

## CONCEPT-SCHEME VERBALIZATION BY MEANS OF ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY

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Панін Є. Concept-Scheme Verbalization by Means of English Phraseology; кількість бібліографічних джерел – 8; мова англійська.

**Abstract.** A number of issues is in focus of modern domestic and foreign cognitive research, among which special attention is drawn to the structure of knowledge representation by different types of concepts. The aim of the article is to carry out the analysis of concept-scheme verbalization by means of English phraseology. The article deals with the structures of knowledge storage in the human mind and their language projections; explores major approaches to the interpretation of the scientific notion of a concept-scheme and its place in modern cognitive studies; identifies specific features of concept-scheme verbalization as a unit of cognitive linguistics. The methods of dictionary definitions analysis, conceptual analysis, cognitive-semantic analysis have been used.

Most scholars in their definitions of concept emphasize its ability to reflect the most essential features and, thus, serve as the basis for generalization and representation of a number of similar subjects of a certain class. Schemetic models are called specific schemetic representations of images in the form of trajectories, outlines, containers, etc. Such representations allow different concepts to be brought under one category on the basis of a common feature. The identification of such a classificatory cognitive feature explains the existence of a stereotype in the perception and interpretation of the world.

The study of phraseology as a means of rendering thought is a part of the general theory of linguistic conceptualization of the world, which is usually understood as the process of human cognitive activity, which results in the formation of a set of knowledge about the world. Considering the concepts-schemes expressed by fixed expressions of the English language, it was concluded that the main categories that are perceived by a person schemetically are, first of all, semes of measurement and quantity, because only in spatial terms a person can understand, for example, size, length or the width of any object. Special feature of phraseological concepts-schemes, in contrast with lexical, i.e. verbalized words with direct denotative meanings, testifies to the fact, that the rational meaning of phraseological units is encoded.

**Keywords:** concept, cognitive linguistics, concept types, phraseological concepts, concept-scheme.

**Setting the problem.** The great interest of cognitive linguists in the problems of knowledge representation structure and their intensive research made it possible for scholars to develop different classifications of concepts by linguists, which are of the most urgent issues of modern cognitive and linguocultural studies. The scholar innovation of the article is that it has been the first attempt to identify and describe the peculiarities of *concept-scheme* verbalization by means of English phraseology as a type of knowledge representation.

**The analysis of the studies** is based on the scientific evidence of such scholars as: M.M. Poluzhyn, N.D. Arutyunova, A.P. Babushkin, E. S. Kubryakova, Z.D. Popova, I.A. Sternin, N.F. Alefirenko and others.

**The aim of the article** is to carry out the analysis of *concept-scheme* verbalization by means of English phraseology. Thus, several tasks have been set:

- to investigate the structures of knowledge storage in the human mind and their language projections;
- to explore major approaches to the interpretation of the scientific notion of a *concept-scheme* and its place in modern cognitive studies;
- to identify specific features of *concept-scheme* verbalization as a unit of cognitive linguistics.

To achieve this different methodology of investigation has been used including such **methods** as: dictionary definitions analysis, conceptual analysis, cognitive-semantic analysis.

**The account of the basic material.** The study of phraseology as a mean of thought conceptualizing

is a part of the general theory of the linguistic conceptualization world, that is usually understood as the process of human cognitive activity, which results in a set of knowledge about the world represented in language.

Phraseological units reflect a person's understanding of reality, forming a conceptual image, which is the basis of human worldview. The study of the semantics of phraseological types of concepts is one of the means of access to the national linguistic consciousness. Cultural significance of any concept can be clearly traced through the phraseological representation. A peculiar feature of phraseological concepts, in contrast with lexical, which have direct denotative value, is that the rational meaning of phraseological units is encoded. The representation of a phraseological concept is caused by the desire to expressively, figuratively reflect a certain idea, to give an emotional assessment of a phenomenon.

