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THE ROLE OF COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS IN DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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Annotation: This article explores the role of cognitive linguistics in discourse analysis by examining how cognitive mechanisms contribute to the interpretation of discourse meaning. The study focuses on conceptualization, frame semantics, mental spaces, conceptual metaphor, and cognitive models as essential tools for discourse analysis. It argues that discourse meaning is constructed through the interaction between linguistic forms, contextual information, and conceptual knowledge. The findings demonstrate that cognitive linguistic approaches provide a comprehensive framework for analyzing discourse coherence, pragmatic meaning, and cultural interpretation. Furthermore, the study highlights the interdisciplinary significance of cognitive discourse analysis in linguistics, communication studies, translation, and artificial intelligence.
Keywords: cognitive linguistics, discourse analysis, cognitive semantics, frame semantics, conceptual metaphor, mental spaces, conceptualization, discourse interpretation.

Annotatsiya: Mazkur maqolada diskurs tahlilida kognitiv tilshunoslikning nazariy va amaliy ahamiyati yoritiladi. Tadqiqotda konseptualizatsiya, freym semantikasi, mental makonlar nazariyasi, konseptual metafora hamda kognitiv modellar diskurs ma’nosini shakllantirishdagi asosiy mexanizmlar sifatida tahlil qilinadi. Diskursning mazmuni til birliklari, kontekst va konseptual bilimlarning o‘zaro ta'siri natijasida yuzaga kelishi ko‘rsatib beriladi. Natijalar kognitiv tilshunoslik diskursning semantik, pragmatik va madaniy jihatlarini chuqur tahlil qilish imkonini beruvchi samarali nazariy yondashuv ekanligini tasdiqlaydi.
Kalit so‘zlar: kognitiv tilshunoslik, diskurs tahlili, kognitiv semantika, freym semantikasi, konseptual metafora, mental makonlar, konseptualizatsiya, diskurs interpretatsiyasi.

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается роль когнитивной лингвистики в дискурсивном анализе. Анализируются концептуализация, фреймовая семантика, теория ментальных пространств, концептуальная метафора и когнитивные модели как основные механизмы интерпретации дискурса. Показано, что смысл дискурса формируется в результате взаимодействия языковых средств, контекста и концептуальных знаний. Результаты исследования подтверждают, что когнитивная лингвистика представляет собой эффективный теоретический подход к анализу семантических, прагматических и культурных особенностей дискурса.
Ключевые слова: когнитивная лингвистика, дискурсивный анализ, когнитивная семантика, фреймовая семантика, концептуальная метафора, ментальные пространства, концептуализация, интерпретация дискурса.

Introduction

Discourse analysis has become one of the most significant areas of contemporary linguistic research because it examines language beyond the sentence level and investigates how meaning is constructed in real communicative situations. While traditional approaches mainly focused on grammatical structure and textual organization, cognitive linguistics emphasizes the role of conceptualization, background knowledge, and cognitive processes in discourse interpretation (Evans & Green, 2006). According to cognitive linguistics, discourse meaning is dynamically constructed through the interaction of linguistic expressions, conceptual structures, and contextual information. Cognitive theories such as Frame Semantics, Mental Space Theory, Conceptual Metaphor Theory, and Cognitive Grammar provide valuable tools for explaining how speakers and listeners interpret discourse in different communicative

contexts (Fillmore, 1982; Fauconnier, 1994). Recent interdisciplinary research has expanded cognitive discourse analysis into fields such as media studies, political communication, intercultural communication, translation studies, and artificial intelligence. These developments demonstrate that cognitive linguistic approaches offer a comprehensive framework for understanding discourse as both a linguistic and cognitive phenomenon. This study aims to investigate the role of cognitive linguistics in discourse analysis by examining the contribution of major cognitive theories to discourse interpretation, conceptual organization, and pragmatic meaning.

