

CONCEPTUAL COMPONENT OF THE CONCEPT AGE

Анотація. У статті аналізується концептуальний обсяг концепту ВІК. У цій роботі ми використовуємо концептуальний підхід для аналізу поняттєвої складової концепту AGE. У роботі на основі аналізу лексичних і графічних джерел досліджено структуру ядра та поняттєві компоненти концепту. Матеріал дослідження складається з різноманітних джерел, включаючи словникові визначення та етимологічний аналіз.

Ключові слова: концепт, концептуальний простір, структура концепту, ядро, периферія, вік.

Summary. The article analyzes the conceptual scope of the concept AGE. The concept AGE is a complex and multifaceted concept that is reflected in the way we talk about it in language. In this paper, we use a cognitive linguistic approach to analyze the conceptual component of the concept AGE. The structure of the concept AGE has been established in a conceptual way. Language is a means of verbalizing concepts, therefore, the structure and content of concepts are revealed through the meaning of language units representing a certain concept and its dictionary interpretations. In this work, based on the analysis of lexical and graphic sources, its core structure and conceptual components of the concept are studied. We draw on a variety of sources, including dictionary definitions, corpus data, and etymological analysis. We argue that the conceptual component of the AGE concept can be divided into three parts: a core, a near periphery, and a far periphery. The core of the AGE concept is the time span of a person's/thing's life. The near periphery includes concepts such as generation, aging, and period in history. The far periphery includes concepts such as the level of human development, the sequence of ages, ripeness and softness, an era, and the last stage. We also argue that the conceptual component of the AGE concept is dynamic and can change over time and across cultures. For

example, in the past, the AGE concept was more closely associated with old age. However, in recent years, the AGE concept has become more inclusive and now encompasses all stages of life.

Key words: *concept, conceptual scope, conceptual structure, nucleus, periphery, age.*

The rapid development of linguistics in the 21st century is characterized by the growing role of anthropocentric, cultural and cognitive approaches to the study of language and linguistic material. The actual problem of “the relationship between language and human cognition” is solved by the efforts of scientists who conduct research in the field of cognitive linguistics and linguistic culture (N. Arutyunova [4], T. Davydova [1] and others). Language is a means of verbalizing concepts. The main terminological unit of cognitive linguistics and linguocultural studies is the concept, which was used in cognitive linguistics and linguoconceptology (V. Maslova [2], O. Selivanova [3], O. Bliznyuk[1], etc.), however, currently there is a need to systematize the acquired knowledge about concepts, to find out the ways of their interaction, to study their semantic scope. Thus, the relevance of our scientific research is determined by the emergence of a new cultural paradigm in linguistics, the need for further study of the relationship between language and the human world, and ways of explicating concepts in text or discourse.

Turning to the concept AGE, let's first examine its lexeme. With the help of etymological analysis, we learned that the nominative lexeme *age* appeared at the end of the 13th century and meant a long but indefinite period in human history [9]. In addition, this lexeme is associated with old age (from Old English), which is of most interest to us — “time something has lived, particular length or stage of life.” That is, the core of the lexeme contained a temporal feature and people considered age as a period of old age.

We will analyze the conceptual component of the concept by referring to five dictionaries, such as: “Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Thesaurus” [8], “Collins English Dictionary” [6], “Cambridge Dictionary” [5], “Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries” [10], “MacMillan Dictionary” [7].

We divided the semes according to the complexity of their definitions.

That is, on the nucleus, near and far periphery. Semes, which are most often found in the wording of explanatory dictionaries, refer to the nucleus of the conceptual component. Accordingly, those semes that are not so frequently recognized in these dictionaries fall under the near periphery. And semes values that are single or rare are in the far periphery.

The above-mentioned explanatory dictionaries use the following meanings:

1. Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Thesaurus: a period of life in which some special qualification, power, or ability arises or is maintained; one of the stages of life; duration of existence from the beginning to any time; the last stage; a period of time in which a person or trait dominates; a cultural period marked by an outstanding object; (geology) a division of time that is usually shorter than an epoch; the modern period in a person's life; generation; age; softness and ripeness [8].

2. Collins English Dictionary: the number of years an individual has lived; the time period when the item was manufactured; aging process and old age itself; a gap in history; long period; period or duration of human life; the last stage in life; specific era; generation; (geology) a period of time during which a layer of rocks is formed; (mythology) sequence of ages according to Hesiod; (psychology) the level reached by a person in any area of his development (mental, emotional), compared to the average statistical level for his age; [6].

3. Cambridge Dictionary: a period of time during which someone lives or something exists; exact shade of time; a very long time; old age or period of aging; [5].

4. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries: the number of years a person lived or a thing existed; a long period of time; a certain period in an individual's life; exact period in history; state of old age; (geology) a period of time that is a division of an epoch; generation [10].

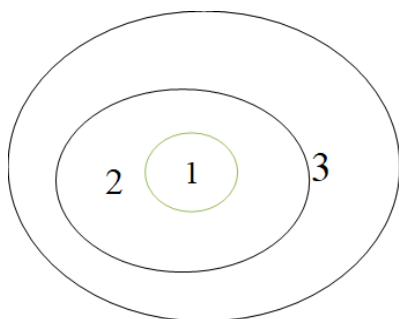
5. MacMillan Dictionary: number of years lived; the period of life when a person is allowed to finish school, vote, retire; aging; period in history; long period of time [7].

The results of our research are presented in Table 1.1:

Frequency of the noun “age” in dictionary definitions

Semes	<i>Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary and Thesaurus</i>	<i>Collins English Dictionary</i>	<i>Cambridge Dictionary</i>	<i>Oxford Learner's Dictionaries</i>	<i>MacMillan Dictionary</i>
the period of a person or non-creature	+	+	+	+	+
the last stage	+	+			
period in history		+	+	+	+
the time segment that divides the epochs		+		+	
aging	+	+	+	+	
sequence of ages	+	+			
mental level		+			
generation	+	+		+	
ripeness and softness	+				

By grouping the semes according to their frequency in the definitions of the noun “age”, we are able to reproduce the conceptual component of the concept AGE (see Fig. 1.1).



1. Nucleus (the time span of the life of a person/non-creature)
2. Near periphery (aging, generation; period in history)
3. Far periphery (maturity and softness; level of development; sequence of ages; era; last stage)

Fig. 1.1 Conceptual component of the AGE concept

As we can observe, the nucleus of the concept AGE is the amount of time that a living thing or inanimate object has existed. The near periphery of the concept includes concepts related to the aging process, such as generation and period in history. The far periphery of the concept includes concepts that are more distantly related to the concept of AGE, such as maturity and softness, level of development, sequence of ages, era, and last stage.

To summarize, the conceptual component of the concept AGE is multifaceted and broad. It models different facets in the content of concepts. Speaking about the nucleus, the time span of a person's/ thing's life is central. The near periphery includes such definitions as: generation, aging, and period in history. The conceptual component of the concept AGE is dynamic and can change over time and across cultures. For example, in the past, the AGE concept was more closely associated with old age. However, in recent years, the AGE concept has become more inclusive and now encompasses all stages of life. The findings of this study have important implications for our understanding of the concept of AGE and how it is used in language. The study also highlights the importance of using a cognitive linguistic approach to analyze the conceptual components of words and phrases.

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