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The Terminological and Conceptual Foundation of Cognitive Linguistics in the Arab World

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Abstract:

Cognitive linguistics counts among the most prominent contemporary linguistic directions which appeared on the linguistic arena, and it studies the relationship between language and the human mind and the sensory experience and the bodily experience, unlike the formal linguistic schools (generative) which view language as a phenomenon independent and separated from the other mental processes, so it does not study it on basis that it is an abstract structure (rules), but rather as a tool which the human uses it to organize his experiences, and understanding the world and expressing the scientific concepts. This direction in the Arab world stood upon a group of principles and terms differs in it from the other linguistic theories among them: embodiment, conceptual metaphor, image schemas, centrality of meaning, conceptual blending.

Keywords: Cognitive linguistics, theoretical linguistics, terminological and conceptual structure.

Introduction:

Cognitive linguistics is a modern linguistic trend, and a field that combines neuroscience, philosophy, psychology, and brain sciences to understand how language is connected with the brain and cognition. It is thus a thoroughly mental science, and a modern direction in linguistics that emerged in the 1980s; it is based on studying language as something that is closely tied with the human mind and with the general cognitive processes that humans use in thinking and understanding.

1- The Sciences of Cognition:

It is "a new field that gathers what is known about the mind from many academic disciplines: psychology, linguistics, anthropology, and computer science, and it seeks detailed answers for questions such as: What is the mind? How do we give meaning to our experience?" (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2010, p. 15) Some also define it as a group of sciences that study how the mind and intelligence function, and its study is based on the cooperation of multiple disciplines—it involves philosophy, psychology, artificial intelligence, neuroscience (brain sciences), linguistics, and anthropology. These sciences study intelligence in general, human intelligence, and its biological basis that carries it, and they are also concerned with its modeling and explore its psychological, linguistic, and anthropological manifestations. (IMBERT, 1992, pp. 49–76)

It is also "a new domain that came together with what became known about the mind in many academic specializations: psychology, linguistics, anthropology, philosophy, and computer science." (Omar Ben Dahman, 2012, p. 13)

2- Cognitive Linguistics:

The name cognitive linguistics refers to a trend or movement that includes many theories sharing the same bases and principles, but that are entangled in their concerns and directions. Since its appearance, this discipline has carried many names such as cognitivism, cognition, cognitionism... etc. Hadumod Bussmann defined it by saying: "It is an interdisciplinary direction in research, developed at the end of the 1950s in the United States, and it is concerned with studying the mental processes of acquiring and using knowledge and language. It stands in opposition to the behavioral trend focused on observable behavior and stimulus-response processes (...), and its study is an inquiry into the mental or cognitive structure and its organization by analyzing the cognitive strategies that humans employ in the process of thinking, storing information, comprehension, and language production." (Bussmann, 2006, p. 197)

It is also defined as "the organized scientific study of human languages through the units and arrangements responsible for organizing the cognitive processes, and in particular: categorization, formation, representation, logic." (Abdelkarim Jidourne, 2017, p. 303)

What we conclude is that cognitive linguistics, therefore, is a modern linguistic direction that studies language as part of the mental and cognitive activity of human beings, not as a separate formal system.

3- The Emergence of Cognitive Linguistics:

It emerged in the mid-fifties of the twentieth century, in a meeting on mind issues between a number of researchers from different fields, then it acquired an organizational institutional appearance in the mid-seventies of the last century with the establishment of the Cognitive Science Society and the issuance of the Cognitive Science Journal, and after that its research and teaching departments spread in the largest universities in North America and Europe. It has many tributaries and sources psychological and cybernetic and computational and neural and linguistic and philosophical logical. (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2010, p. 16)

There are several circumstances that helped in the emergence of cognitive linguistics, among them philosophy and the modern research directions in it, and also the multiple directions of cognitive sciences, as the generative transformational theory represented a basic starting point for this modern linguistic direction and paved the way for its appearance and spread, where the field of authorship in it started in 1981 when the book "Metaphors We Live By" was published by the authors: George Lakoff, and Mark Johnson, where this book represented the first brick for the beginnings of the cognitive trend in linguistics. (Sam Abdul Qadir, 91-92)

