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Cognitive and Psycholinguistic Foundations of Meaning Transfer

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Abstract: The following article analyzes the transfer of word meaning from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, through the role of the concept. It is emphasized that in order to know things and phenomena in existence, a person must name them, and in order to name them, he must have an idea about them. Imagination is manifested in the form of concepts, and concepts are expressed in language through words. It is shown that the concept, as a complex form of thinking, differs from intuition, perception and imagination, and reflects the connections, states and laws of objects and phenomena in objective reality in the human mind. Meaning transfer is psycholinguistically based on the function of the concept to fully express knowledge and gives rise to new semantic and grammatical phenomena. As a stylistic means, it gives rise to elation and imagery in speech, and also has its own morphological and syntactic properties.

Keywords: Word meaning transfer, concept, cognitive linguistics, naming, semantics, thought, psycholinguistics, imagination, consciousness, being.

Introduction: In order to know things or phenomena in existence, a person must first name them. In order to name, he must have a certain idea about them. If the idea is expressed in the form of concepts, then concepts are expressed in the form of words in language. The world of concepts is infinite, and the number of words in a language is limited. Therefore, not every concept is expressed by one word, so the infinite increase in words in a language is not allowed. To overcome this difficult situation, human thought has invented the phenomenon of “secondary nomination”. According to this phenomenon, words that previously participated in the naming process and had their own referent perform the function of naming in relation to another referent in the new communication process. In this way, various linguistic layers are born in the language structure created by the transfer of meaning.

In order to name things and objects in existence, it is necessary to take into account the requirements of practice in studying the changes in the attitude towards these things and objects in everyday life, determining their important features. This means analyzing the qualities and properties of a thing or phenomenon, isolating an important feature in it and using it to describe it, feeling, noticing, understanding, knowing the set of features accepted by the community of speakers, and being able to revive the thing or phenomenon being described in their minds and imagination. Therefore, relying on their linguistic and life knowledge based on generalizations, the speaker perceives some common features between another thing or person in the properties of a particular object or person and finds the nature of the connection between them, that is, the common dominant feature that unites them, and names it using their own language. As a result, a new meaning appears in the name of the first thing (the primary referent), and based on it, a new name appears in the second thing (the secondary referent).

The cognitive nature of word meaning transfer is

complex, in which a single process leads to the functional expansion of both meaning (the name of the first referent) and form (the semantic structure of the second referent). Any newly emerging concept that is the basis of meaning transfer is formed on the basis of a number of judgments, and the judgment, in turn, is based on concepts. Each new concept that appears on the basis of metaphorical or other types of linguistic transfer expresses important connections and relationships between primary and secondary referents and, in turn, is part of the judgment, conclusion. The analysis of the role, position and place of the concept, which is one of the main concepts of cognitive linguistics, in the transfer of meaning, has shown us that since the concept is one of the complex forms of thinking, it is completely different from sensation, perception and imagination. An important feature of the concept in human psychic activity is that it is characterized by its generality, not by sensation, perception and imagination, the main concrete images of things and phenomena.

The concept moves away from the individual signs of things and phenomena and reflects in our minds the common aspects of many similar things and phenomena. The concept reflects in the human mind the connections, states and laws of things and phenomena in objective reality.

The emergence of word meaning transfer is based on the psycholinguistically specific function of the concept in expressing the completeness of knowledge in the human mind. If the referents are similar to each other in some quality; or different from each other, this similarity is called the sign of the referents. And the sign of the referents reflected in our minds is understood as the sign of the concept. In secondary naming, the process of forming meaning, rethinking, reconsidering, and processing the meaning occurs. In this case, the indicative function of the word is characterized by the use of the proximity of the signs expressed as a development for the active. These signs-properties are present in the structure of the word, and the meaning of the new word acquires character. This ensures a second transition from one meaning to another.

The methods of transfer of meaning of a word are semantic phenomena that give rise to new semantic and grammatical phenomena in linguistics. They are: idiom, figurative expression, euphemism, epithet, jargon, polysemy, exaggeration, simile, ellipsis, etc. In the linguistic phenomena based on this transfer, the metaphorical method of transfer of meaning plays an important role. Transfer of meaning performs various poetic functions in works of art. Its role in creating an artistic image is especially noteworthy. More precisely, regardless of the fact that each of the transfer of meaning has its own semantic nature, they have the same function within the text. That is, they are a figurative means of expression for fiction. Stable compounds are used not to create images, but to rename objects, and they include many semantic phenomena that have become linguistic compounds today. Thus, stable compounds have already become linguistic units.

Unstable combinations include the principle of analogy or transfer of certain colors, shapes, character, and similar internal and external features of an object or event that are not customary, and it is more difficult to express their closeness. The service of artistic poetic metaphor is great in the formation of such combinations. In the non-stabilized type of transfer of meaning, the feature of polysemy is noticeable. Therefore, unstabilized compounds can be included in speech compounds. The transfer of meaning performs various functions in speech. As a stylistic tool, they can give speech excitement and imagery. They also have their own morphological and syntactic features. It was observed that the migration phenomenon of word meaning in noun, adjective, verb, adverb, and word groups is more active than in other word groups. For example, the similarity of form in a metaphor is related to the noun group, and the similarity of sign and characteristic is related to the adjective group. Verbs and adverbial phrases are used to relate objects and things to their actions and situations.

In conclusion, regardless of who or what the transfer of the meaning of a word is applied to and what its types are, they serve as an important tool in describing the properties of a person, object, phenomenon that are not revealed through the names of the person, object, phenomenon, and in complementing the transfer. Due to the fact that the transfer of meaning has the potential for expression and expressiveness and arising from the requirements of social development, it allows the language to systematically enrich its vocabulary and avoid repetitions in speech.

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