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Explication of the “Book” concept in lexicographic representation

One of the topical issues of modern linguoconceptology is studying the specifics of concepts functioning in various discourses, such as political, economic, medical, artistic, etc. Such a study is based on the preliminary construction of the most characteristically complete model of the concept that serves as “an intra-linguistic standard of comparison” (Vorkachev). It serves as a basic semantic prototype reflecting the main definitional semes of the concept under consideration against the background of which the discursively conditioned specifics can be identified. In this article, the concept “book” is described as a significant element of the national language world image. Based on the analysis of lexicographic data and the main frame propositions, a semantic model of the concept is structured, the complex of its representatives in the Russian language is determined.

*Keywords:* linguocultural concept, frame structures, ‘book’ concept, lexicographic representation.

Introduction

The concept represented in Russian language by the word ‘book’ is rather important for the communicative consciousness of the Russian people, whose culture and literature have always been distinguished by logocentricity and literary-centricity. Therefore, it is acknowledged as a productive object for linguocognitive analysis, the purpose of which is to fully identify the repertoire of the linguistic means representing the concept under study, to model its content as a mental unit [1; 93].

The specifics of the linguocultural concept “book” among other mental constructs reflecting various spheres of human social existence is determined by its polyvalence, correlation with almost all areas of culture as the main source and carrier of socially and culturally significant information. The “book” as an important linguoculturological phenomenon is crucial for many aspects of the civilizational and cultural spheres of human existence. It has long and diverse connections and relationships with human activities and the surrounding reality, which is reflected in various forms of explication of this concept in language.

As cultural and linguistic universal characteristics represented in the linguistic consciousness, the concept can be characterized through the totality of its verbal representations existing in the modern language. The linguistic explications of the mental construct “book” reflect the objective and subjective ideas about the book, its material and ideal properties, which have developed in the linguistic world picture of native speakers of the Russian language. Their analysis allowed us to describe and further structure this concept, identifying the complex of its most characteristic features.

Experimental

According to the ideas of linguculturology, this article considers the linguistic concept as a unity of several aspects: factual, figurative and axiological [2; 109]. The structure of the concept can be composed by identifying the most complete repertoire of possible features that are related on the basis of a general or special associative characteristics. As a mental formation that can be linguistically expressed, the concept, as a rule, is verbalized by some language unit, a key representative, or the name of the concept. Functioning of the key representative in the language system is recorded in lexicographic resources of various types. In accordance with the methodological principle of communicative stylistics, the identification of communicatively relevant perception of concepts is carried out by analysis of data from various types of dictionaries and in describing the content structure of the studied mental construction. This data reflects the most invariable typical perceptional characteristic of the majority of native speakers and forms the core of the concept.

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Results and Discussion

The main lexeme-representative of the concept “book” is the noun “book”. It belongs to the lexico-semantic subclass “Artifacts”, which includes nouns denoting artificial man-made objects. As an important unit of national conceptosphere, ‘book’ is ranked among high-frequency vocabulary of the Russian language; according to the frequency dictionary, its frequency rank is 691 [3: 264].

The word ‘book’ has a long history in Russian linguistic consciousness. The etymological analysis of the lexeme-representative of the concept is employed to identify the features of the diachronic development of its meanings, its internal form, and what makes the concept a fact of culture. It should be noted that the origin of the word “book” is not known for certain. Dictionaries of the Russian language present the most probable assumptions on this regard. Thus, according to Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian language (edited by Shvedova) [4], the etymology of the word “book” goes back to Old Russian, Church Slavonic “Књига” that has the following meanings ‘book; writing, letters; letter, message; note’. The dictionary also gives correspondent lexemes related to Slavic languages: “укр. книга, blр. книга, sloven. knjiga, czech. kniha, Polish księga. It is indicated that they represent a common ancient borrowing from Eastern languages, the ancient Turkic *küünig from the Chinese кёнья “scroll” (one of the historical forms of the book, widely distributed in ancient times).

Etymological Dictionary of the Russian Language by M. Vasmer also traces the Proto-Slavic *књига through the Old Turkic *küünig, Volga-Bulgarian *küüniv to the Chinese кёнья “scroll” [5].

However, A. A. Govorov in The History of the Book justifies another version of the origin of the word “book” [6]. Despite the fact that the first written uses of this word are recorded in the Osromir Gospel (1056–57), the author claims that even before the invention of the Slavic alphabet by St. Cyril, there was the term ‘book’ in the Slavic languages, originating from the protoslavic “kneti” — “to know”. Thus, the book at the diachronic level is related to the lexemes denoting knowledge in general.

