

**MODERN LINGUISTICS: A COGNITIVE SCRIPT OF THE SITUATION WITH TRANSMITTED RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE BASIS OF GERMAN MODAL WORDS**

***LINGUÍSTICA MODERNA: UM ROTEIRO COGNITIVO DA SITUAÇÃO COM INFORMAÇÕES CONFIÁVEIS TRANSMITIDAS COM BASE EM PALAVRAS MODAIS EM ALEMÃO***

***LINGÜÍSTICA MODERNA: UN GUIÓN COGNITIVO DE LA SITUACIÓN CON INFORMACIÓN CONFIABLE TRANSMITIDA EN BASE A PALABRAS MODALES ALEMANAS***

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**ABSTRACT:** The article examines a cognitive script of the transmission of reliable information on the example of German modal words (MW). To achieve the goal of the study, a cognitive method was used, the main postulate of which is considered to be the active interaction of the structure of consciousness (mental representations) and the structure of the language. It is primarily about the representation of mental processes and their results in the language. The emergence of the cognitive method is associated with the attention of linguists, first of all, to the person himself or herself and his or her consciousness. With regard to the concept of reliability, we should note our understanding of reliability as an indication of the qualification of information as corresponding to reality, which does not cause doubts among members of a certain community.

**KEYWORDS:** Cognitive linguistics. Cognitive script. Reliability. Modal word. The german language.

**RESUMO:** O artigo examina um roteiro cognitivo de transmissão de informações confiáveis a partir do exemplo de palavras modais alemãs (MW). Para atingir o objetivo do estudo, foi utilizado um método cognitivo, cujo postulado principal é considerado a interação ativa da estrutura da consciência (representações mentais) e a estrutura da linguagem. Trata-se

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*principalmente da representação de processos mentais e seus resultados na linguagem. O surgimento do método cognitivo está associado à atenção dos linguistas, antes de tudo, à própria pessoa e à sua consciência. No que se refere ao conceito de confiabilidade, devemos observar nosso entendimento de confiabilidade como um indicativo da qualificação da informação como correspondente à realidade, que não causa dúvidas entre os membros de uma determinada comunidade.*

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** *Linguística cognitiva. Roteiro cognitivo. Confiabilidade. Palavra modal. A língua alemã.*

**RESUMEN:** *El artículo examina un guión cognitivo de transmisión de información fiable sobre el ejemplo de las palabras modales alemanas (MW). Para lograr el objetivo del estudio, se utilizó un método cognitivo, cuyo principal postulado se considera la interacción activa de la estructura de la conciencia (representaciones mentales) y la estructura del lenguaje. Se trata principalmente de la representación de los procesos mentales y sus resultados en el lenguaje. El surgimiento del método cognitivo está asociado a la atención de los lingüistas, en primer lugar, a la persona misma y su conciencia. En cuanto al concepto de fiabilidad, cabe señalar nuestro entendimiento de la fiabilidad como un indicio de la calificación de la información como correspondiente a la realidad, que no suscita dudas entre los miembros de una determinada comunidad.*

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** *Lingüística cognitiva. Guión cognitivo. Fiabilidad. Palabra modal. El idioma alemán.*

## Introduction

Modern linguistics which originates in Ancient India, Greece, and Ancient Rome is characterized by a rather long and difficult historical development, in which a gradual change in several scientific paradigms can be distinguished. The emergence of a new anthropocentric paradigm is associated with the phenomenon of a man himself. In previous linguistic paradigms man and his thinking were not taken into account in the study of language, despite the obvious fact that language and man are inseparable from each other.

The 70-80s of the 20th century were marked by the emergence of such a direction in linguistics as cognitive linguistics, which, according to Alefirenko, should develop new theoretical programs and methods for studying the parallel operation of two systems: linguistic and mental (ALEFIRENKO, 2008, p. 75-78). From the point of view of cognitive linguistics, which arose as a result of the study of artificial intelligence, language appears as a means of encoding, storing, transmitting information. Cognitive linguistics studies those cognitive structures and processes that are inherent in humans as *homo loquens*. A systematic

description and explanation of the mechanisms of human assimilation of language and the principles of structuring these mechanisms are in the foreground (DEMYANKOV, 1994).

