

PROTOTYPE THEORY IN COGNITIVE LINGUISTICS

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Abstract. *Humans cut nature at its joints, endlessly classifying it in order to make sense of the world. According to Smith (1990), psychologically speaking, humans categorize things that they think belong together. But human beings go further than that. They develop ideas. A concept can refer to a variety of things, from a mental representation of a category, a group of objects, or some sort of mental glue (Murphy, 2002), to a representation of a body of knowledge that can be applied to classify and comprehend a range of things, including events, processes, and objects (Cohen & Murphy, 1984).*

Key words: *categorization, recategorization, conceptual, ideal world, real world, neutral, generic, paragon, prototype*

Аннотация. *Люди разделяют природу по стыкам, бесконечно классифицируя ее, чтобы понять мир. Согласно Смитту (1990), с психологической точки зрения люди классифицируют вещи, которые, по их мнению, связаны друг с другом. Но люди идут дальше этого. Они развивают идеи. Понятие может относиться к множеству вещей, от мысленного представления категории, группы объектов или какого-либо ментального клея (Murphy, 2002) до представления совокупности знаний, которые можно применять для классификации и анализа. понимать ряд вещей, включая события, процессы и объекты (Cohen & Murphy, 1984).*

Ключевые слова: *категоризация, рекатегоризация, концептуальный, идеальный мир, реальный мир, нейтральный, родовой, образец, прототип*

A cognitive psychological theory called the prototype theory contends that humans categorize things depending on how closely they resemble the prototypical (or ideal) example of that category. Eleanor Rosch first put forth the theory in the 1970s. According to Rosch's research, when asked to rate how typical an object is of a particular category (such as a bird, fruit, or piece of furniture), people prefer to rate more typical objects higher (e.g., a robin is rated as more typical of the category "bird" than a penguin).

Prototype theory, which was developed by Rosch, has had a significant impact on cognitive psychology and has been used to explain a wide range of phenomena, including concept generation, language, and reasoning. According to Rosch's research, people categorize items more well than other methods by using prototypes. They simply need to take into account how closely the object resembles the prototypical example, making this quicker and simpler.

In order to understand how individuals classify objects, prototype theory is highly helpful. The hypothesis has been used to explain why it is difficult for individuals to categorize objects that don't cleanly fit into any one category and why it is difficult for people to remember the names of objects that aren't the prototype representatives of their category (such as a platypus).

According to early rule-based explanations of concepts, which date all the way back to Aristotle, certain conceptions (like all instances of birds) had distinguishing characteristics (or

INTEGRATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS, FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES AND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESSES

necessary and sufficient circumstances) that distinguished them from other concepts (such as all instances of mammals). So, for instance, the presence of feathers, wings, and the capacity for flight would distinguish the concept of "bird" from the concept of "mammal." These characteristics were seen as both necessary and sufficient for classification as birds.

However, cognitive psychology research has revealed problems with this approach, suggesting that when humans categorize items, they probably do not utilize rule-based descriptions. It is frequently unclear whether an object possesses all of the characteristics that define membership in a category, and individuals frequently classify objects even when they lack all of the criteria.

Furthermore, because context may have such a significant impact on how people classify items, it is frequently difficult to pinpoint the requirements for category membership. Instead, according to Rosch's prototype theory, individuals classify things based on how closely they resemble a prototypical (or ideal) example of the category.

As a result, Rosch's theory substituted variable properties of a prototype for defining traits. A category's prototype is viewed as embodying all of the important characteristics of that category. The importance of these qualities in establishing membership in the category is then used to assign values to them, resulting in a graded structure that extends from the prototype's most crucial features.

So, returning to the example of the bird, a robin may be seen of as being more archetypal of the category "bird" than a penguin because it shares more crucial characteristics with the ideal bird than a penguin does (e.g. feathers, wings, the ability to fly etc.).

Cognitive psychology has been successful in formulating and experimenting a battery of models of theory of concepts and categorization with a key assumption that human's theories of the world embody conceptual knowledge and that their conceptual organization is partly represented in their theories. One model among the theory of concepts is the prototype theory.

The prototypical perspective emerged in cognitive psychology in the 1970s, largely as a result of Rosch's groundbreaking investigation into the internal organization of categories (Murphy, 2002; Geeraerts, 1989). It was created in cognitive psychology at a time when the traditional definitional notion of a category's necessary and sufficient conditions in cognitive linguistics was becoming increasingly unsatisfactory.

Similar to this, there was growing pain and discontent with the feature-based componential analysis of the Chomskian school's inapplicability, with the exception of words of the closed class that are members of the same semantic field or domain, such as kinship terms (Geeraerts, 1989). Both the classical and componential analysis theories took a hit from prototype (Murphy, 2002).

Cognitive psychology has advanced much since then in experimenting and formulation of alternative models and theories and tackling the main problem of concept study, i.e., conceptual combination.

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INTEGRATION OF PRAGMALINGUISTICS, FUNCTIONAL TRANSLATION STUDIES AND LANGUAGE TEACHING PROCESSES

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