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Linguocultural And Logical Description Of The Concept «Blue» In The Russian Language

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Abstract

The research is devoted to the problem of conceptualization of the color "blue" in the Russian language. The purpose of the study is to identify the color semantics of the color "blue" in the Russian language.

The concept of the concept, its structure, components are defined. The human experience, including color, is analyzed. The psychological characteristic of color is given. The linguistic picture of the world is considered.

The research methodology is based on the analysis of scientific literature, dictionary lexical units, fiction. The conclusion is made about what concept is meant by the choice of a specific lexical unit containing the name of a color, when color plays a decisive role in the perception of a life situation, the intended explanation, the choice of clothing, as well as traditions and habits, stereotypes of thinking associated with this color, in the worldview of Russian-speaking speakers.

Keywords: conceptualization, concept, color, language picture of the world, color picture of the world, psychological characteristics of color.

The proposed research is carried out in line with the semantic-cognitive direction of linguocognitology, which actualizes the consideration of the question of the correlation of the semantics of language with the conceptual sphere of the people, the correlation of semantic and cognitive processes, the study of concepts through the meanings of nominating linguistic units

It is believed that a concept in a language is most often represented in a word. A word can have the status of a concept name, i.e. a linguistic sign in which the central point of the concept is objectified and which explicates conceptual knowledge. Any nomination is the key that opens the concept as a mental unit for a person, providing an opportunity to use the concept in mental activity.

The totality of the concepts of an individual's vocabulary, as well as the entire language as a whole, forms a conceptual sphere. The part of the conceptual sphere that has received expression with the help of language signs, the totality of meanings conveyed by the signs of a given language, make up its semantic space. The

analysis of individual sections of the semantic space of the language makes it possible to identify a significant part of the content of the concepts reflected in them, to concretize the structures of knowledge located in a particular sector of the conceptual sphere, to get an idea of some of the features of human cognitive activity.
This study is devoted to the study of the semantics of names objectifying the concept of «blue» in order to build its verbal semantic-cognitive model. At the first stage of the study, according to the chosen methodology, the construction of the nominative field of the concept under consideration was carried out, which is a set of linguistic means that verbalize the concept of «blue» and its individual features. «In order to restore the structure of the concept, it is necessary to investigate the entire language corpus in which the concept is represented (lexical units, phraseology, paremiological fund), including a system of stable comparisons that capture the images-standards peculiar to a particular language»
The following are recognized as linguistic means providing a linguocognitive description of the concept in this work: a keyword objectifying a color concept and considered as the name of the nominative field; system synonyms of the nominative representative; single-root words word-formatively related to the main lexical means of verbalization of the concept; phraseological units (phrases, proverbs, sayings and aphorisms), including the name of the concept; stable comparisons with the keyword; contextual uses presented in lexicographic descriptions – free phrases that nominate certain features that characterize the concept under study.
Synonymic series are extracted from the «Dictionary of Russian Synonyms and Expressions similar in meaning» by N. Abramov. Russian Russian proverbs and Sayings are selected from the «Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian language» by V. Dahl, «Dictionary of Russian Proverbs and Sayings» by V.P. Zhukov, collection «Russian Proverbs and Sayings» (edited by V.P. Anikin).

The main task of describing the values of the units of the formed nominative field was to represent them as a set of separate semantic components forming the semantic space of the concept under study and, consequently, reflecting its cognitive features.

