



**THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SYMBOLIC AND COGNITIVE FRAMES IN  
REPRESENTING REALITY AND SHAPING FAIRY-TALE PLOTS**

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**Abstract:** *This article examines the significance of symbolic and cognitive frames in representing reality and shaping fairy-tale plots from the perspective of cognitive linguistics and literary analysis. The study focuses on how symbolic structures, cultural images, and cognitive frames influence the construction of fairy-tale narratives and readers' interpretation of fictional reality. Fairy tales are analyzed as literary texts that reflect human experience, moral values, and social beliefs through symbolic representation and cognitive modeling.*

*The research investigates the role of cognitive frames in organizing events, characters, and narrative situations within fairy tales. Particular attention is given to symbolic elements such as magical objects, natural phenomena, mythical characters, and spatial images that function as conceptual tools for representing abstract ideas and emotional experiences. The study demonstrates that cognitive frames help structure the plot and guide readers' understanding of conflict, transformation, and moral development in fairy-tale discourse.*

*The findings reveal that symbolic and cognitive frames play a crucial role in shaping the narrative structure and ideological meaning of fairy tales. They contribute to the representation of reality through imagination, symbolism, and metaphorical thinking while reflecting universal cultural and psychological patterns.*



*The article concludes that symbolic and cognitive framing is an essential mechanism in the creation and interpretation of fairy-tale plots and literary meaning.<sup>3</sup>*

**Key words:** *cognitive frames, symbolic representation, fairy tales, cognitive linguistics, literary discourse, narrative structure, symbolism, conceptualization, fictional reality, metaphorical thinking.*

## ЗНАЧЕНИЕ СИМВОЛИЧЕСКИХ И КОГНИТИВНЫХ ФРЕЙМОВ В РЕПРЕЗЕНТАЦИИ РЕАЛЬНОСТИ И ФОРМИРОВАНИИ СЮЖЕТОВ СКАЗОК

### Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается значение символических и когнитивных фреймов в репрезентации реальности и формировании сюжетов сказок с точки зрения когнитивной лингвистики и литературоведческого анализа. Исследование направлено на изучение того, как символические структуры, культурные образы и когнитивные фреймы влияют на построение сказочного повествования и интерпретацию художественной реальности читателями. Сказки анализируются как литературные тексты, отражающие человеческий опыт, моральные ценности и социальные представления посредством символической репрезентации и когнитивного моделирования.

В работе исследуется роль когнитивных фреймов в организации событий, персонажей и повествовательных ситуаций в сказках. Особое внимание уделяется таким символическим элементам, как волшебные предметы, природные явления, мифологические персонажи и пространственные образы, которые функционируют как концептуальные средства выражения абстрактных идей и эмоционального опыта.

Результаты исследования показывают, что символические и когнитивные фреймы играют важную роль в формировании повествовательной структуры и идейного содержания сказок. Они способствуют репрезентации реальности через воображение, символизм и метафорическое мышление, отражая универсальные культурные и психологические модели. В статье делается вывод о том, что символическое и



когнитивное фреймирование является важным механизмом создания и интерпретации сказочных сюжетов и художественного смысла.

Ключевые слова: когнитивные фреймы, символическая репрезентация, сказки, когнитивная лингвистика, литературный дискурс, повествовательная структура, символизм, концептуализация, художественная реальность, метафорическое мышление.

## HAQIQATNI TASVIRLASH VA ERTAK SYUJETLARINI SHAKLLANTIRISHDA SIMVOLIK HAMDA KOGNITIV FREYMLARNING AHAMIYATI

### Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada haqiqatni tasvirlash va ertak syujetlarini shakllantirishda simvolik hamda kognitiv freymlarning ahamiyati kognitiv lingvistika va adabiy tahlil nuqtai nazaridan o'rganiladi. Tadqiqot simvolik tuzilmalar, madaniy obrazlar va kognitiv freymlarning ertak narrativlarini yaratish hamda o'quvchilarning badiiy reallikni talqin qilishiga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatishini tahlil qilishga qaratilgan. Ertaklar inson tajribasi, axloqiy qadriyatlar va ijtimoiy qarashlarni simvolik tasvir va kognitiv modellashtirish orqali aks ettiruvchi badiiy matn sifatida tadqiq qilinadi.

