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EXPLORING THE CONCEPT OF RAIN/ЖААН IN ENGLISH, RUSSIAN AND KYRGYZ LANGUAGES THROUGH CORPUS-BASED ANALYSIS

Abstract

This research focuses on a comparative analysis of the “rain” concept in Russian, English, and Kyrgyz languages through corpus linguistics. Attention is focused on identifying lexical-semantic features, frequency, and cultural specificity based on data from the Poetic Corpus of the Russian National Corpus, English COCA, and Kyrgyz poetry texts. The study shows that metaphorical models of intensity and emotional evaluation predominate in Russian and English, while in Kyrgyz, rain is more associated with natural cycles and folklore. Contributed to cognitive linguistics by offering approaches for concept analysis using corpus methods to study the interaction between language, culture and the environment.

Keywords: discursive analysis of text corpora, lexico-semantic analysis, metaphorical models, ethnolinguistics, phraseological units, cognitive semantics, national worldview, inter-lingual correspondences, meteorological vocabulary, linguocultural approach

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АНГЛИС, ОРУС ЖАНА КЫРГЫЗ ТИЛДЕРИНДЕ ЖААН ТҮШҮНҮГҮН КОРПУСТУК ТАЛДОО АРКЫЛУУ ИЗИЛДӨӨ

Кыскача мазмуну

Изилдөө орус, английс жана кыргыз тилдеринде «жаан» концептин корпустук лингвистика аркылуу салыштырмалуу талдоого багытталған. Орус тилинин Улуттук корпусунун, COCA жана BNC английс тилдүү корпустарынын, ошондой эле кыргыз тексттик булактарынын маалыматтарын иштетүүнүн негизинде лексика-семантикалык өзгөчөлүктөрүн, колдонуу жыштыгын жана терминдин маданий өзгөчөлүктөрүн аныктоого көнүл

бурулган. Орус жана англис тилдеринде интенсивдүүлүк жана эмоционалдык баалоо менен байланышкан метафоралык моделдер басымдуулук кылса, кыргыз тилинде жаан көбүнчө табигый циклдер жана фольклордук образдар менен байланыштырылат. Иш когнитивдик лингвистиканын өнүгүшүнө салым кошуп, тил, маданият жана курчап турган чөйрөнүн өз ара аракеттенүүсүн изилдөөдө корпусстук ыкмаларды колдонуу менен концепттерди талдоо үчүн ыкмаларды сунуштайт.

Түйүндүү сөздөр: тексттик массивдердин дискурсивдик анализи, лексика-семантикалык анализ, метафоралык моделдер, этнолингвистика, фразеологиялык бирдиктер, когнитивдик семантика, улуттук дүйнө таанымы, тилдер аралык дал келүүлөр, метеорологиялык лексика, лингвомаданий мамиле

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ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ КОНЦЕПТА ДОЖДЯ/ЖААН В АНГЛИЙСКОМ, РУССКОМ И КЫРГЫЗСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ ПОСРЕДСТВОМ КОРПУСНОГО АНАЛИЗА

Аннотация

Исследование направлено на сопоставительный анализ концепта «дождь» в русском, английском и кыргызском языках через призму корпусной лингвистики. Уделено внимание выявлению лексико-семантических особенностей, частотности употребления и культурной специфики термина на основе обработки данных Национального корпуса русского языка, англоязычных корпусов COCA и BNC, а также кыргызских текстовых источников. Установлено, что в русском и английском языках преобладают метафорические модели, связанные с интенсивностью и эмоциональной оценкой, тогда как в кыргызском языке дождь чаще ассоциируется с природными циклами и фольклорными образами. Работа вносит вклад в развитие когнитивной лингвистики, предлагая подходы для анализа концептов с применением корпусных методов к изучению взаимодействия языка, культуры и окружающей среды.

