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ABSTRACT

of the Dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**COGNITIVE ANALYSIS OF AFFIRMATION
(*BASED ON ENGLISH MATERIALS*)**

Speciality: 5708.01– German languages

Field of science: Philology

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESEARCH

The actuality and the usage rate of the research work: The development of cognitive linguistics in recent times requires the investigation of a number of linguistic categories from a cognitive point of view in Azerbaijani German studies. Since cognitive linguistics is a new branch of linguistics, there are many debatable issues in its theoretical issues and research methods. Although there is a lexical system of the language, a multitude of language units and mutual relations between them, they should be studied in detail from a cognitive point of view. Affirmation, which is the opposite of negation in English grammar, is a broader category in cognitive linguistics and has not yet been studied from a cognitive perspective. Affirmative action, a universal linguistic phenomenon, is observed in all languages and at different levels of language systems. It plays an important role in communication activity, as it is the main means of affirmation expression. Addressing the topic is about the importance of a deeper understanding of affirmative action at different linguistics levels. In Azerbaijani German studies, issues such as the polarization of semantic grading, meaning and polysemy of the category of affirmation have not been the object of research until now, that is, this category has not been systematically investigated from a cognitive perspective. Systematic examination of affirmation in research work, semantic classification, meaning and polarization of this category determines the actuality of the topic. Today, it is important to study the study of affirmativeness based on English language materials because the theory of learning a foreign language more perfectly by thinking and understanding it in that language itself has been proven in practice. How non-native speakers of English communicate in a foreign language, how they understand affirmation in the process of reading, and how they understand the mixed linguistic semantics of this category reveal the need for a cognitive analysis of affirmativeness. Because modern linguistics is formed around the human factor. The term cognition tries to study how information is

understood in the human brain¹. In recent times, there are many objective and subjective reasons for the rapid increase in the number of studies and researches related to both cognitive science and linguistic-psychological problems of language, both in Azerbaijani linguistics and in German studies. Most importantly, language is a linguistic-psychological phenomenon, and all categories and concepts in language serve to fulfill the purpose of communication. The functional-semantic processing of affirmativeness, its expression at different levels of the linguistic structure, and the fact that it is a mental process acquires interest in the cognitive analysis of this category.

The object and subject of the research. The object of the study is markers of the affirmative category in modern English. The subject of the research is the hierarchical analysis of affirmativeness within the functional-semantic category with linguistic and non-linguistic means.

The aim (purpose) and objectives of the research. The research of cognitive affirmation at different language levels based on English language materials is the main goal of the dissertation. The following tasks emerged from this goal.

- Exploring the concept of affirmation from linguistic and philosophical sources;

- To determine the communicative-cognitive nature and purpose of affirmative action. Analysing the category of affirmativeness within real language activity;

- To discover the unique aspects of affirmativeness as a semantic phenomenon;

- To study affirmativeness at different language levels and in relation to other language categories;

- To analyze the understanding of affirmativeness by means of paralinguistic expression;

- Defining affirmativeness according to cognitive concepts;

¹ Encyclopedia of Linguistics (edited by Prof. F. Veysalli). Volume II / – Baku: Mutercim, 2009. – 528 p.

- Determining the relationship of affirmative action with various sciences, especially with psychology and philosophy, and its psychological understanding;
- To analyze the lexical, syntactic and grammatical units of affirmativeness;
- Defining cognitive linguistics models;
- Defining affirmativeness as an expression form of modality;
- To analyze the gradual affirmative modality;
- To determine the cognitive constructions in the understanding of affirmativeness;

Research methods and techniques. A set of methods including semantic interpretation, cognitive and contextual analysis was used in the thesis for the issues raised. Mainly descriptive method in research work, observation method, structuralist research method, linguistic analysis, contextual analysis, discursive analysis and comparison method were used.

The main provisions of the defense are as follows:

1. Like other categories of modality, affirmativeness is a means of expression of modality. Affirmative modals, like other modals, are understood lexically, semantically, and pragmatically. In addition to these, the inherent subjectivity feature gives reason to consider affirmativeness as a complete category of modality.
2. Affirmative action can be expressed through non-linguistic means of expression, considering cultural differences.
3. Affirmativeness is a linguistically based category because, like other linguistic categories, it emerges with a specific iconic motivation. Affirmation is related to cognitive "paths" that evoke images of comprehensiveness, completeness, wholeness, existence in human cognition.
4. Affirmative action cannot be viewed as a mechanical procedure. Constructions are good candidates for affirmative markers. Because they have an internal affirmative feature and emphasize the positive meaning of the idea.

Affirmativeness itself should be understood not only as a formal feature, but also as a construction that requires the active participation of those involved in the act of communication in a graded semantic process and allows alternative transitions in its expression. Thus, affirmativeness should be seen as a category referring to many subsystems, whose specific configuration varies from situation to situation.