In general, we can agree with Gorodova who rightly notes that the focus of cognitive linguistics is on the category of knowledge, its types and methods of their display in language, due to the fact that language is the main means of fixing, storing, processing, and transmitting knowledge (GORODOVA, 2015, p. 75).

## **Methods**

The present study was carried out from the standpoint of a cognitive approach aimed at learning the language from the point of view of its participation in human cognitive activity. The problem of knowledge, which occupies one of the key positions in epistemology, becomes relevant in addition to philosophy and for linguistics. The recently noted importance of the problem of knowledge for linguistics is associated with an increase in its interest in the cognitive aspects of language. The cognitive method, which is actively developing in the mainstream of anthropocentrism, is now one of the leading trends in linguistics. According to Kibrik, a cognitive approach to language is the belief that a language form is ultimately a reflection of cognitive structures which include human consciousness, thinking, and cognition (KIBRIK, 1994). The cognitive method is based on taking into account the characteristics of the speaking person as an observer, in other words, as a living organism in the physical (and social) environment (KRAVCHENKO, 2004, 2007). As mentioned above, the focus of cognitive linguistics is on the problems of the connection between language and consciousness, the place of language in the process of cognition of the surrounding world. The article proposes a universal cognitive scenario of the transmission of reliable information. Dictionaries and texts of German-language fiction served as the material for the study.

## **Results and discussions**

### **The concept of a cognitive script**

One of the key concepts in cognitive linguistics is the concept of a cognitive script, which is understood as “structures of consciousness that describe standard scenes of events” (BARANOV, 2018, p. 18). Despite the attempts to change the concept of a cognitive script to another concept of cognitive linguistics, a frame, these concepts should still be diluted. As Baranov rightly noted, unlike a frame, which is a structure for representing knowledge about a

typed situation at the declarative level, a script is “a conceptual structure for a procedural representation of knowledge about a stereotyped situation or stereotyped behavior” (BARANOV, 2018).

Speaking about the cognitive script, we should note that many researchers (POPOVA; STERNIN, 2007) understand the script as a series of several episodes in time; as repetitive episodes with signs of movement and development. In this respect Boldyrev’s (2014) position on understanding the cognitive script is remarkable: the script is a dynamically presented frame as a certain sequence of specific stages, episodes, and fragments unfolded in time (PANCHENKO, 2009, p. 54–55). This understanding of the cognitive script is supported by many linguists (ANDRIEVICH, 2012; MILOVANOVA; KULICHENKO, 2012; WANG, 2016; YUSUPOVA, 2021;). In fact, we can talk about frames that unfold in time and space, while a script describes a series of events and includes the sequence of scenes, events, or actions.

We are close to the point of view of Lakoff, who believes that to study the cognitive script it is important to note that the script is based on the following structural diagram: source - path - aim, where the source is the initial state, the aim is the final state and the events between them are considered as points on the path (LAKOFF, 2005).

### **The concept of reliability**

Regarding the concept of reliability, which is in the focus of study in philosophy and logic, we point out that it characterizes knowledge, the truth of which has an evidence base and is not questioned. The philosophical understanding of reliability consists in approaching it as one of the ways of existence of truth, in which the coincidence of the correspondence between cognition and the object and the knowledge of this correspondence at a certain stage of historical development appears for the social subject as fully established (POPOV, 2001, p. 55).

For the sake of fairness, it should be noted that the appeal to reliability in linguistics is associated primarily with the category of modality, namely with subjective modality, which is understood as the expression of the speaker’s degree of confidence in the reliability of the message.

Regarding the interpretation of the concept of subjective modality, two approaches can be noted: narrow and wide. In contrast to the wide approach, which studies for the most part any manifestation of the speaker’s attitude to the meaning of the utterance, including negation

affirmation, the narrow approach pays attention to the meanings of reliability, probability, presumptiveness. In linguistic literature it is customary to operate with three main situations of reliability or varieties of subjective modality: categorical reliability, problematic reliability, and simple reliability. The situation of categorical reliability is associated with sufficient, in the opinion of the speaker, knowledge about the information being reported. At the same time, a very high degree of his confidence in the correspondence of this information to objective reality is expressed. A situation of problematic reliability, on the other hand, correlates with insufficient knowledge of the speaker. We are talking about conjectural knowledge, and the speaker expresses varying degrees of his confidence in their truth. In a situation of simple reliability, the speaker believes that his statement does not require substantiation. Note that none of these situations speaks of the full correspondence of the situation to the true state of affairs, since later it may turn out to be either appropriate or not corresponding to reality. For our study, the first situation is significant, since the second correlates with conjectural knowledge, while the latter is not marked. As for the means of expressing reliability themselves, due to the syncretism of their semantic structure, they are considered as markers of various categories, for example evidentiality, epistemic modality, and epistemic status (SHAKIROVA *et al.*, 2016).

