# Cognitivism, Cognitive Linguistics

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**Abstract:** Logic, philosophy, physiology, and psychology have long been concerned with the human intellect, the laws of thought. So, in philosophy there is a whole section - epistemology, dealing with the theory of knowledge. Therefore, it can be argued that cognitivism has a huge tradition, the roots of which go back to antiquity. But within the framework of cognitive science, old questions sounded in a new way.

**Keywords:** Cognitivism, cognition, information, psychology, mental process, system, language, emotion.

**Introduction.** Cognitivism - this is a direction in science, the object of study of which is the human mind, thinking and those mental processes and states that are associated with them. This is the science of knowledge and cognition, of the perception of the world in the process of human activity.

**Literature review.** The processes associated with knowledge and information are called cognitive, or cognitions. From the standpoint of cognitivism, a person is studied as an information processing system, and human behavior is described and explained in terms of its internal states. These states are physically manifested, observed and interpreted as receiving, processing, storing, and then mobilizing information for rational problem solving. Among the most important principles of cognitivism is the interpretation of a person as a subject acting, actively perceiving and producing information, guided in his mental activity by certain schemes, programs, plans, strategies. And cognitive science itself began to be seen as the science of the general principles that govern mental processes in the human brain. Modern research indicates that cognitivism combines several scientific areas: cognitive psychology, cultural anthropology, artificial intelligence modeling, philosophy, neuroscience, linguistics, etc. In this regard, it is important to note the interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science.

The term "cognitivism" today refers to:

✓ a research program for the human "thinking mechanism";

✓ studying the processing of information coming to a person through different channels;

✓ construction of mental models of the world;

✓ arrangement of systems that provide various kinds of cognitive acts;

✓ understanding and formation by a person and a computer program of thoughts expressed in natural language; creation of a computer program model capable of understanding and producing text;

✓ a wide range of mental processes serving mental acts.

The birth of cognitive science, according to J. Miller, took place in the mid-1950s. J. Miller, together with J. Brunner in 1960, organized the first center for cognitive research at Harvard University. In cognitive science, the focus is on human 55 cognition . The cognitive world of a person is studied by his behavior and activities, taking place with the active participation of the language, which forms the speech-thinking basis of any human activity - forms its motives, attitudes, predicts the result. So, the central category in cognitive linguistics is the category of knowledge, the problem of types of knowledge and ways of their linguistic representation. Language is the main means of fixing, storing, processing and transferring knowledge. From the point of view of cognitive science, language cannot be considered in isolation from other forms of human intellectual activity, since it is in language that the results of cognitive activity are fixed.

The categorization of human experience is associated with its cognitive activity, since the meaningful information obtained in the course of human cognitive activity and becoming the product of its processing finds its expression in linguistic forms: , knowledge about the world ... a form of presentation and actual retention of knowledge in individual consciousness "[1].

**Analysis.** Cognitive processes are "associated with language and take the form of "linguistic" processes"[2]. Cognition is an important concept of cognitive linguistics, it covers knowledge and thinking in their linguistic embodiment, and therefore cognition, cognitivism turned out to be closely related to linguistics. It has now become an axiom that in the whole complex of human sciences, first of all, the relationship between language and other types of human activity collides. Even more than culture and society, language provides cognitive scientists with the key to understanding human behavior. Therefore, the language was in the center of attention of cognitivists[3].

Cognitive linguistics arises on the basis of cognitivism within the framework of the modern anthropocentric paradigm, which significantly expands the horizons of linguistic research. The following sciences played a role in its formation: cognitive psychology, linguistic semantics, ethnolinguistics, linguistic typology, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, cultural studies, comparative historical linguistics. In the second half of the XX century. there was a need to look at the language from the point of view of its participation in human cognitive activity. The subject of consideration in cognitive linguistics is that part of the information obtained in the course of subject-cognitive activity, which is reflected and fixed in linguistic forms. In the United States, where this trend originated, it is more often called "cognitive grammar", which is explained by the expanded understanding of the term "grammar" in English linguistics. In Russia, the term "cognitive semantics" is often used, indicating one of the sources of this research direction. The formation of certain ideas about the world is the result of the interaction of three levels of mental reflection: sensory perception, the formation of ideas (elementary generalizations and abstractions), speech-thinking processes. All this summary information is the essence of the system of concepts: R. Shepard argues that cognitive science is the science of systems for representing knowledge and obtaining information. Or, according to other definitions, the science of the general principles that govern mental processes. V.A. Zvegintsev wrote that an essential feature of knowledge is its discrete nature, and that this circumstance already forces us to immediately turn to the language, which performs three functions here: "It serves as a means of discretization of knowledge, their objectification and, finally, interpretation. These functions are closely interconnected"[4] . In their totality, they constitute those signs by which the participation of language in thought processes is established. At the same time, these functions are the forms that the mind follows when assimilating knowledge. Consequently, without language, no kinds of intellectual and spiritual human activity are possible. It is language that provides the most natural access to consciousness and thought processes, and not at all because many results of mental activity turn out to be verbalized , but because "we

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[1] Леонтьев А.Н. Потребности, мотивы и эмоции. - М., 1971. – p.39

[2] Кубрякова Е.С. Размышления о судьбах когнитивной лингвистики на рубеже веков // Вопросы филологии. - 2001. - № 1.-е. - p. 28-34

[3] Демьянков В.З. Когнитивная лингвистика как разновидность интерпретирующего подхода // Вопросы языкознания, 1994, № 4. - p. 17-33

[4] Звегинцев В.А. Мысли о лингвистике / Предисл. В.М. Алпатова. - М.: Изд-во Моск. ун-та, 1996. - p. 195

know about the structures of consciousness only thanks to the language that allows us to report these structures and describe them in any natural language "[5].

