

**MORPHOLOGIZED CONCEPT ECO- IN THE PROCESSES OF CONCEPTUAL DERIVATION  
OF THE ENGLISH ECOLOGICAL LINGUO-MENTAL UNITS  
МОРФОЛОГІЗОВАНИЙ КОНЦЕПТ ЕСО– У ПРОЦЕСАХ КОНЦЕПТУАЛЬНОЇ ДЕРИВАЦІЇ  
АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ ЕКОЛОГІЧНИХ ЛІНГВО-МЕНТАЛЬНИХ ОДИНИЦЬ**

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**Abstract.** *The paper focuses upon the conceptual derivation of English ecological linguo-mental units formed by the metacognitive mechanism of affixation with the morphologized concept ECO-. Through it a number of lexicalized ecocentric concepts were formed, which are actively used at the verbal level of information explication, reproducing the importance of environmental friendliness. Morphologized concept ECO- participated in the formation of lexicalized concepts that are a replenishment source of such thematic categories in the ecology field as natural phenomena and cataclysms: ECOANXIETY, ECOBLING, ECOEFFICIENCY, ECOSCAM, ECOCATASTROPHE, ECOINSTITUTE; environmental activities: ECOTOURISM, ECOMARKETING, ECOEVALUATION, ECOPROGRAMMING, ECOPRODUCTION, ECOAUDIT, ECOCRACY, ECOACTION, ECOWAR, ECOFEMINISM, ECOASSAY; property: ECOFAVOURABLE, ECOPRODUCTIVE, ECOACTIVE, ECOPRACTICAL, ECORECREATIONAL, ECOTONAL, subject: AECOCLOTHES, ECOFOOD, ECOMATERIALS, ECOMAGAZINES, ECOPRODUCTS, ECOBAGS, ECO-HOUSE; ECOARCHITECTURE, ECOCAR, ECOHOTEL, ECOLODGE, ECOLABEL, ECO-HOME; place of action: ECOPLANT, ECOZONE, ECOTERRITORY, ECOTOWN, ECOBURB, ECOREGION; sciences and branches: ECOPSYCHOLOGY, ECOHYDROLOGY, ECOHYDRODYNAMICS, ECOHISTORY; persons: ECOSPECIALIST, ECOCOORDINATOR, ECODEFENDER, ECOPROGRAMMER, ECOTOXICOLOGIST, ECOHYDROLOGIST, ECO-GUARD, ECOALARMIST. A significant number of lexicalized concepts represented in the study indicates the high activity of the morphological concept ECO- in terms of conceptual derivation of English environmental units. Morphologized concept ECO- provides eco-identification of English-language lexicalized concepts in the linguo-mental continuum.*

**Key words:** *ecology sphere, conceptual derivation, morphological concept ECO-, lexicalized concept, thematic categories.*

**Introduction.** The relevance and topicality of environmental problems and the impact on human life attracts the interest of both narrow profile scientists and representatives of interdisciplinary disciplines. Environmental problems, which are the main issue of ecology, cause the emergence of new lexemes denoting previously non-existent concepts. At present, environmental terminology continues to be developed, supplemented and studied.

At the present stage, researchers have studied in detail the processes of development and formation of English-language environmental terminology, its lexical and semantic, pragmatic and functional features. The urgency of language

research in the field of ecology is evidenced by the scientific studies of E. Balyuta [3, 4], M. Buendía-Castro [17], G. Bevzo [5, 6], A. Gagné, and M. L'Homme [19], R. Heuberger [20], O. Rosmaritsa [14], M. Salamakha [15, 27, 28], G. Usyk [16] and others.