Literature Review

The relationship between cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis has attracted considerable scholarly attention over the last three decades. Fillmore's (1982) Frame Semantics explains that discourse interpretation depends on conceptual frames activated by linguistic expressions and background knowledge. This theory demonstrates that understanding discourse requires more than lexical knowledge; it also involves cognitive and cultural experience. Fauconnier (1994) introduced Mental Space Theory, arguing that speakers construct temporary conceptual spaces during communication to interpret reference, inference, and contextual meaning. Fauconnier and Turner (2002) further developed this framework through Conceptual Blending Theory, explaining how multiple conceptual spaces combine to generate new meanings in discourse. Langacker (2008) emphasizes that discourse reflects conceptualization rather than merely grammatical organization. Similarly, Evans and Green (2006) argue that cognitive linguistics explains discourse through conceptual structures, categorization, and embodied experience. Recent studies have also highlighted the application of cognitive discourse analysis in media discourse, political discourse, intercultural communication, and digital communication, demonstrating its interdisciplinary significance.

Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research design based on descriptive, analytical, and comparative methods. Relevant books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and theoretical studies on cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis were reviewed to examine the cognitive mechanisms underlying discourse interpretation (Evans & Green, 2006). The analysis focuses on Frame Semantics (Fillmore, 1982), Mental Space Theory (Fauconnier, 1994), Conceptual Blending Theory (Fauconnier & Turner, 2002), and Cognitive Grammar (Langacker, 2008). The collected data were analyzed thematically to identify the contribution of conceptualization, contextual knowledge, and cognitive models to discourse meaning.

Results and Discussion

The analysis demonstrates that cognitive linguistics provides an effective theoretical framework for explaining discourse meaning beyond sentence-level analysis. The findings indicate that discourse interpretation depends on conceptualization, contextual knowledge, and cognitive processing rather than solely on grammatical structure (Evans & Green, 2006). This perspective enables researchers to explain how speakers construct coherent interpretations in different communicative situations. The study reveals that Frame Semantics plays a central role in discourse comprehension by activating conceptual frames that organize background knowledge and cultural experience (Fillmore, 1982). Likewise, Mental Space Theory explains how speakers create temporary conceptual structures during communication to interpret reference, hypothetical situations, and pragmatic meaning (Fauconnier, 1994). These cognitive mechanisms contribute to maintaining discourse coherence and contextual interpretation. The findings also confirm that Conceptual Metaphor Theory and Conceptual Blending Theory are fundamental for understanding figurative language in discourse. Metaphorical expressions organize abstract concepts through familiar experiential domains, while conceptual blending integrates information from multiple mental spaces to generate new meanings (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Fauconnier & Turner, 2002). These processes are particularly evident in political speeches, media discourse, literary texts, and everyday communication. Furthermore, the research highlights the practical significance of cognitive discourse analysis in translation studies, language education, media communication, and artificial intelligence. Cognitive approaches improve the interpretation of implicit meanings, cultural references, and communicative intentions, making discourse analysis more comprehensive and context-sensitive. Overall, the findings confirm that cognitive linguistics has become an indispensable theoretical foundation for contemporary discourse studies.

Conclusion

This study examined the role of cognitive linguistics in discourse analysis. The findings confirm that discourse is a cognitive phenomenon in which meaning emerges through the interaction of language, conceptual knowledge, and contextual information rather than through linguistic forms alone. The analysis demonstrates that Frame Semantics, Mental Space Theory, Conceptual Blending Theory, and Cognitive Grammar provide effective tools for explaining discourse coherence, figurative language, pragmatic meaning, and conceptual organization. These theories reveal the close relationship between language, cognition, culture, and communication. Future research should explore cognitive discourse analysis in multilingual communication, corpus linguistics, digital media, artificial intelligence, and cross-cultural discourse. Such interdisciplinary studies will contribute to the further development of cognitive linguistics and enhance our understanding of language use in diverse communicative contexts.

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