**Discussion.** Cognitive linguistics is "a linguistic direction that focuses on language as a general cognitive mechanism, as a cognitive tool - a system of signs that play a role in the representation (coding) and transformation of information".

The goal of cognitive linguistics is to understand how the perception, categorization, classification and understanding of the world is carried out, how knowledge is accumulated, what systems provide various types of information activities. At this stage, cognitive linguistics is faced with three main problems: about the nature of the linguistic sign, about its assimilation, about how it is used. The central problem of cognitive linguistics is the construction of a model of language communication as the basis for knowledge exchange.

The most important object of cognitive science is language, but now scientists approach it from different positions. Without resorting to language, one cannot hope to understand the essence of such human cognitive abilities as the perception, assimilation and processing of linguistic information, planning, problem solving, reasoning, learning, as well as the acquisition, presentation and use of knowledge. Cognitive linguistics, according to E.S. Kubryakova, explores not only language, but also cognition (cognition, thinking, knowledge): at the basic level of categorization "... the categories are not fundamental and the highest in the hierarchy of associations, but associations in which the most relevant for ordinary consciousness of the property"[6].

From a cognitive point of view, metaphor and metonymy, discourse, other forms of knowledge representation - frames, scripts, scripts, etc., concepts are studied. Cognitive linguistics supplements the analysis of the language with the analysis of speech, various contexts of the use of the corresponding lexemes, the judgments about the concept recorded in the texts, its definitions in various dictionaries and reference books, the analysis of phraseology, proverbs, sayings, aphorisms in which the concept is represented. The task of cognitive linguistics is "the study of language processes, language units and categories, etc. in their correlation with memory, imagination, perception and thinking"[7].

A.N. Baranov and D.O. Dobrovolsky (1997) put forward seven 59 postulates of cognitive linguistics:

1. The postulate of the primacy of the cognitive: behind the meanings of words, grammatical categories, syntactic structures, styles and registers of speech are cognitive structures. There are knowledge representation languages whose elements are frames, scenarios, plans, world models, etc. Describing the meaning of a word through scripts and frames turns out to be more accurate and economical than in traditional linguistics.

2. The postulate of the irrelevance of linguistic and extra-linguistic knowledge.

3. The postulate of a tendency to save effort. For example, from a cognitive point of view, phraseological units are more economical than generating the same meanings according to unique rules. Using frames and prototypes is a way to save effort.

4. The postulate of the plurality of the embodiment of cognitive structures in the language. The cognitive structure can combine several words, several meanings of one word.

5. The postulate about the heterogeneity of the plan of the content of a linguistic expression: there is an assertive part of the meaning, a presuppositive component, an illocutionary component, a connotation, etc.

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[5] Кубрякова Е.С. Язык пространства и пространство языка (к постановке проблемы) // Известия РАН. Серия лит-ры и языка. - 1997. - № 3. – p.21

[6] Кубрякова Е.С. Язык пространства и пространство языка (к постановке проблемы) // Известия РАН. Серия лит-ры и языка. - 1997. - № 3. – p.14

[7] Кубрякова Е.С. Размышления о судьбах когнитивной лингвистики на рубеже веков // Вопросы филологии. - 2001. - № 1.-е. - p.32

6. The postulate of the plurality of the semantic description. To date, there is no ideal metalanguage that can exhaustively describe the plan of the content of language units. Hence - the need to use different methods, their layout in one study.

7. The postulate about the significance of non-standard usages: most of the lexical units are used in the text with violations of certain norms. The use of cognitive methods allows us to interpret them not as errors, but as specific operations with knowledge[8].

Today's approach to language learning is so complex that it can be qualified as an interdisciplinary cognitive science that unites the efforts of linguists, philosophers, psychologists, neurophysiologists, culturologists, etc. V.Z. Demyankov called cognitive linguistics a "federation of disciplines" with many schools and trends. So, in American cognitive linguistics, the computer kind of cognitivism comes to the fore , exploring assumptions about the work of the human mind with a computer, i.e. problems similar to artificial intelligence modeling. Features of "American cognitivism " are considered in the article by O.N. Seliverstova[9] . German cognitive science is associated with the analysis of language processing of information in the acts of generation and perception of speech. Cognitive linguistics in Russia focuses on understanding how a naive picture of the world is formed in the processes of human cognitive activity.

It should be noted that there are researchers who believe that cognitive linguistics does not exist, since the developed approaches and results of the "new linguistics" enrich linguistics, but do not create either a new object of study or a new method[10]. The opposite point of view is held, for example, by V.I. Pisarenko, speaking about the fact that within the framework of cognitive linguistics a special understanding of the term "cognitive" is being formed[11].

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