# Conceptual Sphere as a Mental Structure and its Formation Factors
## (In the Aspect of Studying the Conceptsphere "Family Relations")

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**Abstract:** The study deals with the actual problems of the linguistic conceptology. A special attention is drawn to the mechanisms of forming a conceptual sphere. A clear definition of prerequisites of conceptsphere's formation, the contents of the linguistic and extra-linguistic prerequisites in the aspect of "family relations" conceptual sphere's formation is outlined. In conclusion, an attempt is made to show the necessity of further investigation of the conceptual spheres' formation proccesses.

**Key words:** Linguistics, cognitive science, mental structures, conceptual sphere, conceptual sphere "family relations"

## INTRODUCTION

Different mental structures that are realized by a language are formed as a result of studying the world and experiencing it. The experience then is categorized by different markers. A language itself comes as one of the most important part of an individual conscience with an individual realizing him- or her-self being a person with determined social status and a representative of any community with common cultural, social and philosophical paradigms. Given the type of prototypical category the experience of various genesis is then qualified to the appropriate categories. Such categories are usually classified as schemes, frames, gestalts, concepts and conceptsphere. They are normally characterized as ones possessing a multiple system of their components. Earlier, the discussion concerning the possibility of them functioning took place because such complex multistage structure devoid of dynamism and consequently are characterized by excessive resistance to conditions of permanent interaction with varying language and speech.

But today, scientists have concluded that mental representational structures are characterized by the ability to transform and transfer links deployed in a latent state minimization of the entire structure to the mental state of the underlying construct. Central or nuclear elements are at the same time characterized by possessing the open valency interconnections and this fact makes all the system dynamic and changeable. Such construct being pragmatized in the process of speech develops latent structure with all its potential meanings. This benefits in ability to keep one's mind quite clear given the possible volume of lot of the structures and on the other hand to enlarge valency interconnections of the periphery that are pragmatized by linguistic means (mainly lexical and lexico-semantic).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The ongoing research is based on the methodology of cognitive approach to the linguistic analysis. Thus, the methods of conceptual analysis are prior in the study. They are also enlarged by the traditional classical methods of definitional analysis, contextual analysis and others. The theoretical part of the research is made due to the systemic and analytical approach to the scientific literature.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Main part:** This formula of cognitive structures of knowledge existence provides their universality, agility, stability and productivity and serves as the explanation why the formation of cognitive structures being the unit of representation of the received in the process of world leaning and categorized information is needed.

Considerable interest in the study of the various structures of knowledge is the study of the process of their formation in particular, the prerequisites-factors of the formation of structures of the knowledge in the human mind. The most studied concepts in this sense as the

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most common types of structuration supplied to the individual information; while the gestalt and contceptsphere as constructs which are not merely a set of structural linguistic information but also the possibility and necessity of acceding to the extra-linguistic information sensory experience. In this regard, particular importance for this study is presented by the formation factors of contceptsphere "family relationships".

The formation process of cognitive structures of the knowledge is a complex, multifaceted unity and influence the results of the interaction of various factors in the formation of mental constructs. These factors are the most important foundations of influencing the process of conceptualization of the information coming to a person.

Traditional linguistics focuses on two groups of factors prevalent form of cognitive structures of knowledge. These above all are linguistic and extralinguistic factors. First determine the scope of the objectification of a particular structure as well as a set of units, ensuring the implementation of the product resulting from the interaction of extralinguistic factors. These extralinguistic factors include individual human experience, both physical and physiological; cultural environment and its socio-cultural features; experience of a language community, defined features of its historical development.

This group of the conceptualization prerequisites of the experience with the surrounding reality seems dominant and precedential in the aspect of an integrated approach to the study of concepts, according to which they are regarded as a modular phenomenon is not only and not so much linguistic order but as a phenomenon, the impetus for the creation of which is the internal mental need in embedding new (not all, but only the essential) knowledge in existing reflection of the world.