The analysis of the lexicographic definition of the representative word demonstrated the following component of the semantic space of the concept «blue»: «having the coloring of one of the main colors of the spectrum – the average between purple and green.» The key word can be called «skin that has acquired a shade of this color» (face, hands, lips, etc., blue from the cold), «boundless space» (blue distance).
The derived names blue and blue denote «a surface area or a space of the appropriate color» (blue under the eyes, pale to blue, cubic blue, etc.), the blue nomination is «coloring matter» (blue for underwear). Among the derivatives there are verbs with the general meaning of «manifestation of a sign»: to turn blue – «to become blue; to be seen» (blue from the cold, cornflowers turn blue in rye) and to turn blue – «to make blue, to paint blue» (to turn blue linen).
The system synonyms of the key nomination included in the nuclear zone of the nominative field of the concept «blue» (cornflower blue, indigo, ultramarine, sapphire, lapis lazuli, rainbow blue, turquoise, sky blue) correlate with one or another object of reality corresponding in color shade. This is the color of water, sky, rainbow, some plants, stones, the color of the feathers of birds, etc.

The above facts testify to the materiality, the objectivity of the linguistic concept of «color». The leading principle of the nomination of shades of color in the Russian language is based on the connection «subject > subject name > color name». Most color meanings have semantics formed precisely on a relative basis, while in the interpretation of the vocabulary of color, as a rule, there is an indication of the subject-standard, which was the basis for the origin of the color meaning.
Some components of the semantic space of the concept under study are identified by analyzing phraseological units. Thus, the semes «dry», «arrogant», «cold», «arrogant», «depersonalizing», «unifying individuality», «expressionless», «devoid of attractiveness» are included in the semantic structure of the expressions blue stocking, blue uniform, blue-uniformed archers, etc.
In some phraseological units, such signs of the concept of blue as «beautiful», «rich», «testifying to material well-being» are objectified: even though he is bad-faced, but in a blue caftan; at least I have a gray caftan, but I am brave in my bosom, and at least you have a blue caftan, but people say: throw it off; the blue cap, and he's a fool; the blue Armenian's treasury is thick; there was no gunpowder in his mouth, etc.
The blue color in the linguistic consciousness of native Russian speakers is also associated with death: it has turned blue (i.e. died), blue like a dead man.
A relatively small number of units of the nominative field under consideration and the features of the identified semantic features are explained by the specifics of Russian everyday culture, in which the blue color occupied

a special place. This color was endowed with magical properties among the Russians. First of all, he was connected with water, which from ancient times was considered a place where evil, hostile forces lurk. Water was perceived as an element associated with death and the afterlife. From the contemplation of the water surface there is a feeling of distraction, dissolution in the surrounding world, a feeling of complete loss of individuality. In Russian culture, people with blue eyes were perceived as having great magical power. The devil in the Russian language was tabooistically designated by the word sinets .

The semantic data obtained at the next stage of the work were subjected to cognitive interpretation, which is «a mental generalization at a higher level of abstraction of the results of describing the meanings of linguistic units nominating the concept, to identify and verbally formulate cognitive features represented by certain meanings or semantic components of these linguistic units, with the aim of final modeling of the content of the concept»

Verification of the semantics of the language means that verbalize the concept of «blue» was carried out by the method of free associative experiment.

An associative experiment is a way of studying psychologically real concepts and their features based on identifying verbal associations of respondents. In the course of an associative experiment, when perceiving a stimulus word, a complex, multilevel structure is activated in the mind of a native speaker, reflecting a figurative representation of an object or phenomenon, a prototype of the object, the corresponding scenario and connections in the mental lexicon. This method makes it possible to establish a connection between the meaning of a word and its semantic content, which arises in the process of a person acquiring experience within a given culture

During the experiment, respondents were asked to answer the nomination-stimulus (color designation «blue») with the first five actualized words.

The associates obtained as a result of the experimental study and ranked by the number of informants who identified them form the associative field of the concept «blue» (500 reactions): sea (73), sky (70), eyes (53), frost (19), cold (19), pasta (19), package (16), bottomlessness (13), water (13), handkerchief (13), alcoholic (13), jacket (13), jeans (10), paper (10), suit (7), blue (7), paint (7), flag (7), school uniform (6), plum (6), arrogant (5), security guard (5), killer (5), space (5), winter (5), salty (5), calm (4), dolphin (4), robe (4), hematoma (4), slates (3), ball (3), notebook (3), evening (3), veins (3), strength (3), fatigue (2), ugly (2), gloomy (2), beauty (2), rocket (2), faceless (2), thin (2), stewardess (2), sapphire (1), gloves (1), domineering (1), wallpaper (1), tarpaulin (1), mailbox (1), conservative (1), bird (1), car (1), star (1), fog (1), apron (1), tile (1), magazine (1), snow maiden (1), policeman (1), schoolboy (1), socks (1), desk (1), pacifies (1), frostbite (1), luxurious (1), interesting (1), frightening (1), terrible (1), chic (1).

