

Influence of the environment on the language picture of the world

Influencia del medio ambiente en la imagen lingüística del mundo

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, there has been a growing scientific interest in revealing the peculiarities of interaction between individuals and the socio-cultural environment, but to this day, many aspects of the influence of the environment on the formation of the national language picture of the world remain poorly understood. The aim of the study was to study the influence of the environment on the formation of the national language picture of the world. An associative experiment was used as a method of analysis. As a result of the experiment, it was revealed that the modern understanding of the environment in the minds of representatives of the Russian-speaking linguistic culture is mainly due to the existing features of life in society.

Keywords: environment, national language, picture of the world, associative experiment

RESUMEN

En los últimos años, ha habido un creciente interés científico en revelar las peculiaridades de la interacción entre las personas y el entorno sociocultural, pero hasta el día de hoy, muchos aspectos de la influencia del entorno en la formación de la imagen lingüística nacional del mundo permanecen mal entendidos. El objetivo del estudio fue analizar la influencia del medio ambiente en la formación de la imagen del mundo en el idioma nacional. Se usó un experimento asociativo como método de análisis. Como resultado del experimento, se reveló que la comprensión moderna del medio ambiente en las mentes de los representantes de la cultura lingüística de habla rusa se debe principalmente a las características existentes de la vida en la sociedad.

Palabras clave: medio ambiente, idioma nacional, imagen del mundo, experimento asociativo.

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Introduction.

Today, it is clear that language cannot be considered in isolation from the person who uses it as a means of communication, the implementation of cognitive processes, in isolation from the national community, within which a specific national language system has been formed, in isolation from the historical, natural and environmental context in which the national language systems were being established. In modern scientific literature, the provision that the language is always nationally labeled is not in doubt. Researchers emphasize that the formation of the national language system is influenced by the history of the nation, its environment, peculiarities of the national mentality, worldview and world understanding. At the same time, up to the present day, numerous aspects of the world language picture, its interrelations with the natural and social context in which it is formed, remain poorly studied and studied in fragments. In particular, to date, it is not entirely clear how the environment affects the formation of the national language picture of the world, which means the environment for representatives of a particular linguistic culture, what associations causes the concept in the minds of individuals. Meanwhile, taking into account the great importance of the environment for the life of the nation, the understanding of the content of the concept in the minds of representatives of a certain linguistic culture will allow to better understand the features of the national picture of the world as such, to identify patterns and mechanisms of interaction between the environment and the national worldview, which determines the relevance of the chosen theme of the study.

The aim of the research is to study the influence of the environment on the formation of the national language picture of the world.

Theoretical aspects of the study of the national picture of the world. The logic of this study requires, first of all, a reference to theoretical sources, which will reveal the essence of the language picture of the world.

The following definition is given in the works of N. Yu. Shvedova: the language picture of the world is “an image of all that exists as an integral and multi-frequency world, in its structure and in the language understood connections of its parts representing, firstly, the man, his material and spiritual life activity and, secondly, everything that surrounds him: space and time, living and inanimate nature, the area of myths created by man and the society (Shvedova N. Yu. 1999) “. The definition emphasizes the scale of the linguistic picture of the world, the fact that it covers all the phenomena of material and spiritual culture, all aspects of the life of individuals and society.

Y. L. Weisgerber understands the language picture of the world as a tool to represent the national mentality, the peculiarities of the national worldview, and the “misrepresentation of the world (Weisgerber Y.L. 2009).” This definition emphasizes the inextricable interrelation of environment and language, the fact that the language picture of the world is the result of linguistic means representation of the socio-cultural context, social and natural environment.

In V.V. Shkatova's works, this category is understood as an abstract concept, “a complexly structured whole reflecting the connections of a person and objects, a person and other people, connections between objects, etc.” (Shkatova V.V., 2016).

In other words, the national language picture of the world is a kind of simulacrum, a copy, a model of the universe, in which all aspects are reflected, the results of cognitive and sensual knowledge, expressed in a set of concepts. The majority of researchers emphasize that the formation of the national language picture of the world is greatly influenced by the environment.

In turn, the environment in the logic of the so-called environmental approach is understood as “...what the subject stays among, by means of which his way of life is formed, which mediates his development, and “averages” the personality (Demidova N.I. (2009); in other words, the environment within the framework of this approach is understood as everything that surrounds the person, directly or indirectly influencing the formation and development of personality. The environment is a set of natural and social factors, in interaction with which a person enters into the process of his or her life activity, as a result of which he or she has some psychological or social qualities and characteristics; a specific form of spatially-objective content, ensuring the development and functioning of the person, the transfer of norms of life activity, socially accepted and socially approved at a particular stage of historical development.

Taking into account the fact that the environment is all that surrounds the individual, and the language picture of the world is a “stained” environment, we can conclude that the phenomena, processes, events and socio-cultural environment have a huge impact on the formation of the national picture of the world.