Explanatory dictionaries that describe the lexical meaning of words and commonly used phraseological units provide data on the objective nuclear properties of the concept. They present the most typical, conventional relationships of units manifested in language, and in this sense represent an “objective” world picture implemented in the language system. Thus, the analysis of the system of meanings of the concept key representative recorded in these resources makes it possible to reconstruct the structure of the concept, to characterize the specifics of its functioning in the language and, accordingly, the specifics of its referent.

The most complete system of meanings of the word “book”, on the basis of which the concept is objectified, is represented in the Dictionary of the Russian Language (edited by A.P. Evgenieva) [7]. According to this dictionary, the conceptual content of the phenomenon under study includes the following elements:

4. A large section of a literary work. Read the first book of the novel. This episode is described in the tenth chapter of the third book of the novel.

Similar meanings are given in the Large Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language (edited by S.A. Kuznetsov) [8].

These basic meanings of the explicate word represent the nuclear features of the concept. There are no significant differences in the recorded meanings of the word ‘book’ in different dictionaries, which indicates the stability and consistency of the content core of this concept, formed in the Russian linguistic culture and in its main features not exhibiting significant dynamics at the synchronic level.

At the same time, specialized and encyclopedic publications give other, including narrower meanings of the word “book”. For example, the modern encyclopedia of literature and language emphasize other aspects which are just presupposed in the academic dictionaries. As the first basic meaning, it gives the following: “a form of accumulation and storage of information that makes it possible to reproduce and transmit it in time and space” [9]. Thus, the emphasis is shifted from the book as a material object to its functions in culture and society. The following aspects are emphasized: “The book is the main means of material embodiment and
dissemination of fiction”, “the book plays a crucial role in the development of culture and science, in politics and the formation of public opinion” [9].

The technological aspects of the book production, its distribution and storage are also recorded: “The book is created on the basis of the author's text — the manuscript. From a variety of manuscripts, they choose those that can be printed, edit them and prepare a layout. Based on the layout, a book is printed in the printing house, which then goes on free sale (at the request of the author or publisher). The collection of books and their storage is carried out in libraries” [9].

The terminological literary interpretation of the word is also presented: “Sometimes the term “book” can be used as a designation of the genre — “Book of Songs” by Heine, “Book of Laughter and Forgetting” by M. Kundera, etc.” [9].

As mentioned earlier, explanatory dictionaries of the Russian language indicate several direct meanings of the word “book”, which form the semantic structure of the concept, the contexts of its use, as well as some figurative meanings. On the basis of dictionary definitions accumulating invariable everyday perceptions, it is possible to distinguish the main aspects of the concept. The semantic structure of the word ‘book’ in modern Russian can be represented as follows: (1) a book as a certain type of physical object having certain functions; (2) a book as a separate printed published work; (3) a book as part of a piece of writing; (4) a book as information contained in the printed and published text. There are also some specified definitions, for example, the literary interpretation of a book as a certain genre of literature. It is evident that the core of the concept is represented by the first and second structures; the rest represent the periphery of the concept content.

The peculiarity of the semantic structure of the word ‘book’ appears as a material-ideal phenomenon, the duality of which lies in the unity of the physical object — fastened sheets of paper — and the information contained in the text of the book. It is obvious, that the ideal, non-material component in most dictionary definitions is kept in presupposition. It is not excluded by these interpretations, but still is not directly verbalized. This duality determines the nature of the central for the concept opposition which is the opposition of material (object) and ideal (text), as well as paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations in the language system.

This opposition is reflected in the derivational functioning of the word “book”, which is recorded in lexicographic resources. In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language by V.I. Dal, most of the derived nouns are related to the meanings of the word “book” as a material object, a product of publishing activity, the processes of its production, use, maintenance and study: ‘knizhnitsa’ — a book depository, a library; a special room for eminent books, a bookcase, a showcase; ‘knigoderzha’, ‘knigoderzhe’ — a psalmist or a servant at the episcopal ministry; ‘knigonoša’ — a book peddler, a secondhand bookseller; ‘knigopecchatan’e,’ ‘knigotisnenie’ — the action of the person who prints the book; ‘knigopecchatn’ya’ — a book printing-printing house; ‘knigopecchatnik’ — a typographer; ‘knigopolozhnica,’ ‘knigohranil’nica,’ ‘knigoznanie,‘ ‘knigoznanie’ — a library; ‘knigoznanitel’ — a librarian; ‘knigoznanitel’ — a bookseller [10].

