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**METAPHORICAL MODELS IN THE VERBS SPFERE OF UNDERSTANDING IN GERMANIC AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES**

Metaphors of understanding are quite varied. They are based on some deep notion that provides wide opportunities to form new words and their metaphorical meanings. Since the process of understanding involves the human and the reality, different views on relations between humans and facts give ground to different types of metaphors.

Verbs of understanding that belong to Germanic (German and English) and Slavic languages (Russian and Ukrainian) demonstrated common vision of these situation and corresponding metaphors.

Five main types of metaphors were identified as related to: 1) movement; 2) truth acquisition; 3) light; 4) vision; 5) blow.

1. Movement. The role of movement metaphors in mental lexicon is noted repeatedly. Intellectual human activity can only be performed in movement and often has no other external revelations. Humans never stop thinking and a person is always "on the way to knowledge." Depending on who is active – the subject or the object – the situation can be understood in two ways: 1) as the movement of people to the truth and on the contrary, 2) the movement of truth in the direction of people.

3. Light. In Russian the metaphor of light is of particular importance for conceptualizing understanding. It is the basis of mental meanings of many words, for example: *просветить* (enlighten), *пролить свет* (shed/throw light), *высветить* (highlight), *осветить* (illuminate), *прояснить* (become clear), *озарить* (dawn), *блеснуть* (shine – about opinion). This metaphor in English is the source of such verbs and verbal expressions as *become clear*, *dawn* (literally 'become clear'), *flash* ('to see the way out'), *see the light* (to understand what is going on). The metaphor of light is also found in German and Ukrainian languages: German *einleuchten* (become clear, obvious); Ukrainian *висвітлювати* (highlight).

4. Vision. Metaphor ‘understanding is vision’ is closely linked to the metaphor ‘light is understanding’ since sight gives people much more comprehensive information about the objects of the external world than any other senses.

The deep connection of vision and thought is revealed in language. For example, in English the verb *see* means *understand* (based on visible signs) as in *I don't see his objective*; as well as *discern, make out* (to distinguish, to understand), *become evident, insight*, (have a deep understanding, provide insight) as in *to see the joke*, similar to German *einsehen* (understand), *(etw. aus etwas) ersehen* (understand something as a result of something); Russian *разглядеть*, *присматриваться* (see, look closely); Ukrainian *побачити* (see). In Russian, basic verb of visual perception *видеть* (see) also has mental value *understand*.

5. Blow. Processing understanding as push, a flash or a shot (electrical as well) is the basis for many metaphorical transfers, for example English *the truth suddenly burst upon him* (suddenly it dawned on him, suddenly he understood); *he had a hunch* (it suddenly dawned on him); German *er würde plötzlich von einem glänzen den Einfall erleuchtet* (a bright idea suddenly flashed), *jetzt hat es bei mir gezündet/gefunkt* (literally I saw a blow), Russian *его ударило, толкнуло, подтолкнуло; стукнуло* (he was hit, pushed, knocked down), *пронзила мысль* (an idea pierced him); Ukrainian *йому спало на думку* (it occurred to him).

In summary, understanding as verbalized in English, German, Ukrainian and Russian languages is based on universal metaphorical types (light, dark, truth movement towards the human, human movement towards the truth, vision, acquisition of truth, blow). The most productive metaphor to describe the process of understanding of comparative languages is the metaphor of light. Metaphor of movement and metaphor ‘understanding is vision’ also play an important role in the verbs of intellectual activity in all of the compared languages.

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