4- Principles of Cognitive Linguistics:

Cognitive linguistics is based on two basic principles which are: the commitment to generalization and the cognitive commitment, and they are two principles that all writings concerned with cognitivism have outlined them, and what is meant by the commitment to generalization is that the cognitive linguistic lesson encompasses all manifestations in linguistic activity, so it rejects treating language

as independent systems from each other (phonetic, morphological, syntactic, semantic lexical, pragmatic... etc.), but rather seeks to study them all in their interaction and integration and functioning together, as for the cognitive commitment it is the striving to establish linguistic facts that agree with the fixed cognitive facts in all cognitive sciences. (Sam Abdul Qadir, 33)

5- Terminological Foundation of Cognitive Linguistics:

The interest in the term and its issues is one of the most important topics that have been and still occupy researchers old and modern for its role in rooting sciences and controlling their boundaries, and determining their connotations and stabilizing their concepts, and with the development that linguistic studies knew at the beginning of the twentieth century, the linguistic term knew richness and great terminological diversity that resulted in raising many issues, perhaps the most important of which is the chaos of terms and terminological unification, and this included all branches of linguistics, most importantly cognitive linguistics this new cognitive field that dominated the modern linguistic scene and linguistic studies.

What is meant by the linguistic term is the set of terms that express the concepts and cognitive systems that were formed within the field of linguistics and became to form part of this cognitive field, so the linguistic term "even if it refers to the identity of the term as a restriction to it being linguistic, it can be a research umbrella that includes under its wing scientific works that research linguistic terms not the term in general." (Samir Sharif Astitya, 2008, p. 341)

So the linguistic term is a word or a group of words used to express a concept from the concepts within the field of linguistics; and cognitive linguistics like other cognitive sciences possesses a system of terms and concepts, and among the most important terms of cognitive linguistics we find:

Number	Term	Foreign Equivalent
1	Cognition	Gnosticisme
2	Term of embodiment or incarnation	(embodiment)
3	Calligraphy	Le calligraphe
4	Mental imagery	imagerie mentale
5	Gestalt	gestalt
6	Scanning	Balayage
7	Style	Style
8	Theory of vision	Théorie de la vision

9	Cognitive semantic multiplicity	Multiplicité sémantique cognitive
10	Ideal cognitive model	Modèle cognitif idéal
11	Mental attribution	Espace mental
12	Conceptual framing	Cadrage conceptuel
13	Conceptual blending	Conceptual blending
14	Focus	figure
15	Conceptual sentential metaphor	Conceptual metonymy
16	Conceptual domain	Conceptual domain
17	Conceptual metaphor	Conceptual Metaphor
18	Conceptual schema	Image schema
19	Cognitive pragmatic meaning	

6- Terminological Chaos:

The translators and Arab researchers have differed in their translation of the term cognition (cognitive) and what corresponds to it in the Arab space, each according to what he translates, so there are those who relied on literal translation and there are those who did not rely on it, and in what follows we monitor some Arab translations for this term, "so we find cognitive linguistics and cognitive linguistics and cognitional linguistics and perceptual linguistics, and it is clear that the focus of the difference is in the translation of that adjective attributed cognitive which is translated as perceptual as is the case with Said Bahiri, and it is translated as cognitive as in the use of the cognitive linguistics and Arabic language research team at the Tunisian University, and as in Dr. Saber Habasha's book Questions of Semantics and Discourse Pragmatics: Cognitive Pragmatic Approaches,

the Cognitive Theory." (Muhi al-Din Muhtasib, 2017, p. 48)

