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CONCEPT “CHANGE” IN THE CULTURAL LINGUISTICS

This article is about the concept “change”. We can meet the concept “change” a lot in our life. Even we are using every day this word and we do not notice them. For example, weather can change. Sometimes sunny morning can change into rainy weather. Changing of nature of our planet: Day /night, spring/summer/autumn/winter.

Эта статья о концепте «изменение». Мы постоянно встречаемся с концептом «изменение» в нашей жизни. Даже мы используем каждый день это слово, и мы не замечаем их. Например, погода может измениться. Иногда солнечное утро может измениться в дождливую погоду. Изменение природы нашей планеты: день /ночь, весна /лето /осень /зима.

Key words: Concept, change, cultural linguistic.

The term «concept», which has a long history, has repeatedly been subjected to reinterpretation. In scientific discourse, it was established in the Middle Ages during the dispute about the general concepts («the universals»). Conceptualists – supporters of scholastic philosophy, founded by Peter Abelard – argued that universals do not exist in the form of physical phenomena (as claimed by proponents of realism), and are not just «clashes of air» (as characterized by their supporters of extreme nominalism), but are the products of human cognitive activity, i.e., concept. The concepts in the understanding of Abelard appear to be logical-linguistic categories, forming a bridge between the world of ideas and the world of being. However, they do not always have a real basis in the nature of things, but it can be a distorted image of reality [Russell B. 1993: 454-456; Reale Antiseri 1994: 109-114]. Thus, the focus of philosophy is not a thing, not a pronounced word, but the word as sense. S.S. Neretina points out that Abelard did not identify the concept with meaning, as it was done in the subsequent logical-philosophical tradition [Neretina 1992: 143]. Abelard perceived concept to be very subjective one, not associated with linguistic structures, but with speech focused on the addressee that is formed under the influence not only by the logical procedures of abstraction, but also sensual experience and imagination.

Later on, the term “concept” was in demand mainly in mathematical logic and logical semantics, where it was identified with the concept, the meaning of the name or intentions [Frege 1997; Church 1960; Carnap 1959]. Within these fields the concept was understood as the result of logical operations of analysis, synthesis, comparison, abstraction and generalization, thus deprived of the characteristics of subjectivity, dialogical orientation and ambiguity. An extreme manifestation of logical understanding of the concept was the interpretation of it as the essence of a higher level of abstraction than the concept itself, not as a result of pragmatic generalizations perceived reality, but only a certain research material [Solomonik 1995: 246-247].

Extensive metalinguistic study on the functioning of the term «concept» in various languages and types of discourse has been carried out by V.Z. Demyankov. The researcher concludes that, when using the term

«concept» in all its varieties there is always unit that appear to be unchanged in its meaning “incomplete, rudimentary”: the meaning of the concept is the idea of «rudimentary truth, «rooted in the Latin conceptus “зачатый” [Demyankov 2001: 45]. The author notes that the scientific literature and fiction of late XX – early XXI centuries is characterized by overwhelming research of “concepts”. This conceptological «surge» is accompanied by differentiation of the categories of «concept» and «meaning». The opposition is carried out on the basis of «the constructed / reconstructed.» Concepts are what people agree with. The concepts are constructed by people in order to have a common language when discussing problems. Concepts do exist apart from deliberate conventionality; people reconstruct them with greater or lesser degree of certainty. The growing interest for the category of «concept» – it is appeal for the reconstruction of those entities with which native speakers face in everyday life, without thinking about their «true» (a priori) meaning [Demyankov 2001].

S.G. Vorkachev classifies concept as «umbrella term» that covers subject areas of Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Linguistics and Culture Studies [Vorkachev 2003: p. 6].

One of the most rapidly developing linguistic disciplines such as synthesizing a cultural linguistics – the science that examines the relationship and interaction of language and culture [Telia 1996; Karasik, 1996, 2002; Maslow 1997, 2001; Vorobyev, 1997; Red 2002].

