

THE CONCEPT OF THE SPACE OF SETS AS A FACTOR IN CHANGING THE MEANING OF ENGLISH VERBS

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается проблема модуляции значения английских глаголов группы покидания и их перехода в другую лексико-семантическую группу. Актуальность исследования связана с обращением к категории пространства как базовой языковой формы концептуализации и интерпретации внеязыковой действительности. Модуляция значения объясняется с помощью понятия пространства множеств, которое является одним из факторов изменения значения.

Abstract: The article deals with the problem of modulating the meaning of English verbs of the leaving group and their transition to another lexical and semantic group. The relevance of the research is related to the reference to the category of space as the basic linguistic form of conceptualization and interpretation of non-linguistic reality. The modulation of a value is explained using the concept of a set space, which is one of the factors of value change.

Ключевые слова: пространство, пространство множеств, семантическая модуляция, прототипическое значение.

Keywords: space, the space of sets, semantic modulation, prototypical meaning.

Space is usually understood as objective reality, a form of existence of matter, which is characterized by volume and extent. Space, as one of the fundamental categories, is studied in the exact sciences and humanities.

In physics, space exists as an objective reality and is interpreted as "a set of relations expressing the coordination of coexisting objects – their location relative to each other and relative magnitude (distance and orientation)" [6]. In mathematics, the term "space" is represented as "a set of objects between which relationships are established that are similar in structure to ordinary spatial relationships." In philosophy, "space" means "a form of contemplation, perception of the representation of things, the main factor of higher empirical experience" [6].

Speaking about the perception of space, scientists note that the space perceived by a person is never symmetric, it is largely asymmetric, since some objects are located further away from us, others are closer, some are located on the left, others on the right, some objects are above, some below, etc [3].

For example, the characteristics "above – below", "right – left", "further – closer" also carry some idea of the object they point to (a just cause, a loved one, a high debt, etc.). In the humanities, space plays a special role, since it is considered to be one of the most important concepts of culture, which is reflected in the way of thinking, influences the way of conceptualization of non-linguistic reality, determines the peculiarities of perception of the realities of physical space. It is on the basis of the concept of space, along with time, that a person forms ideas about the reality around him, perception of the outside world.

In cognitive linguistics, space is one of the key concepts of culture, which is reflected in language, fixed in written texts, in works of art. Thus, V.A. Maslova, in the study of key concepts of Russian culture, comes to the conclusion that the concept of space, together with the concepts of time and number, belongs to the fundamental concepts. It is these concepts that form our ideas about non-linguistic reality, determine the perception of the world around us, and also form the individual's belonging to a certain stable cultural and historical community. V.A. Maslova comes to the conclusion that the perception of space is carried out on the basis of proximal / distal. The proximal space "is characterized in relation to the person himself as a certain way arranged organism" [4, p.85-109]. It represents the immediate space of a person, in contrast to the distal one, in which a person is considered as a social type.



E.S. Kubryakova notes that "spatial relations are the type of relations that a person learns (along with possessive and quantitative) earlier than many others: temporary relations (involving a change of events), conditionality relations (causes, effects, conditions), etc. Spatial relations are basic in relation to other types of semantic relations" [2].

A special interpretation of space in linguistic consciousness is presented by E.S. Yakovleva, who writes: "... the picture of space in... linguistic consciousness is not reducible to any physical and geometric prototype: space is not a simple container of objects, but rather, on the contrary, it is constructed by them, and in this sense it is secondary to objects" [7, p.20-21].

The modern linguistic paradigm poses tasks for scientists related to understanding how the conceptualization of non-linguistic reality takes place with the help of language. In the process of cognition and representation of the surrounding world by linguistic means, space plays a special role, it is spatial representations that are the basis for the formation of basic concepts of human consciousness.

The concept of SPACE is interpreted in linguistics in different ways. A number of scientists believe that the concept of space is applicable only to the locative location of an object in a physical three-dimensional space (for example, V.D. Arakin, O.Y. Boguslavskaya, I.M. Kobozeva, B.Tosovich etc.). Some scientists interpret space much more broadly, going beyond just the physical understanding of space. Thus, in addition to the classical concept of three-dimensional geometric space, the concept of functional space was developed in linguistics, leading to the emergence of non-spatial relations (L.V. Gazizova, O.G. Dudochkina, R.Ya. Dmitrieva). For example, in the semantic structure of the English preposition *up* there are non-spatial relations of part and whole:

() They made up 95 percent of all the planet's species and on astounding 40 percent of the planet's biomass.

– *B. Brown*. In the above sentence, the preposition "*up*" conveys information not about the locative position of the subject relative to the object, but about the ratio of a part (95 percent) to the whole (*all the planet's species*). This sentence the functional relationship between the Figure **X** (95 percent) and the Background **Y** (*all the planet's species*) can be observed [1, p.13].

The study of the functional semantics of a number of English prepositions made it possible to introduce the concept of "set space" to describe other layers of vocabulary. According to O.N. Seliverstova, the space of sets is "a space consisting of a set of elements united by a common property" [5, p.351].

