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KOLLOKATSIYA TUSHUNCHASINING LINGVISTIK TALQINI

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Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada kollokatsiya tushunchasining lingvistik talqini zamonaviy lingvistik nazariyalar doirasida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda kollokatsiyalarning nazariy asoslari, ularning strukturaviy va semantik xususiyatlari hamda frazeologizmlar va erkin soʻz birikmalari oʻrtasidagi oʻrni oʻrganiladi. Kollokatsiya tadqiqotlarining rivojlanishini yoritish maqsadida Firth, McKeown va Radev, Halliday va Hasan, Mel'chuk hamda Poulsen kabi olimlarning qarashlari tahlil qilinadi. Kollokatsiyalarning kognitiv va funksional jihatlariga, xususan, mustahkamlanish (entrenchment) va freym semantikasi tushunchalariga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Natijalar kollokatsiyalar oddiy odatiy leksik birikmalar emas, balki tilning semantik va pragmatik tashkil etilishida muhim rol o'ynovchi birliklar ekanligini ko'rsatadi.

Kalit soʻzlar: kollokatsiya, leksik birikma, semantik prosodiya, freym semantikasi, mustahkamlanish, diskurs.

ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИЯ ПОНЯТИЯ КОЛЛОКАЦИИ

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Аннотация

В статье рассматривается лингвистическая интерпретация понятия коллокации в рамках современных лингвистических теорий. Анализируются теоретические основы коллокаций, их структурные и семантические свойства, а также их положение между идиомами и свободными словосочетаниями. Рассматриваются взгляды таких ученых, как Фирт, МакКеон и Радев, Холлидей и Хасан, Мельчук и Поулсен, с целью всестороннего освещения развития исследований коллокаций. Особое внимание уделяется когнитивным и функциональным аспектам, включая понятия закрепленности (entrenchment) и фреймовой семантики. Результаты показывают, что коллокации представляют собой не просто устойчивые лексические сочетания, но и важные единицы, участвующие в семантической и прагматической организации языка.

Ключевые слова: коллокация, лексическое сочетание, семантическая просодия, фреймвая семантика, закрепленность, дискурс.

LINGUISTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CONCEPT OF COLLOCATION

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Abstract

This article examines the linguistic interpretation of the concept of collocation within the framework of modern linguistic theories. The study analyzes the theoretical foundations of collocations, their structural and semantic properties, and their position between idioms and free word combinations. The views of scholars such as Firth, McKeown and Radev, Halliday and Hasan, Mel'čuk, and Poulsen are reviewed in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of collocation studies. Particular attention is given to the cognitive and functional

aspects of collocations, including the notions of entrenchment and frame semantics. The findings show that collocations are not merely habitual lexical combinations but also significant units that contribute to the semantic and pragmatic organization of language.

Keywords: collocation, lexical combination, semantic prosody, frame semantics, entrenchment, discourse.

In modern linguistic research, the study of lexical co-occurrence has become a crucial area for understanding how meaning is structured and conveyed in natural language. Words rarely occur independently in discourse; instead, they tend to form conventional combinations that reflect the structural and semantic organization of language. These recurrent combinations are widely known as collocations. The concept of collocation was first systematically introduced by the British linguist J. R. Firth, who proposed that the meaning of a word could be understood through its habitual co-occurrence with other words. His famous statement, “You shall know a word by the company it keeps,” emphasizes that lexical meaning is closely connected with patterns of contextual usage [3: 190-215]. This perspective marked an important shift in linguistic theory, highlighting the significance of lexical environment in meaning construction.

Subsequent developments in corpus linguistics and lexical semantics expanded Firth’s ideas. Sinclair [10: 179] argued that language is largely composed of semi-prefabricated units, many of which appear in predictable lexical combinations. According to Sinclair, collocations represent one of the fundamental organizing principles of lexical meaning in discourse. Halliday and Hasan [5: 374] further demonstrated that collocations contribute significantly to textual cohesion. In their model of lexical cohesion, collocational relationships serve as links that connect different parts of a text, thereby ensuring semantic continuity and coherence. Another influential approach is represented by McKeown and Radev [8: 1-19], who emphasize the intermediate nature of collocations. They argue that collocations occupy a position between idioms and free combinations. While idioms are semantically opaque and fixed, and free combinations are fully productive, collocations demonstrate partial lexical restriction despite their relatively transparent meaning.

