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THE CONCEPT OF FRIENDSHIP: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Abstract. The concept of "FRIENDSHIP" is a linguistic and cultural feature of mental formation at many levels of culture. The model of this or that feature at different cultural levels helps to create a general picture of this or that fragment in the mind of a certain linguistic and cultural circle. It is explained and argued for by its linguistic form and other diverse cultural features.

FRIENDSHIP is a unique phenomenon. The meaning of this concept for each person varies depending on the interpretations of the moral and spiritual values of the nation, in accordance with the general values of the nation. The concept "FRIENDSHIP" can have both a positive and a negative understanding at the same time. Stylistic coloring and features of the subtext may differ in different cultures. This may be due to certain cultural features or the general outlook of a particular nation.

FRIENDSHIP is believed to be deeply rooted in different cultures, as this concept is interpreted as a voluntary relationship between people that is long-lasting and that is aimed at satisfying the needs and interests of others, as well as satisfying one's own desires.
The concept of "FRIENDSHIP" is widely popular at all times. Therefore, it is often used in all cultures.

Features of the essence of personality differ according to culture. For example, comparing Ukrainian, German and English cultures, one can trace the variability of moral values and achievements of each nation. Both the general feature of the nation and the pages of its history will be of great importance.

Taking into account the fact of the presence of various proverbs in each culture, it is possible to notice certain common and different stylistic and semantic aspects. This can be reflected and tracked with the help of various definitions in explanatory dictionaries, as well as in the minds of citizens themselves, which can be analyzed in the form of an anonymous survey of respondents.

The need to research the concept of FRIENDSHIP is that this phenomenon satisfies the most important human needs and is essential for all people.

Keywords: friendship, concept, friend, enemy, culture, values, relations, feelings, associations.

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КОНЦЕПТ ДРУЖБА: ПОРІВНЯЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ

Анотація. Концепт «ДРУЖБА» є лінгвокультурною особливістю ментального утворення на багатьох рівнях культури. Модель тієї чи іншої особливості на різних культурних рівнях допомагає створити загальну картину того чи іншого фрагмента у свідомості певного
мовно-культурного кола. Це об’єктивується та аргументується своєю мовною формою та іншими різносторонніми культурними особливостями.

ДРУЖБА – є унікальним явищем. Значення даного поняття у кожної людини варіюється в залежності від інтерпретацій моральних та духовних цінностей людини, відповідно до загальних цінностей нації. Концепт «ДРУЖБА» може мати як позитивне, так і негативне розуміння водночас. Стилістичне забарвлення та особливості підтексту можуть відрізнятися у різних культурах. Це може бути зумовлено певними культурними особливостями чи загальним світоглядом тієї чи іншої нації.

Вважається, що ДРУЖБА є глибоко вкоріненою в різних культурах, оскільки це поняття інтерпретують як добровільні стосунки між людьми, які є тривалими i які є спрямованими на задоволення потреб та інтересів інших, а також задоволення власних бажань.

Концепт «ДРУЖБА» є широко популярним в усі часи. Саме з цієї причини він часто вживається в усіх культурах.

Особливості сутності особистості відрізняються відповідно до культури. Наприклад, порівнюючи українську, німецьку та англійську культури, можна відстежити варіативність моральних цінностей та здобудків кожного народу. Велике значення матиме як загальна особливість нації, так і сторінки її історії.

Взявши до уваги факт присутності різноманітних прислів’їв у кожній культурі, можна помітити певні спільні та відмінні стилістичні та семантичні аспекти. Це може відображатися та прослідковуватися за допомогою різноманітних визначень у тлумачних словниках, а також у свідомості самих громадян, що може бути проаналізовано у вигляді анонімного анкетування респондентів.

Необхідність дослідження концепту «ДРУЖБА» полягає у тому, що цей концепт є властивим кожній людині, він втілює її найглибші потреби і, відповідно, є життєво важливим для всіх людей, незалежно від культури, в якій вони живуть.

Ключові слова: дружба, концепт, друг, ворог, культура, цінності, відносини, похуття, асоціації.

