

THE ANTHROPOMORPHIC SEMANTICS OF POLYSEMANTIC ENGLISH NOUNS*Nazokat Kurambayeva**At Uganch RANCH Technology university**Master's student*

ANNOTATION: This article explores the anthropomorphic semantics of polysemantic English nouns. Anthropomorphism involves attributing human qualities to non-human entities, which significantly shapes the multiple related meanings of English nouns such as head, heart, and eye. The study analyzes these phenomena from linguistic and cognitive perspectives.

АННОТАЦИЯ: Данная статья рассматривает антропоморфную семантику полисемантических английских существительных. Антропоморфизм заключается в приписывании человеческих качеств нечеловеческим объектам, что существенно влияет на множественные связанные значения таких слов, как head, heart и eye. Исследование анализирует эти явления с лингвистической и когнитивной точек зрения.

ANNOTATSIYA: Ushbu maqola ingliz tilidagi ko'p ma'noli otlarning antropomorfik semantikasini o'rganadi. Antropomorfizm — insoniy xususiyatlarni inson bo'lmagan narsalarga taalluqlash bo'lib, bu head, heart va eye kabi so'zlarning bir nechta bog'liq ma'nolarini shakllantirishda muhim rol o'ynaydi. Tadqiqot ushbu hodisalarni lingvistik va kognitiv nuqtai nazardan tahlil qiladi.

Keyword: Head , Polysemy, Anthropomorphism , Metaphorical Extension

Ключевое слово: голова, Полисемия , Антропоморфизм , Метафорическое расширение

Kalit so'zi: bosh , polisemiya , Antropomorfizm, Metaforik kengayishi

1. Introduction to Polysemy and Anthropomorphism in English Nouns

Polysemy, the phenomenon where a single word possesses multiple related meanings, is a widespread characteristic in English vocabulary. Anthropomorphism, the attribution of human traits, emotions, or intentions to non-human entities, often plays a significant role in the development of polysemy in English nouns. For example, the noun head can mean the top part of a body, a leader, or the front part of an object, among other meanings^[1].

The interaction between anthropomorphism and polysemy enriches the semantic network of many English nouns, providing them with layers of meaning that are metaphorically or cognitively connected. This paper aims to explore this intersection by analyzing selected English nouns and demonstrating how human attributes influence their semantic development^[2].

2. Theoretical Framework: Semantics and Cognitive Linguistics

Understanding the anthropomorphic semantics of polysemantic nouns requires a cognitive linguistic approach, which emphasizes how human cognition shapes language. Cognitive linguistics argues that meaning is not arbitrary but grounded in human experience^[^3]. Anthropomorphism fits into this framework as it reflects how humans project their own characteristics onto the world, leading to metaphorical extensions of noun meanings.

Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory highlights how metaphors structure our understanding by mapping one conceptual domain onto another^[^4]. Anthropomorphism is one such mapping where human domains are projected onto objects or animals, expanding the meanings of words^[^3].

3. Case Studies of Anthropomorphic Polysemantic Nouns

3.1 The Noun Head. The noun head exemplifies polysemy driven by anthropomorphism. Its primary meaning is the anatomical part of the body, but it also extends to abstract meanings such as a leader of a group (e.g., head of the company)^[^5].

This reflects the human tendency to associate the head with control and decision-making, a quality anthropomorphically transferred to organizations or groups.

Additionally, head can refer to the front part of objects like a ship's head or a head of a river^[^6]. These meanings maintain a conceptual connection to the original human body part through spatial orientation and importance. ^[^5]

3.2 The Noun Heart

Heart as a noun also possesses several related meanings. Beyond the literal organ, it is metaphorically linked to emotions, courage, and the center or core of something^[^7]. Anthropomorphism here attributes feelings and emotional capacity to the heart, a human trait, making the noun semantically rich.

Examples include phrases like heart of the matter or to have a big heart, which extend the meaning from a physical organ to abstract qualities, showing semantic evolution through anthropomorphic metaphor.

4. Discussion: Cognitive Processes in Anthropomorphic Semantics

The polysemy of English nouns enriched by anthropomorphism demonstrates the central role of human cognition in language development. Humans use their own bodies and social experiences as reference points to describe the world, creating metaphorical links that expand word meanings. ^[^8]

This process highlights the dynamic, creative nature of language, where meanings evolve from concrete to abstract, physical to emotional or social domains^[^8]. It also emphasizes the importance of context in interpreting polysemantic nouns since the anthropomorphic meaning depends on cultural and situational factors. ^[^8]

5. Conclusion

The anthropomorphic semantics of polysemantic English nouns provide a vivid example of how language reflects human cognition and experience. Through metaphorical projections of human traits onto objects and abstract concepts, English nouns develop rich, layered meanings.

Understanding these semantic mechanisms deepens our appreciation of language complexity and aids in language learning, translation, and cognitive linguistic research.

References:

1. Cruse, D. A. (1986). *Lexical Semantics*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Evans, V., & Green, M. (2006). *Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
3. Geeraerts, D. (2010). *Theories of Lexical Semantics*. Oxford University Press.
4. Gibbs, R. W. (1994). *The Poetics of Mind: Figurative Thought, Language, and Understanding*. Cambridge University Press.
5. Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M. (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*. University of Chicago Press.
6. Tyler, A., & Evans, V. (2003). *The Semantics of English Prepositions*. Cambridge University Press.