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## АКТУАЛЬНІ ПРОБЛЕМИ ЛІНГВІСТИКИ

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**ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧНА СТРУКТУРА КОНЦЕПТУ**  
**LINGUA FRANCA У СУЧАСНІЙ АНГЛІЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ**  
**ЛЕКСИКО-СЕМАНТИЧЕСКАЯ СТРУКТУРА КОНЦЕПТА**  
**LINGUA FRANCA В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**  
**LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE CONCEPT**  
**LINGUA FRANCA IN MODERN ENGLISH**

Визначено поняття «концепт», представлено його основні характеристики у сучасній когнітивній науці, описано значимість англійської мови у сучасному світі та визначено важливість її функціонування у ролі мови *lingua franca*. На основі аналізу словникових дефініцій та близько тридцяти дефініцій поняття *lingua franca*, які надаються у лінгвістичній літературі, розглянуто семантичну структуру лексичної одиниці *lingua franca* у сучасній англійській мові. У результаті проведеного семантичного аналізу було встановлено, що явище *lingua franca* є концептом та включає в себе цілий ряд характеристик та асоціацій. В ході дослідження було виявлено когнітивні ознаки в лексико-семантичній структурі концепту LINGUA FRANCA, які зберігаються у свідомості людей, котрі розмовляють англійською мовою, та лексичні одиниці, що репрезентують ці ознаки в сучасній англійській мові. У процесі дослідження було встановлено, що лексико-семантична структура концепту LINGUA FRANCA є доволі складною та розвиненою системою, яку можна представити у вигляді польової моделі та виділити ній ядро, що репрезентується в сучасній англійській мові за допомогою трьох лексичних одиниць, ближню периферію (дев'ять лексичних одиниць) та дальню периферію (сто лексичних одиниць). Аналіз теоретичних джерел, в яких розглянуто поняття *lingua franca*, дозволяє стверджувати, що цей феномен є багатостороннім та динамічним, тому містить у своїй структурі ще багато інших ознак та характеристик, які потребують подальшого теоретичного та лінгвістичного опису.

*Ключові слова:* lingua franca, лексико-семантична структура, когнітивна ознака, ядро, ближня периферія, дальня периферія.

Дано определение понятию «концепт», представлены его основные характеристики в современной когнитивной науке, описана значимость английского языка в современном мире и определена важность его функционирования в роли языка

*lingua franca*. На основе анализа словарных дефиниций и около тридцати дефиниций понятия *lingua franca*, которые представлены в лингвистической литературе, рассмотрена семантическая структура лексической единицы *lingua franca* в современном английском языке. В результате проведенного семантического анализа было установлено, что явление *lingua franca* является концептом и включает в себя целый ряд характеристик и ассоциаций. В ходе исследования были выявлены когнитивные признаки в лексико-семантической структуре концепта LINGUA FRANCA, которые содержатся в сознании людей, говорящих на английском языке, и лексические единицы, которые репрезентируют эти признаки в современном английском языке. В процессе исследования было установлено, что лексико-семантическая структура концепта LINGUA FRANCA является довольно сложной и развитой системой, которую можно представить в виде полевой модели и выделить в ней ядро, которое репрезентировано в современном английском языке при помощи трёх лексических единиц, ближнюю периферию (девять лексических единиц) и дальнюю периферию (сто лексических единиц). Анализ теоретических источников, в которых рассматривалось понятие *lingua franca*, позволяет утверждать, что этот феномен является многосторонним и динамичным, поэтому содержит в своей структуре ещё много других признаков и характеристик, которые требуют дальнейшего теоретического и лингвистического описания.

*Ключевые слова:* lingua franca, лексико-семантическая структура, когнитивный признак, ядро, ближняя периферия, дальняя периферия.

The article defines the notion of «concept» whose main characteristics have been revealed through cognitive science. The article also deals with description of importance of the English language in the modern world; its functioning as *lingua franca* has been described. On the basis of the analysis of dictionary definitions and about thirty definitions of the notion *lingua franca* that are presented in the linguistic literature, the semantic structure of the lexical unit *lingua franca* in the modern English language has been considered. The semantic analysis has shown that the phenomenon *lingua franca* is a concept that includes a whole range of characteristics and associations. In the process of research some cognitive features in lexical-and-semantic structure of the concept LINGUA FRANCA that are stored in minds of English-speaking people and lexical units representing them in modern English have been singled out. It has been stated that lexical-and-semantic structure of the concept LINGUA FRANCA is rather complex and developed. It may be represented in the form of a field model, including the nucleus, consisting of three lexical units, close periphery (nine lexical units) and far periphery (one hundred lexical units). The analysis of theoretical literature dedicated to the consideration of the notion *lingua franca* has shown that this phenomenon is multi-sided and dynamic, that is why its structure contains many other features that require further theoretical and linguistic description.

