнитивная лингвистика, семантика, концептуализация, семантическое обобщение, категоризация, предпочтительность, прагматика, дискурсивный анализ



RAQAMLI DISKURSDA MAVHUM OTLARNING KOGNITIV- SEMANTIK VA PRAGMATIK TAHLILI

Abduraxmonov Xudoynazar Abdirayimovich
Qarshi davlat universiteti mustaqil tadqiqotchisi,
dotsent (PhD)

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada abstrakt otlarning lingvistik tabiati semantika, kognitiv tilshunoslik va diskurs tahlili kesishmasida kompleks tarzda o'rganiladi. Tadqiqotda abstrakt otlarning referensial xususiyatlari, ularning konseptual tabiati hamda konkret otlardan farqli jihatlari ilmiy asosda yoritiladi. Raqamli muhitda abstrakt otlarning qo'llanishi ularning semantik va pragmatik funksiyalarini kengaytirishi bilan izohlanadi. Kognitiv yondashuv asosida abstrakt birliklar inson tafakkuridagi konseptlarning lingvistik ifodasi sifatida talqin qilinadi. Shuningdek, abstraksiya darajasining turlicha bo'lishi, semantik umumlashtirish va konseptual kategoriyalash jarayonlari bilan bog'liqligi tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, abstrakt otlar real voqelikni bevosita emas, balki inson ongida shakllangan konseptual model orqali ifodalaydi hamda raqamli diskursda murakkab ijtimoiy, psixologik va madaniy tushunchalarni ixcham yetkazishda muhim vosita hisoblanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: mavhum otlar, raqamli nutq, kognitiv tilshunoslik, semantika, kontseptualizatsiya, semantik umumlashtirish, tasniflash, imtiyozlilik, pragmatika, nutq tahlili

Introduction

In linguistics, at the intersection of semantics, cognitive linguistics, and discourse analysis, the examination of certain lexical-semantic group units is one of the complex theoretical problems. Analyzing the semantic and pragmatic properties of abstract nouns in the mirror of the digital environment is also one of such problems. Because abstract nouns do not represent a specific sign of an object that is directly perceived through the senses, but rather the name of a state, quality, process, relationship, value, or conceptual category that is generalized in



*Modern American Journal of Linguistics,
Education, and Pedagogy*

ISSN (E): 3067-7874

Volume 2, Issue 4, April, 2026

Website: usajournals.org

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thinking. In this regard, although they participate in the language system as nominative units, their semantic nature is more complex than that of concrete object names. Through abstract nouns, social, moral, psychological, and intellectual concepts existing in human thinking are transferred to language, that is, language does not express reality, but a conceptual idea of reality[1]. Although the definitions given to abstract nouns in the linguistic literature are close to each other, each of them emphasizes a certain aspect of these units. In the traditional lexicological approach, abstract nouns are defined as nouns that express concepts that cannot be directly perceived by the senses, but can be understood through thought. The main criterion in such a definition is the opposition of concreteness and abstraction, which is based on the difference between an object and a concept. However, modern semantic research shows that it is not enough to define an abstract noun only as “the name of an imperceptible thing”. This is because the degree of abstraction is not the same in all units: some nouns have a purely conceptual content, while others are formed as a result of secondary abstraction based on concrete experience. For example, units such as justice, freedom, stability directly express conceptual categories, while units such as growth, movement, change are abstracted based on the generalization of a process or state[2]. This feature of abstract nouns is also observed in units in the Uzbek language.

The semantic difference between concrete and abstract lexical units is manifested, first of all, in their referential nature. Concrete nouns are usually directly related to an object, person, or material object in existence. They can be verified through experience generated by the senses of sight, hearing, and touch. In abstract nouns, the concept is not understood through the object, but through the meaning formed in the mind. Therefore, while the semantic core of a concrete noun is more denotative in nature, conceptual components predominate in the semantic structure of an abstract noun. In other words, units such as tree, house, and river name objects, while units such as hope, equality, and resistance name generalizations that are products of human thought.[3] It should be noted that concreteness and abstraction are not absolute opposite categories, but in many cases are complementary. Some lexical units may have a concrete or abstract interpretation depending on the context. For example, experience in one situation



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means a set of directly experienced events, while in another it appears as a concept of general knowledge and life experience. Thus, abstraction is often associated with the level of semantic generalization, and this phenomenon clearly demonstrates the cognitive nature of language. In general, the issue of the conceptuality of abstract nouns has been thoroughly analyzed by linguists[4].

The conceptual nature of abstract nouns is particularly important within the framework of cognitive linguistics. According to the cognitive approach, language units are inextricably linked with knowledge in the human mind, and each lexical unit is a verbal expression of a certain concept. Z. Popova and I. Sternin interpret the concept as a multi-layered unit of meaning in the human mind, and language is a means of expressing this conceptual content[5]. From this point of view, abstract nouns are units of the conceptual level. They are not ready-made names of reality, but rather a template processed, categorized and generalized by human thought. For example, the units of freedom or justice do not exist as ready-made objects in existence, they are concepts formed on the basis of social experience, historical consciousness and cultural values. In cognitive semantics, abstract nouns are often analyzed in connection with conceptual structures, frames and categories. L. Talmi, showing the formation of semantic content through various configurational, perspectival and conceptual means, notes that linguistic units are the product of the classification process in human thought[6]. This approach is especially important in relation to abstract nouns, since they often isolate some aspect of an event, state or relationship and represent it as an independent nominative unit. Thus, an abstract noun is not just a representative of a noun class, but the result of conceptual separation and semantic generalization. The means of expressing abstract concepts through language is closely related to the processes of semantic generalization and conceptual categorization. In the process of semantic generalization, a person combines various concrete experiences and creates a general meaning pattern from them. For example, the experience of individual unfair or fair situations is formed in the mind as a general category called justice. Similarly, many concrete situations such as support, joint action, and mutual agreement are united in the mind under the concept of cooperation. Language names this generalized concept in the form of a noun[7]. One important aspect here is that abstract concepts often



rely primarily on concrete experience. Cognitive research shows that people often understand abstract content through metaphorical and analogical patterns. For example, concepts such as time, progress, decline, pressure, and crisis are often verbalized on the basis of spatial or physical experience. Abstract semantics thus emerges as a result of a secondary conceptual processing of concrete perceptual experience.[6] This phenomenon suggests that abstract nouns are not entirely "immaterial", but rather are formed as a result of cognitive reconstructions of human experience.

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