It is a widely recognized fact that representatives of different ethnic communities perceive the surrounding social and natural reality differently. The difference in perception and interpretation of phenomena of social-natural environment is reflected in the implementation of nomination processes, categorization of reality, respectively, absolutely identical concepts in different languages are absent. A different reality is presented in different languages in different ways. This phenomenon is understood in modern scientific literature as “linguistic relativity” or “linguistic complementarity,” which “generates so-called linguistic thinking, which is special for native speakers of each language” (Niktovenko E.Y. 2015).

To comprehend the national picture of the world of the ethnos means to understand the peculiarities of the mentality, to accept the native speaker's point of view, to accept its worldview and “through the lexical system to get an idea of the national mentality (national logic) and national character (emotions and means of their expression, moral priorities, etc. (Kornilov, O.A. 2003)”. The main goal of the project is to identify the national and universal, the universal.

The linguistic picture of the world is imprinted in lexical, paremiological, phraseological units, grammatical structure of the language, its basic concepts, reflecting the peculiarities of perception of the world, the surrounding socio-cultural

environment. Studies of the “mysterious Russian soul” are devoted to the study of Russian philosophers (Berdyayev N. 1923), but to date, numerous aspects of Russian linguistic culture, the language picture of the world remain poorly researched. One of such aspects is the peculiarities of filling the concept of “environment.”

Research methodology. In the process of study, *the method of the associative experiment* was used. In modern scientific literature, associations are understood as “the intersection point of three fields: objective reality, consciousness and language (Dorzheva T.S. 2010) “. Correspondingly, associative relations acquire a global character and integrate all types of verbal and extra verbal relations.

The associative experiment in recent years has become increasingly relevant as a method of studying individual and group consciousness.

The implementation of the associative experiment involves the identification and study of the following aspects of the concept (Dorzheva T.S. 2010):

- 1) language belonging to the concept;
- 2) word-for-education model;
- 3) etymological meaning;
- 4) motivation to choose this basis rather than another producing one;
- 5) local situation, the situation at the moment of nomination.

The study of speech information allows us to obtain primary information regarding the associative background of the concept under study, but the identification of the most complete associative and verbal field as a mirror of the mental and emotional state of the language of “the average speaker at a certain historical moment of his life, and thus the life of society (Karaulov N.Yu 2002), in the case of the Russian cultural model, it requires the use of associative dictionaries, dictionaries of constants of the Russian cultural model.

The associative dictionaries offer extensive material for describing verbal associations, which allows “to reveal such semantic components in the meaning of the word, which are not fixed by other methods and techniques of semantic analysis. (Maklakova E.A., 2013.) “ Unlike other dictionaries, associative vocabularies reflect the consciousness of an average native speaker.

Modern associative dictionaries and dictionaries of constants have become a part of the research arsenal of linguists, psycholinguists, linguoculturologists, which makes it expedient to address them in the process of this associative experiment.

The purpose of the experiment: to reveal an associative background, filling the concept of “environment” in the minds of representatives of the Russian linguistic culture.

The hypothesis of the experiment was the assumption that the associative background, the filling of the concept “environment” is reflected and uniquely refracted in the linguistic consciousness of modern native speakers.

Data collection and analysis.

Having analyzed the dictionaries of associations (“Dictionary of associative norms of the Russian language” under the editorship of A.A.Leontiev, “Russian associative dictionary” under the editorship of Yu.N. Karaulov, “Slavic associative dictionary”), we found out that the word “environment” as an incentive is found only in the second of them. Accordingly, the research material is secondary data presented in the Russian Association Dictionary (<http://tesaurus.ru/dict/>).

In the course of the research, quantitative and qualitative research methods were used. A qualitative approach to the study of data is defined as “an approach to the study of the social world, which seeks to describe and analyze the culture and behavior of people and their groups in terms of the studied (Shareia, B. 2016). “. A qualitative approach allows collecting nonnumeric primary data such as words, opinions, perceptions and, of course, associations. Moreover, as Danielle states, “a qualitative research approach looks at human thinking and behaviour in a social context, covering a wide range of phenomena, allowing for the fullest possible understanding and appreciation of them (Daniel, Eyisi., 2016) “. The application of a qualitative approach will allow for a better understanding of associations, as well as the basis for associative relationships.

The collected qualitative data are analyzed with the help of the quantitative approach aimed at increasing the objectivity of the results, forming general conclusions reflecting the specifics of the national language picture of the representatives of the Russian linguistic culture.

Results and discussion of research results. Processing of the data of the associative experiment was carried out taking into account all reactions, separation of logical and grammatical associative links. Logical reactions suggest the presence of strong substantive links between stimuli and reactions; in the presence of such links, the reaction belongs to the nucleus of the associative-verbal nucleus; if this link is absent or manifested at the level of insignificant potential components, the link refers to the peripheral logical reaction.

After identification of central and peripheral logical connections, a sequential comparison of the pairs of “stimulus-response” is carried out on the basis of the frequent belonging of the revealed associations, identification of syntagmatic and paradigmatic connections.

In the explanatory dictionary of the Russian language, the following denotes (Ushakov’s explanatory dictionary) the following denotes in the structure of the “environment” concept:

- 1) substance filling the space and surrounding bodies or phenomena;
- 2) a set of natural and/or social conditions in which human society develops and operates;
- 3) name of the average day of the seven-day week.