*Keywords:* lingua franca, lexical-and-semantic structure, cognitive feature, nucleus, close periphery, far periphery.

In the modern world, where the process of globalization is involving more and more societies, and the process of internationalization influences the majority of spheres of social life, the existence of a language that would unite people, facilitate their cooperation and move linguistic and cultural borders – the language *lingua franca* is essential. The English language has become such a language at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and nowadays it takes the leading place in the linguistic picture of modern Europe.

Traditionally, a language *lingua franca* is defined as a «contact language» for people who have neither a common language, nor common (national) culture, and for whom the language they speak is a foreign one [8, p. 27].

Quite an impressive number of works is dedicated to the analysis of peculiarities of *lingua franca*. Having studied more than thirty works [2] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [13] [15] [etc.], we may state that such a phenomenon as *lingua franca* is rather multisided, it includes a large number of characteristics and associations. That is why the notion *lingua franca* may be considered to be a concept that has a complex lexical-and-semantic structure.

**The aim** of the present article is to define the lexical-and-semantic structure of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English and to find out how this concept is categorized and actualized in the minds of English-speaking people.

It should be noted that the problem of defining the notion «concept» is one of the most disputable in modern cognitive linguistics. There are lots of viewpoints and papers dedicated to the analysis of this problem. Traditionally the *concept* is defined as an informational mental structure, specifically organized unit of memory that contains knowledge about the object of perception, verbal and non-verbal, which has been received by means of interrelation of five mental functions of consciousness and their connection to subconscious [1, p. 292].

The question about the structure of a concept is far from clear indefinite in modern cognitive science. While generalizing the works of linguists, who study the structure of a concept, E.A. Selivanova notes that the majority of scientists support the field model of a concept containing a nucleus and periphery. The nuclear zone of a concept is equated to the meaning of a corresponding key lexical unit, to the notion that is very often shown as a set of semes of the key word; with the image of an object, phenomenon or hierarchical system of categorization; with relatively true and uncontroversial information and so on. The periphery of a concept can, in its turn, be represented differently: by distribution of the key word, associative links with other concepts; deepened information, subjective empirical knowledge, connotative elements and other means [1, p. 297]. This very model has been chosen by us to describe lexical-and-semantic structure of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in the modern English language.

The research has been carried out in several stages.

At the first stage, the analysis of dictionary definitions of the key lexical unit *lingua franca*, which are given in monolingual modern English dictionaries, has been done [3] [4] [11] [12] [14]. It has been found out that there are three main meanings in its semantic structure: 1) *a common language used for communication among people of different mother tongues*; 2) *a hybrid language containing elements from several different languages*; 3) *any system of communication providing mutual understanding* [4].

On the basis of the above mentioned definitions that constitute the semantic structure of the concept under analysis we may single out the central cognitive features of the concept LINGUA FRANCA: *a common language, a system of communication*. These features seem to prove that such a language really exists, and it is an intermediary language the main function of which is to unite as many people as possible. The key lexemes representing the above mentioned cognitive features refer to the nuclear zone of the concept LINGUA FRANCA, because they are a set of differential semes of the key lexical unit (*lingua franca*), which verbalizes the concept. It should be emphasized that these cognitive features are generalized through associations connected with the concept LINGUA FRANCA contained in minds of English-speaking people. Thus, the nucleus of the concept LINGUA FRANCA is represented in the English language by

means of three lexical units: *lingua franca*, *a common language*, *a system of communication*.

At the second stage, more than thirty definitions of the notion *lingua franca* presented in linguistic literature, have been analyzed [2] [5] [6] [7] [8] [9] [10] [13] [15] [etc.]. Over a hundred identifying words having direct and indirect associations with the notion *lingua franca* that are supposed to be stored in minds of English-speaking people have been singled out. All the chosen lexical units have been united in groups according to their integrating cognitive features. The integrating cognitive features represent the close periphery of the concept. In their turn lexical units verbalizing each of these cognitive features in modern English build the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA.

The analysis of factual material allowed us to single out nine integrating cognitive features in the structure of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in the modern English language: *means of communication*; *a phenomenon possessing a specific purpose*; *a social phenomenon having importance for education*; *a social phenomenon applied in different domains*; *a phenomenon possessing a number of peculiar features*; *a social phenomenon caused by specific factors and needs*; *a phenomenon having its own specific contexts and users*; *a threat/contributor to multilingualism*; *a distinctive feature of modern Europe*.