In this concept, the understanding of space is not limited only to the perception of an object in a physical three-dimensional space. This category is described through broader, non-spatial parameters united by a common function, characteristic, property. For example, O.N. Seliverstova identifies spaces of the socio-industrial world (for example, a factory, institute, theatre), spaces representing the products of the activity of a society or an individual (mental, physical), spaces of relationships and spaces of immaterial entities (space of feelings, ideas, events, etc.) [5].

Further, the researchers developed a typology of the set space, namely: "temporary", "functional", "mental", "visual", "artistic" and other types of set spaces (A.Yu. Gordienko, R.Ya. Dmitrieva, T.N. Malyar, O.N. Seliverstova, P.V. Semenova). In other words, in linguistic terminology, space is not primarily physical and also affects non-spatial spheres. Thus, the study of the theoretical material allowed us to identify a number of meta-concepts that allow us to describe the semantic modulations of the English verbs of the leaving group in the aspect of the concept of the space of sets.

THE SPACE OF SETS Loc.Pl. is a space consisting of set of elements united by a common function [5, p.352];

THE SPACE OF FUNCTIONAL RELATIONS Loc.Func.Rel. is a space of sets in which relations between the **X** and **Y** of a functional nature arise [5];

O is a locative object, the semantic role of the object **Y**, perceived in a three-dimensional physical space;

O Loc.Pl. – A locative object representing a space of sets; **O Loc.Function.Rel.** – A locative object representing a space of sets in which relations arise between the *x*th and *y*th of a functional



nature; CAUSATION RELATIONS Cause – functional relations between the **X** and **Y** of a causal nature; The Result PERFORMANCE RELATIONSHIP is the functional relationship between the **xth** and the resultant object (**YResult**).

In the study of English verbs of the leaving group, referring to the category of space is justified, since the action described by these lexical units implies a change in the location of the subject in space. The study of dictionary entries and factual material shows that of the above-mentioned variants of spatial relations, the leading information transmitted by the verbs *depart*, *leave*, *abandon*, *desert* is information about the locative space of the subject leaving an object in a physical three-dimensional space. Such a cognitive vision of space can be called basic, and the meaning of verbs, in which information about the subject leaving a specific physical three-dimensional space is updated, is prototypical. For example:

(2) Mrs. Feather's daughter Imogen had a brief, unhappy affair with Phipps, only last Christmas, and had subsequently left the village to care for an elderly aunt in Scotland. – A classic English crime. Heald, Tim.

(3) And Amanda Holden cut a stylish figure as she departed Global Radio with the help of a knee walker scooter for her injured leg after hosting Heart Breakfast on Tuesday. – COCA.

(4) Farmers are deserting their fields and coming here looking for jobs. – Collins.

(5) Fearing further attacks, most of the population had abandoned the city. – LDOC.

The above examples illustrate the prototypical meaning of the verbs of the leaving group, where information about the subject leaving a certain physical space is emphasized. When we talk about spatial relations in a prototypical sense, we mean the traditional idea of a physical and geometric space. Analysing the prototypical meaning of the verbs under consideration, the verbs *abandon* and *desert* should be singled out separately, since in the semantic structure of these verbs, unlike other synonyms, there is a semantics of breaking non-spatial (functional) relations.

The example of the action of standard linguistic processes to change the prototypical meaning can be a change in the perception of the space of sets being left, associated with a special characteristic of this space:

(6) Blunkett and Jackson explore some of its policies in more depth, and indicate how the new strategy departed from traditional policies of supporting private sector employment in a number of ways – BNC.

In sentence (6), Subject **X** (*strategy*) ceases to be part of the spatial coverage of the area of Object **Y** (*traditional policies*), while it is necessary to emphasize the special type of set space being abandoned in the presented proposal – the space of the STANDARD / NORM verbalized by the idea of a traditional policy of support for the private sector. Standard / In this case, the standard is understood by us as such a semantic feature in the structure of the verb *depart*, which reports that at the subsequent stage of the predicate, the subject breaks off the functional relations of part and whole with the object, and there is a "departure" from the standard "state of affairs in the world", the normative course of events (more about the semantic concept "norms". When updating the semantic feature of the norm / standard in the structure of the verb *depart*, there is a transition of the verb from the lexico-semantic group of movement in three-dimensional space to the lexico-semantic group of verbs characterizing the quality of a subject that differs from the norm, i.e. into a group of verbs with the meaning *deviate*.

Semantic modulation of the verb *leave* arises in the case of describing a situation in which the emphasis is not on spatial, but on functional relationships, while the verb actualizes information about the rupture of these functional relationships:

(7) *He left school with no qualification*. – Collins. In sentence (7), the subject he **X** leaves the school **Y** object and together with it leaves the space of functional relations of an educational nature, that is, there is a rupture of functional relations between **X** and **Y**. This example illustrates the emergence of functional relationships in the semantic structure of the verb *leave* based on the emergence of cognitive metonymy, where school is a metonymic description of the educational process according to the school → educational process model. The verb *leave* can also convey information about the rupture of functional relationships of a personal nature.



Thus, the change in the meanings of the studied group of verbs is associated with the standard linguistic process of understanding the object of leaving as a space of various kinds of functional relations, called in modern linguistics "the space of sets". The variability of the additional meanings of the English verbs of the leaving group is explained by its ability to function with the object of the set space, affecting the area of various functional relations.

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