

COGNITIVE FEATURES OF WORDS AND WORD  
COMBINATIONS AND THEIR APPLICATION IN TRANSLATION

Akramova Yulduz Isroilovna

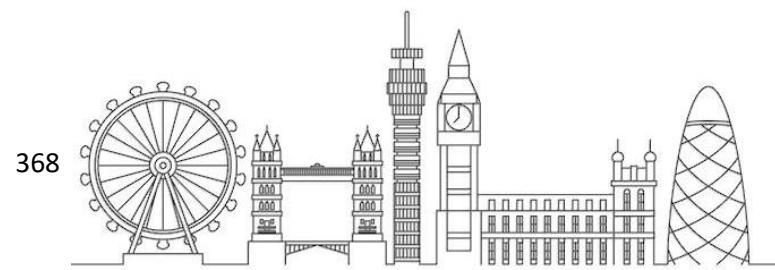
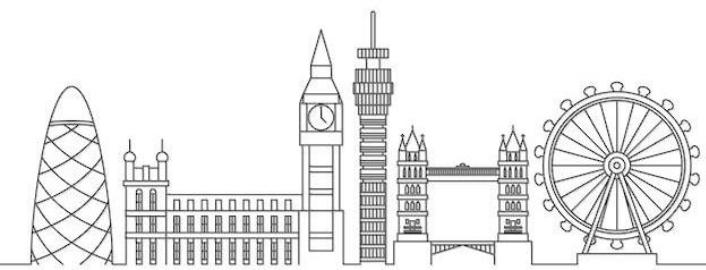
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**Abstract:** *In recent years, there has been a significant increase in scholarly attention toward the cognitive approach in linguistics. This thesis examines the cognitive nature of words and word combinations, as well as their importance in the translation process. It explores the intrinsic connection between linguistic units and human cognition, their role in the formation of conceptual meaning, and the challenges of adequately conveying these meanings in translation. The study also discusses the semantic peculiarities of word combinations across different languages and the difficulties of finding their cognitive equivalents. The results of the research hold practical significance for developing new methodological approaches in cognitive linguistics and translation studies.*

**Keywords:** word, word combination, cognitive feature, semantics, concept, cognition, translation, equivalence, cognitive linguistics, translation studies.

**Introduction.** In modern linguistics, increasing attention is being paid to issues of the cognitive approach. Language is now interpreted not merely as a means of communication but as a complex system that reflects human thinking, worldview, and cultural experience. Cognitive linguistics analyzes the process of how knowledge, experience, and concepts embodied in human consciousness are formed through linguistic units, as well as the role of these processes in meaning formation. In studying the cognitive nature of language, words and word combinations occupy a central position, as they express the conceptual and semantic reflection of human cognition. The semantic system of every language is closely related to its national mentality, historical experience, and cultural values — all of which play a significant role in shaping word meaning.

It is essential to consider these aspects in the translation process, since finding an accurate equivalent for a word or a phrase is not only a lexical-grammatical issue but also a process of properly understanding conceptual thinking. As each language possesses its own worldview, it is crucial to determine how meaning functions cognitively within a given context during translation. The relevance of this research lies in the fact that applying cognitive linguistic approaches to translation studies provides an opportunity to improve translation quality and accurately reflect cultural and national differences. Therefore, this study analyzes the cognitive features of words and word combinations, their role in meaning formation, and the principles of their application in the translation process.



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The main aim of this research is to conduct an in-depth analysis of the cognitive features of words and word combinations, identify their role in meaning formation, and highlight the theoretical and practical significance of the cognitive approach in translation. In recent years, cognitive linguistics has become an important scientific field for studying how human cognition, worldview, and cultural experience are expressed through language. Consequently, in translation studies, the cognitive approach plays a crucial role in understanding the deeper, conceptual essence of linguistic units, interpreting their meanings correctly, and ensuring intercultural equivalence.

The objectives of the study are as follows: Firstly, to explore the theoretical foundations of cognitive linguistics and determine its integration with translation studies. Secondly, to analyze the semantic, conceptual, and associative aspects of words and word combinations through cognitive analysis. Thirdly, to emphasize that the translation process should not be limited to lexical and grammatical aspects but should also consider the conceptual structures underlying words. Fourthly, to develop principles for translating complex linguistic units such as metaphors, idiomatic expressions, and phraseological units from a cognitive perspective. Fifthly, to analyze cultural differences that cause shifts in meaning across languages and propose ways of developing the cognitive competence necessary for translators.