The researcher Al-Azhar Al-Zanad proposed (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2012) the term cognition which he used in some of his works and books including his book "Cognitive Linguistic Theories", and the text and discourse cognitional linguistic topics; and he indicated that he used this term (cognition) as a compensation for circulating terms such as cognitive sciences, science of knowledge, cognitive sciences, perception and this compensation did not come randomly but rather can be attributed to several factors among them: the factor of sharing and overlap between terms, for the word cognition shares in the old and modern usage, as it indicates the meaning of gratitude and devotion in the aspect of worship and Sufism and in the field of metaphysical philosophical research, and matching the word

knowledge or perception for the term cognition and the term knowledge and this term sometimes means the concept perception, and all these terms have classical theoretical references, second that cognition is a mental activity that includes remembering and reasoning and problem solving and imagining and dreaming and planning and feeling and sensation and learning and justifying and speaking and drawing... etc and all conceptions of sensory neural mental activities that related to natural intelligence.

Third that the cognitivism when it reached us was understood from an Aristotelian philosophical psychological perspective, and the same understanding it carried in the West, so it did not go out of the known trinity knowledge and the term perception, connaissance. (Muhi al-Din Muhtasib, 2017, p. 48) Muhi al-Din Muhtasib points out in his book Perceptives to the translation of cognitive linguistics so we find: cognitive linguistics and perceptual linguistics and cognitional linguistics, and the focus of the difference lies in the translation of the word cognitive which is translated as perceptual as we find with Said Bahiri, and it is translated as cognitive as in the use of the cognitive linguistics and Arabic language research team at the Tunisian University (Muhammad Al-Najari Bey, 1904), and it must be noted here that this Arab equivalent cognitive is the same one that was translated since 1904 the French form cognitif/ive in the first comprehensive French/Arab dictionary; put by the Egyptian judge (Muhammad Al-Najari). (Abdeljabbar Bin Ghribah, 2010, p. 29) From what was touched upon previously, it became clear to us the multiplicity of translation of the word cognitive and its difference from one researcher to another so there are those who chose for it the word cognition, cognitive,

cognition. And each according to his translation of the English word.

7- Cognitive Linguistic Theories:

The linguistic theories based on cognition have agreed since their appearance that the word cognition is applied to a set of characteristics most important of which is not accepting formalization in description and analysis and considering language as an independent component by itself from other mental components, and in its interest in semantics in all its manifestations as part of the general cognitive conceptions and these theories have found in our Arab countries popularity and presence first of them:

1- Cognitive Grammar:

It is a comprehensive semantic theory that has confronted since its appearance various conceptions and assumptions that modern linguistic theories called for, and its first beginnings go back to the sixties period of the last century where cognitive sciences witnessed at that time a qualitative leap, crystallized in it the concept of cognitive grammar at the hand of the linguist scientist Ronald Langacker, where he considers that natural languages are a system that differs completely from artificial languages, and he emphasized the great role that context plays, and starting from his belief that linguistic meanings should be taught as based on a set of conceptual mental operations, not as consistent with the facts of the external world. (Abdeljabbar Bin Ghribah, 2010, p. 45)

2- Theory of Conceptual Metaphor:

The cognitive theory of metaphor or what is called figurative language emerged in the lap of cognitive linguistics which states the idea of the embodied mind (Omar Ben Dahman, 2015, p. 86) and it came as a reaction to the generative transformational direction, and it starts from the position of the human body and its functioning in its surroundings, this gives it a spatial

direction, where it organizes the thought through which we understand the external world, and we practice in it our experiences in a habitual way so its location according to Lakoff is not present in language but rather in the way we understand one mental domain according to another domain, so metaphor is an important source for proving the way the metaphorical system works, and its essence lies in that it enables understanding something. (George Lakoff and Mark Johnson, 2016, p. 89)

Most people believe that it is possible to dispense with metaphor without much effort, but the cognitive view of metaphor took it out from the peaks of form and the unusual aesthetic use to open for it a wider and broader field related to thinking and understanding and ordinary daily use, where metaphor becomes present in all areas of our daily life and this goes back to that it is not limited to language but exists in our thinking and in the actions we do also. (Maha Bint Dalim Al-Qahtani, 2023, pp. 71-106)

