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The notion of a derived word from the perspective of conceptual blending

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Abstract. The article is devoted to the analysis of a derived word from the position of conceptual blending theory. The ability of a derivative word to convey human knowledge about the world and objectify propositional structures gives the right to define a derivative word as a cognitive structure that transmits knowledge and generates new meanings. In this respect, it can be studied from the position of conceptual blending theory.

Key words: Derived Word, Cognitive Structure, conceptual integration, mental space, domain, blend, cognitive mechanism, generating a new meaning.

Through the development of cognitive linguistics, the cognitive approach is becoming increasingly important in the study of derivational processes. In this regard, works are currently appearing devoted to the study of word formation processes from the perspective of cognitive linguistics. The object of our research is a derivative word, that from the perspective of cognitive linguistics is considered as a unit of systematization and storage of human knowledge about the world.

The derived word acts as a linguistic way of representing knowledge structures and its evaluation, since it is the basic unit of the word formation process. Consequently, the nominative function of word formation is to consolidate new conceptual meanings, expressed through various knowledge structures in a language with the help of word-formation means. E.S. Kubryakova and S.G. Sheydaeva note that the need to form a new word is due to the emergence of a new concept or phenomenon in a language.

In its original form, a word exists as long as it is relevant to the speaker. As soon as new knowledge arises, there is a need for its linguistic representation. Consequently, the word changes its form, or new expressions, new words appear in the language system.

Hence, there are, as it were, twofold requirements for the form and meaning of the indicated unit - both from the side of cognition and from the side of communication, which predetermines the method of "packaging" knowledge in a derived word. The ability of a derivative word to convey human knowledge about the world and objectify propositional structures gives us the right to define a derivative word as a cognitive structure that transmits knowledge and generates new meanings.

Unlike a simple word, a derived word can also be considered from the perspective of the theory of conceptual integration, which also confirms the cognitive essence of derived words. The possibility of considering a derivative word from the point of view of the theory of conceptual integration is due to the following properties of a derivative word: dismemberment, predicativity, implicitness, idiomaticity, motivation.

A derivative word is a form of consolidation of knowledge structures that conveys certain information and, accordingly, plays an important role in human cognitive activity. Consequently, from the perspective of cognitive linguistics, a derived word is considered as a complex conceptual structure. In this case, a derivative word is formed on the basis of existing concepts (concepts) in the language system and represents their complex interaction. The formation of a derivative word gives rise to a new meaning.

These conclusions represent a definition of the mechanism of conceptual integration, which means we dare to say that the derived word must be considered from the perspective of the theory of conceptual integration. In order to illustrate the mechanism of conceptual integration in a derived word, let us consider and analyze as an example the derivative word "sheepish", the semantics of which potentially contains the

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meaning: prescribing characteristics to a person. Based on this, the concept "sheepish" serves as the source space, and the concept "man" serves as the focal space.

The common mental space is the abstract sense of "resemblance, likeness", which is conveyed by the suffix "–ish". Based on lexicographic sources and collective experience, we identify the conceptual features of the original mental space "sheepish":

Sheepish:

1. <u>Meek</u>, <u>timid</u>, <u>stupid</u> resembling a sheep (M-W. E. D).
2. Affected by or showing <u>embarrassment</u> caused by <u>consciousness</u> of a fault (M-W. E. D).
3. Looking or feeling <u>embarrassed</u> because you have done something <u>silly</u> or <u>wrong</u> (O. E. D).
4. Showing or feeling <u>embarrassment</u> from <u>shame</u> or <u>lack of self-confidence</u> (C. E. D).
5. <u>Slightly uncomfortable or embarrassed</u> because you have done something <u>silly</u> or <u>wrong</u> (L. E. D).
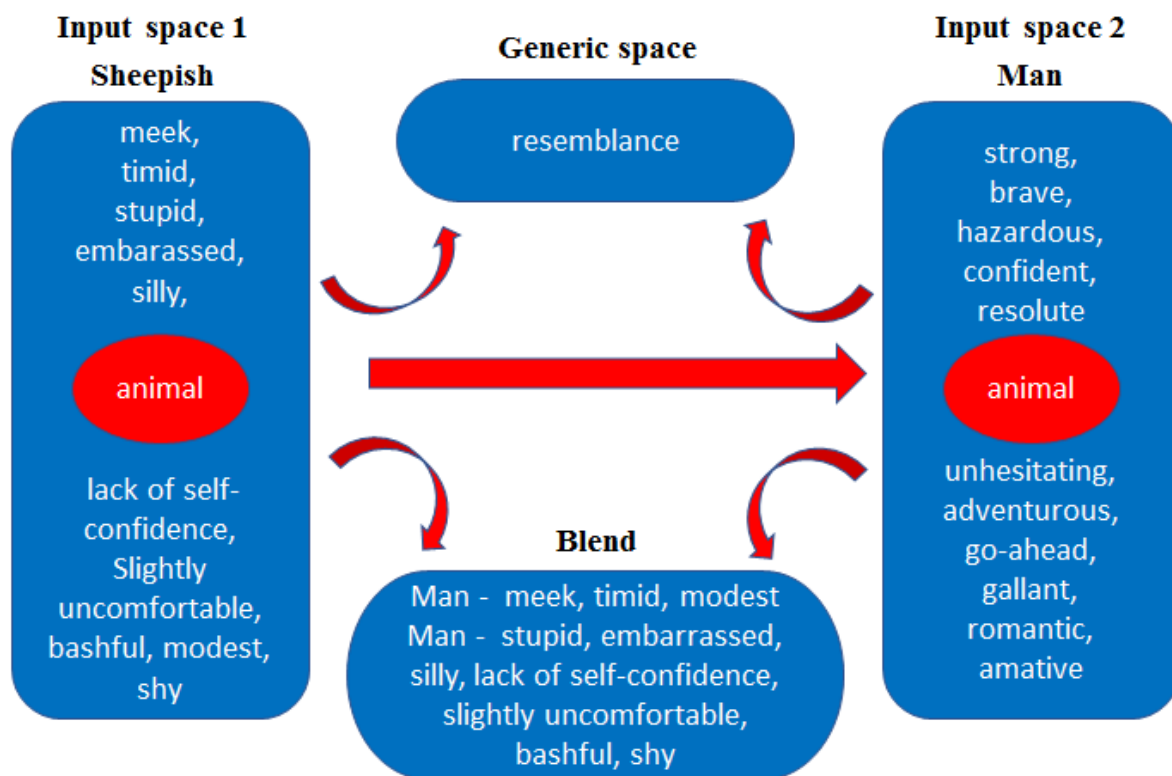
According to lexicographic sources and collective experience, the following conceptual features of the concept can be identified:

"sheepish" (Input I): <u>meek, timid, stupid, embarrassed, consciousness, silly, wrong, shame, lack of self-confidence, slightly uncomfortable, bashful, introverted, modest, shy, withdrawn, awkward.</u>

Similarly, using lexicographic and associative dictionaries, we represent the conceptual content of the focal space

"man" (Input II): <u>male, adult, strong, brave, hazardous, confident, resolute, unhesitating, adventurous, go-ahead, gallant, romantic, amative.</u>

Below we present a diagram of the mechanism of conceptual integration in a derived word *"sheepish"*:

Pic.1. The mechanism of conceptual blending in the derived word «sheepish»

As is obvious from this diagram, the process of conceptual integration also includes the processes of focusing, defocusing, emergence and inference. Focusing manifests itself in the fact that the peripheral features of the source domain transform into the nuclear features of the focal domain, while the peripheral features of the focal domain are defocused and neutralized.

As a result of such interaction, on the basis of a certain similarity, new meanings are generated in the blend, which are manifested in the fact that the derived word receives the meaning of animation and person,

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to which the negative properties of the animal "sheep" are attributed. It is important to note that the blend generates signs of both a positive and negative nature.

In conclusion, it must be emphasized that the cognitive approach to the study of word formation is the most relevant today, as it helps to identify the relationship between the means of the word formation process and the various knowledge structures fixed by them in the language. The basic unit of word-formation processes is the derivative word. From the perspective of cognitive linguistics, a derived word is a cognitive structure that conveys knowledge and generates new meanings.

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