# THE LEVELS OF CONCEPTUAL REPRESENTATION OF TIME

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Time is a topic of central interest in culture. It is an important and necessary dimension in our understanding of the world. The human conceptual system of time has been investigated in various fields of Humanities, including linguistics, which resulted in time representation in language being one of the most debated issues.

The article addresses the issues of how people construct their mental representation of time and takes a cognitive-discursive approach to the study of time as it is conceptualized in contemporary English. We consider lexical and cognitive levels of time representation, the latter being investigated on the conceptual and pre-conceptual levels. The purpose of this article is to reveal the properties of the linguistic representation of sensory and sociocultural temporal concepts consistent with the image schemas PATH and CYCLE.

Vyv Evans argues that how we conceptualize time, as encoded in language, constitutes two levels of organization [1]. First, there is the notion of a lexical concept, a level of representation that relates to discrete units of language such as the word "time", which is polysemous. There is another level, the level of cognitive models, which are larger-scale representations involving integrations of distinct lexical concepts for time. These constitute much more complex representations for time.

We hypothesize that time correlates not only with the conscious (conceptual) level of cognition, but also with the subconscious (preconceptual) level. The preconceptual level is represented by image schemas, "relatively abstract conceptual representations, which derive from sensory and perceptual experience. Accordingly, they derive from embodied experience" [2, 106]. So, the image schema correlates

with the pattern of the sensory experience of a person's interaction with the environment.

Thus, the meaning of the lexical units gives access not only to the conceptual units, revealing the experience of the temporal interaction of the person with the world (*temporal concepts*), but also to cognitive units of preconceptual nature (*image schemas*), the content of which is the sensory (physical) experience of the perception of events that take place in time.

Preconceptual semantic bases of temporal lexemes consist of the image schema CYCLE, which combines temporal reality with rhythmical repetitions of spans of time, and PATH, which conveys a perception of time as a simple sequence of events.

Concepts denoting a span of time, which can be logically or visually perceived, are sensory concepts. Concepts not corresponding to the material world, belonging to the socially determined calendar system, are sociocultural. We aver that the image schema CYCLE correlates with lexemes which in certain contexts actualize semes "repetition" or "cycle". Lexemes, the meaning of which is based on the image schema PATH, associate with the semes "past", "present", "future" and "point in time".

The analysis of the means of concept objectivation shows that the sociocultural concepts DAY OF THE WEEK, MONTH, SEASON, HOLIDAY and the sensory concept SPACE OF TIME are based on the image schema CYCLE. Sensory concepts PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE and sociocultural concept POINT IN TIME correlate with the image schema PATH. The connotations of the lexemes verbalizing temporal concepts denote their natural and geographical, personal and social meaning.

**References:** 1. Evans V. A Glossary of Cognitive Linguistics / V. Evans. – Edinburgh : Edinburgh University, 2007. – 239 p. 2. Evans V. The Structure of Time : Language, Meaning and Temporal Cognition / V. Evans. – Amsterdam ; Philadelphia : John Benjamins Pub., 2003. – 286 p.