Much less of the derivatives are, on the contrary, related to the meaning of not as a material, physical object, but as an ideal, information object, with the process of reading, semantic perception of the information of the book, communication between an author, a text and a reader: ‘knizhnitsa’ — a woman well-read in Scriptures, a learned woman; ‘knigotvorec’ — a bad writer; ‘knigochija’ a person who reads a lot [10].

The similar situation can be observed in the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language edited by N.Yu. Shvedova. There are six derivative words related to the same object: ‘knigovedenie’ — “a complex science of books, printed works as a cultural phenomenon, the subject of production and distribution”; ‘knigoprodavek’ — a book dealer, ‘knigopechatan’ie’ — printing and publishing of books; ‘knigoznanie’ — a room for storing books in a library, bookstore; ‘knigoženem’ — the exchange of book products, books (between libraries, institutions, individuals); ‘knigonoša’ — a peddler of books or a library worker who delivers books to one’s home.

Derivatives that relate to the book as an information object: ‘knigolyub’ — a person who is fond of books, reading; ‘knigochej’ — a person who loves to read, is fond of reading [4; 22].

There are more numerous derivational paradigms associated with the same ‘a material object’, which may indicate a greater relevance and development of these meanings in the language system forming the core of the concept.

When analyzing the concept, it is necessary to consider that its essential cognitive features are explicated in associative fields related to the stimulus word and reflecting the linguistic consciousness of native speakers. The data of the associative dictionaries of the Russian language contain the most representative reactions of native speakers to the stimulus word ‘book’, its essential connections and typical situations, and
thus reflect invariable everyday perceptions of the book. Such dictionaries fully reflect diverse semantic connections of words and present versatility of the world picture. As noted by Yu. Karaulov, the associative field always contains “a certain 'surplus', a certain set of reactions that go beyond the lexical semantics and grammatical relations of the stimulus and carry cognitive or pragmatic information, i.e. transmitting knowledge about the world or the attitude to the world of native speakers” [11]. The associative fields developed on the basis of reactions have a core (the most high-frequency reactions), peripheral segments of various degrees of remoteness and a corpus of low-frequency reactions. Additional components in the structure of the concept can be identified by grouping the associates according to the type of association.

*Russian Associative Dictionary* records the following associates: “interesting (11); knowledge, thick (5); good (4); of complaints, source of knowledge, favorite, to read (3); paper, of books, unread, cover, dictionary, smart, ‘the bird’, reading (2)” [11].

There are various types of reactions: paradigmatic ones that reflect systematic relations, syntagmatic, thematic, and precedent reactions. Paradigmatic associations recorded in the direct dictionary can be divided into the following groups: hypo-hyperonymic, denoting the type or genre of the book (7): Bible, dictionary, alphabet; partitive, presenting the part–whole relationship (5): line, cover, binding; synonymous, in this case, an English translation (1): book; thematic associations (22): know, author, manuscript [11].

Syntagmatic associations form so-called “two-words model” (Karaulov), a minimal speech unit, the elements of which implement some formal syntactic relationship. They include three groups: verbal (2): to open, to read; adjectival (16): adjective; type of connection — agreement: interesting, favorite, unread, thick; attributive (1): noun with a preposition; type of connection — government: about life.

Syntactic associations in which the stimulus and reaction form a complete statement (4): is torn, is read, is all.

Phraseological associations (3): ‘the bird’, of books, source of knowledge.

The data of the reverse dictionary mainly repeat, but also significantly expand the associative field of the concept, the variety of its perceptual modalities.

Paradigmatic reactions include: hypo-hyperonymic, naming the type, title or genre of the book (Bible, fiction, magazine, textbook, novel, story, War and Peace, detective, etc.); partitive relations, presenting the part–whole relationship (page, word, paper, part, copy, sheet, paragraph, title), thematic reactions (locus: shelf, library; causator: writer, science fiction writer, author), synonymous reactions (manuscript, text, composition, codex).


Syntagmatic associations include two groups: verbal (to read, to cram, to study, to publish, to take, to return) and adjectival (interesting, artistic, mine, foreign, red, authentic, etc.).

It is worth noting that there are no derivational and grammatical associations related to the word ‘book’.

Prevailing associates are those presenting appraisive characteristics describing the content of the book both positively (interesting, good, favourite, smart) and negatively (‘the bird’). There are also associations with the book as a physical object, an artifact (thick, paper, cover), with a typical action (read, reading, unread), a functional type of the book (of complaints), a cultural and social role (knowledge, a source of knowledge).

Thematically, the most numerous associations denote a typical action (to read (44), to have read (18), reading (18), a typical space (shelf (32)), genus-species relations (literature (29), Bible (22), fiction (19), magazine (15), textbook (9)).