5. The category of affirmativeness is closely related to other language categories.

6. Affirmativeness is a gradual category with variable coordinates, weak and strong affirmativeness, as well as implicit and explicit affirmativeness can be created.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the research consists in reviewing the types of affirmativeness, the role of cognitive modeling - constructions during their verbalization, investigating the polarization of semantic grading, meaning and ambiguity of the category of affirmativeness as an important semantic category of the language system, and analyzing the possibilities of affirmativeness in the expression of modality.

– For the first time in the research work, affirmativeness in Azerbaijani German studies was investigated from the cognitive aspect, involving linguistic and non-linguistic means of expression.

– The development of the English language, its international language, requires that the affirmative, which is one of the most widespread categories of human language, be analyzed on the functional-semantic level. It has been involved in research at various functional language levels, such as communicative speech act.

–In the study, affirmativeness was treated as a semantic category with variable coordinates.

– Gradual, implicit, explicit, pragmatic units of the affirmative were analyzed for the first time within the framework of the cognitive paradigm.

–Numerous constructions and semi-constructions forming affirmatives were also involved in detailed research in the dissertation work.

Theoretical and practical significance of research. Taking into consideration the theoretical importance of the research, the basis for

studying affirmation, which is considered the most universal phenomenon of languages, is created in the theoretical base of cognitive linguistics. The increasing interest in English as a second foreign language, the issues of language learners and native speakers understanding of affirmativeness, and the fact that affirmativeness is at the center of human cognition, have brought it into the sphere of interest of cognitive linguistics. If not, affirmative action would not be the subject of such an interesting study.

It can be useful in translation and lexicographic practice from research work, in the practice of teaching English and Azerbaijani languages, in special courses on cognitive linguistics, in the philology faculties of higher schools, in the teaching of certain special subjects at the bachelor's and master's levels, in the preparation of textbooks, and in further scientific researches.

Approbation of the research. The topic of the dissertation work was approved at the meeting of the Scientific Council of Nakhchivan State University on February 27, 2020 (protocol 6). Doctor of Philological sciences, Professor A.A.Abdullayev has been appointed as the scientific leader. The topic of the dissertation was registered on September 29, 2021 at the scientific meeting of the Humanities problem council of the Republican Scientific Research Coordinating Council (protocol 2) and under the title "Cognitive analysis of affirmativeness (based on English language materials)" in the specialty 5708.01- "Germanic languages". The contents of separate sections of the research work were discussed at the meetings at the Chair of the "English language and translation" at Nakhchivan State University. The main provisions of the research were published in 11 articles and conference materials (including 2 abroad).

The name of the organization where the dissertation has been accomplished.: The research work was carried out at the "English language and translation" department of Nakhchivan State University.

The volume of the structural sections of the dissertation separately and the total volume with a sign. "Introduction" 6 pages - 11322 signs, Chapter I 55 pages - 101258 signs, Chapter II 68 pages - 128684, "Conclusion" 4 pages - 7889 signs, references 15 pages - 21339 signs. The total volume is 150 pages – 272773 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

The "Introduction" part of the dissertation substantiates the the relevance of the topic, the object and subject of the research, the goals and objectives of the research, research methods, the main propositions defended, the scientific novelty of the work, the theoretical and practical importance of the research, as well as the approval and structure of the work.

The first chapter is entitled "**The concept of affirmative action**" and consists of three section, 1 subsection. In the first paragraph entitled "**The concept of affirmativeness in linguistic and philosophical studies**", the concept of affirmativeness is explained based on linguistic and philosophical studies. Different approaches of philosophers and linguists to affirmative action are examined here. Problems related to affirmative action have historically attracted the attention of researchers. The first attempts to explain this category go back to ancient Greece and India. (Vaisheshikv and Nyaya schools). The main concept of these schools is the understanding of affirmative judgments as an ontological object. The study of affirmation in the works of ancient philosophers was based on two opposite forms of Aristotle's human thought: affirmativeness and negativity². According to his observations, an opinion about anything that is denied by someone is an affirmation.

Affirmation, which refers to the laws of exact sciences, means "underlying", "existing" and directly "exact", "safe", "undoubted". Aristotle thought that affirmations come before negations in many ways, and in the work "Metaphysics" he said that affirmations are better understood than negations (because the affirmation, like existence being prior to non-existence, also explains the negation)³.

Not just negative sentences, but all negative statements in general convey less information than affirmative statements. However, it is true that negative expressions have an emphatic,

² Wolf, L. Degrees of assertion: \ – Ph.D. dissertation \ – Ben Gurion University, – 2013. – 204 p.