The majority of scholars in their definitions of concept emphasize its ability to reflect the most essential features and thus to serve the basis for generalization and representation of a number of similar subjects of a certain class [8, p. 100]. As a result of such cognitive studies different classifications of concepts have been offered depending on:

1. the significance of the concept in the structure of the conceptual system: *fundamental and non-fundamental*;
2. language expressions: *verbalized and non-verbalized*;

3. methods of linguistic representation: *lexical, phraseological, grammatical, textual concepts*;

4. meeting the needs of the society: *collective and individual*;

5. structures of knowledge representation: *concept-notion, concept-scheme, concept-frame, concepts-script, gestalt etc.*;

6. discursive attachment:

- on the principle of knowledge of the world: *scientific, everyday, artistic*;

- by thematic principle: *pedagogical, religious, economic, medical, legal, etc.*

As there are a lot of controversial issues concerning different typologies of concepts we trace in modern works of cognitive linguistics interest in a more detailed study of the structure of knowledge representation by different types of concepts, as the author of the above mentioned classification, A.P. Babushkin, notes that the boundaries between types of concepts are not absolute but relative. According to the scholar, the idea of phraseological concepts classification need a special consideration [Babushkin, 1997, p. 153].

According to N.N. Boldyirev, phraseological concepts are those that are reflected in phraseological combinations [Boldyirev, 2001, p. 24]. *Concept-scheme* as a type of knowledge structure representation is a concept rendered by a certain generalized spatial-graphic or contour scheme. If a dictionary definition contains an indication of contours, lines or outlines that form the object, it can be considered as a *concept-scheme* [Maslova, 2005, p. 46].

The term *scheme* was originally proposed by Emmanuel Kant in «Critique of Pure Reason» (1781). It has been used in philosophy and cognition psychology since the 19th century to represent concepts for reasoning, perception, problem solving and natural language interaction.

According to Collins Online Dictionary the word *scheme* has several meanings depending on the field of its usage:

1) General meaning – a plan, diagram or scheme

2) In the philosophy of Kant – a rule or principle that enables the understanding to apply its categories and unify experience

3) Psychology - a mental model of the world aspects or of the self that is structured in such a way as to facilitate the processes of cognition and perception

Logic – an expression using meta-variables that may be replaced by object language expressions to yield a well-formed formula.

Taking into account the meaning of the concept-scheme as a generalized spatial-graphic scheme, and the definitions given in the Collins English Online Dictionary, the concept of «space» can be considered as a key in the problem of knowledge structures differentiation. «Space» is one of the first realities of human existence, which is perceived and differentiated by a person [Arutyunova; Levotina, 2000, p. 127].

According to the observations of N.F. Venzhyrovych, the most common keywords in phraseological units related to space are: road, path, way [Venzhyrovych, 2018, p. 351]. Such words are perceived by a

person *schemetically* that enables to form a universally applicable image to a general conception.

The concept of «space» makes it possible to consider the main categories which are comprehended by a person in a schemetic way. These are, first of all, the semes of measurement and quantity, because only in spatial terms a person can understand, for example, the size, length or width of an object.

J. Lakoff considers schemetic models as a specific schemetic representation of images in the form of trajectories, outlines, containers, etc. [Lakoff; Dzhezhonson, 2004, p. 31], i.e. such representations which enable bringing various images under one category on the basis of the general feature. The identification of such a classificatory cognitive feature explains the existence of a stereotype in the perception and interpretation of the world.

In the course of identifying specific features of concept-scheme verbalization by means of English phraseology we have distinguished the following two main groups:

#### I. Phraseological units comparising a geometric component.

- «eternal triangle/love triangle» – *romantic relationship involving three people*) [Barantsev, 2005, p. 29];

- «Round table» (conference) – *round table conference (legendary English King Arthur and his knights sat at a round table so as not to favor anyone)* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 826];

- «vicious circle» – *enchanted circle [lat. circulus vitiosus] a difficult situation from which it is difficult to find a way out* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 986];

«to square the circle» – *If you try to square the circle, you try to do something that is very difficult or impossible* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 883];

- «On the square» – *honestly, fairly*. Literally, this phrase means «at the right angles». For example: Our dealings with them have always been on the square (Our arrangements with them have always been honest). Accordingly, the antonym of this phraseological unit is the phrase «out of square», which literally means «at the wrong angles», and figuratively «dishonest» or «out of agreement» [Barantsev, 2005, p. 732];

- «round peg in a square hole» or «square peg in a round hole» – *inappropriate or unqualified person* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 826].