The study focuses on the study of the contceptosphere formation factors, namely, conceptsphere "family relationships" in modern English; the analysis of linguistic factors on the material of modern English language. It should be noted that the conceptual sphere, respectively is understood as a series of interrelated concepts that structure the thematic concept sphere which in turn is one of the constituent elements in the national conceptual sphere of the individual and the people. The interconnectedness of the concepts seen in the formation of new concepts which takes place on the basis of already existing ones; integration expansion generates, in turn, view of the world.

Contceptosphere is a set of semantic, conceptual and associative characteristics, actualizing the constituent concepts of the conceptsphere. Consequently, some of the characteristics and features as well as the specific formation of inherent concepts are transmitted to conceptsphere as an enlarged group concepts.

Some recent studies of cognitive knowledge structures are not seen simply as a unit of the level of mental representations and the phenomenon that characterizes the interaction of mind, text language and culture. In this aspect of conceptsphere consideration such properties as potentiality and dynamism acquire special significance and such views can be traced in the researches of Y.E. Prokhorov, V.G. Zusman, A.A. Filatov. In such studies, it is emphasized that the concept (as the most common mental construct) acts as an integrator of consciousness, language system and culture, consequently providing their access to the communicative and discursive level (Berlin, 1999; Kryuchkova, 2009).

Cognitive knowledge structures are characterized by particularly dynamic in which there are two aspects. The first is the variety of mental constructs influenced by historical, cultural, social, age, gender and other factors; second lies in the discursive and communicative conditionality implementation construct functionality of its existence as a unit not only belonging to the level of culture but also unites these levels in real communicative process. With this approach, conceptual sphere and its constituent concepts are viewed as cognitive knowledge structures that have a complex multi-dimensional structure but exist in the mind as to the minimum folded construct stored in the mental sphere of human consciousness; this construct, however has a productive structure deployment that is realized as a result of the need for discursive space.

Consequently, the conceptsphere's constituent concept must have a minimum tight, orderly, fairly stable nuclear base like "a canvas" to build a peripherally-conceptual structures. We should note that the conceptsphere's core remains usually less or nonvariable in diachronic aspect, however, owing to their dynamics, their peripheral field to significant extent (especially peripheral field of filling individual representatives) is a subject to occasional changes.

These variations are influenced by various transformations in the environment, the existence of the individual. Basically, there is a tendency to perceive the impact from the historical, socio-cultural processes of learning the world, the acquisition of individual and collective experience. However, these structures should be considered not in the aspect of the prerequisites for the establishment of the dynamic nature of conceptsphere but more likely in terms of their existence as a separate factor in developing conceptual sphere.

Special attention should be paid to socio-cultural factors as they are referred to as fundamental in the development of the conceptsphere "family relations": "family" is a universal concept for the whole world; family plays an important role in the emergence and the subsequent formation of the new society members' view of the world. Especially, carefully the theme is studied in the framework of psycholinguistics and accordingly, psychology. Thus, family is positioned as a basis of formation of human consciousness directly affects the formation of "filters" the perception of the individual in the world. Initially, the family originated only in the most general sense: there was the need to continue the race and it has developed and deployed to the level of the current conceptual sphere over time.

So, historically several basic models of building a family and family relations have changed, the latter one was a model that reduces the role of women to bearing and bringing up children (Evans and Green, 2006).

However, now a days, this pattern could not compete with a model in which the woman is gaining ground equal to traditional male roles (Kuprieva, 2014); thus becomes much more prevalent concept of "dadd's decree" or "husband on the farm", the concept of "single mother" has ceased to provoke an unconscious reaction of rejection or condemnation, respectively, thereby displacing the specificity of the relevant fragments of perception of reality.

With regard to family relations, we see that the socio-cultural and historical factors act together as human civilization characterized by progressive development; changes in the culture and social structure society occur over time. By creating conditions for the formation of primary nominations they became its constant companion and ruler.

However, the impact factor of history and culture on the formation of mental constructs not only in the development of elements of picture of the world. The experience of an individual has acquired even more impact on them; experience in its turn is characterized by heterogeneity, it stands out the individual and collective experience. The perception, emotional experience and understanding of this experience is constantly transforming a concept by complementing and extending it (Kryuchkova, 2009; Zider, 1997).