Quantitative treatment: a total of 43 reactions (<http://tesaurus.ru/dict/>)

Tuesday (26)	Sunday (3)	viscous (2)	week (2)
bathroom (1)	harmless (1)	watery (1)	Day off (1)
change (1)	wash (1)	leisure (1)	nature (1)
factor (1)	ecology (1)		

As these data reflect, the most common association is the concept of the environment:

- 1) Tuesday: 26 reactions (16 men, 10 women);
- 2) Sunday: 3 reactions (2 men, 1 woman);
- 3) viscous: 2 reactions (men);
- 4) week: 2 reactions (1 man, 1 woman).

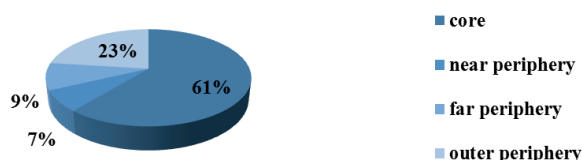
Accordingly, the *nucleus* is represented by the following reactions: Tuesday (26).

Near periphery: Sunday (3).

Far periphery: viscous (2), week (2).

Extreme periphery: sauna (1), harmless (1), water (1), output (1), will change (1), wash (1), rest (1), nature (1), factor (1), ecology (1).

Graphically, the percentage of associations can be represented as follows



Picture 1: Percentage distribution of central and peripheral logical association links

As reflected in the Pic., 61% of the reactions relate to the nucleus.

Quality treatment:

Syntagmatic associations: harmless (1), water (1), output (1).

Paradigmatic associations:

Subordination relations: Tuesday (26), Sunday (3)

Superordination relations: week (2).

Coordination relations: viscous (2), bath (1), will change (1), wash (1), rest (1), nature (1), factor (1), ecology (1).

The percentage of different types of associations can be graphically represented as follows (Pic. 2):



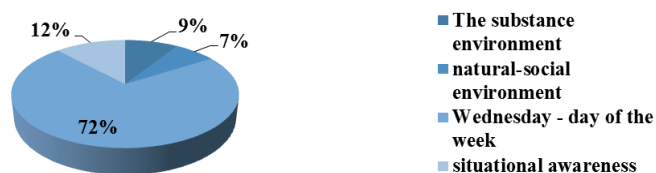
Picture 2: Percentage distribution of paradigmatic, syntagmatic association bonds

As reflected in Pic. 2, the vast majority of associative relationships (67%) relate to subordination relationships, to the nomination of species concepts, and to the days of the week caused by the stimulus “environment”.

Thematic associations:

- 1) substance filling the space and surrounding bodies or phenomena: *viscous (2), harmless (1), watery (1)*;
- 2) a set of natural and/or social conditions in which human society develops and operates: *nature (1), factor (1), ecology (1)*;
- 3) name of the middle day of the seven-day week: *Tuesday (26), Sunday (3), week (2)*;
- 4) situational related values: *bath (1), day off (1), change (1), wash (1), rest (1)*.

The percentage of different types of associations can be graphically represented as follows (Pic. 3):



Picture 3: Thematic distribution of associations

As shown in Pic. 3, the vast majority of reactions refer to the value of the medium as the day of the week. The perception of the medium as a substance filling a certain area or a set of natural and social conditions is only 9% and 7% of the reactions, respectively.

Thus, based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the majority of representatives of the Russian-speaking linguistic culture associate the environment mainly with the day of the week, the time period, the established social order, the established practice of organizing the working life of Russian society, the five-day working week. Wednesday is perceived as the day of the week (2), which follows Tuesday (26), being a working day, unlike Sunday (3) - the entrance day (1). Wednesday is a cleaning day for someone: to wash (1), to go to the sauna (1), to change (1) or to rest (1).

The environment as a substance is characterized by viscosity (2) and harmlessness (1). The concept is associated mainly with the water environment (1).

The environment as a set of natural and social conditions is associated mainly with nature and ecology: nature (1), factor (1), ecology (1).

Conclusion. In accordance with the set goal of the research, the article analyzed modern scientific approaches to understanding the national language picture of the world. On the basis of the conducted analysis it is possible to make that under the language picture of the world it is meant the process of “ill-advocacy” of the environment, which represents everything that surrounds the individual, the nation during the historical stage of its development. Under the influence of the environment the peculiarities of national understanding, worldview, lexical composition of the language, peculiarities of its grammatical system, etc. are formed. At the same time, as the results of the associative experiment reflect, the concept of “environment” is associated in the minds of representatives of the Russian linguistic culture not so much with everything that surrounds a person, as with the established features of the life of society, social practice of a five-day working week. The data obtained allow us to draw several conclusions: (1) first of all, a high degree of employment of the population, for which the environment is perceived as a working day, a high importance of work, professional activity for Russians; (2) the fact that the environment is perceived mainly as a time period, a day of the week, rather than the space in which the life of society takes place; (3) a mixture of spatial and temporal categories in the minds of representatives of the Russian-speaking linguavoculture.

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