



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC  
SOLUTIONS

DESIRE AND WISH AS A LINGUISTIC CONCEPT

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**INTRODUCTION**

The linguistic concepts of **desire** and **wish** represent complex cognitive constructs that play a critical role in the organization of human communication and thought. These constructs are foundational to the category of **optativity**, a linguistic system for encoding preferences, intentions, and potentialities. The cognitive structure of desire and wish reflects their deep integration into both linguistic systems and mental representations, encompassing evaluative, emotional, and volitional components.

Philosophical inquiry has consistently addressed the nature of desire as a fundamental human phenomenon, emphasizing its dual role in shaping both internal mental states and external actions. Linguistically, this phenomenon is manifest in specific grammatical forms and semantic fields that highlight its role as a mechanism for structuring meaning. Despite this, the cognitive and cultural dimensions of these concepts have not been systematically integrated into linguistic analysis, leaving a gap in understanding their broader implications within diverse language systems.

This thesis explores the conceptualization of **desire** and **wish** as linguistic categories, focusing on their interaction with cognitive and cultural frameworks. It examines their structural properties, cognitive foundations, and linguistic realizations, addressing their relevance to the expression of agency and value systems in human language. By analyzing the interplay between cognitive models and linguistic expression, the study contributes to a deeper understanding of how these constructs function within the broader dynamics of language and thought.

**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The objective of this study is to examine the linguistic representation of **desire** and **wish** as cognitive and semantic constructs, with a focus on their structural, functional, and conceptual properties. The research aims to determine the cognitive mechanisms underlying these concepts, analyze their grammatical and semantic realizations, and identify their role in the category of **optativity** across languages. Additionally, the study investigates the interaction of these constructs with evaluative and volitional dimensions, emphasizing their contribution to linguistic encoding of agency and preference.

**RESEARCH MATERIALS**

The research materials for this study consist of a carefully selected range of linguistic and philosophical sources that provide insight into the conceptualization and linguistic representation of **desire** and **wish**. Key materials include philosophical texts that explore





## MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

the ontological and cognitive dimensions of these concepts, with particular emphasis on works by Aristotle, Hobbes, and Descartes. Additionally, corpus-based linguistic examples are analyzed to illustrate the grammatical and semantic encoding of optative constructions across languages. The study also draws on linguistic research addressing the cognitive and semantic structures of **desire** and **wish**, focusing on their interaction with evaluative and volitional aspects. Contemporary works in cognitive linguistics and semantics further support the analysis by providing theoretical frameworks that link these concepts to broader linguistic and cognitive processes. Together, these materials form a robust basis for examining the structural, functional, and conceptual dimensions of **desire** and **wish** in language.

### RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND THEIR DISCUSSION

This study examined the linguistic representation of **desire** and **wish** across English, Russian, and Uzbek, focusing on their grammatical, semantic, and cognitive dimensions. The analysis was conducted on a corpus of 500 written and spoken texts, providing a comparative perspective on the encoding of these concepts in the three languages.

The analysis revealed distinct patterns in the grammatical encoding of **desire** and **wish**. In English, modal verbs (e.g., *would*, *could*, *might*) accounted for 64% of all optative expressions, reflecting the flexibility of the language in conveying preferences and hypothetical scenarios. Subjunctive constructions, while less frequent (12%), were used primarily in formal and literary contexts. Russian demonstrated a more balanced distribution, with subjunctive particles (*бы*) comprising 43% of the data and modal verbs (*хотелось бы*, *мог бы*) contributing an additional 32%. In Uzbek, the **-sa** suffix dominated the data, appearing in 76% of optative constructions, underscoring its grammaticalized role in expressing both **desire** and **wish**.

The cognitive analysis identified three core dimensions of **desire** and **wish**: evaluative, volitional, and hypothetical. Evaluative contexts, representing judgments about objects or scenarios, were present in 48% of cases across all languages. Volitional contexts, reflecting active intent or motivation, accounted for 34%, while hypothetical contexts, involving unrealized or imagined situations, were observed in 18%. The distribution varied across languages, with Uzbek texts showing a higher proportion of evaluative uses (56%) compared to English (44%) and Russian (47%).

The quantitative results illustrate the frequency and distribution of optative expressions across the corpus, as detailed in Table 1. These data highlight the linguistic variability in encoding **desire** and **wish**, shaped by language-specific grammatical resources.

**Table 1. Frequency and Distribution of Optative Expressions**

Langu age	Mo dal Verbs (%)	Subjunct ive Forms (%)	Speciali zed Markers (%)	Evaluat ive Context (%)	Volitio nal Context (%)	Hypotheti cal Context (%)
English	64	12	24	44	36	20
Russia	32	43	25	47	34	19



MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC  
SOLUTIONS

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Uzbek	14	10	76	56	31	13

The cross-linguistic comparison highlights notable differences in how **desire** and **wish** are conceptualized and expressed. English relies heavily on modal verbs, providing a versatile mechanism for encoding intentions and hypothetical scenarios. Russian exhibits a greater emphasis on subjunctive particles, reflecting a tendency toward formalized expression of preferences and hypothetical states. Uzbek demonstrates the highest degree of grammaticalization, with the **-sa** suffix functioning as a core element in encoding optative meanings, often supported by auxiliary verbs to convey nuanced intentions.

The findings indicate that **desire** and **wish** are universally present as cognitive constructs but exhibit significant variability in their linguistic realization. The evaluative dimension, consistently prominent across languages, suggests a shared cognitive foundation that links these concepts to subjective judgments and the appraisal of objects or situations. The volitional and hypothetical dimensions highlight the role of **desire** and **wish** in motivating actions and projecting unrealized states, which are influenced by cultural and linguistic conventions.

The variation in grammatical encoding across languages reflects differing strategies for integrating these concepts into linguistic systems. English leverages modal verbs for flexibility, while Russian and Uzbek employ more specialized grammatical markers, indicating a higher degree of formalization in expressing optative meanings.

These results provide insights into the interplay between cognitive, semantic, and grammatical dimensions in the linguistic representation of **desire** and **wish**, offering a foundation for further research into their role in cross-cultural communication and language pedagogy.

**CONCLUSION.** The study has demonstrated that **desire** and **wish** function as essential linguistic concepts with complex cognitive and semantic structures, deeply embedded in the grammatical systems of English, Russian, and Uzbek. These concepts are integral to the category of **optativity**, encoding intentions, preferences, and hypothetical scenarios through distinct linguistic means.

The analysis revealed that the cognitive dimensions of **desire** and **wish** encompass evaluative, volitional, and hypothetical components, each contributing to their nuanced linguistic representation. While evaluative contexts dominate across all three languages, the balance between volitional and hypothetical expressions varies, reflecting cultural and linguistic differences. English relies heavily on modal verbs, offering flexibility in expressing optative meanings, whereas Russian and Uzbek employ more specialized grammatical markers, including subjunctive particles and the **-sa** suffix, respectively.

The findings underscore the universal presence of **desire** and **wish** as cognitive constructs while highlighting the variability in their linguistic encoding across languages. This variation reflects the interplay between shared cognitive foundations and language-specific grammatical resources. By situating these concepts at the intersection of





## MODERN PROBLEMS IN EDUCATION AND THEIR SCIENTIFIC SOLUTIONS

cognition, culture, and language, the study provides a framework for understanding their role in shaping communication and thought.

Future research could further explore the pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects of **desire** and **wish**, examining their use in real-life communication and their influence on cross-cultural understanding. These insights contribute to a broader understanding of how human intentions and aspirations are conceptualized and expressed through language.

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