Linguistic Conceptualization of Emotion

Emergent Constructional Model of fear, anger, shame, jealousy

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Embedded Components of Emotion

The conceptual theories assume an emotion to be conceptualized as a multidimensional process consisting of several components such as belief changes, expressive behavior, action tendencies, and affect. Each emotion is a response to the specific events in the environment with the aim of quickly preparing the organism for optimal reaction.

Intersubjective Cognition of Emotions is subjective recreation of affective state

The epistemological implication of the embodied cognition is that people understand other’s emotion by simulating one’s own comparable affective process of activating affective state. Possible mechanism is described by the mirror neuron hypothesis.

Linguistic layer of recreating affective state

The intersemiotic lingual communication of emotions involves activation of the comparable embodied affective states via cognitive process of conceptualization that can be coded in symbolic constructions - language.

Language is a part of Cognitive Network

“The entity designated by a symbolic unit (word) can... be thought of as a point of access to a network. The semantic value of a symbolic unit is given by the openended set of relations... in which the access node participates. Each of these relations is a cognitive routine, and because they share at least one component, the activation of one routine facilitates (but does not always necessitate) the activation of another.”

Conceptual Metonymy and Metaphor establish the connections in the Cognitive Network

Two cognitive routines that establish connections between the nodes in the Cognitive Network are described in the Cognitive Linguistics as Conceptual Metonymy and Conceptual Metaphor.

Conceptual Metonymy (A FOR B) / metaphor out of fear PHYSICAL REACTION FOR FEAR

Conceptual Metaphor (B IS A) / to prevent not from feel FEAR IS ENEMY

Meaning is activation of cognitive patterns via Linguistic Conceptualization

Linguistic Conceptualization of emotional categories involves coding of linguistic constructions that reflect that:

a) knowledge of the components of the affective state (prototypical compositional features, frames in which they occur, cultural models)
b) knowledge how to conceptualize this affective state (interpersonal and intrapsychic constructions, conventional patterns of linguistic construct)

Grammar conceptualization

Grammatical categories like noun (N), verb (V), adjective (Adj), prepositions (PREP) and their relationships are derived from the schematization (ENTRY, PROPERTY, AND PROCESS) of cognitive processes involved in linguistic conceptualization, constituting and mental simulation of the perceived reality.

 Corpus research reveals established cognitive patterns in a language community

Usage-based theory of language acquisition introduces corpus of spoken/written language as a methodological tool for the research of culturally established cognitive patterns of conceptualization. Corpus methodology can be used:

- qualitative research (concrutemorph patterns)
- quantitative research (frequencies)
- in complementing psycholinguistic conceptual approaches (GRP)

Methodology

I) Identify occurrences of 4 emotion lexemes: fear, anger, shame, jealousy in the Corpus of English: enTenTen (2012), 12,968,375,937 Tokens on the SketchEngine.co.uk

II) For each emotion lexeme (EMOTION) extract 50 most frequent constructions, classified according to the emergent constructional model of conceptualization:

1) ontological [EMOTION BE, HAVE EMOTION]
2) structural [EMOTION BE N, ADJ EMOTION]
3) spatial [EMOTION PREP, PREP EMOTION]
4) processual thematic [EMOTION V]
5) processual agentive [EMOTION V]

III) Lemmatize words in syntactical constructions and convert the data into directional network model where each source node/word represents a concept in a conceptual/cognitive relation to the target word.

IV) Visualise using Force Layout algorithm.

Interpretation

I) The connected nodes represent the cognitive routines of meaning production while the th edges represent metaphoric/metonymic relations. (The metaphors are not labeled in this visualization.)

II) The proximity of the nodes indicates the frequency (and possible cognitive entrenchment).

III) Formal structure of linguistic conceptualization (syntactic constructions) adds novel information and enriches the knowledge on the emotion categories. Each layer/construction pattern forms a special conceptual and pragmatically inferential structure.

IV) Discursive connections indicate the conceptual (and neural) basis for the difference in the conceptualization of meaning for these 4 emotional categories.

References