#### II. Phraseological units verbalizing the semes of size and quantity

The British speak of a tall man «as tall as a maypole». This phraseological unit includes the word «maypole», which has several meanings: 1) a May tree (a pillar decorated with flowers, around which people dance on May 1 in England); 2) a pole (figuratively – *very tall person*). If we interpret the first meaning of the word maypole, then this phraseological unit can be considered specific, as it reflects the cultural reality existing only for English native speakers. If we take into account the second meaning of the word, we can notice that the image of a “pole” is also reflected in phraseological units of the Ukrainian and Russian languages meaning a very tall person.

Some other concept-schemes verbalized by English phraseology:

- «A drop in the ocean / a drop in the bucket» – *a very small or unimportant amount, especially when compared to something else* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 292];
- «knee high to a duck» – *Diminutive, as in size or importance* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 579];
- «bed of Procrustes» – *a scheme or pattern into which someone or something is arbitrarily forced* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 83];
- «walking corpse» – *a very skinny person* [Barantsev, 2005, p. 989].

Thus, we come to a conclusion that these basic findings are consistent with research showing that concept-scheme is a generalized description or a conceptual system for understanding knowledge and how it is used. As any other type of knowledge representation by means of phraseology concept-scheme is also endowed with national specificity. Future research should more carefully consider the potential effects of inter-conceptual transitions of concepts, for example transitions of concepts between different types of knowledge structures representation.

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#### ВЕРБАЛІЗАЦІЯ ПОНЯТТЯ-СХЕМИ ЗАСОБАМИ АНГЛІЙСЬКОЇ ФРАЗЕОЛОГІЇ

**Анотація.** У центрі уваги сучасних вітчизняних та зарубіжних когнітивних досліджень знаходиться низка проблем, серед яких особливу увагу привертає питання структури представлення знань різними типами концептів. Мета статті полягає у виявленні особливостей вербалізації концепту-схеми як типу структури представлення знань засобами англійської фразеології. У статті досліджено основні принципи класифікацій типів концептів, розглянуто підходи до трактування такого наукового поняття, як концепт-схема та її місце в сучасних когнітивних дослідженнях, визначено особливості вираження концепту-схеми фразеологічними одиницями англійської мови. Застосовано методи аналізу словникових дефініцій, концептуальний та когнітивний аналіз.

Більшість дослідників у своїх визначеннях концепту наголошують на його здатності відображати найсуттєвіші ознаки і, таким чином, слугувати основою для узагальнення та репрезентації низки подібних предметів певного класу. Схематичними моделями Дж. Лакофф називає специфічні схематичні уявлення образів у вигляді траєкторій,

обрисів, умістиш і т. ін., тобто такі уявлення, які дають змогу різні поняття підвести під одну категорію на підставі загальної ознаки. Вона є класифікаційним когнітивним маркером, що свідчить про існування стереотипу в сприйнятті та інтерпретації світу. Вивчення фразеології як специфічного засобу висловлення думки є частиною загальної теорії лінгвістичної концептуалізації світу, що зазвичай розглядається як процес пізнавальної діяльності людини, внаслідок якого утворюється набір знань про світ. Розгляд *концептів-схем*, виражених сталими висловами англійської мови, уможливив висновок про те, що основні категорії, які сприймаються людиною схематично, це, насамперед, семи міри та величини, оскільки лише в просторовому відношенні людина може досягнути розумом, наприклад, розмір, довжину чи ширину будь-якого предмета. Особливою рисою фразеологічних *концептів-схем*, на відміну від лексичних, тобто вербалізованих словами з прямими денотативними значеннями, є те, що раціональний сенс фразеологічних одиниць специфічно кодується кожною мовою.

**Ключові слова:** концепт, когнітивна лінгвістика, типи концептів, фразеологічні типи концептів, концепт-схема.

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