

*S.N. Stepanenko (Belgorod, Russia)*

## **GRAMMATICAL CONCEPTUALIZATION OF QUANTITY IN MODERN ENGLISH**

The article is an attempt to describe the role of language in the forming of the conceptual content of QUANTITY. The author studies the language means of grammatical quantity conceptualization in modern English. Cognitive and language mechanisms as well as additional linguistic factors of syntactical quantity conceptualization are described and visually demonstrated in static aspect and in the sentence-utterance.

*Key words:* language conceptualization of quantity, levels of quantity conceptualization, cognitive mechanisms of conceptualization, language mechanisms of conceptualization, additional linguistic factors

Quantity conceptualization is realized on three levels when, first, the primitive quantitative idea and then (in the process of ontogenesis) the quantitative notion of indiscreteness and discreteness are formed. Language is one of the ways of the quantitative notion forming. It provides the access to the concept QUANTITY (irrespective of the way of its forming) and lets single out the communication meaningful characteristics in its content.

The analysis fulfilled has shown that the content of the concept QUANTITY is represented by the totality of the basic characteristics “discreteness” and “indiscreteness” and a number of particular characteristics specifying them.

In modern English the concept QUANTITY receives both lexical and grammatical performance. At every language level quantity conceptualization has its specificity which makes it possible to consider the process of conceptualization of quantity in each concrete case as lexical conceptualization and grammatical one.

In the present article we'll touch upon the peculiarities of quantity conceptualization by means of grammar. As it is known, in grammar the most significant from the language point of view senses are fixed. In other words these are the features of the surrounding world that are represented by the language forms with the greater degree of obligation and regularity (see: [Boldirev 2007: 24]). Grammatical conceptualization is connected with the realization of the manipulative function of the language (see: [Pavilenis 1983; 1986]). It enables to build the concept QUANTITY operating on the es-

sences of the conceptual system. The process of language quantity conceptualization at the level of grammar sets in motion morphological, word-building and syntactical language mechanisms.

Originality of conceptualization at the level of morphology is that it provides the conceptual net, framework for the lexically expressed conceptual material (see: [Besedina 2006]). Morphological conceptualization of quantity is carried out at the level of lexico-grammatical word classes' semantics. It is fulfilled by means of morphological forms of number of nouns and degrees of comparison of adjectives and adverbs. The cognitive mechanisms of abstraction and profiling operate in the process of morphological conceptualization of quantity.

At the level of word-building the language mechanisms of quantity conceptualization are those word-building formants which have the quantitative semantics. In this case the cognitive mechanism of the quantitative senses forming is concretization. It is connected with the stuffing of the schematized cognitive picture of some object with the particular signs. It is based on the nature of word-building formants: on the one hand they concretize the categories of thingness, procedureness and attributeness which are built in the corresponding parts of speech, on the other hand they define the meanings of the grammar categories representing these parts of speech (see: [Kubriakova 2006: 8]).

At the level of syntax the coordination of encyclopedic and language knowledge about quantitative characteristics becomes evident. The language mechanisms of syntactical quantity conceptualization are the syntactical constructions which have the systemic quantitative meaning. The cognitive mechanisms of the quantitative senses forming are profiling and focusing.

We'll now give a more detailed account of the process of language conceptualization of quantity in modern English at the level of syntax. The language mechanisms of the syntactical conceptualization of quantity here are the constructions *used to/ would + Infinitive* and *be/ get used to + Gerund*. Relying on the definitions given by a number of lexicographical sources it can be concluded that these constructions express the generalized sense "not exact discrete quantity of actions/ acts". In the sentence-utterance they are the language mechanisms forming quantitative senses "regularly/ frequently repeated action in the past". To a great extent such a perception is caused by the contextual factor stipulating the usage of adverbials indicat-

ing the frequency of the action, for example *I used to pick up five dollars now and then riding guard* [Short: 83], as well as lexical units pointing to execution of the action in the past: *She says that as a child, she used to walk in her sleep* [Stoker: 58]. In the basis of forming of singled out senses lie such particular characteristics as “repetition” and “frequency” focused in the content of the concept QUANTITY against its basic characteristics “discreteness” which is activated as a result of cognitive mechanism of profiling.

The results of the carried out analysis of the language means of quantity conceptualization in modern English show that the process of quantitative senses forming by means of grammatical level units is integral and polifactorial. It causes the necessity to take into account the additional linguistic factors influencing the forming of this or that quantitative sense in the sentence-utterance. Such additional linguistic factors as semantic factor (connected with lexical semantics of the language units taking part in the process of quantity conceptualization) and contextual factor (the whole range of the sentence-utterance elements creating conditions for forming of these or those quantitative senses) are the basic.

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*С.Н. Степаненко (Белгород, Россия)*

## **ГРАММАТИЧЕСКАЯ КОНЦЕПТУАЛИЗАЦИЯ КОЛИЧЕСТВА В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ**

Настоящая статья представляет собой попытку описать роль языка в формировании концепта КОЛИЧЕСТВО. Автор анализирует процесс концептуализации количества в современном английском языке за счет языковых средств грамматического уровня. В статье показано, каким образом в процессе концептуализации количества работают когнитивные и языковые механизмы, а также наглядно продемонстрировано влияние дополнительных лингвистических факторов на формирование количественных смыслов.

*Ключевые слова.* языковая концептуализация количества, уровни концептуализации количества, когнитивные механизмы концептуализации, языковые механизмы концептуализации количества, дополнительные лингвистические факторы