

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE LINGUOCULTURAL CONCEPT “SINCERITY” IN ENGLISH

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Abstract: This study explores the lexical-semantic structure of the linguocultural concept “sincerity” in the English language. The concept is examined as a culturally significant mental construct reflected in language through a system of lexical units and semantic relations. The aim of the research is to identify the core and peripheral components of the concept and to analyze the semantic features that shape its structure. The methodology integrates cognitive linguistics, componential analysis, and linguoculturological approaches. The data include dictionary definitions, thesaurus entries, and contextual usages of key lexemes. The findings demonstrate that the concept of sincerity is structured around a semantic core including honesty, genuineness, and openness, while peripheral elements extend to notions such as trust, integrity, and emotional authenticity. The study highlights the interaction between language, cognition, and culture in the formation of conceptual meaning.

Keywords: linguoculturology, sincerity, lexical semantics, conceptual structure, cognitive linguistics.

Introduction. The study of linguocultural concepts occupies a central position in modern linguistics, particularly within cognitive and cultural approaches. Concepts are understood as mental units that encode culturally significant knowledge and are reflected in language through lexical and semantic structures.

The concept of “sincerity” represents an important value in English-speaking cultures, associated with honesty, authenticity, and moral integrity. As a linguocultural concept, sincerity is not limited to a single lexical item but is expressed through a network of related words and meanings.

The relevance of this study lies in the need to analyze the internal structure of the concept and to identify the relationships between its lexical realizations. The aim of the research is to investigate the lexical-semantic

structure of the concept “sincerity” in English and to determine its core and peripheral components.

Literature review. The theoretical foundation of this study is based on cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology, which view language as a reflection of conceptual structures and cultural knowledge. Scholars emphasize that concepts are organized in the form of semantic fields consisting of interconnected lexical units.

Componential analysis has been widely used to identify the semantic features of lexical items and to reveal their internal structure. In the case of abstract concepts such as sincerity, this approach allows for the identification of both denotative and connotative meanings.

Previous studies have shown that concepts often have a core and a periphery. The core includes the most stable and central features, while the periphery consists of context-dependent and culturally specific elements.

Despite extensive research on lexical semantics, the concept of sincerity has not been sufficiently analyzed from a comprehensive linguocultural perspective, particularly in terms of its internal semantic organization.

Methodology. The research employs a qualitative approach combining componential and semantic analysis. The data are drawn from English explanatory dictionaries, thesauri, and language corpora.

The analysis involves:

- a) identifying key lexemes representing the concept (e.g., sincerity, honesty, genuineness, authenticity);
- b) examining dictionary definitions to extract semantic features;
- c) grouping lexemes into semantic clusters;
- d) distinguishing between core and peripheral elements.

Contextual analysis is also used to observe how the concept is realized in actual language use.

Results. The analysis reveals that the lexical-semantic structure of the concept “sincerity” consists of a core and several peripheral zones.

The core of the concept includes the following semantic features:

- 1. truthfulness
- 2. honesty
- 3. genuineness
- 4. openness

These features are consistently present across dictionary definitions and represent the central meaning of sincerity.

The near periphery includes lexemes related to moral and personal qualities, such as:

- 5. Integrity

6. trustworthiness

7. reliability

The far periphery extends to more context-dependent meanings, including:

8. emotional authenticity

9. directness

10. simplicity

The study also identifies a network of synonyms and related expressions that form the semantic field of sincerity. These include words such as candor, frankness, wholeheartedness, each contributing specific shades of meaning.

Additionally, the concept is characterized by positive evaluative connotations, which reflect its cultural importance.

Discussion. The findings confirm that the concept of sincerity is structured as a complex semantic network rather than a single lexical unit. The distinction between core and peripheral elements reflects the dynamic nature of conceptual meaning.

The presence of stable core features indicates that sincerity has a relatively fixed conceptual basis in English. At the same time, the variability of peripheral elements demonstrates the influence of context and cultural interpretation.

The analysis also shows that the concept is closely linked to moral and social values, which explains its frequent use in evaluative contexts. This supports the idea that linguocultural concepts serve as carriers of cultural norms and beliefs.

Furthermore, the interaction between lexical semantics and cognitive structures highlights the role of language in organizing and expressing conceptual knowledge.

Conclusion. This study has examined the lexical-semantic structure of the linguocultural concept “sincerity” in English. The results demonstrate that the concept is organized around a stable semantic core and a flexible periphery.

The research highlights the importance of analyzing concepts as dynamic systems that reflect both universal cognitive mechanisms and culture-specific meanings. It also emphasizes the role of language in shaping and transmitting cultural values.

The findings contribute to the fields of cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology by providing a detailed analysis of the internal structure of an important abstract concept.

Future research may focus on cross-linguistic comparisons or corpus-based studies to further explore the variability of the concept in different contexts.

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