Thus, the predominant associates indicate the primacy of the information seme in the perception of the concept in question.

Frame structures

To model and typify a variety of situations related to the diverse processes of human interaction with a book and reflecting its properties, the method of compiling the main frame structures can be employed. Frame structures are cognitive semantic and syntactic structures that model a certain stereotypical situation and express it using linguistic units characteristic of this linguoculture. On their basis, it is possible to construct a structural and semantic model of the concept in the form of typical constituents that are in certain defined positions, determined both by extralinguistic reality and by the linguistic properties of the members of the thematic group under study. The construction of frame structures is based on natural connections in the language system, reflecting the connection of linguistic elements and phenomena of reality. To describe them, it is necessary to identify the communicatively relevant sets of language units formed in the Russian linguistic culture in certain paradigmatic and syntagmatic relations.
N.V. Kireeva suggests analyzing the frame propositions based on the following provisions. The predicate is the center of the frame, which determines the possibilities of its contextual unfolding. A typical proposition forms a semantic model of an event that contains nuclear invariant information, such as the semantic positions of the subject and object of action, the action itself, its characteristics; a set of semantic complexes that fill the positions with lexical information. The linguistic units of these semantic complexes belong to certain thematic groups. The members of each group differ in differential-semantic features and are united on the basis of an integral functional hyperseme, which determines the possibilities of compatibility of the units of the paradigmatic group, as well as a denotative hyperseme, which determines the semantic basis of the group [12].

As a result, the conceptual content of the concept ‘book’ is represented by three main meanings: a book as a material object, a book as a result of publishing activity, a book as information contained in the text. According to them, three basic frame-propositions are distinguished: object, publishing and informational.

Object frame. A book as a material object has some physical characteristics: weight, size, color (‘A book of large format’. Thick book); a specific form (‘in the form of set of sheets with some text, folded and fastened together’); a utilitarian purpose (‘with some kind of text’, ‘for some records’).

The situation of this frame includes a set of constituent words that, through their lexical meaning, represent a book as a phenomenon of material culture among other material objects.

There are following main elements that form this frame structure:

- “an existing object” (Arutyunova’a terminology);
- “existential predicate” or “existential verb” (to lie, to be, to stand), which can be positive or negative;
- “locatives or localizers” that represent ‘the area of being’, denoting the book’s position (table, bookshelf, bedside table);
- “attributive position” (thick, cheap, new), these characteristics of the subject are non-evaluative, based on objective empirical data;
- “action predicates”, representing the actions with the book as an object, localized on the time axis and leading to a change in the location of the object in space (put, sell, bring). In this case, the book acts as an actant, presenting an inanimate participant of the situation.

Thus, the existence of a book as a cultural artifact necessarily implies the participation of an animate subject — a causator/terminator of the book’s existence, a subject of an action aimed at its creation, modification or destruction; a subject of a judgment about its properties, etc.

Publishing frame. As an artificially created object, a specific artifact, the book assumes the technical processes of its production and operation. The book is the result of a certain type of activity, a product of publishing industry.

The constituent words structuring the publishing frame include an object of action — a book as an anthropogenic phenomenon, a work of printing; partitives (components of a book); attributive positions, publishing characteristics (qualities and properties of a book related to the features of publication: “fastened”, “filled”; method and quality of printing (offset); predicates, naming purposeful activity of book production (publish, edit); causer of being (publisher, editor, printer); a tool for creating a book (printing press, risograph).

The object and publishing frames play an important role in identifying the book as a special kind of information carrier. Perception of the book’s thingness, peculiarities of its physical appearance, sensory impressions of the printed product is, along with the text, a source of significant aesthetic and hedonistic experiences. The certain material, typestyle, book size, format, illustrations, and other design elements of the book form its integral image, affect the quality of communication between the reader and the book. This is especially evident when comparing a paper book-codex with new electronic formats.

“Paper pages, books and magazines, leaflets and notes fill our lives with a world of sensory sensations experienced differently each time, depending on the type of printed products, its format, the quality of paper, printing, etc. These precious qualities of the thingness of printed products are unattainable for digital media. Paper is fraught with a wide range of constructive possibilities, rich tactile potential, expressive spatial characteristics. The world of flexible transformations that are characteristic of traditional paper may be lost forever in the future”.