Ключевые слова: дискурсивный анализ текстовых массивов, лексико-семантический анализ, метафорические модели, этнолингвистика, фразеологические единицы, когнитивная семантика, национальное мировосприятие, межязыковые соответствия, метеорологическая лексика, лингвокультурологический подход

A concept is a mental formation associated with the thought process and linguistic signs, representing an element of consciousness aimed at perceiving, processing, and storing information. It plays a key role in

cognitive linguistics, as it forms the semantic space of a language, reflecting the national and cultural characteristics of world perception. Concepts allow individuals to navigate reality, classify objects and phenomena, and

establish socially significant meanings. At the same time, their structure remains a subject of scientific discussion, as a concept can simultaneously be a notional, figurative, and value-based phenomenon [1, p. 54].

Table 1 – Definitions of the Concept by Different Authors

Author	Definition of the Concept
S. A. Askoldov	A mental formation that replaces a multitude of objects of the same kind, playing a substitutive role in thinking.
Z. D. Popova, I. A. Sternin	A discrete mental formation, a basic unit of the cognitive code with a complex structure, carrying encyclopedic information.
R. M. Frumkina	An object of conceptual analysis aimed at studying meaning and its formalization in semantic language.
A. P. Babushkin	A discrete unit of collective consciousness stored in national memory and verbalized through language.
V. N. Telia	Structured knowledge presented in a frame, including not only the features of an object but also their interpretation in culture.
Yu. S. Stepanov	A cultural fact consisting of three layers: actual feature, historical meanings, and inner form.
S. G. Vorkachev	A linguocultural concept having notional, figurative, and value components.
V. I. Karasik	A concept is a multidimensional network of meanings expressed through linguistic and cultural units.
V. V. Kolesov	The semantic "core" of a word, directing thought and organizing language.
G. P. Shchedrovitsky	A semantic structure associated with a situation and context, primary in relation to linguistic meaning.

Thus, concepts form the basis of cognitive linguistics, shape the semantic space of a language, and ensure the connection between thinking, culture, and speech activity. Different scholars define the concept in various ways: from a substitute for real actions to a structural element of collective consciousness or a result of conceptual analysis. Modern research on the concept covers its epistemological and typological aspects, emphasizing its significance in linguistics, semantics, and cultural studies. In this context, corpus analysis plays a special role, allowing researchers to identify patterns in the functioning of concepts in natural texts [2, p. 83].

Corpus analysis is a research method based on the use of large text corpora—electronic databases containing authentic texts of various genres and styles. This method is applied in linguistics, cognitive research, and applied fields such as language teaching and translation. One of the key tools of corpus analysis

is concordance, which allows for studying word usage in context, identifying lexical and grammatical features, typical collocations, and semantic connections. Concordance helps language learners analyze frequency patterns of word usage, facilitating more precise and natural use of lexical units [3, p. 125].

The study of linguistic phenomena, including through corpus analysis, reveals patterns in word usage, many of which reflect the characteristics of the surrounding world, including natural phenomena. One such phenomenon is rain—atmospheric precipitation falling from clouds in the form of liquid droplets ranging in diameter from 0.5 to 6–7 mm, while smaller droplets form drizzle. When falling from clouds, droplets exceeding 6–7 mm in diameter break into smaller ones, so even during heavy rain, their size does not exceed this limit. Rain intensity varies from drizzling (0.25 mm/h) to downpour (up to 100 mm/h).

Etymology and Semantics of the Word "Rain" According to the etymological dictionary by N. M. Shansky, the word "rain" originates from the Common Slavic root, tracing back to ancient Indo-European languages, meaning "overcast sky" or "bad weather" [4, p. 35]. In modern Russian, it means "atmospheric precipitation in the form of water droplets" [3, p. 127]. The word "rain" is part of a synonymous series with terms like "bad weather," "downpour," "thunderstorm," and "drizzle," indicating its rich semantics [5, p. 54].

According to the Poetic Corpus of the National Corpus of the Russian Language, the word "rain" and its derivatives are actively used in the poetry of Boris Pasternak. In the poet's verses, words like "rain," "downpour," "drizzle," and "thunderstorm" each carry a unique semantic nuance. The total frequency of the word "rain" in the corpus is 74 occurrences in 56 poems, highlighting the importance of this concept in Pasternak's work [6, p. 235].