³ Lyons, J. Language, meaning and context / J.Lyons. – Bungay, Suffolk: Fontan Paperbacks, – 1981. – 256 p.

reinforcing function⁴. As negations have more symbols than affirmations, they are psychologically more confusing and difficult to understand. It is emphasized here that most philosophers, linguists and psychologists think that negation is realized due to affirmation. During the communication process, a person tries to implement communication that satisfies his goals and desires. Because human thinking and cognition is completed with confirmation. When the teacher prepares the lesson program, he compiles the subjects which are required, and the student puts the textbooks he needs every day in his school bag. A person's mind always goes from a stressful situation to a "soft" one. A person associates surrounding objects, events, things with their functioning or being active. That is, an image suitable for denial is not formed in the human psyche. Basically, in oral speech, implicit negation is expressed through the prism of affirmation. The use of negatives in this way is related to the culture of peoples. Since it is important to maintain relations between people, communication is not an obvious, but a hidden form of denial⁵.

In this paragraph of the dissertation work, affirmation in different cultures is also explored.

The literary explanation of affirmativeness can be easy enough - to emphasize that something is true with certainty. However, on detailed examination, it appears that this term is too ambiguous and is primarily a semantic category. The second section of Chapter I is called "**The scope and polysemanticity of affirmation**". In fact, all linguistic means invented in language are intended to convey meaning during communication. People have the ability to convey and analyze an event or situation that happened to them in alternative ways. People use the ideas and sentences in affirmations for different purposes. As we mentioned, cognitive linguistics is also related to psychology. In this section of the dissertation, "self-affirmatives" are also analyzed. There is value in self-affirmations because they play an important role

⁴ Aristotle. First Solutions \ trans. Ali Houshiary, - Ankara: Dost Book house Publications, - 1988. - p. 83-84

⁵ Marcin, G. The Semantics of Affirmation Serbian, Other Slavic Languages and English in Cognitive Analysis \ G.Marcin. – 2013. – 122p.

in reflecting our subconscious thoughts, desires, and making certain events happen in our lives.

In this section of the dissertation, the functional communicative use of affirmative is also analyzed. Affirmativeness is widely expressed in functional language styles because they play an important role in communicating knowledge, reflecting beliefs, and expressing the inner state of the speaker⁶. Colloquial style is expressed as the actual existence of the language and is the "mental" place of the nation, its daily life, worldview, customs, way of thinking, idiosyncrasy of the national worldview. Here, it would be appropriate to emphasize that affirmation as a functional semantic category also has a logical, psychological basis and a modality character. For the functional semantic category of affirmativeness, implicit or explicit types of affirmativeness can be distinguished. This type of affirmative is verbalized by lexical, semantic, morphological and syntactic means. The implicit affirmative is monosemantic and is expressed immediately. Implicit affirmative is expressive and is not directly related to affirmative meaning, but is verbalized by grammatical means. For example, in literary language it requires a more complex deep and perceptive process. It depends on the context and is expressed by auxiliary linguistic units. Implicit affirmation is expressed by means that are not obvious at the grammatical levels of the language. At the same time, it should be noted that the main parts of speech, that is, nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs belong to the center identification of the affirmative category. Subgroup affirmative identification includes phrases represented by lexemes containing adverbs, modal words, interjections, and evaluation. Affirmativeness includes comparison and phraseological structures in peripheral (secondary) expressions of meaning. The use of emotive words for the verbalization of implicit affirmation comes from their characteristic of conveying different human feelings.

Typically, expressive affirmative-sentences are marked by negative rhetorical questions. Rhetorical questions are dominant in the

⁶ T.M.Ismayili. \ Colloquial Expression of the Affirmative Category \ Penza: European Research International Scientific Conference, – February 7, 2022. – p.155-158.

affirmative function because they contain a hidden affirmation. In rhetorical questions, two syntactic meanings occur at the same time. Questions and opinions are expressed. In our opinion, the main task of these types of sentences is to convey a message. Rhetorical questions are the communication of the author's thoughts or emotional response to the message being conveyed. This draws attention to the falsification of the denial and encourages the listener to make his own judgment.

The following criteria can be included in the implicit affirmative statement: evaluation lexemes in the colloquial language, such as perfectly\brilliantly\well\splendidly\cool\extarordinarily\ incredibly\ perfectly\ excellent\ magnificent\ are often used. It means satisfaction, encouragement, excitement, gratitude, joy, approval, sincerity. – So how was the concert? It was cool! (– Konsert necə keçdi? – “Möhtəşəm idi!).