The object frame includes essential perceptual characteristics for the perception of the integral image of the book, experiencing the sense of communication with the object. This is often evidenced by writers, describing their experience of communication with the book.
The information frame includes two subframes: “creation of the information field of the book” and “perception of the information field of the book”, which corresponds to the author–book–reader communicative triad. A book as an intellectual product, a means of communication and information transmission is the object of activity of both the author who creates the text of the book and the reader who perceives and interprets the text in the book. “A causable object is an object of perception, a book as a unity of material form and text” is the nuclear component of this frame (an essay, a work). The situation also includes the characteristics of the object according to some empirical attribute: by purpose (textbook, encyclopedia); by literary genre or type (epic, lyrics, fantasy); partitives (parts of the text: epigraph, title, epilogue); attributive position, subjective evaluation of the book (boring, useful); attributive position, objective characteristics of the book (fiction, mathematics, for children).

The subframe “creation of the information field of the book” includes the created object (book, chapter); predicates of creation of two types: action verbs denoting the physical actions by an animated subject aimed at material fixation of the text (to write, to mark), and mental action verbs denoting the mental processes of creating the text (to think, to formulate); also, this subframe includes an agent, a subject of action — the creator of the information component of the book (author, writer, poet); attributive position, characteristic of the agent (interesting, brilliant, incompetent); a creative tool (a pen, a computer).

Thus, the nominal layer of the concept “book” is structured on the basis of the semes “object of printing”, “text”, “information”, necessarily assumes a person as a subject of creating and perception of the book. The publishing frame focuses primarily on the subject as the causator of the book’s existence as a material object, while the author and the reader are in a presupposition. The information frame is focused on the subject as the causer of the information field of the text, which is both the writer as the author of the text, and the reader as its recipient and interpreter.

The book is both an object of purposeful human activity (technical production, publishing, writing and reading), and a means of emotional and volitional influence on the reader of mediated communication. As such, the book also performs as an agent (it teaches, attracts, narrates), based on the anthropomorphic properties inherent in its perception. In this regard, it is similar to other concepts of art (music tells, the picture shows) as a metaphorical subject.

Conclusions

Thus, ‘book’ is a universal linguocultural concept, an important fragment of the linguistic world picture, which has a long history in Russian culture and still is essential for Russian linguistic consciousness. The specifics of the concept is in its semantic duality, the unity of the material and the ideal, which forms the main semantic opposition in the structure of the concept. The analysis of lexicographic sources made it possible to identify the area of the main representatives of the concept ‘book’, which form the basis for its objectification in the language and speech of various discourses. They include the name of the concept (‘book’), its derivatives (book depository, bookseller, bookish etc.), the constituents of the object, publishing and information frames: the components of the thematic groups “text document” (article, essay, story), “parts of a text document” (line, epigraph, word, letter), “subject, object, space and typical actions related to the creation of a book”, “subject, object, space and typical actions related to the perception of a book”, “subject, object, space and typical actions related to the functioning of the book in society”. This complex of conceptual elements forms the model structure that serves as a basic semantic prototype for further studying of the specifics of the concept in various discourses.

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«Кітап» концептісінің лексикографикалық мағынадағы сипаттамасы

Казірі таңды лингвистикалық концептологияның оқеіті жасауы және экономикалық, медициналық, коржем және т.б. әртүрлі дискрет- тарданың елебесетін іске асырудың ерекшеліктерін зерттеу болып отыр. Бұл зерттеу концептінің негізі негізде толық сапалық моделер, «салыстырудың тіл ішіндегі зерттеу әдеттері» (Воркачев), барлық негізді әкімділері мен семантикалық кемітіретін, нәтижеге алына отыр. Бұл зерттеу концептінің негізін және оның орыс тіліндегі басты репрезентантарының таусат кешені айқындалады.

Kітап сөздер: лингвокультурный концепт, фрейм-структура, концепт «кітап», лексикографикалық сипаттамасы.

А.П. Филимонова, Ш.М. Мажитаева, Н.В. Козловская, Ж.Д. Рапищева

Экспликация концепта «книга» в лексикографическом отражении

Одной из актуальных проблем современной лингвоконцептологии является изучение специфики реализации универсальных концептов, функционирующих в различных дискурсах: политическом, экономическом, медицинском, художественном и т.д. Подобное изучение опирается на предварительное конструирование наиболее признаконосной полной модели концепта, исследовательского «внутриязыково» структура, концептуального прототипа, отражающего его основные дефиниционные семьи, который и позволяет выявлять дискретно обусловленную специфику.

Настоящая статья посвящена изучению концепта-универсалии «книга» как значимого элемента национальной языковой картины мира. На основе анализа лексикографических данных и основные фрейм-пропозиций в лексикографическом отражении. Ключевые слова: лингвокультурный концепт, фрейм-структура, концепт «книга», лексикографическая интерпретация.

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