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**SEMANTIC DERIVATION OF ADJECTIVES OF TASTE IN THE KABARDINO-CIRCASSIAN LANGUAGE**

**Abstract**

The article presents a semantic analysis of taste adjectives in the Kabardino-Circassian language from the standpoint of cognitive linguistics. The leading role of perception in cognition and in the formation of new conceptual structures is shown. The category of taste is less structured as compared with other modes of perception. Its language representation is less as well. A special division of this segment of perceptual field in Kabardino-Circassian language is shown. It is marked by both universal and unique properties. The latter is motivated by a special vision of the world, which is based on a cultural factor, uniting different constituents, which largely determines the processes of conceptualization and categorization of the world.

**Keywords:** perception, taste, semantic structure of the word, semantic derivation, metaphorical transference, culture.

**Introduction**

Perception is the most important component of human life. It covers a wide range of phenomena and processes, ranging from the simple awareness of contacting with the surrounding reality, to the generalization of sensory experience in the form of certain knowledge structures reflecting the world, its separate objects and fragments. Perception forms the first stage of cognition [15, P. 17]. In fact, perception is the beginning of the history of the word, thinking and language. It has a huge impact on the language. It is the root cause of the language existence, and the thinking and language. It has a huge impact on the language.

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We also resorted to the modern method of introspection which implies the researcher’s reference to the inner intuition and knowledge of the language in the interpretation of the data. The material for analyses was obtained from the available lexicographic sources of Kabardino-Circassian language [16], [17], [18] and Kabardino-Balkarian State University. The latter is motivated by a special vision of the world, which is based on a cultural factor, uniting different constituents, which largely determines the processes of conceptualization and categorization of the world.

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**Results**

Perception is interpreted as a cognitive process, not as a simple registration of external stimuli. Perception involves the active interaction of a man with the world making use of such important components as reasoning, memory, associative thinking etc. The perceived data is subjected to a complex processing in which, alongside with cognitive abilities, culture plays a significant role. Culture involves civilizational, socio-cultural, economic, ideological, and psychological components as reasoning, memory, associative thinking etc. The perceived data is subjected to a complex processing in which, alongside with cognitive abilities, culture plays a significant role. Culture involves civilizational, socio-cultural, economic, ideological, and psychological components as reasoning, memory, associative thinking etc. The perceived data is subjected to a complex processing in which, alongside with cognitive abilities, culture plays a significant role. 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psychological and activity components, each having a complicated structure [1, P.13].

Perceptual systems, as psychologists point out, are under the constant influence of signals from the environment. Nevertheless, the sounds and scenes often unforeseen and unpredictable predominate in this flow of information [14, P. 4]. Hence, it follows that the form, size and color of the objects, their location, movement, as well as the sounds that fill this world, are easily perceived and structured by our mind and widely represented in the language. As for taste it is less significant and as a result is less structured and poorly represented in the language [9, P. 84]. But as any other segment of perception it deserves proper attention within the frame of cognitive linguistics.

Each language reflects a certain way of perception and organization of the world. All its meanings form a single system of views and reflect a special way of conceptualization of reality peculiar to this language only. The processes of categorization and conceptualization are nationally specific, as speakers of different languages see the world differently, through the prism of their languages.

Results

In the Kabardino-Circassian language the category of taste is represented by the following main adjectives – ӏфӏ1 (sweet), ӏшӏуӏ (sour), ӏфӏу (bitter), ӏмышу (salty), ӏсы (hot), ӏмышу (unsalted).

It should be noted that there is no lexeme for the general term taste uniting types of various tastes. The concept taste is always combined with its concrete manifestation, for example, ӏджӏжӏ (bitterness, bitter taste), ӏыӏӏ1 (sweet taste).

According to the lexicographic data the lexeme ӏфӏ1 (sweet) comprises five meanings. The primary meaning of the adjective ӏфӏ1 is ‘sweet’: ӏшӏуӏ ӏфӏ1 (sweet tea). The importance of having enough sugar in a product, dish or drink is conveyed by the first meaning. Hence, its denotative reference is sugar, like in many other languages. The second meaning is ‘delicious’: ӏшӏуӏӏуӏ ӏфӏ1 (delicious food). It implies such features as tasty, palatable or savory and is not connected with the sweet taste. It can be referred to any deliciously cooked food which can be salty, hot, spicy and sour, for example, ӏджӏжӏӏясэ ӏфӏ1 (delicious ghribilza – a national dish made of chicken and sour cream). Also, ӏфӏ1 - ‘sweet’ may define any well-cooked dish, like fried meat, stewed vegetables, cottage cheese etc. The third meaning is ‘sweets’: ӏыӏӏ1 ӏфӏ1ым ӏкӏ1стӏ1ы (the table was full of sweets). This meaning contains a latent component - prepared by adding some sugar, but does not designate a certain sweet product, since it generates a collective meaning of desert.

