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THE INTERPRETATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT IN COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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Annotation: This article examines the relationship between language and thought from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. It discusses the role of Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Frame Semantics, Cognitive Grammar, and Mental Space Theory in meaning construction and conceptualization. The findings indicate that cognitive linguistics provides a comprehensive framework for explaining how language reflects and shapes human thought.

Key words: cognitive linguistics, language, thought, conceptual metaphor, frame semantics, cognitive grammar, mental spaces, conceptualization.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada til va tafakkur o‘rtasidagi munosabat kognitiv tilshunoslik nuqtayi nazaridan tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda konseptual metafora, freym semantikasi, kognitiv grammatika va mental makonlar nazariyalarining tilning ma’no hosil qilishi hamda inson tafakkurini aks ettirishdagi o‘rni yoritiladi. Natijalar kognitiv tilshunoslik til va tafakkurning o‘zaro bog‘liqligini tushuntirishda samarali nazariy asos ekanligini ko‘rsatadi.

Kalit so‘zlar: kognitiv tilshunoslik, til, tafakkur, konseptual metafora, freym semantikasi, kognitiv grammatika, mental makonlar, konseptualizatsiya.

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается взаимосвязь языка и мышления с позиций когнитивной лингвистики. Анализируется роль теории концептуальной метафоры, фреймовой семантики, когнитивной грамматики и теории ментальных пространств в формировании значения и концептуализации. Результаты исследования показывают, что когнитивная лингвистика представляет собой эффективную теоретическую основу для объяснения взаимосвязи языка и мышления.

Ключевые слова: когнитивная лингвистика, язык, мышление, концептуальная метафора, фреймовая семантика, когнитивная грамматика, ментальные пространства, концептуализация.

Introduction The relationship between language and thought has long been one of the central issues in linguistics, philosophy, and cognitive science. Traditional linguistic theories often regarded language as an autonomous system of rules and structures. In contrast, cognitive linguistics views language as an integral part of human cognition, emphasizing that linguistic expressions reflect conceptual knowledge, mental processes, and embodied experience (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Langacker, 2008). Within the cognitive linguistic framework, language is not merely a means of communication but also a mechanism through which people perceive, categorize, and interpret the world. Human thought is shaped by conceptual structures that are closely connected with linguistic forms. Cognitive theories such as conceptual metaphor, frame semantics, image schemas, and mental spaces demonstrate that meaning is constructed through cognitive processes rather than existing independently of human experience (Fillmore, 1982; Fauconnier, 1994). Recent developments in cognitive science have further strengthened the interdisciplinary study of language and thought by integrating insights from psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence. These advances provide new perspectives on how conceptualization influences language use and how linguistic structures reflect patterns of human reasoning (Evans & Green, 2006). This study aims to examine the relationship between language and thought from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. It explores

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the theoretical foundations of cognitive approaches and discusses how cognitive mechanisms contribute to meaning construction, conceptualization, and language understanding.

Literature Review The relationship between language and thought has been widely discussed in linguistics, philosophy, and cognitive science. Early linguistic theories, particularly structuralism and generative grammar, primarily focused on the formal properties of language, while cognitive linguistics emphasizes the interaction between language, cognition, and human experience (Evans & Green, 2006). This approach argues that linguistic meaning is closely connected with conceptualization and cannot be separated from cognitive processes. One of the most influential contributions to cognitive linguistics is the Conceptual Metaphor Theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980). They argue that metaphor is not merely a rhetorical device but a fundamental mechanism of human thought through which abstract concepts are understood in terms of more concrete experiences. Similarly, Fillmore's (1982) Frame Semantics explains that the meaning of linguistic expressions depends on the conceptual knowledge structures, or frames, activated during communication. Langacker (1987, 2008) further developed Cognitive Grammar, emphasizing that grammar and meaning are inseparable components of human cognition. Fauconnier's (1994) Mental Space Theory and Fauconnier and Turner's (2002) Conceptual Blending Theory expanded cognitive linguistic research by explaining how people construct meaning through dynamic conceptual integration. In addition, Talmy (2000) highlighted the role of cognitive systems in organizing linguistic meaning and conceptual structure. These theories collectively demonstrate that language reflects the way humans perceive, categorize, and understand reality rather than functioning as an independent formal system. Recent studies have further confirmed that the interaction between language and thought remains one of the core research areas of cognitive linguistics. Contemporary research increasingly integrates findings from psychology, neuroscience, and artificial intelligence to explain how conceptual knowledge influences language production and comprehension (Geeraerts, 2010). Thus, cognitive linguistics provides a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding the cognitive mechanisms underlying language use.