Similar to "yes" which is acquisition; (O.K. All right), participation of lexical units, formation of sentences without means of negation and question intonation, participation of sentences expressing pragmatic meanings of affirmative, repetition of elements that strengthen communicative pragmatism of affirmative potential, strong affirmations are obtained with the presence of stable word combinations expressing joy, pride, existence. Phraseological units, which are means of expression of obvious affirmativeness, are pragmatically important. My precious son is the apple of my eye (Mənim dəyərli oğlum gözümün işığıdır). In the expression of affirmativeness by morphological means, the particle "yes" is also its dominant marker. Among the means of transmission of affirmativeness, its syntactic markers also prevail.

The most productive markers of implicit affirmativeness are declarative sentences at the syntactic stage. Affirmative words and sentences are implicit markers of its understanding. Affirmativeness can even strengthen the transmission of each lexeme with a logical emphasis in the sentence. Thus, the speaker focuses on any word in the sentence. This is semantically and stylistically very important in the speech situation. As a result, various functional stylistic sentence options emerge.

Alternative questions are non-prototypical examples of interrogative sentence patterns. They combine syntactic intonation and pragmatic narration with a question. This type of sentence offers an affirmation and has a more directional function. Impersonal sentences are also intensifiers of affirmative contexts. *It must be delightful to find oneself in a foreign country with a good friend (Özünü xarici bir ölkədə yaxşı bir dost ilə görmək əla olardı).*

Affirmative meaning can also be expressed by phraseological combinations expressing approval\ liking, completeness - to hit the very target\ to slap like in eye\ choose the right suit, etc.

A: This year the prices of the driving courses are more expensive A: *This year the prices of the driving courses are more expensive. Last year you **chose the right** suit by attending driving courses (Bu il sürücülük kurslarının qiymətləri daha bahalıdır. Keçən il sən kurslara davam etməklə doğru seçim etdin)*⁷.

The second subsection of Chapter I of the dissertation is entitled "The role of gestures and mimics in the communication of affirmative action" and deals with the communication of affirmatives through non linguistics means. Language, as a means of communication, ensures understanding between people, and this process is never limited. The language develops within the borders of the country where it is spoken with the traces it has carried since the past. The contribution of culture to language, the path followed by language and culture is decisive for the people of that country. During communication, people use signs and symbols in order to resemble the places they are talking about, to express their feelings and thoughts. They increase the impact of what they say by adding different meanings to their conversations with their body movements. All cultures have common gestures, among those gestures used to convey the concept of affirmative action is also important. Although it differs from culture to culture, all people in the world have an innate sense of using gestures. Due to cross-cultural differences, there can be many situations such as misunderstandings or disagreements in non-verbal

⁷ IELTS 13 Cambridge English Academic / –Malaysia: Cambridge University Press, – 2017. – 104 p.

communication. It is indisputable that knowing and showing tolerance to cultural differences is a requirement of the modern era.

We should take into account that although body language sometimes has the same characteristics in a communicative context, verbal language still has its own characteristics. People of any field can acquire different gesture habits due to their profession. For example, a machinist uses a variety of different gestures influenced by the names of engines, cars, garages, and even the various tools he uses. In the geography lesson, the teacher uses his hands to indicate that the world rotates or moves his hands and arms up and down to show the mountains on the earth, the geography teacher uses gestures to support the verbal explanation in order to support what he is explaining in this example⁸. The goal here is simply to be able to focus the learner's attention on the lesson, increase motivation, and speed up the learning period. Even highly educated people use different gestures in their daily communication. During the Patriotic War, Mr. President İlham Aliyev used to clench his fist every time after the news that our army defeated our hated enemy and freed one of our regions from occupation. This was a symbol of the strength and unity of our people and our army. "Iron Fist" is not just strength, it's unity⁹. It can be said that this "iron fist" became a gesture known around the world. The meaning of nonverbal messages can differ between cultures, races, and sometimes even genders. Paints applied by people in previous societies before hunting, fighting and similar events, symbols of power in the hands of kings who defied artists, flags and garments of arms belonging to armies, etc. it was a kind of communication tool¹⁰.

Gestures also have the function of transmitting information during speech. People from the same culture use gestures to complete verbal communication involuntarily. When people do not speak the

⁸ Cienki, Alan. Gesture and (cognitive) linguistic theory \ In R. Caballero Rodriguez, M. J. Pinar Sanz (eds). – London: –Ways and modes of human communication, – 2012. – 45-56 p.

⁹ Azerbaijan Television // <https://aztv.az/en/resmi/prezident-i-lham-liyev-bu-gun-az-rbaycan-xalqi-yumruq-kimi-birl-sib>

¹⁰ Liu, S. Introducing Intercultural Communication / London: Global Culture and Context / S. Liu, Z.Volcic, C. Gallois. – SAGE, – 2010. – 398 p.

same language, non-verbal communication becomes the most important tool. People look for a path in non-verbal communication during intercultural communication. These observations prove that gestures and speech are inseparable. From the semantic point of view, it is an inseparable pair, it is a system¹¹.