The units of the associative field were subjected to direct cognitive interpretation. The received verbal reactions were considered as linguistic representations of individual cognitive features forming the content of the concept, and were generalized into a classification feature based on the proximity of semantic content.

Attribution of some associates caused the need for additional verification of the connection between the stimulus and the reaction of informants. The respondents were asked to explain what this or that answer is based on. The following reactions demanded explanations: killer, security guard, stewardess, Snow Maiden, policeman, schoolboy, strength, fatigue, thin, arrogant, domineering, salty.

The answers of the respondents indicate that the word killer is associated in the linguistic consciousness with the stimulus «blue» based on the legend of a man nicknamed «bluebeard»; the reactions of a security guard, a flight attendant, a Snow Maiden, a policeman, a schoolboy have a metonymic basis – people in the form of blue; the thin lexeme explains the bluish tint of the skin of underweight people, salty – the taste of sea water having a blue color; the fatigue reaction is caused by the appearance of blue circles under the eyes due to a decline in strength; the associates are arrogant, domineering, strength characterize the behavior and qualities of people in uniform – police officers, special forces personnel, etc.

As a result of cognitive interpretation of the reaction words sea (73), sky (70), frost (19), water (13), plum (6), sapphire (1), star (1), fog (1) are generalized by the differential sign «objects of inanimate nature having a shade of blue» (184 respondents were updated), and the associations of the eye (53), alcoholic (13), dolphin (4), veins (3), thin (2), bird (1) are united by the wording «objects of wildlife of this color» (76 reactions in total). The distinguished differential cognitive features constitute the classification feature «objects of nature of the corresponding color».

The final stage of the undertaken research was the modeling of the concept «blue». Based on the previously obtained results of cognitive interpretation, the content of the named concept is presented in the form of a certain structure.

First of all, according to the accepted methodology, we will consider the macrostructure of the concept «blue», attributing the identified cognitive features to the figurative, informational components and the interpretative field and establishing their relationship in the conceptual structure.

The figurative content of the concept under study combines a perceptual image that reflects people's sensory perceptions of blue, and a cognitive image that reflects the likeness of this color to the qualities of people who come into contact with it.

The perceptual image of the concept «blue» includes: «visual image» – sea, sky, eyes, frost, water, alcoholic, paste, package, scarf, jacket, jeans, paper, suit, blue, paint, flag, uniform, plum, robe, dolphin, veins, ball, notebook , slates, rocket , thin , bird , sapphire , star , fog, gloves, wallpaper , tarpaulin , mailbox , socks , desk , apron , tile, magazine, car, «tactile image» – cold; «taste image» – salty.

The cold attribute, considered as a component of the «tactile image», can simultaneously be included in the «cognitive image» due to the polysemy of the nomination-representative.

Metonymic characteristics of the denotation of the concept under study are interpreted as «cognitive images»: «behavioral characteristics» – arrogant, domineering, «physical qualities» – strength, fatigue.

As we can see, visual images prevail among perceptual images. The linguistic material that was obtained during the experimental study indicates the presence of reference objects called frequency associative reactions: the sea and the sky. These images should be considered as a fact of the conceptosphere of the people, as images standardized, processed and fixed by the national consciousness.

The brightness of perceptual and cognitive images does not coincide.

The informational content of the concept under study is formed by a cognitive feature «having the coloring of one of the main colors of the spectrum – the average between purple and green, dark blue.»

