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FUNCTIONAL-SEMANTIC FIELDS OF LANGUAGE UNITS

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Abstract: This article explores the concept of functional-semantic fields of language units, emphasizing their role in organizing linguistic meaning and facilitating communication. Functional-semantic fields represent a system in which words, grammatical forms, and constructions are united by common semantic features and communicative functions. The study highlights how these fields contribute to the systematic description of language, provide insights into the interaction between form and meaning, and allow for a deeper understanding of semantic categorization. Furthermore, attention is given to the relevance of functional-semantic approaches in modern linguistics, particularly in areas such as pragmatics, syntax, and semantics. The findings suggest that analyzing language units within functional-semantic fields helps to reveal both their structural and communicative potential, ensuring a more comprehensive perspective on language study.

Keywords: functional-semantic field, language units, semantics, linguistic meaning, communicative function, linguistic categorization, functional linguistics

INTRODUCTION

The study of language has long been concerned not only with the structural properties of linguistic units but also with their functional and semantic dimensions. Language is not a mechanical collection of isolated words and grammatical forms; rather, it is an interconnected system where meaning, function, and structure interact in complex ways. Within this context, the notion of functional-semantic fields has become an important theoretical framework in modern linguistics. Functional-semantic fields are understood as groups of linguistic units—lexical, grammatical, or syntactic—that are united by shared semantic content and communicative purpose. They serve as an intermediate link between the formal aspects of language and the communicative needs of speakers, thus bridging the gap between system and usage. The importance of studying functional-semantic fields lies in their ability to reveal the regularities of meaning distribution in a language. For example, grammatical categories such as tense, aspect, modality, or case can be interpreted as functional-semantic fields that organize linguistic material according to particular communicative tasks. Similarly, lexical units can form fields based on conceptual domains such as emotion, movement, or evaluation. By analyzing these interrelated systems, linguists can better understand how language reflects human cognition and adapts to communicative situations.

MAIN BODY

Functional-semantic fields represent an integral aspect of linguistic research, as they demonstrate how meaning is distributed across different language levels. One of the central features of these fields is their systemic character: each field consists of a core and a periphery. The core contains linguistic units with the most explicit and stable semantic features, while the periphery includes elements with

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more flexible or context-dependent meanings. This structure allows for the interaction between central and peripheral units, ensuring the dynamic nature of communication.

For instance, the functional-semantic field of modality comprises modal verbs, adverbs, and syntactic constructions that collectively express the speaker’s attitude toward reality. Similarly, the field of temporality integrates tense forms, temporal adverbs, and lexical markers of time, which work together to establish temporal relations in discourse. Such examples reveal that no single linguistic element can fully realize a category’s meaning without the support of related units in the field. Additionally, functional-semantic fields highlight the interaction between grammar and lexis. While grammatical forms provide structural regularity, lexical items enrich the semantic potential of the field. This interdependence illustrates the holistic nature of language, where meaning emerges through the cooperation of multiple elements rather than isolated units. As a result, the study of functional-semantic fields not only deepens theoretical understanding of language but also offers practical insights for applied linguistics, including lexicography, translation, and language pedagogy.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of functional-semantic fields of language units demonstrates that language should be viewed as a complex, interconnected system in which meaning is distributed across multiple levels. These fields provide a methodological framework for examining how linguistic forms cooperate to express shared semantic functions, thereby revealing both the structural and communicative potential of language. The study of such fields shows that the categories of time, modality, aspect, evaluation, and other semantic domains cannot be understood through isolated units alone; rather, they emerge from the collective interaction of grammatical, lexical, and syntactic elements. Furthermore, the functional-semantic approach highlights the dynamic nature of language, where meanings are not fixed but shaped by communicative needs, cultural context, and pragmatic conditions. This perspective makes it possible to investigate language in a way that bridges the gap between form and function, system and use, theory and practice. It also provides valuable insights for applied linguistics, particularly in areas such as foreign language teaching, translation studies, and intercultural communication, where a nuanced understanding of semantic relationships is essential.

In conclusion, functional-semantic fields represent more than just a theoretical construct; they serve as a powerful tool for analyzing the cognitive and communicative dimensions of language. By acknowledging the interdependence of linguistic units within these fields, linguists gain a deeper understanding of how language operates as a system of meaning, reflecting both human cognition and social interaction.

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