

BRIEF REVIEW ON COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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ABSTRACT

This article sheds light on Cognitive Linguistics, its origin, basic theoretical as well as methodological principles.

Keywords: Cognitive Linguistics, cognition, research, language, principles.

АННОТАЦИЯ

Эта статья проливает свет на когнитивную лингвистику, ее происхождение, основные теоретические и методологические принципы.

Ключевые слова: Когнитивная лингвистика, познание, исследование, язык, принципы.

ANNOTATSIYA

Ushbu maqolada kognitiv lingvistika, uning kelib chiqishi, asosiy nazariy hamda metodologik tamoyillari yoritilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: Kognitiv lingvistika, bilish, tadqiqot, til, tamoyillar.

INTRODUCTION

Word is not just formation of several symbols but also it conveys a proper meaning. The connection between language and cognition is the subject for Cognitive Linguistics to investigate. The article “An overview of Cognitive Linguistics” by authors of Antonio Barcelona and Javier Valenzuela from Mercia University investigates several following questions, such as the origin of the Cognitive Linguistics, basic theoretical along with methodological principles of it, main directions and current research tendencies, and finally central problems to be solved and future research fields. Furthermore, in the article “Cognitive Linguistics in the Year 2015” by Laura A.Janda (UiT, the Arctic University of Norway) linguistic cognition is considered as an inseparable part of general cognition. Therefore, the author seeks explanation of linguistic phenomena in terms of general cognitive strategies, namely metaphor, metonymy, and blending. Similarly, the article “Cognitive Linguistics and Metaphor research: past success, skeptical questions, future challenges” by Raymond

W.Gibbs, Jr. (University of California, Santa Cruz – Dept. of Psychology) empirical foundations of cognitive linguistic investigation on metaphor become an objective of the research.

METHODS

The scope of Cognitive Linguistics is wide despite being rather recent theory. The inception of any theory is difficult to put exact date. However, the creation of this theory is considered as the reaction against generative approaches to language. According to Chomskyan-generative tradition language is prioritized with syntax, disregarding the role of semantics as well as pragmatics in linguistic theorizing. Many scholars, including Langacker thought abovementioned hypothesis is inappropriate. Because “meaning is what language is all about” says Langacker (Langacker 1987:12). There are two fundamental principles of Cognitive Linguistics: non-modularism as well as non-objectivism. The former considers language as a human ability. Individuals construct and understand categories on the basis of experience, under the constraints imposed by their bodies. The latter goes further the hypothesis of “blueprint” view of linguistic meaning. Since there is no objective reality which is independent from human cognition, any linguistic forms are just clues (blueprints) that can activate conceptual structures that people have formed in their minds, but have no inherent meanings in themselves. Meanings “reside” in the minds and brains of human being and linguistic forms help activate them. (Antonio Barcelona and Javier Valenzuela)

RESULTS

Meaning is the very energy that propels the motor of language (Laura A.Janda). First of all, it is ultimate goal of Cognitive linguists to find an answer how human cognition is motivated towards the phenomena of language. They reckon that human beings are not rule-guided algorithms, but rather individuals who willingly exercise in ways not fully consistent and predictable, yet on the whole well-motivated and with certain patterns. Motivation may come from one force: the drive to make sense of our world. As noted above (in the article of “An overview of Cognitive Linguistics”) meaning is grounded in the shared human experience of bodily existence. Human bodies give us an experimental basis for comprehending a myriad of concepts, in other words “image schemes” or “image bearings”, such as IN versus OUT, UP versus DOWN and so like. One of the earliest experiences babies encounter is that of the body as a container. (Laura A.Janda)

DISCUSSION

Continuation of discussion may go with Metaphors-linguistic devices which reveal the concepts of how individuals think, reason and imagine. Metaphoric language has the double function: reminding us of pervasive patterns of experience, alerting us to new conceptual and aesthetic possibilities. The author proves his hypothesis with A poem is a walk by A.R.Ammons. The poet employs this metaphor to tell readers what a poem is (i.e., a poem is a leisurely, perhaps unpredictable, purposeful journey of the mind and imagination). (Raymond W.Gibbs, Jr.)

CONCLUSION

There are several individual branches of Linguistics. Each of them considers word as primary source of research. No one framework gives complete THE answer even though different approaches from different angles alleviate the comprehension of meaning to some extent. One of the issues that has been brought up in connection with CL is its status as a real ‘cognitive’ theory. Cognitive linguistics tries to describe language in connection to the rest of cognition. As was mentioned above (see 2.1.1), this has been explicitly articulated in Lakoff’s “cognitive commitment” (Lakoff 1990): the need to provide an account of language that is consistent with what other disciplines of cognitive science (e.g. neuroscience, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, psycholinguistics, etc) have revealed about cognition and the brain. However, a number of authors have questioned whether this commitment is actually being met. For example, in his paper “Does cognitive linguistics live up to its name?”, the linguist Bert Peeters (Peeters, 2001) casts some doubts on this question, and prompts researchers in the field to try and follow Lakoff’s commitment with increased efforts. It must be mentioned, however, that there is a growing awareness of this need among workers in the field, and that CL is really turning towards other cognitive sciences, and especially psycholinguistics and neuroscience. The number of studies devoted to providing an empirical basis to the insights of CL is growing exponentially. In this sense, the recent workshop organized at the University of Cornell with the title “Empirical Methods in Cognitive Linguistics” (of which a book will come out at same point during 2005), could be taken as a proof of this tendency. Another result of this move is the increase in the types of methodologies followed by cognitive linguistic researchers, which now routinely include corpus analysis, and quite often different types of psycholinguistic experimentation (computational modelling is still scarce, though by no means unexisting).

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