The collective experience as a factor of contceptsphere "family relationship" is the most common forms of its kind; i.e. in the minds of most of the members of an ethnic group the linguistic view of the world is the same: family is a union of a man and a woman, who are not blood relatives but who have blood children. Thus, collective experience may conflict with individual experience and cause controversy in the view of the world of an individual in cases, when a child is left by parents or other relatives and he/she has no experience of family life while the most of children grow in a situation of harmony between the collective and individual experience.

It should be noted that in most cases, this opposition of the individual to the collective experience of how diversity contributes to the formation of sensory experience and extensive education of the lexical-semantic groups. At the same, time the possibility of permanent comparison of information acquired through collective or individual consciousness lets summarize and then identify only the most important, the most generalized and simultaneously, the exact properties of the object or phenomenon of reality.

They also have the ability to change over time under the influence of new experiences: an orphan child who did not have his/her own individual layer of contceptsphere "family relations", who grew up and married, deliberately creating a precedent for him-/herself, turning his/her understanding from negative to positive.

In this regard, historical, cultural and social factors, the individual and collective experience of creating the conditions for securing the appropriate reflection in the conceptual sphere. So, it makes sense to refer to the study of conceptual sphere "family relationship" in the aspect of identifying features of its formation on the linguistic level.

Thus, a special conceptsphere's status reveals as a structure characterized by a large volume of conceptualized information, covering a vast field of meaning (i.e., conceptsphere "family relationship" is made up of a significant number of structural elements) as well as adequate resources for the implementation process of the structure.

Thus, conceptual sphere "family relations" is presented by the basic concepts of "family", "marriage", "divorce", "family relations", "non-blood relations", etc. Nuclear group of constituent concepts is outlined by significant nomination, e.g.: "kinship" parents, mother, mom, mummy, motherhood, maternity, child, kin, kid, childhood, grandfarther, grandpa, sister, brother-in-law; "marriage" proposal, fiance, fiancee, marriage, church, wedding ceremony, husband, wife, honeymoon, etc. Axiological groups on that aspect are figured out with significantly less representation "kinship" blood, close, tight, good, stable, normal; "marriage" anxious, loving, furious, beautiful, ideal, etc.; as well as predicative groups "kinship" to mother, to parent, to father, to give birth, to adopt; "marriage" to propose, to marry, to plan, to live together. Even the groups of verbs and adjectives possesses the characteristic feature that is the

implementation of the nominative function. It seems that this feature is diachronically linked to the need to designate a vast expanse of conceptualization. Quite material referential relationships between objects (the family) and the mental representation of it also serves as a characteristic prerequisite.

Most of the cognitive knowledge structures are considered by scientists at this stage in terms of referential approach: the degree of abstractness of formed constructs is investigated (Berlin, 1999). Accordingly, it is reasonable to locate the subject and abstract structures. Conceptual sphere "family relationship" is more substantive rather than abstract.

## CONCLUSION

These conclusions are based on the study of linguistic factors of the conceptsphere's "family relations" formation, namely of the nuclear assets of conceptsphere representation in Modern English. That linguistic factors give reason to draw conclusions about the referentiality of different cognitive knowledge structures, due to the fact that such studies provide data regarding the availability of regular communication between the obligatory referent or object and the mental representation.

Based on the foregoing, conceptual sphere "family relationship" characterized by significant nominative features of representing units, due to the nature of the referent: "family relationship" is first of all a "family", i.e., its members, relationships, rather specific related concepts, e.g., home, life, marriage, divorce. However, it should be noted that taking into account the individual peripheral segments occurs in abstraction of its individual parts by expanding the semantic number: "Divorce means never having a sandwich. At least not by your ex." (Doborovich, 2006); i.e., the mere fact of relationship broken acquires additional, connotative semantic component that takes the whole sphere of conceptsphere's existence fixing the more abstract level of sensory experience. Thus, we analyzed the theoretical suppositions of establishing the conceptual sphere "family relations" which have also been supported by empirical research and data.

All that gives reason to make a hypothesis that the conceptual sphere in general and conceptual sphere "family relationships" in particular is a product of the complex interaction of various factors, linguistic and extra-linguistic reality and when taken that in consideration that gives the perspective for further research in the field of mental space structuration person.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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