



Concept and Word, the Lexical Meaning of This Word

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Abstract: The paper discloses the depth and multicity of aspects of lexical meaning of the word as a lexicon phenomenon, as well as sheds light on types of lexical meanings of words and gives their characteristics. The lexical meaning of the word is related to concept, is specified and concretized as a part of the phrase and sentence. It has been established that information on a lexical meaning of the word, put in the text by the authors, does not remain invariable. It is characteristic of every period of lexicon development.

Key words: Word meaning, concept, lexical meaning, types of lexical meanings, polysemy, direct and figurative sense.

Introduction

Semantic connections within a word, i.e. the analysis of the dependence of its semantic components, are determined by the relationship between the meaning of the word and the concept. The subject-logical correlation of the word indicates that it is directly related to the ideas of reality, which then become the basis of various kinds of concepts called with the help of words. This is where a person forms out, formulates his ideas and concepts about certain objects, phenomena, physical and mental state, the system of social relations, etc. But the concept is a logical category, and the word with its meaning is a linguistic category. For a logical meaning to be perceived as a unit of a language system, it must be correlated with a specific word. The connection between a word and a concept is very close. And one of the main tasks of semasiology is to study the question of how non-linguistic reality is displayed in words.

The concept of an object, phenomenon, quality, condition or action is a kind of generalized reflection in the minds of people of the basic ideas about the properties of the real world, cognizing in the process of social-labor activity. Initially, only specifically visible, felt, tangible objects were reflected in people's minds, i.e. everything that a person perceived with the help of the five senses (hearing, sight, taste, touch, smell). As a result of the development of thinking, a person has the ability to abstract ideas. In the minds of people, not only real objects are reflected, but also all abstract processes, phenomena (for example, concepts of joy, excitement, courage, etc.). Learning about objects and phenomena, a person abstracts from everything insignificant in their properties, qualities, i.e. focuses on the main features. Then he compares his ideas obtained from the knowledge of similar or of the same type subjects. Thus, concepts of objects and phenomena of reality are formed in his consciousness, mind. (In this case, the question of cognition of reality is only partially concerned, due to the necessity to give some idea of the concept. The theory of cognition itself, or epistemology, is an independent philosophical science.) The concept reflects not all the qualities and signs that are inherent in a particular object, action, but only the general, basic, most essential ones that make it possible to distinguish one object (or phenomenon) from another.

So, if it is about fish, then for this concept the most significant is the idea that we have a variety of vertebrates living in water spaces, breathing gills, having limbs in the form of fins. These signs are what make it possible to distinguish fish from other vertebrates (birds, mammals). The remaining characteristics and qualities inherent in fish are less significant in this case — they will be necessary to create some more specific, particular characteristics of families, species, subspecies, etc. of the general class of fish.

The concept is assigned with a name, a word, i.e. the concepts themselves are also formed using linguistic means. The connection between a word and a concept is established in the process of people's joint activity. Therefore, words are more or less equally understood by all members of society who speak a given language at the same time of its historical development. Consequently, when studying the correlation of words with the objects and phenomena of reality designated by them (through the concept of them), it is necessary to take into account the data of history. Denoting an object, phenomenon, feature, action, etc., expressing the concept of them, the word performs its main function — naming, or nominative (Latin: *potep* — name), which allows you to highlight the object (phenomenon, feature, action) from a number of similar or many other diverse items, or denotations.

Methods

In the Russian language, not all words identify some concept. For example, interjections, modal words, conjunctions, prepositions, particles, as well as to some extent pronouns and proper names do not directly name concepts, i.e. they are not directly related to them. All words have a meaning. Only for some it is directly related to the concept, and they are intellectually, or conceptually, full-fledged (taking into account the grammatical role, they are also called significant words). These words have both lexical and grammatical meanings. Other words do not have such a connection; they do not have a direct correlation with the subject. Such words (interjections, modal words, prepositions, conjunctions, particles, etc.) are conceptually incomplete (in grammar, the last three groups of words are called auxiliary). They also have both lexical and grammatical meaning, but in their semantic structure, the expression of volitional motives, feelings, attitudes to reality, etc. (i.e. emotional and evaluative content, often called connotation) or an indication of the connection between full-meaning words, rather than a direct, instant correlation with a logical concept, is predominant.

Results

So, the concept is the most essential element of the meaning of the word, but not always the only one. The meaning of a word can include evaluative-expressive elements, grammatical features, and contextual-stylistic associations. For example, the color concept of whiteness can be expressed by a word with the main meaning of quality — white; the same concept serves as the basis of the emotional-evaluative form — white, with it (the concept) it is easy to associate a word calling a state (as an action) — whiteness, it is the basis of the idea of a specific subject — protein and abstract — whiteness, etc. From the point of view of grammatical affiliation, all the words listed above are different: white (and whitish) is an adjective; protein and whiteness are nouns; to whiten is a verb.

And they are similar in meaning, since the meaning of each of them is connected with the general concept of a certain color, i.e. there is a common semantic feature in their meaning. The lexical meaning of a word is, according to V. V. Vinogradov, its "subject-material content, designed according to the laws of grammar of this language and being an element of the general semantic system of the dictionary of this language". It is fixed by social and linguistic practice, is the basis of the semantic structure of the word and, as a rule, is called denotative.

Discussion

Note. The word is also the subject of study of other sections of the science of language, such as phonetics, morphology, etc. In each of them, the meaning is found out — phonetic, grammatical. Lexical meaning is considered in the vocabulary. To determine the lexical meaning of a word, it is necessary, firstly, to find out its subject-material and conceptual-logical content; secondly, to establish how the reality called by the word is connected with those that objectively exist in the

surrounding reality; thirdly, to identify how the lexical meaning being determined correlates with other meanings; in-fourth, to find such a distinctive feature that would allow to isolate this particular lexical meaning from a number of similar ones. The need for such a step-by-step, consistent definition of the meaning of a word has been convincingly proved by modern lexicologists (N. 3. Kotelova, A. A. Ufimtseva, N. M. Shansky, D. N. Shmelev, etc.).

For example, the following features should be included in the definition of the word chair: 1) identify the general subject denotation — «furniture»; 2) disclosure of a general character, purpose — «furniture for sitting»; 3) an indication of the shape features — «back in the judgment; 4) specification of nature of appointment — «seat one person». All of these symptoms (or ancient items values») are very important, first, for distinguishing the words of the chair from the other paradigmatically similar units, and secondly (and most importantly), to determine the specific meanings of the word: «kind of furniture just for the seat, with a back, intended for one person». Now you can make an additional clarification: according to the first sign, the word chair is opposed to a table, wardrobe, bedside table and many other names of furniture, according to the second — a sofa, an ottoman; according to the third — a stool; according to the fourth — a sofa, a bench.)

Conclusion

So, the lexical meaning of a word is not only its direct (or indirect) correlation with the displayed concrete (or abstract) object. The meaning of a word (i.e., its semantic structure) reflects both general subject-logical connections, and relations with the lexical meanings of other words of a given (or close) lexical paradigm, and the boundaries of lexical compatibility, and the nature of lexical and grammatical attribution (that is why dictionaries indicate the part of speech to which the word being defined belongs, as well as general formal-categorical meanings), and the emotional-expressive properties inherent in the word.

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