

THE CONCEPT OF “HOME” IN THE LINGUISTIC PICTURE OF THE WORLD: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract

The article explores the concept of “home” as a key linguistic and cultural category reflecting human values, emotions, and worldview. The study aims to identify how the idea of “home” is verbalized and conceptualized in different linguistic pictures of the world, focusing on English and Russian. Through the analysis of lexical, phraseological, and metaphorical expressions, the research reveals both universal and culture-specific features of the “home” concept. It demonstrates that while “home” universally symbolizes safety, belonging, and emotional warmth, the cultural connotations differ: in English, “home” emphasizes individuality and comfort, whereas in Russian it reflects family ties and collective belonging. The comparative approach contributes to a deeper understanding of the interrelation between language, culture, and national mentality, confirming that the concept of “home” serves as a linguistic mirror of cultural identity and value orientation.

Keywords: Home; linguistic picture of the world; concept; cultural identity; comparative linguistics; worldview; language and culture; conceptual analysis.

In the modern field of linguistic and cultural studies, special attention is paid to the study of concepts that reflect the national and cultural specificity of thinking and world perception. The concept of “home” is one of the basic universals of human culture, as it is associated with ideas about family, comfort, security, and belonging to a particular social and cultural environment.

The relevance of this study stems from the fact that analyzing the concept of “home” allows us to trace the distinctive features of the national character and value orientations of different peoples. Despite the universal nature of this concept, its semantic content and symbolic meaning vary depending on the cultural context.

The concept of “linguistic worldview” occupies a central place in contemporary linguoculturology. According to Yu. N. Karaulov, language not only serves as a means of communication, but also as a form of storing and transmitting the cultural experience of a people. Language records ideas about the world, which form a unique system of values and cultural symbols.

In linguistics and cultural studies, a concept is understood as a mental construct that includes not only the meaning of a word, but also associative, emotional, and cultural components. According to A.A. Zaliznyak and V.A. Maslova, a concept acts as a “unit of collective consciousness” that unites knowledge, emotions, and cultural meanings.

The concept of “home” is one of the basic concepts, as it is present in all cultures and languages, reflecting universal human needs—for security, belonging, and harmony. However, as A. Wierzbicka notes, even universal concepts acquire unique national nuances depending on cultural traditions, customs, and social norms.

Thus, studying the concept of “home” from a linguistic and cultural perspective allows us to gain a deeper understanding of how language shapes and expresses cultural values, and how a single word can convey the rich spiritual heritage of a people.

The concept of “home” has a multi-layered structure, including physical, emotional, and symbolic levels. At the lexical level, it is represented by the words “house” and ‘home’ in English and the word “uy” in Uzbek. However, behind the external similarity lie significant cultural and semantic differences that reflect the peculiarities of the worldview of representatives of these cultures.

In English, the difference between house and home is fundamental. The word house refers to a physical structure, a building, a place of residence, while home has an emotional and evaluative character and is associated with a feeling of coziness, comfort, and personal space.

English culture is characterized by an individualistic approach to the concept of home. It symbolizes personal autonomy, privacy, and independence. This is reflected in common expressions such as: Home sweet home, There is no place like home, A man’s home is his castle.

In Uzbek culture, the concept of uy has a more collectivist meaning. It is perceived as a symbol of family, kinship, and spiritual unity. Uzbek proverbs reflect this: Уз уйинг — учоғинг», «Уйда тинчлик — юрта тинчлик», «Уй — инсонинг юраги».

In English culture, the home is associated with personal space and independence, whereas in Uzbek culture it is associated with collectivism, family values, and traditions. Despite their differences, both cultures perceive the home as a symbol of stability and spiritual balance.

The study showed that the concept of “home” occupies a special place in the linguistic worldview of different peoples, acting as a key element of cultural and spiritual heritage. Despite the universality of the concept, its content is shaped by national traditions and values.

In English culture, the concept of home reflects the idea of personal space and independence, while in Uzbek culture it reflects family unity and spiritual harmony. Thus, language not only records real objects, but also expresses the cultural worldview of a people, their spiritual priorities, and their value system.

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