The third section of the Chapter I entitled "**Affirmativeness expressed by negation**" explores affirmatives expressed in different negative means. Morphologically, negation is marked and affirmation is unmarked. In general, the unmarked member is semantically more neutral and tends to become neutral. Affirmativeness can be expressed through different levels of negation. In all these cases, the original negative expressions are interpreted as affirmative by changing within the framework of the contradiction system.

In grammar, we know the distinction between affirmative and negative sentences. According to the rules of grammar, all sentences can be negative or vice versa affirmative. But can all logically negated or affirmed sentences be true? It does not make sense to deny the sentence "Everybody needs good health" according to grammatical rules. Because cognitive linguistics is a field of linguistics that focuses on the understanding of the sentence, its meaning, the psychological state of the person saying it, and how the interlocutor understands it, it better reveals the analysis of affirmatives understood pragmatically with negations.

In this part of the dissertation, affirmatives expressed in different ways of negation were grouped and analyzed. Expressing affirmativeness through negations is the process of actively moving the object into the affirmative zone, and in certain contextual conditions are auxiliaries with affirmative signs. The expression of affirmativeness with negatives depends on the semantic direction of

¹¹ Ismayilli, T.M. The role of paralinguistic means of expression in conveying the concept of affirmativeness / - Nakhchivan: Scientific Works of Nakhchivan State University, No. 1 (110), - 2021. p.82-86.

the sentence and additional modal shades appear¹². There are many differences between the two categories, but they also have many common features¹³. From the examples given in this section, it can be seen that negation can be understood as affirmative, and this is a phenomenon that often occurs with negative sentences in natural language.

The grammatical category related to affirmativeness and negativity is called polarity. This means that any combination, sentence, verb combination, etc. it has either affirmative (positive) or negative (negative) polarity, in other words, its polarity will be either affirmative or negative. Affirmativeness is usually an unmarked polarity, while negative polarity is often a marked polarity. The process of turning affirmativeness into negativity is referred to as negation in linguistic literature

The second paragraph of the chapter II of the dissertation is called "**Affirmativeness and models of cognitive linguistics**" and entitled "**Functional approach to language and cognitive models**". A primary feature of cognitive linguistics is to analyze linguistic analysis according to what we know about cognition. Functional linguistics (functionalism) is a set of schools and currents that emerged as a branch of structural linguistics and are characterized by focusing on the functionalization of language as a means of communication. A basic cognitive principle is that language is about meaning, everything in language is intended to convey meaning, and all linguistic devices were invented to convey meaning in communication.

The first subsection of the chapter II of the dissertation work is entitled called "**Constructive approaches to language**".

Typical constructive understandings of affirmative action may differ in their internal structure and degree of complexity. The

¹² Kazimov, G.Sh. Problems of text linguistics (preface to the book "Actual membership and Text" by A. Abdullayev) / G. Sh. Kazimov. - Baku: Khazar University publishing house, - 1998. - 190 p.

¹³ Ismayilli, T.M Affirmativeness expressed by negation / Nakhchivan: Scientific Works of "Nakhchivan" University, No. 1 (24), - 2022. - pp. 172-177.

constructionist approach seems to have many advantages when dealing with the main semantic nuances that emerge in a grammatical category. Affirmativeness covers many categories both lexically and grammatically and carries all the characteristics of a graded phenomenon. In addition, most of its constructive expressions have a multilevel and hybrid structure.

Cognitive linguistics argues that metaphor is a central pervasive feature of human language and cognition. Metaphors allow traditional coding from sensorimotor cognition to be used for cognitive pathways of subjective experience¹⁴. Thus, conceptual metaphor theory explains how one idea or conceptual cognition can be understood under the terms of another. In the conceptual approach, metaphors are transformations of a cognitive pathway that transitions from a source pathway to a target pathway. The most prominent feature of conceptual metaphors is that they preserve meaning.

Every language has a system of spatial relations. In fact, spatial relationships are not objective in reality, that is, rather they are ordered in our thinking through the spaces we see. In other words, ideas don't simply float around in the world, instead they are created and encoded in our brains. This gives the opportunity to form the most important fundamental and primitive cognitive mechanism in the system.

Section II of paragraph I of chapter II of the thesis is called "**Affirmativeness and cognitive modeling**". Such a question prompts the most active field of cognitive modeling. How we learn about perceptual entities. Cognitive model categorization can be called prototype model. According to this model, a person learns samples from each category throughout his life. That is, when a target is presented, the similarity of this target is evaluated separately for each category and stored in memory. For cognitive linguists, language comprehension is not a simple mental process. When a person listens to any speech or reads a text, he is in a completely different process from the listener on the other side. A cognitive model characterizes a

¹⁴ Шевякова, В.Е. Актуальные членение предложения / В.Е.Шевякова. – Москва: Наука, – 1976. – 135 с.

concept as either graded or ungraded. Cognitive models also have an idealized character.

