



## LANGACKER'S COGNITIVE GRAMMAR

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**Sobirova Firuza Urunbaevna**

Samarkand State Institute Of Foreign Languages Teacher Of The Department Of English Philology, Uzbekistan

### ABSTRACT

Cognitive linguistics (cognitology) is a branch of linguistics that has been intensively developing in science in recent decades. Being an interdisciplinary field of research, cognitology considers human cognition of the surrounding world in relation to natural language. Cognitive linguistics studies language as a cognitive mechanism that plays a role in the coding and transformation of language. The goal of the cognitive linguistics is to understand how the processes of perception, categorization, classification, and the comprehension of the World, how knowledge is accumulated.

### KEYWORDS

Cognitology, human cognition, perception, categorization.

### INTRODUCTION

Cognitive linguistics does fit into the framework of one science, but lies at the intersection of several disciplines, which is a characteristic feature of modern humanitarian knowledge, - it is important to remember some other related fields, such as psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, biolinguistics, etc.

The interdisciplinarity of cognitive linguistics is expressed in the active involvement of information and experimental data from other sciences: primarily from psychology, but also from philosophy, neurophysiology, sociology, political sciences, etc.

The term “cognitive” goes back to Latin and further to Greek roots that is associated with concepts of knowledge and thinking. Researchers proclaimed its fundamental principle a connection between language and cognition. Wherein, cognition covers the complex of the process of achieving knowledge (cognition) and its results (knowledge) [1, 35]

The genesis of cognitive linguistics was due not only to history of linguistics, but also due to the development of cognitive research and the formation of the so-called cognitive science.

Trying to define the subject of cognitive science, E. S. Kubryakova writes that it is a science “about knowledge and cognition, about the results of the perception of the world and subject-cognitive activity of people accumulated in the form of meaningful and systematized data that somehow represented to our consciousness and form the basis of mental or cognitive processes. The definition of cognitive science which is accepted by the majority is that it is the science of knowledge representation systems and information processing, coming to a person through different channels” [1, 34].

One of the leading cognitive theorists in linguistics is considered to be Ronald Langacker, who develops a theory since 1976 originally called space grammar, and later renamed into cognitive grammar. R. Langacker formulates principles of cognitive grammar, starting from those fundamental theses of the generative theory, with which he fundamentally disagrees. These are, first of all, statements about the autonomy of linguistic system, independence of grammar from vocabulary and the possibility of description values using the apparatus of formal logic. In Langacker's

opinion, one can clearly see the common platform for the entire cognitive linguistics [4, 1]:

1. The language is not self-sufficient and cannot be described without accounting for cognitive processes.
2. grammatical structures should not be considered as a separate, independent formal system, since lexicon, morphology and syntax are a single continuum of symbolic units that are not naturally subdivided into component parts.
3. formal semantics based on truth conditions is not able to adequately describe the meanings of language expressions.

In Langacker's cognitive grammar, meaning is equal to conceptualization, or mental experience. Conceptualization is understood very broad and covers both existing concepts and new representations, as well as sensory, kinesthetic, and emotional impressions, in addition the communicants' awareness of the social, physical and linguistic context of the speech situation. The meaning of a language expression includes how the speaker perceives and comprehends the corresponding object or situation. To describe this aspect, the author introduces the concept interpretations (mental construing). By using any language expression, or another grammatical construction, a speaker makes a choice in favor of one of the possible ways of designating relevant object or situation. Hence it follows that sentences that present the same situation in different ways are not semantically equivalent even if their truth conditions match up. Functions of word and its various modifications in the process of word formation, “the meanings of language units and the motives for their

insertion into syntactic constructions" [2, 54] are studied precisely within the framework of R. Langacker's cognitive grammar. The cognitive grammar of R. Langacker presents "subjective" view of meaning, that equates meaning with "conceptualization or mental experience" [3, 3].

Cognitive linguistics is wide and varied, and this can be both a disadvantage (heterogeneity of direction, lack of a clear platform and a common research agenda) and advantage. The versatility of cognitive linguistics allows different researchers to find something "for themselves" in it.

Cognitive studies of language are of interest and value not only professional. An important merit of cognitive linguistics lies in the fact that it makes it possible to realize the relativity of our values, concepts and social institutions, the need for the critical analysis, revision, and adaptation to changing conditions.

Showing that there are different ways of understanding the same situations, various systems of morality that govern social life, cognitive linguistics emphasizes the impossibility of establishing unified absolute moral principles and criteria and opens the horizons alternative possibilities and points of view. It doesn't promise to make us wiser but helps us understand more profoundly what it means to be human.

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