These cognitive features and corresponding lexical units build close periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English.

In the process of investigation it has been revealed that every cognitive feature is verbalized by means of a number of lexical units that form the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English. The close and far peripheries form a kind of a mind-map, where the centre is represented by each of the cognitive features (close periphery) and the branches are indicated by lexical units that verbalise these cognitive features (far periphery). Thus, the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA is represented with the help of a hundred lexical units that are united in groups according to their cognitive features. It should be mentioned that all the groups have the same level of importance; in our paper they are presented according to their abundance and productivity.

The analysis of factual material has shown that the most abundant group of lexical units is the one united by the cognitive feature *means of communication*. This group is presented in English with the help of thirty-two lexical units, such as *linguistic code available for international communication*; *vehicular language among interlocutors who do not speak the same language*; *intermediary language*; *communicative instrument*; *international tool for communication* and others.

The second group of lexical units united by the cognitive feature *a phenomenon possessing a specific purpose* and verbalizing the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English, contains seventeen lexical units, for instance *to serve global human relations and needs*; *to aid cross-group understanding*; *to facilitate communication in different contexts*; *to provide interaction across linguistic boundaries* etc.

In the process of investigation it has been noticed that lexical units forming the third group are united by the cognitive feature *a social phenomenon having importance for education*. This group contains eleven lexical units: *the medium of instruction*; *to provide multicompetence*; *to provide linguistic and cultural knowledge*; *attempt to pro-*

*duce a foreign language norm; object of an institutional teaching syllabus; to acquire full mastery of the language system and so on.*

The factual material under consideration permits us to state that the group of lexical units with common cognitive features *a social phenomenon applied in different domains* includes eight lexical units, such as *commercial language; the language of the world market; a single language in lecture-rooms and board-rooms; a common language for international domains of political life, safety, business, communication, entertainment, the media and education* and others.

In its turn, the group united by a cognitive feature *a phenomenon possessing a number of peculiar features*, contains the same number of lexical units as the previous one (eight): *'fleeting' nature; fluidity of norms; openness to an integration of forms of other languages; negotiability; variability in terms of speaker's proficiency* and some others.

We have found out that the next group of lexical units building the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English is united by the cognitive feature *a social phenomenon caused by specific factors and needs* and consists of seven lexical units, for example, *need to communicate across speech communities; need for a global language; interactional exchanges all around globe; common interests, needs and concerns across languages and communities* and so on.

The group of lexical units united by the cognitive feature *a phenomenon having its own specific contexts and users*, also contains seven lexical units: *second language environment; foreign language environment; native context; non-native context* etc.

The analysis of factual material has shown that the common cognitive feature uniting the eighth group of lexical units that build the far periphery of the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English is *a threat/contributor to multilingualism*. This group includes six lexical units: *death of multilingualism; a killer language; serious threat to national languages; a product of multilingualism; a partner of multilingualism; a societal language in a multilingual nation*.

The group of lexical units united by a cognitive feature *a distinctive feature of modern Europe*, is the least numerous one and consist of four lexical units: *a language that educated people throughout Europe are expected to know; a precondition for pan-European communication and cooperation; a means of enrichment of linguistic repertoire of Europe; 'extraterritorial' language throughout Europe*.

Thus, the concept LINGUA FRANCA in modern English has quite a complex and developed lexical-and-semantic structure. The analysis of factual material allowed us to single out the nucleus, consisting of three lexical units that manifest the central features of the concept LINGUA FRANCA and the way they are represented in minds of English-speaking people, close periphery (nine lexical units) and far periphery (one hundred lexical units) which represent direct and indirect associations with the concept in minds of English-speaking people. In the process of research it has been stated that the concept LINGUA FRANCA possesses a number of cognitive features and is verbalized by means of the lexical units described above.

It should be emphasized that the close and far peripheries of the concept are united by some similar notions connected with communication, education, social phenomena and multilingualism that is a distinctive feature of modern Europe. Each group is associated with international communication, communicative instruments, cross-group understanding, linguistic and cultural role, commercial language, a single

language in lecture rooms, a global language, a product of multilingualism and pan-European communication. It is also sometimes associated with negative perception of multilingualism and actualized as its threat and even killer language.

The analysis of close and far peripheries has shown that *lingua franca* is associated with positive changes in minds of English-speaking people, globalization and acceleration of progress through the intermediary language.

Analysis of theoretical sources dedicated to the analysis of the notion *lingua franca* has shown that this phenomenon is multi-sided and dynamic, it depends on the anthropological factor, that is why its structure contains many other features that require further theoretical and linguistic description.

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