The second section of chapter II of the dissertation is named "**Affirmativeness as a form of expression of modality.**"

This section examines how affirmativeness is a type of modality and how its expression involves syntactic and lexical markers. Affirmative modality is, in general, more resistant to linguistic identification and should be analyzed for at least three reasons. These include: a) differences in the degree of formal marking b) membership in more than one grammatical category c) close affiliation with other modal categories, in particular, attitude. Modality is not a new phenomenon in the language system. The concept of modality is explored not only in linguistics, but also in philosophy, psychology, logic, mathematics, and semiotics. Ontological modality in philosophy, logical modality refers to the degree of expression of an idea, i.e., its stylistic reality. In our opinion, not taking into account the semantics of affirmativeness and restricting its formal features is completely wrong. Affirmativeness, like other types of modality, is related to the evaluation of the same situation and their existence in different worlds.

In the field of modality in a broad sense, most researchers mean the change of a part of the sentence or the specialization of the sentence taking into account the speaker's attitude. Affirmativeness is the dominant category as a type of modality. Modality is the grammaticalization of the speaker's thoughts and attitudes. Modality also occurs with the subjective assessment of actual acts and facts, including potential realities. In the case of affirmative modality, speakers implement their ideas either by emphasizing or by transferring a positive value to the semantic structure of the idea they say as an additional component. This type of affirmative polarity is advanced in opposite or negative contexts to negation. Affirmativeness, like other types of modality, can be expressed lexically, syntactically, and pragmatically. But in most cases weak affirmative is a closed, formally unmarked category. Strong affirmative modality is expressed by extended variants or more advanced constructions of auxiliary verbs, while weak affirmative

modality is expressed by short variants.

*The Chinese restaurant will fall down-the Chinese restaurant will **definitely** fall down* (Çin restoranı uçacaq- Çin restoranı, **mütləq**, uçacaq)¹⁵.

Modality lies between negation and affirmation of meaning, that is, it indicates whether the process is realized or not. In a social context, a person as a language user exchanges his/her linguistic experience. In this exchange of ideas, the language user can give his suggestions and comments. Affirmative modals in English can be understood by many grammatical means.

But one of the weakest characteristics of modal words is that it is neither a purely grammatical nor a lexical category. If we look at it from a grammaticalization approach, modality has three main linguistic realizations, and it is established at important points in the lexical-grammatical continuum. The first group of modality markers is built from lexical units. For example: main verbs - want, require, suggest, insist, think, believe and adverbs - probably, possibly, necessarily, indeed actually, truly, etc.

The second group includes auxiliary verbs with analytical signs - is\are\am\was\were\have\has\had and modal verbs - can\could\ may\ might\ shall\should\ will\ would\must. Finally, the most grammatical type of modality is the form determined by morphological (inflectional- tone change) marking¹⁶. English has a wide variety of lexical and grammatical means of expressing a large number of modality forms. Although the two classes of deictic and epistemic modality are very common, in fact, most modal verbs do not belong to either of them, that is, their expression depends on the context in which they occur

*He **must** come - O, gəlməlidir (deontic m).*

*He **must** have come yet - O, gəlmiş olmalıdır (epistemic m).*

The confusion between the types of modality is based on the difference in intensity and the semantics expressed by one of these types.

¹⁵ Oxford English Dictionary // <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/definitely>

¹⁶ Mammadov, A.Y. Discourse study / A.Y. Mammadov, M.Y. Mammadov. - Baku: - 2013. - 78 p.

Through the present analysis, affirmativeness is viewed as a graded and ambiguous category and is based on prototype-based structures. It is polysemous because its individual interactions are understood as a network of meanings. Apart from disambiguation, affirmative modality shows other prototypic effects such as gradation. It can be concluded from here that affirmative action is a multi-faceted phenomenon. Its more than two main (strong \weak) points link its linguistic expressions. Affirmative modality can be strengthened by introducing lexical enhancers and numerous manipulatives, affirmative constructions, prepositions, doubling affirmative forms, conjunctions that have a multiplying effect¹⁷. Modality is the most important feature of natural language. The speaker-centeredness and inherent subjectivity make affirmativeness a very abstract type of modality. The formal expression of the strong forms of the affirmative modality tends to be expressed by the long, full form and strong variants of auxiliary verbs and is controlled by the language system. By referring to expression, the speaker's goal is to correct or change the mental expression formed in the interlocutor's mind. Affirmativeness as a type of modality is used more often than other types of modality. Thus, it is considered a different type of modality both functionally and formally. It cannot be limited to the opposite (polarity). For example, ability (I can speak English) or obligation (the door must be closed). Affirmative as a modality is used because it grounds situations in possibility and subjectivity.