In Pasternak's poetry, "rain" performs multiple functions:

1. Symbolizes tears, as in the poem "Yesterday, like a statuette of a god...", where rain is perceived as a stream of tears [2, p. 85];

2. Is associated with a natural force filled with dynamism and sound imagery, as in the poem "February. Take ink and weep!.." [2, p. 83];

3. Is personified, acquiring traits of a living being that thinks and feels, as in the poem "Colorless rain, like a dying patrician" [5, p. 295];

4. Is compared to life, as in the lines "My sister – life, and today it is in full flood" [2, p. 85];

5. Serves as a metaphor for punishment, for example, in the poem "Spektorsky," where rain is referred to as a "scolding" [5, p. 20].

Corpus analysis of Pasternak's texts reveals the active use of verbs and adjectives related to rain. The verb "pour" appears 19 times in 13 poems, while the verb "gush" occurs 12 times in 9 texts. Adjectives such

as "gray," "wet," and "melancholic" indicate the emotional perception of rain, simultaneously creating an atmosphere of sadness and coziness [6, p. 232].

Dictionaries, such as the "Small Academic Dictionary" edited by A. P. Evgenieva, present various meanings of the word "rain," including both its literal and figurative senses. In addition to denoting atmospheric precipitation, the concept of "rain" is actively used metaphorically, allowing it to function across different areas of language and culture.

The semantic field of the concept of "rain" includes various synonymous words and expressions that characterize its intensity and peculiarities of precipitation. Lexicographic sources distinguish several groups of synonyms:

- Cognate synonyms: дождик, дождичек, дождишко, дождище, дождина (rainlet, little rain, small rain, heavy rain, downpour).

- Non-cognate synonyms: ливень, морось, изморось, осадки (shower, drizzle, mist, precipitation).

These words differ in terms of precipitation intensity, drop size, duration, and even subjective evaluation. For example, diminutive forms (дождик, дождичек) have a positive or neutral connotation, whereas words with an augmentative suffix (дождище, дождина) may carry a negative connotation [3, p. 125].

In the Russian language, the concept of "rain" is actively involved in the formation of metaphorical expressions, which is particularly evident in political and economic discourse, as well as in the media. The main directions of metaphorization include [7, p. 84].

Metaphors with the semantics of abundance and intensity appear in expressions such as "денежный дождь" (money rain), "золотой дождь" (golden rain), and "нефтяной дождь" (oil rain). They denote a sudden and significant influx of resources:

- "На жителей провинции Кастилья-Ла Манча пролился денежный дождь в

размере 88 миллионов евро" (A financial rain of 88 million euros poured over the residents of Castilla-La Mancha).

- "Нефтяной дождь, пролившийся на Россию, обеспечил экономический рост" (The oil rain that poured over Russia ensured economic growth).

In a military context, "rain" often denotes the intensity of hostilities. The concept acquires a negative connotation and is associated with destruction and violence:

- "Пули сыпались дождем на защитников укреплений" (Bullets rained down on the defenders of the fortifications).

- "Свинцовый дождь накрыл позиции армии" (A lead rain covered the army positions). Such expressions emphasize the danger and chaos of the situation.

The phrase "звездный дождь" (star rain) is used to describe a large number of outstanding individuals or events [8, p. 82]:

"Президент присвоил генеральские звания, пролив звездный дождь на офицеров МВД" (The president granted general ranks, showering a star rain upon the Ministry of Internal Affairs officers).

Here, the metaphor points to awards and recognition of merits.

Metaphorical expressions with the concept of "rain" are constructed using various grammatical models [9, p. 161]:

- Verb + noun in instrumental case: "пули сыпались дождем" (bullets rained down).

- Noun + agreeing adjective: "свинцовый дождь" (lead rain), "денежный дождь" (money rain).

- Prepositional-case constructions: "под ливнем пуль" (under a hail of bullets).

These constructions help convey not only the intensity of the phenomenon but also its emotional and evaluative connotations [10, p. 1626].