Reliability can also be investigated from the point of view of a communicative approach. Panchenko assigns reliability to the communicative category and correlates the cognitive categories of “reliability” and “truthfulness”, where reliability is included in the area of truth. The conceptual space of reliability includes truth, sincerity, and trust, presented in a pragmatic aspect by the condition of the truth of the content of the statement, the condition of the speaker’s sincerity and the condition of the addressee’s trust (PANCHENKO, 2010). Reliability can be considered as a result of a person’s mental activity (his or her analysis of the information received and its classification as reliable). According to Panchenko, there is a combination of two plans in the concept of reliability - correspondence to the real state of affairs in the world and the subjective confidence of a person in an adequate interpretation of this correspondence (PANCHENKO, 2009).

Another researcher Shteba (2017) insists on the dependence of reliability on the communicative aim of the speaker. The linguistic features of the reliability / unreliability of the text, according to Shteba, include a) communicative accuracy / inaccuracy; b) informative redundancy / insufficiency; c) neutrality / emotionality; and d) depersonalization / empiricism of the text.

Sinitsyna (2018), on the contrary, classifies reliability as a subjective category on the ground that it depends on the speaker's inner conviction and confidence in the truth of the information received. Reliability serves to assess the factual status of the proposition by the speaker.

Summarizing the previous discussion, we dare to assert that the concept of reliability is connected with the qualification of information as corresponding to the surrounding reality with varying degrees of speaker's confidence.

### **The cognitive script of transmission of reliable information**

The cognitive script of the transmission of reliable information in the German language is represented by the MW: *augenscheinlich, bekanntlich, bestimmt, erwiesenermaßen, freilich, gewiss, keinesfalls, keineswegs, natürlich, offenkundig, selbstredend, selbstverständlich, sichtlich, tatsächlich, wahrhaftig, wirklich, unbedingt, zweifellos, zweifelsfrei, zweifelsohne*. Among them, the basic words are *wirklich, natürlich, and gewiss*, as the MW of the highest frequency. The number of linguistic units expressing the semantics of reliability indicates the importance of reliability in the linguistic picture of the world.

The main situations in which the reliability of information is marked by means of MW can be reduced to the following three: 1) the situation related to direct contact with the described phenomenon; 2) the situation correlated with the speaker's inner intuitive conviction; and 3) the situation of knowledge from the speaker's past experience.

The denotational situation of reliability is the transfer of reliable information from one interlocutor to another. Reliability is regarded as a positive representation of objects and phenomena of objective reality by the consciousness.

The cognitive script of the situation in which reliability is assessed consists of the following scenes:

- 1) The speaker, whose role can perform any member of society, has some information;
- 2) The speaker performs a number of actions necessary and sufficient to convey information and evaluate it as reliable;
- 3) Under the influence of the speaker, the recipient of the information either accepts this information without objection, or disputes it, giving his or her arguments in favour of the opposite opinion, his or her own vision of the situation.

The cognitive script of the transmission of reliable information includes, first of all, two participants: the speaker, in other words, someone who possesses some information and transmits it as reliable and the recipient of the information, the one to whom the information is transmitted. The presuppositional part contains the following situation: the speaker has certain information about a situation, while the recipient of the information may know about it, but may not know or not know the details. Further, the speaker carries out a verbal influence on the recipient of information, convincing him of the reliability of the situation. The recipient of the information may agree or disagree with the speaker's point of view, or even show indifference.

The speaker who has made a conscious choice in favour of the transmission of marked reliable information may have such characteristics as activity (performs an action) and authority (status). As a rule, by transmitting information the speaker tries to convince the recipient of the reliability of his message: Ich habe wirklich Angst, glaub mir; ich lüge nicht (H. Böll "Billard um halbzehn"); (I'm *really* scared, believe me; I'm not lying...).