The first subsection of paragraph II of the dissertation, entitled "**Affirmative modality in complex and subordinate clauses**" mentions that strong affirmative modality is often used in parts of complex sentences where the speaker wants to emphasize a part of the given information. Affirmative action is a mental process and is attached to a given thought by language users. It is said that affirmative modality is surrounded by structural realizations with semantic

¹⁷ Ismayilli, T.M. Affirmativeness as a form of expression of modality // – Nakhchivan: Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences Nakhchivan Section Art Language and Literature Section / No. 1 (16), – 2022. 84-89 p.

content and various forms, and can be ranked from very weak and abstract to strong and emphatic expressions.

The third section of Chapter II of the dissertation work is called "**Cognitive constructions in the realization of affirmativeness**". Numerous constructions that create affirmative meanings are included in the research work. Construction is like a cognitive bridge between meaning and form, semantics and syntax. Since form and meaning are inextricably intertwined, the construction analyzer performs syntactic and semantic functions, analyzes it, creates a syntactic network and forms semantic relations, which is called constructive analysis. Modern linguistic research draws attention to the meaning areas of the language rather than the communicative and cognitive aspects. In such studies, more attention is given to the study of the meaning structure of words and paradigms, the semantics of words within the framework of syntactic members, semantic convergence, distance, connection in the case of a sentence, phraseological unit, context and text, and the definition of the meaning expressed by the parts of the general content¹⁸. From the point of view of communicative linguistics, there is a need to reveal the meaning expressed by the word on the basis of cohesion on the basis of relationships with different components, to take into account the influence of extralinguistic factors on the meaning, the role of the lexical unit in meaning and text creation..

Imaginal quantifiers and conjunctions play an exceptional role as affirmative news markers. Beyond their semantic properties, higher-level constructions are created and these are used in affirmative marking. However, it is noted that affirmativeness is context-sensitive and not limited by any specific linguistic elements and grammatical constructions. It is also emphasized that one of the ways to analyze affirmativeness in language is to examine its structural relations. The first subsection of the Chapter II analyzed "**Affirmativeness marking by conjunctions**". Semantically, the function of a conjunction is to bring things together and reflect things. Thus, the

¹⁸ Хэллидей, А.К. Место “функциональной перспективы предложения” в системе лингвистического описание / А.К.Хэллидей. Перевод с англ.языка в новое в зарубежной лингвистике. – Москва: – 2008. – с.138-149.

conjunction is considered a positive participle and, due to its semantic feature, expresses affirmativeness and acts as its participle. Conjunctions present in the language are one of the logical participants in the expression of affirmativeness. It is emphasized that the function of repetition, which is an important function of the conjunction "and"- "and" is effective in the process of marking affirmativeness. For example, over and over, through and through, higher and higher. *The sound of the fire louder and louder, and then James was at my head. He spoke to me quietly; "Come, my beauty, we have to go now wake up and come with me. We'll soon get out of this smoke".* (Atəşin səsi getdikə daha da yüksəlirdi, sonra isə Ceyms təpəmdə idi. O, sakitcə mənə yaxınlaşdı; "Gəl, gözəl, indi getməliyik, oyan və mənimlə gəl. Tezliklə bu üstüdən çıxacağıq)¹⁹.

By repeating the same form, the speaker wants to emphasize a fact or a real situation. Substructures such as prepositions, doubling, and quantification also reinforce the affirmative meaning. Specific affirmative constructions receive their internal properties from other constructions, which leads to the growth of a hierarchical configuration of one or more constructions. The topics in all sub-chapters of the thesis are proved with theoretical explanations as well as examples from real speech and works of art

In the "Conclusion" part of the dissertation, the results of the research are summarized as follows:

- 1) If we take into account the approach of representatives of various sciences, especially linguistics and philosophy, to the affirmative, the reason why positive examples are cognitively ahead of negations is that affirmations are simpler and negations are obtained by adding (deniers) to affirmations.
- 2) The primary feature of affirmativeness in language should be understood in terms of cognitive coordination. Because affirmativeness is a linguistic category whose coordinates are variable and is closely related to other linguistic categories. Affirmative action is subjective, epistemic and speaker-

¹⁹ A.Swelf, "Black Beauty", Pearson English readers, – 2019. – p.12

centered. Affirmativeness is expressed in functional language styles as a functional-semantic category.

