



THE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF NATURE-RELATED WORD
COMBINATIONS IN ENGLISH

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Maqolaning qisqacha mazmuni: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi tabiat bilan bog'liq so'z birikmalarining lingvistik va semantik tahlili keltirilgan. Tadqiqotda atrof-muhit leksemalarining leksik-semantik sohalari, denotativ va konnotativ ma'nolari, metaforik kengaytmalari va kognitiv jihatlari o'rganiladi. Tadqiqotda shuningdek, tabiiy elementlarni o'z ichiga olgan kollokatsion tuzilmalar va idiomatik ifodalar ham o'rganilib, ularning til orqali inson tajribasini kontseptualizatsiya qilishdagi roli ta'kidlangan.

Annotatsiya: This article provides a linguistic and semantic analysis of nature-related word combinations in the English language. The study explores the lexical-semantic fields, denotative and connotative meanings, metaphorical extensions, and cognitive aspects of environmental lexemes. The research also examines collocational structures and idiomatic expressions involving natural elements, emphasizing their role in conceptualizing human experience through language.

Аннотация: В данной статье представлен лингвистический и семантический анализ словосочетаний, связанных с природой, в английском языке. В исследовании рассматриваются лексико-семантические поля, денотативные и коннотативные значения, метафорические расширения и когнитивные аспекты лексем, связанных с окружающей средой. В исследовании также рассматриваются коллокационные структуры и идиоматические выражения, связанные с природными элементами, с акцентом на их роль в концептуализации человеческого опыта посредством языка.

INTRODUCTION

The semantic study of nature-related vocabulary is a significant area in modern linguistics, particularly within lexical semantics and cognitive linguistics. The English language possesses a vast system of lexical units that describe natural phenomena and simultaneously convey human emotions and cultural perceptions.

Nature-related word combinations such as “green forest,” “flowing river,” “cold wind,” “ray of hope” serve as linguistic representations of both denotative meanings (literal reference to natural entities) and connotative meanings (figurative, evaluative, or emotional shades).

2. Lexical-Semantic Field of Nature

The lexical-semantic field (LSF) of nature in English encompasses various lexical paradigms representing environmental and ecological concepts:

Natural elements: earth, air, fire, water, sky

Flora and fauna: tree, flower, bird, animal, leaf

Geographical objects: mountain, river, valley, ocean, desert



Weather phenomena: rain, storm, snow, sunshine, wind

Each lexeme functions within a semantic microfield, forming a network of meaning relations such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, and meronymy. For instance, river is a hyponym of water body, while leaf is a meronym of tree.

3. Structural and Semantic Classification of Word Combinations

Nature-related word combinations can be analyzed according to their syntactic structure and semantic relations:

Adjective + Noun (Attributive Collocations)

green grass, dark sky, deep ocean, frozen lake

→ represent descriptive or denotative meanings.

Noun + Noun (Compositional Phrases)

rain cloud, snow storm, river bank

→ demonstrate semantic cohesion between two nouns forming a compound sense unit.

Verb + Noun (Predicative Combinations)

blow wind, fall leaves, rise sun

→ show dynamic semantics, describing natural processes.

These patterns indicate the productivity of collocational structures in English, reflecting the associative potential of environmental lexemes.

4. Metaphorical Extension and Conceptualization

Within the framework of cognitive linguistics, many nature-related word combinations undergo metaphorical extension — the process of transferring meaning from the physical to the abstract domain.

Examples include:

a storm of emotions → conceptual metaphor: EMOTION IS WEATHER

a ray of hope → HOPE IS LIGHT

seeds of change → CHANGE IS GROWTH

These metaphors illustrate the conceptual mapping between source domains (natural phenomena) and target domains (human experience), as described by Lakoff & Johnson (1980). Such metaphors reveal how humans cognitively structure abstract ideas through environmental imagery.

5. Connotative and Symbolic Meanings

Nature lexemes frequently possess polysemy and rich symbolic connotations.

For instance:

sun → life, vitality, enlightenment

water → purity, rebirth, continuity

wind → freedom, change, instability

tree → wisdom, growth, stability

These connotations are culturally grounded and context-dependent, representing cultural semantics and linguocultural symbolism in English discourse.

6. Idiomatic and Phraseological Units

In the sphere of phraseology, numerous idioms originate from natural imagery:



under the weather – feeling ill
come rain or shine – regardless of circumstances
break the ice – initiate social interaction

These expressions demonstrate semantic shift and idiomatization, where the original literal meaning is lost, and a new figurative meaning is fixed within the lexical system.

7. Cognitive and Pragmatic Aspects

Nature-related semantics also interacts with cognitive models and pragmatic interpretation. The frequent use of natural imagery in everyday communication reflects the anthropocentric nature of language. Through nature metaphors and collocations, speakers conceptualize emotions, relationships, and moral values, revealing deep cognitive and cultural patterns.

The semantic analysis of nature-related word combinations in English demonstrates the complexity of the interaction between language, cognition, and culture. Such lexical units not only describe the physical world but also encode human perception, emotion, and experience. The study of their semantic structures, collocational behavior, and metaphorical extensions provides valuable insights into the cognitive and cultural dimensions of linguistic meaning.

FOYDALANILGAN ADABIYOTLAR:

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