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# Cognitive-Perceptive Features And Communicative Orientation Of Nominative Meaning Of The Verbs Of Olfactory Semantics In French

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**ABSTRACT**
The article deals with systemic-structural possibilities of the verbal nomination of the French language in the field of description of a smell as a result of the olfactory perception. Sensory level of cognition is the basis for all cognitive activities of the individual, and the ways of its linguistic objectification are of a special interest for cognitive linguistics. Close attention of contemporary scientists to these issues is also due to the importance of reflection in the language that information world picture which is formed in the process of cognition. The system of physical perception operates through five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste, each of which play a leading role in establishing mechanisms that determine the way of conceptualization of reality. As a result of the study, semantic processes in the olfactory field are analyzed and nominative and functional potential of verbal meanings is determined on the basis of detailed elaboration of conceptual content and the establishment of the patterns of knowledge about the olfactory phenomenon of reality reflected in the language.

## 1. Introduction

In modern linguistics, with the incoming of cognitive direction, linguistic units are regarded as units of sign systems, which is based on the system of knowledge about the world emerging in the consciousness of person as a result of his cognitive activity – that is a conceptual system. Research interest to the problems of reflection of knowledge in the language puts in the focus of cognitive linguistics such issues as: the ways of mental and linguistic representation of knowledge, types of linguistic rendering of a certain conceptual content, the relationship of language and conceptual structures of consciousness and their organizational basis in systematization of human experience.

## 2. Theoretical Analysis.

Studying the problem of language representation of perceptual information as a result of the special, primary level of knowledge of the world, justifies urgency of studies of language units that reflect such sphere of human activity, as physical perception. Sensory level of cognition is the basis for all cognitive activities of the individual, and the ways of its linguistic objectification are of a special interest for cognitive linguistics. Close attention of contemporary scientists to these issues is also due to the importance of reflection in the language that information world picture which is formed in the process of cognition. The system of physical perception operates through five senses: sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste, each of which play a leading role in establishing mechanisms that

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determine the way of conceptualization of reality. The concepts of each type of perception contain information about the objective sensually percepted phenomenon as a result of this perception.

In this work, we study the predicative ways of objectification of smell in the French language through olfactory naming of olfactory semantics. Linguists have noted the heterogeneity of the verbs of sense perception [Apresyan, Y. D., 1995]. A. Verbitskoj's research works show that the complexity of semantic interpretation of verbs of sense perception consists in the features of the perceptual stimulus itself, the perception of which is described by the following lexemes: "...in order to represent accurately the meaning of words associated with perception, it is necessary to mention the initial stimulus, coming from the outside world and forcing some part of a body to send a message to the owner of this body, and that thereby will cause him some information about that part of the world, which acted as the initial stimulus" [ Verbitska, A., 1996 ].

Parts of speech's feature of verbal semantics is the ability of this class of words to express the way of existence of objects of the surrounding world. That is, the linguistic meaning of the verb is determined through its relationship to subject names. Research approach to the study of the verb is based on the fact that the meanings of the given parts of speech are determined by the syntactic properties of verbal lexemes, i.e., the ability to identify variables in their interpretations with the help of syntactically dependent words. It's also considered that the verbal units are classified as predicative words – vocabulary, the basis of its nomination is the designation of the situations. While designation of a concrete situation the meanings of a verb implicit the structure of the situation and the character of its participants. Therefore, an integral part of inherently semantics of the verb are semantic valences, which attach to him the name of subject entities – actants of the situation and are semantic to the verb, as they are derived directly from its lexical meaning. The characteristics of the verbal meaning, relating it to the cognitive level units, are identified by the information or knowledge structure which stands behind that value and which conventionally is called a situation.

We need to discuss the specifics of the language reflection of contextual knowledge about the world. The linguistic meaning is associated not with all knowledge that forms the denotative situation, but only with a certain aspect of it. The aspects of the situation are variable and the need for their separation produces the basic property of a verbal meaning - to reflect a particular aspect of the model situation, the so-called perspective [Arutyunova, N. D., 1999]. Language units, therefore, demonstrate the nature of the reflection of situations that arise in the objective world – their modelling in human consciousness. According to G. I. Kustova, "different verbs can "cut" from one and the same situation different aspects, present its different models, because the content of the situation is more than the content of the verb" [Kustova, G. I., 1999].

Today in cognitive linguistics there is quite an established term in describing the situational knowledge - the notion of 'scene'[Arenstein, V. M., 1986]. H. Fillmore in his concept of situational semantics explains that the notion of 'scene' includes both "drawn from real-world experimental data" and "individual memories about all of this" [Filmore, H., 1999.]. In relation to 'situation' the term 'scene' is regarded as a functional mechanism that represents the situation both as a fragment of extralinguistic reality and its cognitive model – epistemic world reflected in the human consciousness.

### 3. Main Part.

The semantics of verbs, reflecting the considered conceptual fragment, is directed at a denotion of actions of "participants" of the situation of perception of smell, in the main complement of which, except the participants of "initial situation of perception": one who perceives and what is perceived [ Smirnova, T. Y., 1999 ], there is the subject as a source of the odor, the environment or the site of smell spread [ Zolotova, G. A., 1982]. The

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relationships established between these elements of the situation of perception of smell, get verbalized expression by using verbs of different semantics.