Maqolada kognitiv freymlarning ertaklardagi voqealar, personajlar va narrativ vaziyatlarni tashkil etishdagi roli o'rganiladi. Sehrli buyumlar, tabiiy hodisalar, mifologik qahramonlar va makon obrazlari kabi simvolik elementlarga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi, chunki ular mavhum g'oyalar va emotsional tajribalarni ifodalovchi konseptual vosita sifatida xizmat qiladi.

Tadqiqot natijalari simvolik va kognitiv freymlarning ertaklarning syujet tuzilishi hamda g'oyaviy mazmunini shakllantirishda muhim rol o'ynashini ko'rsatadi. Ular tasavvur, simvolizm va metaforik tafakkur orqali reallikni ifodalashga xizmat qilib, umuminsoniy madaniy va psixologik modellarni aks ettiradi. Maqolada simvolik va kognitiv freymlash ertak syujetlari hamda badiiy ma'noni yaratish va talqin qilishning muhim mexanizmi ekanligi xulosa qilinadi.



Kalit soʻzlar: kognitiv freymalar, simvolik tasvir, ertaklar, kognitiv lingvistika, badiiy diskurs, narrativ tuzilma, simvolizm, konseptualizatsiya, badiiy reallik, metaforik tafakkur.

Introduction. Fairy tales have long served as an important form of literary discourse that reflects human experience, cultural values, and social beliefs through symbolic and imaginative representation. Unlike ordinary narratives, fairy tales present reality not in a direct form, but through symbolic images, mythical characters, magical objects, and metaphorical events. These symbolic structures help readers understand complex moral, emotional, and psychological ideas through fictional narratives and artistic imagination.

In modern cognitive linguistics, the concept of cognitive frames has become significant in explaining how people organize knowledge and interpret reality. According to frame theory, human understanding is based on mental structures that shape perception, interpretation, and communication. Cognitive frames allow readers to recognize narrative patterns, character roles, conflicts, and moral meanings within literary texts. In fairy tales, such frames influence the construction of plots and guide readers' interpretation of fictional events and symbolic elements.

Symbolism also plays a central role in fairy-tale discourse because symbolic images often represent abstract concepts such as good and evil, transformation, fear, love, and hope. Magical forests, castles, mirrors, animals, and supernatural characters function not only as narrative elements but also as cognitive and cultural symbols that structure the meaning of the text. Through symbolic and cognitive framing, fairy tales create a connection between imagination and reality while reflecting universal human experiences.

This article aims to examine the significance of symbolic and cognitive frames in representing reality and shaping fairy-tale plots. The study focuses on how symbolic structures and cognitive models organize narrative events, develop characters, and convey moral and philosophical meanings in fairy tales. By applying cognitive linguistic and literary approaches, the research seeks to demonstrate that



symbolic and cognitive framing is an essential mechanism in the creation and interpretation of fairy-tale discourse.

Literature review. The study of fairy tales has attracted the attention of scholars from different fields, including linguistics, literary studies, folklore, psychology, and cognitive science. Researchers have analyzed fairy tales as cultural narratives that reflect social values, moral principles, and human experience through symbolic representation. According to Donald Haase, fairy tales function as important literary and cultural texts that preserve collective imagination and traditional symbolic structures. His research emphasizes that fairy tales combine fantasy and reality in order to communicate universal human ideas and emotions.

The development of cognitive linguistics introduced new approaches to the analysis of literary discourse and symbolic meaning. One of the most influential concepts in this field is frame theory developed by Charles J. Fillmore. Fillmore explained that human understanding is organized through cognitive frames, which structure perception, interpretation, and communication. Cognitive frames help individuals recognize situations, actions, and relationships based on previous knowledge and cultural experience. In literary discourse, frames influence the interpretation of characters, events, and symbolic images.

