

THE CONCEPT OF “ARBRE”: LINGUISTIC, COGNITIVE AND SYMBOLIC DIMENSIONS

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada “arbre” tushunchasi ko‘p qirrali kognitiv va lingvomadaniy hodisa sifatida tadqiq etiladi. Unda “arbre” tushunchasining til, tafakkur va madaniyatdagi o‘rni, shuningdek, uning universal kognitiv sxema va metaforik model sifatida amal qilishi tahlil qilinadi. Turli madaniyatlarda daraxtning ramziy ma‘nolari — hayot, donishmandlik, taraqqiyot, nasl-nasab, avlodlararo bog‘liqlik, barqarorlik va ma‘naviyat kabi tushunchalar bilan aloqasi yoritiladi. Maqolada “arbre” tushunchasi faqat tabiiy obyekt nomini bildiruvchi birlik emas, balki madaniy, kognitiv va ramziy tasavvurlarning murakkab tizimi ekanligi ko‘rsatib beriladi.

Kalit so‘zlar: tushuncha, daraxt, kognitiv lingvistika, konseptual metafora, ramz, obraz-sxema, lingvomadaniyat, metaforik tafakkur.

Аннотация. В данной статье концепт «arbre» рассматривается как многогранное когнитивное и лингвокультурное явление. Анализируется роль концепта «arbre» в языке, мышлении и культуре, а также его функционирование в качестве универсальной когнитивной схемы и метафорической модели. Освещаются символические значения дерева в различных культурах, связанные с такими понятиями, как жизнь, мудрость, развитие, родословная, межпоколенческая связь, устойчивость и духовность. В статье показано, что концепт «arbre» представляет собой не только единицу, обозначающую природный объект, но и сложную систему культурных, когнитивных и символических представлений.

Ключевые слова: концепт, дерево, когнитивная лингвистика, концептуальная метафора, символ, образ-схема, лингвокультура, метафорическое мышление.

Annotation. This article examines the concept of "arbre" as a multidimensional cognitive and linguacultural phenomenon. It analyzes the role of the concept of "arbre" in language, thought, and culture, as well as its functioning as a universal cognitive schema and metaphorical model. The symbolic meanings of trees in various cultures are explored: life, wisdom, development, lineage, intergenerational connection, sustainability, and spirituality. The paper demonstrates that the concept of "arbre" represents not only a nomination of a natural object but also a complex system of cultural, cognitive, and symbolic representations.

Key words: concept, tree, cognitive linguistics, conceptual metaphor, symbol, image-scheme, linguaculture, metaphorical thinking.

Modern linguistics increasingly explores concepts as mental units reflecting the interaction of language, thought, and culture. One of the universal and archetypal concepts is the concept of "tree." This concept possesses high semantic capacity and is

found in virtually all languages and cultures of the world. A tree is not only an object of natural reality but also an important cognitive reference point through which people understand the world, social relations, time, knowledge, and their own existence. In mythology, religion, literature, and everyday communication, trees often acquire symbolic meaning, becoming an image of life, growth, strength, and the continuity of generations. The purpose of this article is to examine the concept of "arbre" in linguistic, cognitive, and symbolic aspects, to identify its role in the formation of conceptual metaphors, and to determine the key cultural meanings of this image.

In linguistics, a concept is understood as a mental unit of collective consciousness, reflecting the cultural and cognitive experience of a people. The concept of "arbre" is a universal natural concept with a rich associative structure. The word "arbre" in French has both literal and figurative meanings. In its literal meaning, it denotes a perennial plant with a solid trunk and branches. However, even at the level of the linguistic system, this lexeme demonstrates high metaphorical potential: *arbre généalogique* ; *arbre de la connaissance* ; *arbre de vie* ; *arbre du monde* ; *arbre de décision* ; *arbre syntaxique*. Such polysemy demonstrates that the tree serves as an important model for structuring information and human experience.

The lexical-semantic field of the concept includes numerous components: root, trunk, branches, leaves, fruit, growth, shadow, forest. Each of these elements can acquire independent symbolic meaning. For example, the root is associated with origin and stability, branches with development and variability, and fruit with result and maturity. Similar metaphorical transfers are observed in many languages. For example, the English word "root" means not only "root of a plant" but also "source" and "origin." Similar processes are recorded in French (*racine*), Uzbek (*ildiz*), and other languages. Thus, a tree in linguistic consciousness appears as a complex, multi-layered concept that combines natural, cultural and abstract content.

The concept of "arbre" is a prime example of an image schema based on the spatial organization of an object. A tree has a vertical structure: the roots are at the bottom; the trunk connects different levels; the branches extend upward and outward. This organization becomes a universal model for understanding many abstract phenomena. According to the theory of conceptual metaphors by J. Lakoff and M. Johnson, abstract thinking is based on concrete bodily and sensory experience. Metaphor is understood not as an exclusively artistic device, but as a fundamental mechanism of thought. For example, the expression "to put down roots" metaphorically denotes a person's entrenchment in a particular environment or culture.

The phrase "branch of science" demonstrates the transfer of the tree structure to the organization of knowledge.

Tree symbolism occupies an important place in world culture, mythology, and religious systems. In virtually all civilizations, the tree is considered a sacred object, connecting the natural and spiritual. One of the most common symbolic meanings of the tree is its connection with life. This is explained by its natural characteristics: cyclicity; growth; fruiting; longevity. The image of the "tree of life" exists in many mythological systems. It symbolizes the infinity of existence, the renewal of nature, and the continuity of the life process. Since ancient times, the tree has been associated with wisdom and knowledge. In the biblical tradition, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil has special significance. In Buddhism, the Bodhi tree is associated with the spiritual enlightenment of the Buddha.

The concept of "arbre" is a complex interdisciplinary phenomenon, combining linguistic, cognitive, and symbolic aspects. In linguistic consciousness, a tree acts not only as a natural object but also as a universal model for organizing human experience. The symbolic meanings of a tree reflect fundamental human understandings of life, wisdom, spirituality, and the continuity of generations. The universality of this concept is explained by its deep roots in human experience and culture. Thus, the concept of "tree" is one of the key archetypal images of world culture and an important object of contemporary linguistic and cognitive research.

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