

MENTAL MODEL FORMATION IN PHRASEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS: A
DISCOURSE-ORIENTED STUDY OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK

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Abstract: *This paper explores the role of mental model formation in the interpretation and use of phraseological units in English and Uzbek within a discourse-oriented framework. Unlike traditional approaches, this study emphasizes the interaction between cognition and context. Phraseological units are treated as triggers of mental representations that guide discourse comprehension.*

Keywords: *mental models, discourse analysis, phraseology, cognition, pragmatics, English, Uzbek.*

Introduction

Phraseological units are essential elements of linguistic systems, reflecting both cognitive structures and communicative practices. This study focuses on how such units activate mental models that help individuals interpret meaning in discourse. Unlike previous research, this paper highlights dynamic meaning construction. The concept of mental models allows us to understand how speakers mentally simulate situations described in language. Phraseological expressions serve as shortcuts to complex meanings, making them important for efficient communication.

Theoretical Background

Mental models are internal cognitive representations that individuals use to understand reality. In linguistics, they help explain how meaning is constructed during communication. Phraseological units activate these models through culturally embedded knowledge.

Discourse analysis further explains how meaning depends on context. Phraseological units function as cohesive devices, linking ideas and structuring communication. Understanding phraseological units involves several processes. First, background knowledge is activated. Second, context shapes interpretation. Third, inferential reasoning helps derive intended meaning. These mechanisms demonstrate that meaning is not fixed but dynamically constructed during communication. **Cross-Linguistic Perspective:** English and Uzbek share universal cognitive mechanisms, but differ in cultural content. Uzbek expressions often rely on traditional and context-rich imagery, while English expressions may be more generalized. These differences highlight the importance of cultural knowledge in interpreting phraseological units. **Implications:** The findings are relevant for translation, language teaching, and intercultural communication. Developing phraseological competence requires understanding both cognitive and contextual factors.

Conclusion

Phraseological units play a key role in discourse by activating mental models. Their interpretation depends on cognitive processes and cultural knowledge. This study contributes to cognitive linguistics and discourse analysis.

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