The main difficulty faced by empirical discipline concerned with culture (such as the history of culture, sociology of culture, cultural linguistics), caused by the uncertainty of the boundaries of the central category. Describing the concept of «culture», E. Sapir wrote: «There are terms that have remarkable properties. On the outside, they appear to distinguish well-defined concepts, then there are those who claim to be strictly objective justification. In practice, these terms are marked very vague thought the area whose boundaries are shifted, narrowed or expanded, depending on the point of view of who these terms of use, including the most in a range of values such representations, which are not only not tally with each other, but partly and are in contradiction» [Sapir 1993: 465]

Change – a category of philosophical discourse, which characterizes the state, alternative stability and the transition from one state to another, change of the content through time. In accordance with the localization of changes in space and time there are changes in space (mechanical movement) and changes over time. Differences in the interpretation of time that are determined by understanding the nature of change can be reversible and irreversible, directed and non-directed, spontaneous, self-organized and organized. Any changes correlatively link with something invariant, stable, and vice versa, invariant structures suggest variability, modification [Fragments of the early Greek philosophers. 1, Moscow, 1989, p. 213].

Already in ancient philosophy, along with the line of Parmenides, focuses on the sustainability and the immutability of being, there was a line of Heraclitus that insisted on the universality of change and flow of things. According to Heraclitus, everything is in constant change and movement, because everything is determined by the struggle of the opposites, in which the thing turns into its opposite: «One and the same in us - living and dead, awake and asleep, young and old; as for these opposites, being changed are those, and those variables again, are these» [Fragments of the early Greek philosophers, ch. 1, Moscow, 1989, p. 213].

Synonyms of the concept “change”

noun

1. alteration, innovation, transformation, modification, mutation, transition, metamorphosis, permutation, transmutation, difference, revolution, vicissitude

- They are going to have/ to make some drastic changes.

2. variety, break (*informal*), departure, variation, novelty, diversion, whole new ball game (*informal*)

- It makes a nice change to see you in a good mood for once.

3. exchange, trade, conversion, swap, substitution, interchange

- He stuffed a bag with a few changes of clothing.

4. coins, money, small change, loose change, Wonga (*slang*), kembla (*Australian, slang*)

- Do you have any change for the phone?

verb

1. alter, reform, transform, adjust, moderate, revise, modify, remodel, reorganize, restyle, convert

- They should change the law to make it illegal to own replica weapons.

2. shift, vary, transform, alter, modify, diversify, fluctuate, mutate, metamorphose, transmute

- We are trying to detect and understand how the climate changes. exchange, trade, replace, substitute, swap, interchange

- Can we change it for another if it doesn't work properly?

Here are some more examples of concept “change”

1. A state without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation. (*Edmund Burke – Reflections on the Revolution in France*)

2. Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? (*Bible: Jeremiah*)

3. The more things change, the more they are the same. (*Alphonse Karr – Les Guepes*)

4. Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better (*Samuel Johnson – Dictionary of the English Language*)

5. Philosophers have only interpreted the world in various ways; the point, however, is to change it. (*Karl Marx – Theses on Feuerbach*)

6. When it is not necessary to change, it is necessary not to change. (*Lucius Cary – Discourses of Infallibility*) Proverb: Don't change horses in midstream. A change is as good as a rest. A new broom sweeps clean.

Collocations:

change (something) from something to something:

The town has changed from a small fishing port to a bustling tourist attraction.

change from something to something:

The signal changed from green to red.

change color:

The leaves are already starting to change color.

change (something) to something:

I changed the order to once a

year instead of quarterly.

change something for something:

Why don't you change it for something else?

change something for/into something:

I need to change some dollars into pesos.

change into:

You should change into some dry socks.

change out of:

He went straight upstairs to change out of his good suit.

get changed:

Have I got time to get changed before we go?

As shown in examples concept “change” is daily simple word. All the people especially ladies like to change their hair and nail style. We also like to change. We also like to change colors of our rooms in the house. We feel bothering to live all the time in the same colored rooms. Sometimes we need to go to exchange office to change from foreign currency into local or vice versa. If we go to shopping center with cash and paying extra we are getting change. In the English language this calls “change” but in the Russian language “sdachi”, Kyrgyz language “kaytarim”.

Grammatical means of expression of the concept “change” in the English language:

1. Comparative degrees of adverbs and adjectives.

Positive degree - no change, (big, strong, long).

Comparative degree - words end in “-er” (bigger, stronger, longer).

Superlative degree - words end in “-est”, “the most” (biggest, strongest, longest)

2. Irregular verbs: go-went-gone, find-found-found (It gives one meaning but its usage depends of tenses).

3. Much/many, little/few: (depends of plural or singular).

4. Nouns: mouse-mice, foot-feet, tooth-teeth. (Using depends of plural or singular)

So even, if we don't pronounce the word “change” but it's constantly happening and living with us.

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