Recent research has also explored the cognitive dimension of collocations. From a cognitive perspective, collocations are considered entrenched patterns that emerge from repeated language use and gradually become part of speakers’ mental representations [13;6]. Such patterns are shaped by frequency effects and conceptual associations within linguistic experience. The purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive linguistic interpretation of the concept of collocation by integrating insights from lexical semantics, corpus linguistics, and cognitive linguistics. The article aims to examine the theoretical foundations of collocation research and to clarify the role of collocations in the semantic and pragmatic organization of language.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODOLOGY

The study of collocations has developed through several major theoretical traditions. One of the earliest approaches emerged within the London School of linguistics, particularly in the works of Firth and his followers. In this tradition, collocation is defined as a habitual co-occurrence of lexical items within a given linguistic environment [3;10]. Sinclair later introduced the concept of semantic prosody, which refers to the evaluative meaning associated with particular collocational environments. According to this theory, words acquire positive or negative connotations through repeated association with specific lexical contexts [10;12]. For instance, the verb *cause* often appears with negative nouns such as *problem*, *damage*, or *death*, thereby developing a negative semantic prosody.

Another influential approach is the theory of lexical cohesion developed by Halliday and Hasan [5:374]. In their framework, collocations function as cohesive ties that connect semantically related words within a text. This approach highlights the role of collocations in

discourse organization and textual coherence. In Russian linguistics, collocations have often been examined within the framework of phraseology. Scholars such as Vinogradov and Mel'čuk proposed classifications of lexical combinations based on their degree of semantic cohesion and structural stability [9;14]. Mel'čuk's Meaning-Text Theory introduced the concept of Lexical Functions, which provide a systematic method for representing typical lexical combinations. Corpus linguistics has also played a major role in collocation research. Church and Hanks [2:76-83] introduced statistical measures such as Mutual Information to identify significant word associations in large corpora. Later computational approaches developed automated methods for extracting collocations from large textual datasets [11:143-177].

From a cognitive perspective, collocations can be explained through the concept of entrenchment, which refers to the strengthening of linguistic patterns through repeated usage [7;13]. According to this view, collocations become conventionalized structures in speakers' mental grammars.

Methodology

The present study employs the following methodological approaches:

- theoretical analysis of linguistic literature
- descriptive analysis of collocational theory
- comparative evaluation of different theoretical models
- interpretation based on corpus linguistics findings

These methods enable a comprehensive examination of the linguistic interpretation of collocations across different theoretical frameworks.

RESULTS

The analysis reveals several key interpretations of the concept of collocation in linguistic theory. First, collocations can be defined as habitual lexical combinations. In this sense, collocations represent patterns of lexical co-occurrence that arise from conventional language use [3;10]. Second, collocations function as mechanisms of lexical cohesion in discourse. According to Halliday and Hasan [5:374], collocational relations contribute to the semantic unity of a text by linking semantically related lexical items. Third, collocations may carry evaluative meaning through semantic prosody. Sinclair [10:179] and Stubbs [12:1-267] demonstrated that words acquire pragmatic connotations based on their typical collocational environments. Fourth, collocations can be formally modeled using Lexical Functions within the Meaning-Text Theory [9:120-130]. This approach provides a systematic representation of collocational relationships between lexical items. Finally, collocations can be explained through cognitive processes such as entrenchment and conceptual framing. Frequent usage strengthens certain lexical combinations and integrates them into speakers' mental representations of language [7;6]. These findings suggest that collocations are not merely lexical phenomena but involve complex interactions between semantic, pragmatic, and cognitive factors.

DISCUSSION

The diversity of theoretical approaches indicates that collocation is a multidimensional linguistic phenomenon. Traditional lexical approaches emphasize the combinatorial properties of words, whereas more recent studies focus on cognitive and discourse-related aspects. From the perspective of corpus linguistics, collocations reflect statistically significant patterns of word co-occurrence. However, statistical frequency alone cannot fully explain the semantic and pragmatic functions of collocations in discourse. Cognitive linguistics offers additional insights into the nature of collocations. The concept of entrenchment explains how repeated exposure to particular lexical patterns strengthens mental associations between words [7:516]. Similarly, frame semantics suggests that lexical combinations often arise within conceptual frames that represent structured knowledge about particular situations [4:111-137]. These perspectives indicate that collocations emerge from the interaction of linguistic structure, cognitive processes,

and discourse practices. In other words, collocations are not merely mechanical combinations but meaningful linguistic constructions shaped by language use. Furthermore, collocations play an essential role in language acquisition and language processing. Native speakers possess extensive knowledge of collocational patterns, which allows them to produce fluent and natural language. In contrast, second-language learners often struggle with collocations because such combinations are not always predictable from grammatical rules alone.

CONCLUSION

The present study examined the linguistic interpretation of the concept of collocation within several theoretical frameworks. The analysis demonstrated that collocations are complex linguistic units that combine lexical, semantic, pragmatic, and cognitive properties. The research highlights the importance of integrating insights from corpus linguistics, lexical semantics, and cognitive linguistics in order to fully understand collocational phenomena. Collocations should therefore be regarded not merely as habitual lexical combinations but as fundamental elements of the semantic organization of language. Future research may further explore the role of collocations in cross-linguistic comparison, language acquisition, and computational linguistics.

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