An analysis of the concept of "rain" in the Russian language reveals its complex semantic and metaphorical structure. On the one hand, it retains its primary meaning of

atmospheric precipitation, but on the other, it is actively used metaphorically to express intensity, abundance, destruction, and chaos. In political, economic, and military discourse, metaphors with "rain" help create vivid images that influence audience perception. Thus, the concept of "rain" demonstrates the richness of the linguistic worldview and the ability of language to figuratively express various phenomena of reality.

Interestingly, this multifaceted nature is also observed in the English language. An analysis of the concept of "rain" in English discourse reveals its lexical-semantic peculiarities, phraseological activity, and cultural connotations, which, despite certain similarities with the Russian linguistic tradition, also have unique features.

The phraseology of the English language is rich in expressions related to rain, which is due to the climatic characteristics of the regions where English is the primary language. Let us consider the most common idioms and set expressions [7, p. 62]:

- The rain comes down in torrents (streams) – дождь льёт потоками.

- It rains cats and dogs – льёт как из ведра (literally: it rains cats and dogs).

- It is raining pitchforks – дождь хлещет (maximum intensity).

The analysis of these expressions shows increasing hyperbolization: from simply denoting heavy rain to using metaphorical images of animals and agricultural tools. The Russian language does not have equivalent expressions that convey such a gradation of rain intensity [11, p. 71].

The concept of "rain" is one of the important meteorological phenomena that occupies a significant place in the linguistic worldview of many peoples, including English- and Russian-speaking cultures. Studying the concept of "rain" in English allows for a deeper understanding of the perception of natural phenomena and their reflection in phraseology, paremiology, and vocabulary.

In English, there are many idioms that convey the intensity of rain. The British jokingly describe three types of weather: "*When it rains in the morning, when it rains in the afternoon, or when it rains all day long.*" To describe the intensity of rain, expressions such as:

- "The rain comes down in torrents (streams)" (дождь льёт потоками).
- "It rains cats and dogs" (льёт как из ведра, literally: it rains cats and dogs).
- "It is raining pitchforks" (дождь хлещет) [3, p. 127].

These expressions demonstrate a gradation of precipitation intensity from heavy rain to the maximum hyperbolization of the phenomenon. The imagery of these phraseological units makes it possible to vividly convey the nature of precipitation using metaphorical techniques such as zoomorphic metaphor and hyperbolization.

According to A.M.Chepasova's classification, phraseological units with the component "rain" in English predominantly belong to qualitative-adverbial units. Examples include:

- "To rain cats and dogs" (льёт как из ведра).
- "For a rainy day" (на чёрный день).
- "(As) right as rain" (в порядке, совершенно, верно).

These expressions show how weather phenomena integrate into the overall worldview, giving semantic shades not only to natural but also to social phenomena.

English culture is rich in proverbs and sayings related to rain. Examples include:

- "Small rain allays a great wind" (мал золотник, да дорог).
- "It never rains but it pours" (пришла беда – отворяй ворота).
- "Rain before seven, fine before eleven" (about changeable weather) [11, p. 93].

These paremiological units not only describe weather conditions but also carry culturally significant meanings that reflect the

worldview and practical wisdom of the English-speaking world.

A corpus-based analysis of the concept of "rain" in the English language has shown that this meteorological phenomenon plays a significant role in shaping the linguistic worldview. Idioms and proverbs containing the component "rain" are actively used in everyday speech, conveying not only natural phenomena but also social and cultural realities. Further research into this concept can contribute to a deeper understanding of the cognitive and cultural characteristics of English linguaculture [12, p. 54].

Among set expressions, representatives of American linguaculture most frequently mentioned "It is raining cats and dogs," although the British consider this expression outdated. Other popular expressions include: *April showers bring May flowers, when it rains, it pours, every rain cloud has a silver lining*. The British prefer more vivid phrases such as: *it is bucketing down, it is tipping down, teeming rain, the heavens have opened, it is spitting, it's drumming down, it is raining sideways*.