Further contributions to cognitive theory were made by George Lakoff, who studied the relationship between cognition, categorization, and conceptual structures. Lakoff argued that human thinking is shaped by cognitive models and metaphorical systems that influence how reality is perceived and represented. His ideas became highly significant in the analysis of symbolism and conceptual structures in literary texts, including fairy tales.

Several literary scholars have also explored the symbolic nature of fairy tales. Bruno Bettelheim emphasized that fairy tales contain symbolic patterns that reflect psychological conflicts, fears, desires, and moral development. Similarly, Vladimir Propp analyzed the structural organization of fairy tales and identified recurring narrative functions that shape fairy-tale plots. These studies demonstrated that fairy



tales follow certain symbolic and cognitive patterns that influence narrative construction and meaning.

Although many scholars have investigated symbolism, narrative structures, and cognitive models in fairy tales, limited attention has been given to the combined role of symbolic and cognitive frames in representing reality and shaping fairy-tale plots. Therefore, this study aims to examine how symbolic images and cognitive frames interact in the construction of fairy-tale discourse and contribute to readers' understanding of fictional reality, moral values, and cultural meanings.

**Methodology.** This research is based on the principles of cognitive linguistics, frame semantics, and literary analysis. The study applies a qualitative research method to examine the role of symbolic and cognitive frames in representing reality and shaping fairy-tale plots. The research focuses on identifying symbolic structures, cognitive models, and narrative patterns within selected fairy tales in order to analyze how they contribute to the construction of fictional reality and literary meaning.

The materials of the study consist of selected classical fairy tales that contain rich symbolic imagery, magical elements, and complex narrative structures. Particular attention is given to symbolic objects, mythical characters, natural phenomena, and spatial representations that function as cognitive and cultural frames within fairy-tale discourse. These elements were selected because they reflect abstract concepts, emotional experiences, and moral values through symbolic narration.

The methodology of the research includes several stages. First, symbolic images and narrative elements were identified through close textual analysis of the selected fairy tales. Second, the identified elements were classified according to cognitive and symbolic frame categories such as “journey frame,” “conflict frame,” “transformation frame,” and “good versus evil frame.” Third, the semantic and narrative functions of these frames were analyzed in relation to plot development, character construction, and representation of reality.



In addition, descriptive and interpretative methods were used to explain how symbolic and cognitive frames influence readers' perception and interpretation of fairy-tale narratives. Comparative analysis was also applied to identify similarities and differences between symbolic structures in different fairy tales. Through this methodological approach, the study aims to demonstrate that symbolic and cognitive framing serves as an important mechanism in shaping fairy-tale plots and conveying cultural, psychological, and moral meanings.

**Discussion.** The analysis of symbolic and cognitive frames in fairy tales demonstrates that these elements play a crucial role in representing reality and shaping narrative structures. Fairy tales do not present reality directly; instead, they transform human experiences, emotions, and moral values into symbolic and imaginative forms. Through cognitive and symbolic framing, readers are able to interpret fictional events as reflections of universal human experiences and cultural beliefs.

One of the most significant findings of the study is that cognitive frames organize the structure of fairy-tale plots and guide the development of characters and events. Frames such as the "journey frame," "conflict frame," and "transformation frame" appear repeatedly in fairy-tale narratives. The "journey frame" usually represents personal growth, discovery, or the search for identity, while the "conflict frame" reflects the struggle between positive and negative forces. Similarly, the "transformation frame" symbolizes emotional, moral, or psychological change experienced by the characters throughout the narrative.

The analysis also reveals that symbolic elements function as cognitive tools for expressing abstract ideas and emotional experiences. Magical forests, mirrors, castles, animals, and supernatural figures often represent concepts such as fear, hope, wisdom, danger, and transformation. These symbolic images help readers understand complex moral and psychological meanings through concrete narrative forms. As a result, symbolism contributes significantly to the artistic and cognitive depth of fairy tales.