Problem statement. Linguistics at the modern stage involves the use of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the linguistic units that reflect the connection between language, culture, cognition and society. Such linguistic units include concepts that are the words that simultaneously connect three dimensions: culture, national consciousness and language. The
content of the concept is divided into linguistic meaning and cultural sense. That is why it is often called a unit of knowledge, an abstract idea or a mental symbol [16]. The concept has properties of the linguistic sign, it has verbal form, but its meaning is characterized by additional semantics, which clarify the ethno-mental peculiarities of the linguistic society. A concept is typically associated with a corresponding representation in a language such as a single meaning of a term [15, P.51-71].

According to Y. Stepanov the “concept” is “a basic cultural cell in the mental world of a man” [14, P.248]. Concept is a mental structure that represents the knowledge of an individual about a particular segment of the world. Being a part of the world picture, the concept reflects the orientation of values of both the individual person and the entire linguistic community. It implies that the concept may include the generally valid features as well as the individual characteristics of native speakers.

Moreover, analyzing the concept from the cultural point of view, it should be borne in mind that the content of the concept will remain within the frame of particular culture and epoch.

In linguistics, the concept, in contrast to a word, has a more complicated structure. Linguacultural concept is treated as a multi-layered mental formation in culture that organizes the knowledge of a certain fragment of reality in the consciousness of a certain language and cultural community. Its features include emotional intensity and broad associative field. Y. Stepanov [14] argues that the structure of the concept has a “layered” structure, its strata are the result of the cultural life of different epoch. The special structure of the concept includes the main feature, an additional (passive, historical) features plus the inner form. The inner form, the etymological criterion is regarded as a foundation on which all the other layers of meaning are built. Consequently, the linguacultural concept is fixed by language means of expression and stored as a mental concept in the native speakers’ consciousness [26, P.302]. Thus, as a concept is a mental unit, a unit of consciousness, it is a complicated task to describe it precisely and get a direst access to. Consequently, a researcher has to analyse a bulk of language material that represents concepts in a particular language.

The analysis of recent researches and publications. Numerous works of scientists are devoted to linguocultural concept and its research, namely the investigations by S. Askoldov, A. Babushkin, S. Vorkachov, V. Vorobyov, V. Karasik, Z. Popova, V. Telia, E. Kubriakova, G. Slishkin,
The objective of our investigation is to determine the essence and role of the concept “FRIENDSHIP”.

To do this, we must perform the following tasks:
1. give the definitions of the concept “FRIENDSHIP”;
2. compare famous proverbs and sayings among Ukrainian, German and American cultures;
3. do a survey;
4. define respondents’ answers according to the differences in understanding and associating of this term in Ukrainian, German and American cultures;
5. consider and analyze stylistic aspect of “FRIENDSHIP”;
6. determine the general picture of the auditory.

Materials and discussions. The linguacultural concept of “FRIENDSHIP” is a mental formation at many levels of culture. This modeling helps to create an overall picture of a particular fragment in the consciousness of a certain language and cultural circle. It is objectified by its linguistic form and marked by language and cultural features. The concept FRIENDSHIP is deeply rooted in different cultures. The analysis of linguistic material helps to reveal linguistic means and explain the peculiar features which verbalize the concept FRIENDSHIP. [17, P. 84]

The concept “FRIENDSHIP” is widely spread nowadays. It is frequently used in all cultures all over the world. There are different interpretations of this concept. It can have both positive and negative sides at the same time, which may be explained by the features of a certain culture.

The concept “FRIENDSHIP” is considered always to be in the spotlight. A lot of studies written by sociologists, psychologists, anthropologists, historians, and philosophers shows the need of humans to define what friendship is and its role in our life.

Within the framework of this research and taking into consideration the notion of concept as the unit of cognition, which reflects person's knowledge and experience [4, P.91], after H.H. Slyshkin [13], V.I. Karasik [3, P.129], we define the concept as a multifunctional cultural phenomenon that accumulates knowledge about a particular section of reality in the collective consciousness of a language-cultural unit. It acts as a reflection of cultural
values, objectified by linguistic elements and shaped linguistically and culturally. [17, p. 85]

According to A. M. Prykhodko the analysis of the dictionary definitions is an important and necessary stage of study of the conceptual component structure concept. A.M. Prikhodko notes: "The conceptual substrate of a concept is the minimum of its semantic volume, which is usually fixed by lexicographic sources." The conceptual substrate of the concept is factual information - propositional knowledge based on linguistic fixation (description, definition, definition). It can be described by definition-component analysis of concept nominees. [5]

We take as a basis the statement that the concept contains conceptual, figurative and value structural components. The conceptual component is verbalized through direct nomination and conceptual features. The figurative component is actualized in the language with the help of conceptual metaphors, ie metaphorical nomination. The value component is inextricably linked with the conceptual and figurative components.

