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## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WORD AND SIGNIFIER

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### ABSTRACT

This article is dedicated to the word and the concept it expresses. The word arises simultaneously with the concept, it is it that creates the possibility of abstraction and generalization that characterizes the concept in comparison with the representation. The word fixes in our minds a generalized idea of reality. The relation between the word and the signified consists, therefore, in the fact that, by naming the facts of objective reality, the word also reflects them, but not directly, but through the concept fixed in the meaning of the word.

### KEYWORDS

Word, sign, signifier, signified, reflection theory, arbitrary, concept, reality.

### INTRODUCTION

The theory of reflection suggests that language is based on the reflection of objective reality and that words are a form of existence representing concepts. According to this view, all forms of knowledge, including sensation, representation, concept, and judgment, are different manifestations of our thinking reflecting the phenomena of the real world.

Linguistics, as a field of study, encompasses various theories and approaches to understand language and its role in human communication. While the theory of reflection has some resonance with certain linguistic ideas, it's essential to note that linguistics incorporates multiple theoretical frameworks and perspectives, each offering its own insights and explanations.

It's worth mentioning that the field of linguistics is dynamic and continuously evolving, with new theories and ideas emerging over time. The theories and approaches within linguistics often build upon or challenge existing theories, leading to a better understanding of language and its intricacies.

Words play a crucial role in the formation and reflection of concepts. According to this viewpoint, the word and the concept emerge simultaneously, with the word enabling abstraction and generalization, distinguishing it from mere representation.

In this framework, the word serves as a tool for fixing a generalized idea of reality in our minds. It represents an agreement or convention within a language community to assign a specific sound or written form to refer to a particular concept. By naming the phenomena of objective reality, the word not only identifies them but also reflects them indirectly through the concept that is associated with the meaning of the word.

This perspective suggests that words act as vehicles for expressing and transmitting abstract ideas, allowing individuals to communicate and share their understanding of the world. By using words, we are able to categorize, generalize, and convey complex meanings and experiences.

It's worth noting that this viewpoint resonates with some philosophical and linguistic theories, such as the

forementioned Saussurean structuralism and the idea of signs consisting of signifiers (words) and signifieds (concepts). However, different theories and approaches exist within linguistics, and perspectives may vary on the precise nature of the relationship between words, concepts, and their reflection of reality.

Ferdinand de Saussure, a Swiss linguist, indeed defined language as a system of conventional signs [1]. He believed that the primary focus of linguistics should be the language itself, rather than its connection to the external world. According to Saussure, there is no inherent or necessary relationship between the linguistic sign (i.e., the word) and the object it signifies, thus separating language and thought from the reality they represent.

Saussure supported his claim of the arbitrariness of linguistic signs by pointing out that different languages use different sound complexes to denote the same concept. In other words, there is no universal or essential connection between the sounds of a word and its meaning. Additionally, he noted that similar or identical sound complexes can have different meanings across languages.

For instance, the English word "dog" and the Uzbek word "kuchuk" both refer to the same animal, but they have different sound patterns and belong to distinct linguistic systems. Conversely, the English word "bank"

can refer to a financial institution, while the same word in a different context can denote the side of a river. These examples highlight the arbitrariness and variability of the relationship between linguistic signs and the concepts they represent.

Saussure's perspective emphasized the structural aspects of language, focusing on the internal relationships and patterns within a language system. He believed that understanding language required analyzing its internal structure and the interrelations of its elements, rather than seeking a direct correspondence between words and external reality.

It is worth noting that Saussure's views on language and the arbitrariness of signs have influenced the field of linguistics significantly, particularly in the structuralist and post-structuralist traditions. However, other linguistic theories and approaches have also explored the complex relationships between language, thought, and reality, offering alternative perspectives on the nature of linguistic signs and their connections to the world.

In fact, the difference in sound complexes denoting the same concept in different languages does not testify to the arbitrariness of the linguistic sign, as de Saussure argued, but to the fact that in different languages different signs of the signified can be taken as the basis for the name. Russian table is connected with the verb to lay, English table with Latin tabula

board; the Greek trapeza indicates something quadrangular, and the German Tisch says that this object served as a round stand for food (cf. Greek diskos a throwing disc, English dish).[2, 33]

Opponents of Saussure's theory argue that this variation in sound complexes across languages indicates that the choice of signifiers is not entirely arbitrary but can be influenced by certain factors. One such factor is the historical and cultural context in which a language develops. Languages evolve over time, and the selection of signifiers can be influenced by historical events, cultural practices, and the linguistic traditions of a particular community. For example, the names for animals or natural phenomena might be influenced by local customs or beliefs.

Additionally, opponents of the arbitrariness of signs argue that sound symbolism or iconicity plays a role in the selection of signifiers. Sound symbolism refers to the phenomenon where certain sounds are associated with specific meanings or concepts across languages. For instance, many languages have words for "small" or "tiny" that contain high-pitched and front vowels (e.g., "petit" in French, "piccolo" in Italian). This suggests a non-arbitrary relationship between the sound and the concept being represented.

These criticisms highlight the complexities involved in the relationship between sound and meaning in language. While Saussure's theory of arbitrariness has

been influential in linguistics, it is important to recognize that there are other factors at play, such as historical, cultural, and sound symbolism, which can influence the selection of signifiers in different languages.

The philosophical perspective touches upon the relationship between language, meaning, and reality. It suggests that the word consists of two aspects: the concept it expresses and the sound it embodies. According to this view, the concept reflected by the word can be seen as a reflection of reality, while the sound side, though not reflecting reality, serves as a means of denoting or indicating reality.

This perspective aligns with the idea that language functions as a medium through which we conceptualize and represent the world. The concept expressed by a word is our mental representation or understanding of a particular aspect of reality, and the word serves as a means to communicate or refer to that concept.

Furthermore, the suggestion that the sound side of the word denotes reality implies that there is a connection or association between the linguistic form and the external world. While Saussure's theory of arbitrariness argues that this connection is fundamentally arbitrary and based on social convention, this perspective proposes that the sound

side of the word carries some inherent or mediating relationship with the reality it signifies.

It's important to note that various philosophical and linguistic theories exist, and different perspectives can offer alternative interpretations of the relationship between language, meaning, and reality. These discussions continue to stimulate scholarly debates and contribute to the ongoing exploration of language and its role in our understanding of the world.

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