From the point of view of morality, a person transmitting reliable information is usually characterized as a decent and honest person. At the same time, it should be noted that MW can mark unreliable information. In the following example, according to the plot of the novel, the information is not reliable. The use of the MW *wirklich* is due to the speaker's desire to convince and thereby reassure the recipient of the information. Meanwhile, this information, as the heroine herself claims in a communicative context, does not affect the heroine's state of mind, reflecting only the inaccessibility of external manifestations of feelings: Ich versicherte meiner Mutter per Eilpost, daß es mir gutginge, mein seelisches Befinden keiner mütterlichen Sorge bedürfe und sie bald ausführlich von mir hören werde. Es ging mir – äußerlich gesehen – *wirklich* gut (B. Noak «Die Zürcher Verlobung»); (I assured my mother by express mail that I was fine, that my mental health did not require any maternal concern and that she would soon hear from me in detail. From the outside, I was doing *really* well). There is a motivation for behavior in a denotative situation: the transmission of unreliable information is carried out, as a rule, with a specific communicative aim: to reassure the recipient of the information or to obtain some benefit. This behavior can be assessed both positively and negatively. The transfer of unreliable information as reliable is assessed as an extremely negative act, except in cases of a white lie.

The recipient of information acts as an object of the speaker's speech influence, either passively accepting reliable information or taking on an active role (confirmation or negation). If in the first of the following examples the recipient of the information completely

agrees with the speaker, then in the next one this cannot be said: "Du hast, so scheint es, eine feine Nase, junger Mann", sagte er ... "eine *zweifello*s feine Nase, aber ... " "Ich habe die beste Nase von Paris, Maitre Baldini ", schnarrte Grenouille dazwischen (P. Süskind" Das Parfum. Die Geschichte eines Mörders "); ("You have, it seems, a fine nose, young man," he said ... "an undoubtedly fine nose, but ...". "I have the best nose in Paris, Maitre Baldini", Grenouille snarled in between). Gregors Lachen schallte durch den ganzen Raum. »Ich weiß *wirklich* nicht, was daran so amüsan ist«, sagte ich pikiert. Er versuchte, sein Lachen zu unterdrücken. »Also entweder bist du das Opfer einer gelungenen Gehirnwäsche oder deine Menschenkenntnis weist noch größere Lücken auf, als ich dachte.« (S. Kornbichler «Im Angesicht der Schuld»); (Gregor's laugh echoed across the room. "I really don't know what's so amusing about that," I said, piqued. He tried to suppress his laughter. "So, either you are the victim of a successful brainwashing or your knowledge of human nature shows even bigger gaps than I thought.").

In addition to the two obligatory participants in the cognitive script of transmitting reliable information, one can single out an observer (or observers) who can know about the reliability or unreliability of the information transmitted and can perform both an active (to support or to refute) and a passive (to observe) role in a communicative situation. In the following example an observer, represented by an unfamiliar man, enters into a conversation to support the speaker's words: Mein Freund Harald wohnt jetzt da, und der lässt Sie *bestimmt* nicht rein. Nein, der kleine Harald lässt niemanden mehr rein ... sagte ein Mann am Fenstertisch (Ju. Kuckart "Kaiserstraße"); (My friend Harald lives there now and he will definitely not let you in. No, little Harald has not let anyone in since he was last HIV-positive, said a man at the window table and laughed). The predicate of reliability can be represented by an animate (the truth about someone) or an inanimate denotatum (the truth about something).

## Conclusion

The appeal to the cognitive script contributes to the disclosure of nationally specific traits of native speakers and universal characteristics in the mental pictures of peoples. The cognitive script of the situation with transmitted reliable information includes, in addition to the speaker and the recipient of information, also observers who can either side with the speaker or challenge his statement, or remain silent at all. MW mark situations in which the subject evaluates the reliability of the message and transfers it to another person. Moreover,



MW perform a certain communicative function, the function of persuasion, calming down, etc. Despite the fact that the speaker assesses the information as unambiguously reliable, cases of unreliability of such information are not excluded. The transmission of reliable information does not always receive a positive assessment in a communicative context. Thus, being representatives of cognitive script, MW reflect certain culturally and nationally determined stereotypes of assessing the reliability of a message. At the same time, it is important to emphasize that the cognitive situation of reliability can be represented by other linguistic means, for example, by the verbs of information.

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