

Morphosyntax & semantics – lecture 1

Cognitive Grammar

Topics in linguistics

- Language in society (sociolinguistics)
- Language and culture
- History of language
- Origin of language
- Language in the brain (neurolinguistics)
- The sound system of a language (phonetics & phonology)
- Mechanism behind production and comprehension (“grammars”).
- ...

Cognitive skills

- Categorization
- Focusing of attention
- Perception of similarities
- Perception of relations
- Alternate mental representations of an event
- Metaphor and metonymy
- ...

Cognitive linguistics

- Cognitive linguists believe that cognitive skills are essential for understanding language.
- In cognitive linguistics expressions are believed to reflect speaker's way of thinking about the given situation.
- Cognitive grammarians believe that cognitive skills are essential for understanding the mechanisms of production and comprehension.

References

- Langacker, Ronald W. 2008. *Cognitive Grammar. A Basic Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.
 - Chapter 1
- Langacker, Ronald W. 2013. *Essentials of Cognitive Grammar*. Oxford-New York: Oxford University Press.
 - Chapter 1
- Taylor, John R. 2002. *Cognitive Grammar*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 - Chapters 1-3