Research Methodology This study employs a qualitative research approach based on descriptive and comparative analysis. It examines the relationship between language and thought from the perspective of cognitive linguistics through a review of relevant scholarly literature, including books and peer-reviewed journal articles (Evans & Green, 2006). The study focuses on major cognitive linguistic theories, including Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Frame Semantics, Cognitive Grammar, and Mental Space Theory (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Fillmore, 1982; Langacker, 2008; Fauconnier, 1994). The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify the key cognitive mechanisms underlying meaning construction and conceptualization. This methodology provides a theoretical basis for explaining the interaction between language and thought within the cognitive linguistic framework.

Results and Discussion The findings indicate that cognitive linguistics offers a comprehensive explanation of the relationship between language and thought by viewing language as an integral part of human cognition rather than an autonomous system of rules. The analysis shows that linguistic structures reflect conceptual knowledge, mental processes, and embodied experience, supporting the view that meaning is constructed through cognitive mechanisms rather than existing independently of human understanding (Evans & Green, 2006; Langacker, 2008). The study also demonstrates that Conceptual Metaphor Theory plays a significant role in explaining how abstract ideas are understood through concrete experiences. Expressions such as time is money or life is a journey illustrate that metaphor is not only a linguistic phenomenon but also a cognitive mechanism shaping human thought (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Likewise, Frame Semantics emphasizes that the

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interpretation of words depends on background knowledge and conceptual frames activated in a particular context (Fillmore, 1982). These findings confirm that language comprehension is inseparable from human experience and cultural knowledge. Furthermore, Mental Space Theory and Conceptual Blending Theory explain how individuals construct new meanings by integrating multiple conceptual structures during communication (Fauconnier, 1994; Fauconnier & Turner, 2002). These cognitive processes enable speakers to interpret figurative language, infer implicit meanings, and understand complex discourse more effectively. Overall, the results suggest that language and thought are mutually dependent cognitive phenomena. Language not only expresses thought but also influences conceptualization, categorization, and reasoning. Therefore, cognitive linguistics provides a powerful theoretical framework for understanding how humans perceive, organize, and communicate knowledge, contributing significantly to contemporary linguistic and interdisciplinary research (Geeraerts, 2010).

Conclusion This study has examined the relationship between language and thought from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. The analysis confirms that language is not merely a system of communication but also a reflection of human cognition, conceptualization, and experience. Cognitive linguistic theories, including Conceptual Metaphor Theory, Frame Semantics, Cognitive Grammar, and Mental Space Theory, provide valuable insights into how meaning is constructed and how people perceive and interpret the world (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Fillmore, 1982; Langacker, 2008; Fauconnier, 1994). The findings demonstrate that language and thought are closely interconnected and continuously influence one another. Linguistic expressions both reflect conceptual structures and shape the ways individuals categorize, reason about, and communicate their experiences. This confirms the interdisciplinary significance of cognitive linguistics in explaining the interaction between language, cognition, and human behavior (Evans & Green, 2006). Future research may extend this theoretical framework by investigating the relationship between language and thought in multilingual contexts, intercultural communication, psycholinguistics, and artificial intelligence. Such studies would further contribute to understanding cognitive mechanisms underlying language use and meaning construction.

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