If the language representation of the conceptual relationship between the source (subject, place, environment) and smell verbs of olfactory sphere actualize the interaction only between these participants of the "stage" of olfactory perception, the position of the perceiving person in these scenes is from the point of view of an observer, while the semantic valence of the selected verbs are distributed between the object-source (locative) and smell.

In the French language the following group of verbs is allocated, the meanings of which express the processes occurring between the object of reality and its odor: dégager, émettre, exhaler, produire, répandre, rendre, fleurer, sentir. In this semantic unit the sign "movement" is mandatory, by means of which the understanding of native speakers on how the process of allocation, distribution, evaporation, expiration of smell is assigned in the meanings of verbs. "Cet escalier detesté ... exhalait une odeur de vernis ..." [Proust, M., 1976]. The actual olfactory (lat. olfactivus: smell) predicates, i.e. verbs containing this "smell" (the result of olfactory perception), among these units are the verbs sentir and fleurer, the rest of the tokens serve this area due to its secondary (indirect) meanings, capable of displaying a functional aspect of existence of volatile substances, which is the smell. This lexical-semantic association in the field of olfactory perception can be referred to the type of functional predicates, the nominative potential of which covers the field of denoting the functioning of the subject as a way of existence [Zolotova, G. A., 1982].

The specific feature of reflecting the following sense in the olfactory field is that only the olfactory verbs sentir and fleurer are 'qualifiers', i.e., the units, specifying in the subject area common component 'way of existence', which is typical for many parameters of objects (color, shape, taste).

The following example shows that when you reflect such a situation in the semantics of the verb itself olfactory perceptual component is, as if, erased, indicating that sphere described by the verb potentially, to the fore in representations of this scene goes the way of the movement of odor.

"La rue fleurait les odeurs usuelles d'eau, d excréments, de rats et d épluchures" [Süskind, P., 1986]. The noun "odour" – "les odeurs", ranking the object valence of the selected verb shows that there is not an olfactory component in its meaning, but sema "the spread (of smell)".

Thus, the nominative meaning of the verbs, representing the stage of display by the objects of the external world their olfactory properties, that is, happening between the subject (the place) and smell, is formed due to the ability of verbs to denote 'movement, going from something'. The verbs in this meaning represent a way of existence of smelling substance in the world, namely: the separation in the form of volatile particles from its source.

It should be noted that, such situation of perception of odour can be represented from the point of view of smelling of stimulus itself. In the French language for the representation of smell "actions", konzeptualised in relation to its source, the same nailfactory verbs are used, containing this "movement", which are capable of expressing the selected meaning with the help of its pronominal syntax form. In addition, labeling the scene of smell movement from their subject, verbs se dégager, se détacher, s échapper, émaner, exhaler s, se produire, se r épandre, se rendr e lose the signs of functionality, their nominative value is formed to describe the direction of movement of an odorous substance: odour ← source:

"...je senti tout d'un coup, en me relevant, s échapper une odeur des aubépines amère et douce d'amande..." [Proust, M., 1976]. As it is shown in the example, semantic valence of verbs in this group belong to a noun meaning "a smell" (subjective valence) and a noun, denoting the subject-the source of the smell (object valence) that updates



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in the semantics of the verb this "direction of movement".

In the French language to reflect the scenes of movement of smell in space a group of olfactory verbs is detected: embaumer, “fill with fragrance”, parfumer “to fill with scent”, empuantir – “to fill with stench”, empester – “to spread stench”, empoisonner – “to infect the air”, infecter – “to fill with stench”. Dictionary definitions show that French verbs are rather a specific way of denoting olfactory scenes of spreading of smell in space, as, for example, in the Russian language, such situations of perception of smell are denoted by verbs from other semantic fields.

Naturally, the meanings of selected group of olfactory verbs are realized if these units have object valence, which is a noun denoting the site of smell spread.

“Malgré la propreté, une odeur d'oignon, cuit, enfermée depuis la veille, empoisonnait l'air chaud, ..., toujours chargé d'une âcreté de houille” [Zola, E., 1968.].

Besides, while the analysis of the semantic structure of sentences the nominative properties of these lexemes show variation in olfactory scene of filling the space with smell. While expressing the selected meaning from the position of subject- source it is implicieted that subject-source is in a place that is denoted by the object valency of these verbs, for example “La rose embaume la chambre” [Micro Robert, 1987]. That is, smelling the subject-the source is in the space where the perceived odor is detected.

When expression of the same kind of sense from the standpoint of odor, the presence of the latter in this place is not obligatory: “L odeur de tabac empeste ce compartiment” [Le Robert, 1980]. As it is shown in the example, the smell of tobacco has reached a certain locative from an uncertain starting point. Both in the first and in the second cases, the locative is the final point of its movement, and a place of its finding by the perceiving person.

## 4. Conclusion.

Thus, the cognitive interpretation of language data describing the meanings of lexical units on the basis of those behind them structures of knowledge, is the processes of conceptualization of the olfactory phenomena of reality in their linguistic reflection, explaining the nominative potential, existing in the given semantics, which is used by native speakers in the field of indicating the perception of smell. A detailed study of the conceptual fragment, reflecting the processes of olfactory perception of the French nation, and establishing the type of olfactory mental representations helped to identify language characteristics of the actual olfactory vocabulary and units from other semantic fields, as well as to set the direction of their transference and specific of functioning in a given subject area. The following semantic, conceptual and communicative features of verbal nomination may be used in further studies of ways of language representation of the results of the olfactory perception of a person.

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