- 3) Although the most important indicator of affirmativeness in grammar is the context of opposition, it is not correct to apply the same principle of this grammatical rule to the concept of affirmative in cognitive linguistics. Its relationship with other sciences, such as psychology, logic, as a logical metalinguistic category, together with its semantic structure, shows that this rule of grammar is not valid for affirmation from the point of view of cognitive linguistics. In the process of cognitive cognition, we must take into account that affirmativeness is also a logical and metalinguistic category.
- 4) The category of affirmativeness is expressed in lexical, grammatical and syntactic language stages. In the language of spoken and fiction literature, the main parts of speech belong to the identification core of the affirmative category. Subgroup identification includes words represented by customs, modal words, exclamations, lexemes, idioms, and phraseological structures. The sole purpose of stating affirmatives with various negative phrases is to highlight the strength of the affirmatives in the sentence. Double negation, metalinguistic negation, is not a redundant linguistic phenomenon, but rather an affirmation.
- 5) Linguistic and non-linguistic means of expression, including gestures, facial expressions, various body movements, play an important role in conveying affirmations. Gestures and speech are inseparable. From the semantic point of view, it is an inseparable pair, it is a system. Because cultural differences may sometimes cause misunderstandings of affirmative gestures, these differences should be taken into account in intercultural communication.
- 6) Constructions that form affirmative meanings include "comprehensiveness", "addition", "completeness". The meaning of "completeness" is one of the most prototypical ways of expressing the affirmative and an important element.

- 7) Affirmativeness is a linguistic sign of certain dynamic mental operations. There is a theory of self-affirmation in psychology. This theory is closely related to affirmatives in linguistics. Self-affirmations, play an important role in the formation of people's self-integrity and self-identity characteristics.
- 8) Affirmativeness can be expressed implicitly and explicitly. In other words, all lexical, syntactic and grammatical units can participate in the formation of overt and hidden affirmatives. Semantic factors are important for the understanding of such an important syntactic category as affirmative.
- 9) Affirmativeness as a gradual phenomenon is located in categorization knowledge and category prototype structures.
- 10) Affirmative modality, like other types of modality, can be expressed lexically, syntactically and pragmatically. The reason why affirmativeness is the dominant category as a type of modality is that the modality in this category is the grammaticalization of the speaker's thoughts and attitudes and expresses a more subjective attitude. Affirmative modality can be strengthened by introducing lexical amplifiers, multiple manipulations, emphasizing affirmative constructions, doubling affirmative forms, and conjunctions that have a multiplying effect.
- 11) Since affirmativeness is a gradual category, strong and weak affirmative modality can be fixed with different constructions. In addition, a special class of logic amplifiers has also been developed in natural language. Common quantifiers are included here. The emergence of auxiliary constructions emerged from the importance of expressing affirmative modality
- 12) One of the ways of perceiving affirmativeness is its perceptual metaphorical means. With these constructions, the meaning of the affirmative can be strengthened and expressed. Auxiliary parts of speech participate in the formation of affirmative meanings by forming constructions. There are constructions in the language that are conceptualized in the understanding of affirmative meanings

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following articles by the author:

1 Cognitive Linguistics // – Nakhchivan: Nakhchivan State University "Scientific Works" journal, Humanities series, – 2020. No. 1 (102), – p. 140-142

2. Cognitive analysis of affirmation // – Baku: Materials of the 1st International Scientific Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, – July 24, 2020. – p.162-165

3. Self-affirmatives // - Baku: Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Nakhchivan Department, Institute of Arts, Language and Literature (Research), – 2021. – No. 1, Volume 15

4. The role of gestures and mimics in conveying Affirmation concept // - Nizhnevartovsk: The Bulletin of Science and Practical Journal in Crossref, – April 2021 – p.120-127.

5. The role of paralinguistic means of expression in conveying the concept of affirmativeness // – Nakhchivan: Nakhchivan State University Scientific Works, No. 1 (110), – 2020. – p. 82-86

6. Conjunctions as an affirmative sign in cognitive linguistics, // - Baku: Proceedings of the VI Republican Conference of Scientific Resources, February 4, – 2022. – p. 26-29

7. Affirmation expressed by negation// – Nakhchivan: "Nakhchivan" University Scientific Works, – 2022. – No. 1 (24) p. 172-177

8. Colloquial Expression of the Affirmative Category”// - Penza: European Research International Scientific Conference – 2022, 7 fevral, – p.155-158

9. "All" indefinite pronoun as an affirmative sign // - Baku: Proceedings of the VIII International Scientific Research Conference, – April 26, 2022.– p. 30-33

10. Affirmativeness as an expression form of modality // - Nakhchivan: Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, Nakhchivan Department, Department of Art, Language and Literature (Axtarışlar), – 2022. – No. 1 (16) p. 84-89

11. General Cognitive Overview to The Category of Affirmation // - German International Journal of Modern Science, № 31, – 2022. – P.53-55

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