According to dictionaries, the noun "*rain*" has three primary meanings:

1. Literal meaning – water falling from the sky in the form of droplets.
2. Specific meaning – "*the rains*", referring to the rainy season in tropical countries.
3. Metaphorical meaning – "*a large number of falling objects*", as in "*a rain of arrows*."

The verb "*to rain*" also has a metaphorical meaning – "*to pour down, to fall heavily*", as in "*Bombs rained on the city's streets*." An interesting phrasal verb is "*to rain off*," which means the cancellation of events due to rain [13, p. 82].

The noun "*rain*" forms many derivative words: *rain check, rain date, rainout* (event cancellation due to rain), *rainproof, rainwear, raincoat* (protection against rain), *rainforest* (tropical forest). Particularly noteworthy is the idiom "*for a rainy day*" (meaning "for a

difficult time"), which demonstrates the negative perception of rain in English culture.

Thus, the concept of "rain" in English is rich not only in lexical means but also in metaphorical imagery, reflecting the perception of rain in Anglophone culture. Differences in the usage of words and expressions between British and American linguacultures highlight the influence of climatic and cultural factors on the semantic content of the concept.

The concept of "rain" occupies an important place in the Kyrgyz language and culture. As a natural phenomenon, rain not only nourishes the land with moisture but also symbolizes abundance, fertility, and life force. In Kyrgyz culture, rain is frequently mentioned in proverbs, sayings, literary works, and myths. To gain a deeper understanding of the meaning and usage of the concept of "rain" in the Kyrgyz language, a corpus-based analysis is advisable, allowing researchers to determine the frequency, context, and semantic nuances of this concept [13, p. 83].

The primary tool for analysis was search engines of corpus resources, which helped track the frequency of the word "жамғыр" (rain) and its derivatives, as well as the contexts in which it appears.

In the Kyrgyz language corpus, the word "жамғыр" is quite common. It is used not only in its literal meaning but also metaphorically. In literary works, rain often symbolizes renewal, purification, or the beginning of a new phase. In journalism and folklore, rain is associated with abundance and prosperity:

"Бата менен эл көгөрөт, жамғыр менен жер көгөрөт" ("With blessings, the people flourish; with rain, the earth turns green").

Semantic analysis has shown that rain in the Kyrgyz language carries multiple shades of meaning:

- Positive meaning: associations with life, prosperity ("ак жаан" – abundant rain that nourishes nature).

- Negative meaning: in some contexts, rain is associated with sadness and longing,

for example, in love poetry, where rain can symbolize tears or sorrow.

In Kyrgyz poetry, rain is often used as a metaphor:

- In *Barpy Apyz*'s works, rain is compared to life force: *"Rain and water come from the light of the Sun. The roots of plants take their beginning from water and sunlight."*

- In *Osmonkul*'s poems, rain symbolizes the start of a new life: *"On spring days, the sound of rain is like a pleasant whisper to us."*

Rain is also frequently mentioned in folk wisdom:

- *"Жамғыр жааса жер байыт"* ("When it rains, the land becomes rich").

- *"Күн жааса – май, жамғыр жааса – кайғы"* ("When the sun shines – joy, when it rains – sorrow") [14].

A corpus-based analysis of the concept of "rain" in the Kyrgyz language has shown that this word has a rich semantics and is used in various contexts. Rain symbolizes not only a physical phenomenon but also carries deep philosophical and cultural meanings. In literature and folklore, rain is associated with life, renewal, but sometimes also with sadness.

A comparison with the Turkish language confirmed the universality of the concept of rain in Turkic culture, where it is always perceived as a source of life and fertility.

Summarizing the above, a concept is a complex mental construct that plays a key role in shaping the linguistic worldview, connecting thinking, culture, and speech activity. Different researchers interpret it in various ways, but its cognitive, figurative, and value-based components remain unchanged.

The application of corpus-based analysis allows us to identify patterns in the functioning of concepts in language, including their semantic and metaphorical characteristics. The analysis of the concept of "rain" demonstrates its multifaceted nature in Russian and English, reflecting not only a natural phenomenon but also cultural, emotional, and social meanings embedded in phraseology and vocabulary.

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