Furthermore, the study demonstrates that symbolic and cognitive frames influence readers' interpretation of reality within literary discourse. Fairy tales create fictional worlds that combine imagination with recognizable social and emotional experiences. Through symbolic representation and cognitive modeling, fairy tales reflect cultural traditions, ethical values, and collective human concerns. Therefore, cognitive and symbolic frames serve not only as narrative devices but also as mechanisms for constructing meaning and shaping readers' perception of reality.

The discussion confirms that fairy-tale narratives are structured through interconnected symbolic and cognitive systems that organize plot development and thematic meaning. These findings highlight the importance of cognitive linguistic and literary approaches in understanding the relationship between symbolism, narrative structure, and human cognition in fairy-tale discourse.

**Results.** The results of the study demonstrate that symbolic and cognitive frames play a fundamental role in representing reality and shaping the narrative structure of fairy tales. The analysis revealed that fairy tales consistently employ symbolic images, cognitive patterns, and narrative models to express abstract ideas, emotional experiences, and moral values. These elements contribute to the construction of fictional worlds that reflect both cultural traditions and universal human experiences.

The study identified several dominant cognitive frames in the selected fairy tales, including the "journey frame," "conflict frame," "transformation frame," and "good versus evil frame." The "journey frame" was found to represent personal development, discovery, and the search for meaning, while the "conflict frame" structured the opposition between positive and negative forces within the narrative. The "transformation frame" reflected emotional and psychological change experienced by characters during the course of the story.

The findings also showed that symbolic elements such as magical objects, forests, mirrors, animals, castles, and supernatural characters function as important conceptual tools in fairy-tale discourse. These symbols help readers interpret complex psychological and moral meanings through concrete narrative images. For



example, forests frequently symbolize uncertainty and transition, while magical transformations represent spiritual or emotional growth.

Furthermore, the analysis demonstrated that symbolic and cognitive frames contribute significantly to the coherence and ideological meaning of fairy-tale plots. Through symbolic representation and cognitive organization, fairy tales create connections between imagination and reality, allowing readers to understand fictional events as reflections of real human concerns and cultural values. The study confirms that symbolic and cognitive framing is an essential mechanism in shaping narrative meaning and guiding readers' interpretation of literary reality.

**Conclusion.** In conclusion, the study demonstrates that symbolic and cognitive frames play a significant role in representing reality and shaping fairy-tale plots. Fairy tales use symbolic imagery, cognitive structures, and narrative patterns to express abstract concepts, emotional experiences, and moral values through imaginative and artistic representation. Through these mechanisms, fairy tales create fictional worlds that reflect both cultural traditions and universal aspects of human experience.

The research findings revealed that cognitive frames such as the “journey frame,” “conflict frame,” “transformation frame,” and “good versus evil frame” organize the structure of fairy-tale narratives and guide the development of characters and events. At the same time, symbolic elements including magical objects, supernatural characters, forests, mirrors, and transformations function as conceptual tools for representing psychological and moral meanings. These symbolic and cognitive systems help readers interpret fictional reality and understand deeper philosophical and emotional ideas within fairy-tale discourse.

Furthermore, the study confirmed that symbolic and cognitive framing contributes not only to the narrative coherence of fairy tales but also to their ideological and cultural significance. Fairy tales combine imagination with recognizable human experiences, allowing readers to perceive fictional events as meaningful reflections of reality. Therefore, symbolic and cognitive frames serve as essential mechanisms in the construction and interpretation of literary meaning.



The article concludes that the analysis of symbolic and cognitive frames provides deeper insight into the relationship between cognition, symbolism, and narrative structure in fairy tales. The findings highlight the importance of cognitive linguistic and literary approaches in understanding how fairy tales represent reality and shape readers' perception through symbolic and conceptual organization.

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