At different stages of the study of concepts, the following traditional methods are used: the method of continuous sampling – selection researched nominations ("sample" according to V.V. Levitskyi means "a set of elements obtained by selection"), definition and component analysis are involved to establish the basic values of the name of the concept to distinguish seven of the meanings of this token; etymological analysis - to establish the internal form of the concept name; contextual analysis was used to identify the linguistic means of representation of the concept; structural-semantic analysis is used for structural-semantic classification of linguistic means of expression of the concept; quantitative analysis and comparative analysis are used for comparison quantitative ratios. [2, P. 102-104]

Having analyzed the above mentioned sources, we have decided to carry out the following steps for our research: the analysis of the dictionary definitions, the comparative analysis and the questionnaire with its analysis.

FRIENDSHIP was interpreted in light of its social significance, moral basis, and the ethical rules. The Greek word philia is usually translated as friendship, when in fact its meaning is broader and far more complex. In that sense, philoi was a Greek term that meant – people we are close to, but also our family members, acquaintances, and business associates.

According to Aristotle there are three types of FRIENDSHIP:
• friendship for the sake of a benefit,
• friendship for mutual pleasure,
• friendship founded on shared values.[25]
The latter is considered to be the most significant, as it goes deeper into the core of human beings than the other ones. According to the Academic Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language, Public Electronic Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language, Wiktionary and Great Explanatory Dictionary of Modern Ukrainian Language, “FRIENDSHIP” is defined as:

1. Relations, relations based on mutual affection, trust, devotion, comradely solidarity, spiritual closeness, common interests, etc.
2. A friend of the bridegroom who takes part in the wedding ceremony. [6; 7; 8; 9]

According to the Dictionary of Synonyms of the Ukrainian Language “FRIENDSHIP”:
- Relationships based on mutual attachment, common interests, views. [11]

According to Glossary of Chuzhosliv by Pavlo Shtepa “FRIENDSHIP” is:
- Companionship. [12]

Karavansky’s Dictionary of Synonyms says “FRIENDSHIP” is:
- Commonwealth, poet. brotherhood, fraternity; In FR. commitment, trust, reciprocity, mutual assistance; (wedding) comrade of the bridegroom, friend. [10]

Having analyzed the above mentioned dictionaries we can make the general definition of FRIENDSHIP in Ukrainian culture: it is a friendly relationship, a relationship based on mutual affection, trust, devotion, comradely solidarity, spiritual closeness and common interests.

According to the German spelling dictionary, FRIENDSHIP is a relationship between people based on mutual trusting affection. [18] As to Duden Dictionary, FRIENDSHIP is defined as a relationship between people based on mutual affection. [19] In the Digital dictionary of the German language, this notion has such a meaning, as a relationship between people or between human communities based on mutual affection and trust, scenic totality of friends, circle of friends. [20]

After analyzing the definitions in several other dictionaries we can make the general definition of FRIENDSHIP in German culture: it is a relationship between people or between human communities based on mutual affection and trust, but hostility or confrontation can also be manifested.

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary and Britannica Dictionary, FRIENDSHIP is:
- a friendly feeling or attitude: kindness or help given to someone
- state of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy, and trust between two people. [22; 23]
APA Dictionary of Psychology defines “FRIENDSHIP” as a voluntary relationship between two or more people that is relatively long-lasting and in which those involved tend to be concerned with meeting the others’ needs and interests as well as satisfying their own desires. Friendships frequently develop through shared experiences in which the people involved learn that their association with one another is mutually gratifying. [21]

Having summarized the definitions in a few dictionaries we can make the general definition of FRIENDSHIP in American culture:
FRIENDSHIP is a state of enduring affection, esteem, intimacy, and trust between two or more people.

The next stage of our research is a comparative analysis. The proverbs and sayings demonstrate the common and different grounds of aspects of FRIENDSHIP. A huge amount of them have the equivalents in Ukrainian, German and American cultures, as the understanding of FRIENDSHIP is similar. But at the same time, there are some proverbs and sayings that do not have the equivalents.