The adjective ӏшӏуӏ (sour) comprises four meanings. The first one is - sour, having sour taste. For example, ӏмышьу ӏшӏуӏ – a sour apple. In comparison with the adjective ӏфӏ1 (sweet) this lexeme has a richer semantic structure. In terms of metaphoric transference it is more varied as well. In its second meaning ӏшӏуӏ (sour) conveys the feature ‘strong’ which is applicable only to alcoholic beverages: e.g. ӏмышьу ӏшӏуӏ (strong vodka). The third meaning is based on metaphorical transference and is connected with some inner qualities of a person, men in particular, and implies ‘severe’, ‘brave’. ӏмышьу (sour man) - a brave, severe personality. The third meaning of ӏшӏуӏ (sour) suggests strength of character, strong personality: ӏмышлӏ ӏшӏуӏ (sour word). The last meaning of this adjective corresponds to a notion ‘cruel’, ‘fierce’ – e.g. ӏмышлӏ ӏшӏуӏ (a cruel war). The taste adjective ӏшӏуӏ is also used as a noun indicating ‘energy’, ‘strength’, ‘labour’: ӏмышлӏӏуӏпӏуӏ (to live by one’s own labor). The analysis of lexicographic data allows to conclude that in the Kabardino-Circassian language consciousness, the sour taste is associated with the power, strength and courage.

The adjective ӏфӏу (bitter) is very close to the general meaning of an adjective ӏшӏуӏ. The feature sour is the basis for both lexemes. But the sphere of application of this feature is different. Thus, ӏфӏу in the Kabardino-Circassian language is referred to the products which became sour as result of incorrect handling of the product or dish (sour soup, juice), or as a result of time and temperature effect (sour milk, cream). It underlines the defective character of the product. Another meaning of taste adjective ӏфӏу is prepared pickles - ӏмышлӏуӏ (pickled cucumber), ӏмышлӏуӏ (sauerkraut). So, we can conclude that this adjective conveys the idea of making something taste sour as a result of some external influence.

The next adjective relating to the semantic group of taste is ӏмышу (hot). It does not have a wide range of meanings – only two. The primary meaning conveys the idea of bitterness: ӏмышьу ӏмышу (a bitter medicine). The second meaning – ‘angry’, ‘bilious’, ‘caustic’ usually describes a man, mostly his moral features and activities: ӏмышлӏуӏ (offensive words). The denotative standard of the Kabardino-Circassian ӏмышлӏ (bitter) is ‘bile’. It becomes quite clear from the examples: ӏмышлӏуӏ (bitter bile) – conveying a high degree of bitterness. Another example: ӏмышлӏуӏпӏуӏ (to live by one’s own labor).

Taste adjectives ӏмышу – ‘salty’ and ӏсы – ‘hot’, ‘spicy’ are found to have no semantic development according to the dictionary data, though contextual modification of primary meaning seems quite possible.

The adjective ӏмышуу (unsalted) which in the primary meaning is an antonym to ӏмышуу (salty), refers to tasteless, insipid food in the second: ӏмышлӏуу ӏмышуу. Also, it develops a metaphorical meaning: ‘empty’, ‘senseless’, ‘vapid’ when it defines words, behavior, actions, e.g. ӏмышлӏуу ӏмышуу (idle talk, mere words).

Conclusion

The analysis of semantic derivation of taste adjectives in the Kabardino-Circassian language allows to conclude that taste being a peripheral perceptual channel does not develop a wide range of derived meanings. The derived meanings of those ones which develop, are found to remain either within the domain of taste, or move, predominantly to the sphere of a man, his moral qualities, behavior and activity. The taste adjectives of the studied language revealed specific denotative standards, and trajectories of metaphorical transferences. The obtained results confirm the cultural impact on cognition, on the processes of conceptualization and categorization of the world.
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