The interpretive field of the color concept includes cognitive components that characterize the attitude of the people to the blue color and various deductive knowledge about the signs and functioning of this color phenomenon.

The cognitive feature «aesthetic evaluation» has entered the evaluation zone of the interpretative field of the concept «blue» – the blue color, on the one hand, is beautiful (beauty, chic, luxurious, interesting), on the other – devoid of attractiveness (ugly, terrible). The mythological zone is represented by «mythological characters» (the killer, i.e. bluebeard, sinets). The encyclopedic zone includes signs of «professional affiliation» – employees in blue uniforms (security guard), stewardess, Snow Maiden, policeman, schoolboy; «result of action» – a person's skin can acquire a blue hue due to shock or hypothermia (hematoma, frostbite); «characteristics of space» – vast spaces are represented in blue (bottomlessness , space , blue distance); «temporal characteristics» – at a certain time of the year (winter) and time of day (evening), surrounding objects are seen blue. The utilitarian zone includes the «pragmatic characteristics» of the concept under study – blue, on the one hand, has a beneficial effect on a person (calm, pacifies), on the other – negatively affects people (frightening, gloomy), unifies individuality (faceless, conservative, blue stocking). The idea of the blue color as a «symbol of material well-being» has entered the socio-cultural zone (the treasury of the blue Armenian is thick).

The analysis showed that the interpretative field of the concept under study contains contradictory characteristics: the blue color is conceptualized as beautiful and ugly, soothing and frightening, etc., which is associated with the subjective and personal perception of the phenomena of the surrounding world.

Now let's imagine the categorical structure of the concept «blue» in the form of a hierarchy of cognitive classification features formed in accordance with their relevance for conceptualization: «objects of nature (living and inanimate) having the appropriate color»; «objects of blue color created in the process of human activity»; «tactile characteristics»; «spatial characteristics»; «impact»; «professional affiliation»; «aesthetic assessment»; «temporal characteristics»; «behavioral characteristics»; «result of action»; «mythological characteristics», «physical qualities»; «taste image», «symbol of material well-being».

The result of modeling the concept of «blue» was a verbal representation of its content and organization in the form of a field structure. The revealed differential cognitive features are attributed to the core, near, far and extreme periphery of the concept in accordance with the brightness criterion.

The nuclear zone of the «blue» concept includes the components of the sea, sky, and eyes. The near periphery was formed by cognitive signs frost, cold, paste, package, bottomlessness, water, handkerchief, alcoholic, jacket. Jeans , paper , suit , blue , paint , flag , school uniform , plum , arrogant , guard , killer , cosmos , winter

, salty , calm , dolphin , bathrobe , hematoma , slates , ball , notebook , evening , veins , strength , fatigue , ugly , gloomy , beauty are attributed to the far periphery , rocket , faceless , skinny , flight attendant . The extreme periphery is represented by the signs sapphire , gloves , imperious , wallpaper , tarpaulin , mailbox , conservatism, bird , car , star, fog , apron , tile , magazine , snow Maiden , policeman , schoolboy , socks , desk , pacifies , frostbite , luxurious , interesting , frightening , terrible , chic .
The formed field structure demonstrates that the nuclear zone of the «blue» concept includes figurative components. The near and far periphery of the concept under study is represented by both components of the figurative content and elements of the interpretative field, both evaluative and rational characteristics. There are no large gaps in the brightness of the near and far periphery, which indicates the cognitive relevance of this concept.

Thus, the obtained hypothetical model of the concept «blue» indicates that its cognitive structure contains information about the actual color feature, has a three-dimensional figurative component and a variety of interpretative features. The results of the study allow us to state a comprehensive, comprehensive reflection of the concept under study by the thinking of native speakers of the Russian language.
The presented verbal description of the concept "blue" acts as an experimental research model and is only some approximation to the color concept as a mental unit.

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