During the research, cognitive, semantic, conceptual mapping, comparative, and intercultural analysis methods were employed. These methods served not only to explore the semantic structure of words and word combinations but also to reveal their conceptual foundations in human cognition. The study revealed that word combinations are formed as conceptual units reflecting a person's experience, emotions, and knowledge about the world. For instance, the English phrase "cold war", though grammatically simple, embodies the concept of a "political conflict without armed confrontation." Similarly, the expression "to break the ice", if translated literally as "muzni sindirish," does not convey its true meaning, which is "to start a conversation or to ease tension." These examples illustrate the vital importance of the cognitive approach in translation. Every language perceives the world differently based on its historical and cultural background. For example, the English saying "time is money" reflects the Western mindset that treats time as an economic value, whereas the Uzbek proverb "vaqt oltindan qimmat" ("time is more precious than gold") emphasizes the spiritual value of time. Although the two expressions seem semantically similar, their cognitive bases are fundamentally different. Therefore, for a translator, not only grammatical and lexical knowledge but also the ability to comprehend conceptual thinking and correctly interpret cultural context is essential.

The study demonstrates that cognitive competence is one of the most crucial qualities of a translator. Every language reveals how people perceive reality, conceptualize their experiences, and express their worldview. For example, in English, the word "heart" is often associated with the concepts of "love" and "kindness," while in Uzbek, "yurak" is more commonly linked with "courage," "patriotism," or "bravery." These semantic

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differences lead to cognitive shifts in translation. In such cases, a translator must go beyond the surface meaning of the word and grasp its underlying conceptual structure to select the most appropriate equivalent.

From the perspective of the cognitive approach, language is not merely a tool for transmitting information but rather a structure of human cognition. Linguistic units are based on a person's life experiences, cultural values, and emotional perceptions. Therefore, cognitive analysis reveals the hidden cultural and psychological layers behind words. For instance, the English phrase "the heart of the city" literally translates as "shahar yuragi" but cognitively corresponds to the concept of the "city center." Correctly interpreting such conceptual meanings in translation is one of the key conditions for achieving naturalness and completeness of meaning.

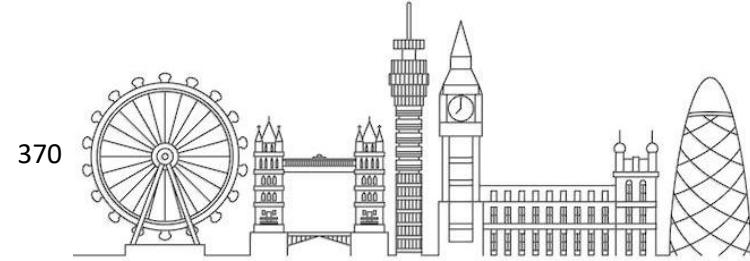
In conclusion, the study of cognitive approaches in linguistics plays a vital role in the development of modern linguistics and translation studies. Language is viewed not only as a means of communication but also as a reflection of human cognition. A deep investigation of the cognitive characteristics of words and word combinations allows us to identify their semantic and conceptual essence and to understand how they shape human perception and thought. Therefore, in the translation process, attention should be paid not only to grammatical and lexical equivalence but also to the cognitive foundations of meaning.

The practical significance of cognitive linguistics lies in its ability to accurately represent cultural, national, and psychological factors within translation. Since each language reflects its own national mentality and worldview, it is impossible to fully convey meaning without understanding the cognitive content of words. Hence, a translator should not only master the linguistic system but also deeply comprehend the conceptual worldview embodied within that language.

As a result, analyses based on the cognitive approach contribute to improving translation quality, uncovering the conceptual structures hidden within language, and enhancing the effectiveness of intercultural communication. Therefore, applying this approach in translation studies is valuable not only from a theoretical perspective but also from a practical standpoint, yielding significant outcomes for linguistic and cultural understanding.

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