For example, the proverb “A friend in need is a friend indeed” takes place in German (“Den Freund erkennt man in der Not.”), Ukrainian (“Друзі пізнаються в біді.”) cultures. Such proverbs as (“Tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are.”/ “Скажи мені, хто твій друг, і я скажу тобі, хто ти.”; “An honest enemy is always better than a friend who lies.”/ “Ehrlicher Feind ist besser als ein falscher Freund.”/ “Не той друг, хто медом маже, а той, хто правду каже.”) can also serve as examples of the above mentioned fact.

At the same time there are some sayings that do not have equivalents. For instance, “Strangers are just friends waiting to happen” is the saying which is the characteristic of American culture; “Kleine Geschenke erhalten die Freundschaft.” - of German culture; “Як не матимеш друга, не матимеш ворога.” - Ukrainian one.

Undeniably, the majority of the proverbs appear in colloquial speech of natives. The colloquialism of each language and culture has its own features. That is why it is not always possible to find direct equivalents in the vast vocabulary of different cultures.

The interpretation has some differences in Ukrainian, German and American cultures. It can be explained by the historical background of the country and the development of the concept “FRIENDSHIP” itself.

The next stage of our investigation is a survey with 26 respondents from different cultures.
The main focus of the survey is put on the features of a holistic experiment of both free association and receptive experiment. With the help of an associative experiment, we are able to identify many distinctive features of the concept of FRIENDSHIP and determine the relevance of these features in the linguistic consciousness of the respondents. Due to the peculiarities of the receptive experiment, which aims to identify the specifics of understanding and perception of the concept and its subjective definition, we are able to get a lot of information about understanding specific units directly in the verbalization of the concept, as respondents answered a number of questions about their understanding of the concept "FRIENDSHIP". Interpretation of experimental data allows us to specify the meanings associated with the concept in the minds of Ukrainian, German and American people.

The analysis of the free association of words identifies the connections between the concept of FRIENDSHIP in the Ukrainian, German and English languages. Qualitative analysis of the results of the survey dealing with free associations helped to build respondents' ideas about the interpretation of the concept FRIENDSHIP (these are support, loyalty and honesty).

The functioning of the linguistic and cultural concept of FRIENDSHIP in the modern Ukrainian, German and American worldviews is ambiguous. For most Ukrainian respondents (91%), FRIENDSHIP is a very important thing, for some others (9%) it is somehow important. For most German respondents (89%), FRIENDSHIP is a very important thing, for some others (11%) it is somehow important. For all the American respondents, it is very important.

Speaking about the first associated word with FRIENDSHIP, we can observe the following:

- in Ukrainian culture: підтримка, радість, взаєморозуміння, обійми, довіра, вірність і вечірки;
- in German culture: Loyalität, Vertrauen, Ehrlichkeit, Freunde und Sicherheit;
- in American culture: gaiety and help.

Some of the respondents’ words can be considered as speech synonyms. As speech synonyms appear in the speech in a certain contextual situation. This fact was researched in our survey. All the above mentioned words are the first associated with FRIENDSHIP, so they are speech synonyms, as they have the same meaning in the given context.

These speech synonyms can be equated to contextual synonyms, as contextual synonyms – are the synonyms synonyms which has not been registered as synonyms in any dictionary, which are born as such in a context.
only. Context saturates a word with such emotional and evaluative nuances and to such a degree that a word loses its logical or dictionary meaning thus becoming a contextual (temporary) synonym. [24]

At the same time the very words appear as language synonyms. Since we have analyzed FRIENDSHIP in three cultures (Ukrainian, German and American), the meaning of the associated words remain the same. However, there can be some difference in the aspect of their meanings, as every culture has its own features, so the coloring of words may differ, but the whole thematic aspect remains the same.

Support is the most frequent notion that is associated with FRIENDSHIP in Ukrainian culture, whereas in German - loyalty, American - trust.

All of the respondents believe that true FRIENDSHIP exists. The following diagram proves the above mentioned fact:

![Diagram showing 100% belief in real friendship]

**Pic. 1.** “Do you believe that real friendship exists?”

**Conclusions.** Summing up the received results we state that the concept FRIENDSHIP is a unique thing. Everyone determines his or her own interpretation of this concept. So each culture has positive and negative understandings of it at the same time. This concept satisfies the deepest human needs and it is vital for all people regardless of the linguaculture they live in.

**References:**


Література: