

## **The Usage of Subject Category in Cognitive Linguistics**

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**Abstract:** The concept "money" (or conceptual semantics) is a mental unit that exists in the conceptual sphere of all communicators in the language, and has a universal nature, because it contains all the knowledge related to the conceptual semantics of "money" according to the situation in the perception of an objective existence by verbal and non-verbal means, that is, verbalizers is an important conceptual phenomenon that requires to be realized through communication, and therefore has a uniquely framed (moulded) content from the point of view of communicative need. This article examines linguopragmatic and linguocultural characteristics of verbalizers representing the concept of "money" in English, Uzbek and Russian languages and the author tries to analyze the national and cultural peculiarities of this concept in three languages.

**Keywords:** concept, lingvoculturology, linguopragmatics, paremiology, proverbs, sayings, aphorisms, national and cultural features.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cognitive Linguistics has emerged as a prominent field in the study of language and its cognitive underpinnings. One key aspect of this approach is the emphasis on the role of the subject category in understanding language use and structure. Cognitive linguists argue that the subject category is not merely a formal grammatical construct, but rather a conceptual category that is grounded in human cognition and experience. (Akhmedova, 2020)

Cognitive linguists have provided substantial evidence for the psychological reality of subject categories. Studies have shown that even young children understand the semantic and grammatical distinctions associated with subjects of different predicate types. (Doszhan, 2016) This suggests that subject categories are not simply imposed by language but reflect deeper cognitive processes. (Griffiths et al., 2001)

As noted by (Langacker, 1993), cognitive linguists have found "strong linguistic evidence for positing several constructs whose general psychological significance is quite apparent," including the notion of subject. (Braine et al., 1993) Further, cognitive grammar proposes that "every grammatical category can be semantically characterized," highlighting the meaningfulness of grammatical categories like the subject. (Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, 2008) This usage-based approach to language emphasizes how linguistic structure is shaped by cognitive and experiential factors. (Langacker, 1986)

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Cognitive linguistics is an interdisciplinary branch of linguistics that combines knowledge and research from both linguistics and cognitive science. It aims to understand how language

interacts with cognition and how linguistic knowledge is represented and processed in the mind. One key concept within cognitive linguistics is the “subject category”.

“Cognitive grammar proposes that 'every grammatical category can be semantically characterized,' highlighting the meaningfulness of grammatical categories like the subject”. This seems like a good opportunity to cite the Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition (Handbook of Cognitive Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition, 2008).

The subject category refers to the syntactic and semantic role of the subject in a sentence. It is a central element in sentence structure and meaning, often associated with the doer of the action or the topic of the sentence. Understanding the subject category is crucial because it sheds light on how speakers of a language conceptualize actions, events, and states. It also helps in understanding how information is structured and communicated in different languages. In cognitive linguistics, the subject is not merely a grammatical placeholder but a concept that interacts with cognitive processes. Subjects are often linked to agency and perspective. The choice of subject can highlight different aspects of an event or state, emphasizing the role of the entity involved.

Cognitive linguistics is an approach to language study that aims to explore and understand the interactions between language, cognition, and their intersections. An important underlying principle of this approach is that many, if not all, linguistic phenomena can be explained via general cognitive principles.

Subject Category in Cognitive Linguistics is as following:

#### **Definition and Importance:**

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#### **Role in Sentence Structure:**

In cognitive linguistics, the subject is not merely a grammatical placeholder but a concept that interacts with cognitive processes.

Subjects are often linked to agency and perspective. The choice of subject can highlight different aspects of an event or state, emphasizing the role of the entity involved.

#### **Subject and Agency:**

Agency refers to the capacity of entities to act upon or influence events. The subject is often the agent in a sentence, representing the entity performing the action.

Cognitive linguistics examines how different languages encode agency and how this influences sentence structure and meaning.

#### **Subject and Perspective:**

The subject can also reflect the speaker's perspective or focus. For example, passive constructions change the subject to emphasize the recipient of the action rather than the agent.

This shift in perspective can affect how events are construed and understood by listeners or readers.

### **Conceptualization and Categorization:**

Cognitive linguistics studies how subjects are conceptualized and categorized in the mind. This involves looking at how different languages and cultures categorize entities as subjects and how this influences thought and communication.

Categories are not fixed but dynamic, shaped by experience, context, and cultural factors.

### **Prototype Theory:**

Prototype theory is an important concept in cognitive linguistics that explains how categories are formed based on typical examples or "prototypes."

In the context of subjects, prototype theory can explain why certain entities are more readily perceived as subjects in different contexts.

### **Metaphor and Subject Selection:**

Metaphor is a key mechanism in cognitive linguistics, influencing how subjects are chosen and understood. Metaphorical thinking can shape the way subjects are conceptualized and described.

For example, in the metaphor "Time is a thief," time is conceptualized as an agent (subject) that can steal, highlighting its effect on people's lives.

### **Cross-Linguistic Differences:**

Cognitive linguistics also explores how different languages handle subjects. Some languages have more flexible subject-object distinctions, while others are more rigid.

Cross-linguistic studies reveal diverse ways of encoding subjects, providing insights into the cognitive underpinnings of language structure.

### **Applications and Implications:**

Understanding the subject category has practical applications in areas such as language teaching, translation, and artificial intelligence.

It also has implications for theories of language acquisition and the development of linguistic competence.

## **RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION**

One of the most fundamental cognitive functions in humans is classification. The process of categorizing entails considering a single object or specific experience as an example of a more abstract concept that also includes other real and possible instantiations. For example, one may interpret a particular animal as an instance of the species DOG, a particular color patch as a manifestation of the attribute RED, and so on. This mental abstraction will be referred to as a conceptual category. Conceptual categories serve a variety of broad purposes and can be thought of as cognitive tools, and are usually credited with a number of general functions:

## Learning

- Experiences never recur exactly: our ability to learn from past experience would be severely impaired if we could not relate the present to similar aspects of past experience, that is, by putting them into the same conceptual categories.

## Planning

- The formulation of goals and plans to achieve them also requires knowledge to be disassociated from individuals and packaged into concepts characterizing categories of entities.

## Communication

- Language works in terms of generalities, that is, in terms of categories. Any linguistic expression, however detailed, in the end represents only a category of referents.

## Economy

Knowledge does not (all) need to be related to individual members: a significant amount can be stored in relation to groups of individuals. New knowledge gained on the basis of interaction with one or more individuals can be easily generalized to other members of category. Conversely, knowing, on the basis of a limited number of criteria, that an individual belongs to a particular category, can give access to a much wider range of information about that individual.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, The subject category in cognitive linguistics is a multifaceted concept that encompasses syntactic, semantic, and cognitive dimensions. It plays a crucial role in understanding how language structures meaning and reflects cognitive processes. By examining the subject category, cognitive linguistics provides valuable insights into the interaction between language and thought, highlighting the dynamic nature of linguistic categorization and conceptualization.

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