3- Theory of Conceptual Blending:

This theory goes back to Gilles Fauconnier and Mark Turner, and it is a set of natural operations on which the functioning of the mind in all its manifestations rests in a natural automatic way, which every individual does at the level of the unconscious, and it is a process of utmost complexity for its functioning in inner cognition which is understanding one domain through another domain, and this happens at the level of collecting concepts, the theory of conceptual blending is concerned with the process of meaning construction in the mind, and tries to explain the evaluations resulting from blending two mental spaces with each other, proposing that meaning construction through this blending produces a meaning that is the result of interaction of two mental spaces, and it is an interaction that leads to creating a new space. (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2010, pp. 186-187)

Among types of metaphor we find: structural metaphor, and ontological metaphor, directional metaphors, substitution theory, simile theory, interaction theory.

4- Theory of Embodied Cognition (Embodied Mind):

The idea of embodiment or embodiment of the mind emerged parallel to the idea of conceptual metaphor, for metaphor represents one domain on the basis of another domain and embodiment represents abstract concepts on the basis of the body such as anger and joy and fear and sadness. But embodiment surpasses the field of conceptual metaphor in that it provided a wider field for studying the mind and the conceptual metaphor remains the best generator of the idea of embodiment in terms of its manifestations and regularity and functioning. (Atiyah Suleiman Ahmad, n.d., p. 66)

5- Theory of Schemata:

Some researchers go to that the concept of schemata is old going back with its tributaries to Kant's works in the 18th century, as a basis for describing concepts and mental categories, and Al-Azhar Al-Zanad goes to that schemata are cognitive structures of utmost generality and abstraction that help the individual to build the appropriate inference, and the schema helps the individual to fill the gap by providing what is taken for granted from information. So it is a cognitive representation that includes generalization of manifestations of the common similarity between percepts from the models current in use and it is a frame of regulated relations filled with concrete material details. (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2010, p. 206)

The image schema is also considered a conceptual network that organizes our bodily activity and mental knowledge, and establishes the paths of our behavior and governs our

coherent view of life and the universe. (Saleh Ghailous, 2020, p. 123)

6- Theory of Mental Spaces:

The mental space is a set of organized information related to beliefs and things and it consists of elements, and it may happen that a mental space matches now from the state of things in the universe (total or partial matching) so that the matching is between an element of its elements and a thing in reality, and between the properties of that element and the properties of the real thing, and the mental space can represent an imagined world built in one way or another... (Atiyah Suleiman Ahmad, 2014, pp. 90-92)

And thus the mental space is built through the use of language and is determined at the same time, by means of the linguistic forms that we use in composing and producing a certain text, or by means of an ordered set of meta-linguistic hints, which include previous backgrounds and predictions, as these spaces enable the conditions for the success of a certain statement. (Saleh Ghailous, 2020, pp. 101-102) The essence of the mental space is its work inside the mind through imagination and conceptualization, so the space is the factory where the image is made and imagination is built in it, and it works in an instantaneous immediate way in the midst of the event we are living, and during speaking, and without it the process of communication between humans would not have been completed, by evoking the absent and evoking the event and imagining the issue. (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2010, pp. 186-187)

7- Theory of Style:

It is a mental activity that is primarily concerned with systems of different things so it exists in all our daily activities in thinking and conceptualization and speaking and it is ordinary behavior, except that it is complex as it forms a method and a movement path between the sensory/motor system and the environment. (Al-Azhar Al-Zanad, 2012)

Conclusion:

And in the end it can be said that cognitive linguistics has caused a transformation in the study of language, as it exceeded the limits of viewing language as an abstract formal structure, to place it in the heart of mental activity and human experience, so it reveals the close connection between thought and language and culture, and thus contributed to enriching linguistic research through its openness to cognitive psychology, philosophy, and cognitive sciences, which made it a scientific direction capable of explaining linguistic phenomena in its deep human dimension.

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