The new vocabulary is part of the structured knowledge about ecology, presented in the human mind as a concept. In cognitive linguistics, the concept, like language, is dynamic. The array of lexicalized concepts is growing mainly due to the action of derivation mechanisms. The basis of all types of creation of derived language units is the association as the main function of human thinking. The process of a derived

word formation at the mental level is marked by conceptual derivation. It is the formation of new concepts, which takes place on the basis of information material already existing in the network of mental space concepts. The result is a "derivative mental structure" (derivative concept). Through derivative concepts, man is able to interpret new knowledge and determine its place in his own view of the world around him. The most active in derivation terms of such ecocentric concepts is the morphologized concept ECO-.

The lack of scientific coverage of the forming ecological linguo-mental units in the conceptual derivation using the morphologized concept ECO- and a significant number of such lexicalized concepts indicate the relevance of our study.

**Analysis of recent researches and publications.** Derivation processes have been studied at various levels. Thus, the features of derivation at the lexical level were actively studied by N. Amosova, V. Gak, M. Nikitin, V. Telia, D. Shmelev, derivational processes at the syntactic level were considered by E. Starikova, V. Hrakovsky and other scientists. Gradually, researchers came to the conclusion that neither the formal nor the semantic aspects of derivational mechanisms make it possible to reveal the nature of secondary phenomena.

The emergence of new approaches to the study of linguistic semantics, according to which increased attention is paid to human cognitive activity, the relationship of consciousness structures and knowledge structures, has led to awareness of the need to understand semantic shifts at a deep, conceptual level. This is what cognitive linguistics deals with, the main task of which is "to explain the constant correlations and connections that are manifested between the language structures and knowledge structures" [13, p. 9]. Among the topical issues of cognitive linguistics is the mental representation of units at different levels of the language system. In particular, the problems of multilevel linguistic representation of concepts have been the subject of research in the scientific studies of N. Besedina, M. Boldyrev, O. Kubryakova, O. Magirovskaya, O. Pozdnyakova and others. The morphological level includes morphemes of both grammatical and derivational nature.

Linguocognitive study of morphological

representation of human knowledge components in English was conducted by N. Besedina [3, 4] exclusively on the basis of grammatical morphemes, but so far there are no works of linguists devoted to word-forming (derivational) units of this language level. A significant contribution to the study of English-language morphological metaconcepts in the processes of conceptual derivation (on the material of language innovations of the late XX - early XXI century) was made by O. Garmash [10, 11, 12].

**The purpose** of the paper is to study the phenomena of conceptual derivation, which ensure the growth of a number of English ecological morphological concepts formed by the metacognitive mechanism of affixation with morphologized concept ECO-.

#### **Materials and methods of research.**

The study was based on a sample of lexicographic data recorded in English specialized and explanatory dictionaries: Cambridge Dictionaries Online, Collins English Dictionary Online, Marriam Webster Dictionary Online, Macmillan Dictionary Online, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English LDOCE, Oxford Learner's Dictionary Online, Random House Kerner College Dictionary, as well as Internet resources.

The sources of the study were journalistic texts of the British and American media: BBC, The Daily Monitor, Evening Standard, The Globe and Mail, The Guardian, The New York Times, The Star, The Telegraph, USA Today, The Washington times.

The main method used in our study is the analysis of the conceptual derivation of concepts with morphologized concept ECO-.

**Results of the research.** The process of human cognition, which consists in the development of his ability to navigate the world, is a process of forming meanings or concepts about the cognition objects [29, p.35]. The union of concepts is a system of certain human knowledge about the world or conceptual system. Some fragments of the conceptual system, which are the most important knowledge accumulated by mankind, are encoded by linguistic means and stored in language. Thus, using language in everyday life for communication or scientific purposes, we operate with certain concepts presented in our conceptual system.

Representing the world through a system of concepts, language also plays an important role in shaping the conceptual system of man, because it allows manipulating verbal symbols, manipulating the concepts of the system, thereby contributing to the creation of new conceptual entities.

The formation of new concepts in the conceptual system "occurs due to processes that are constantly carried out in the system, one of which is the conceptual derivation" [2, p. 54].

In linguistic studies of recent years, the derivation concept is increasingly extrapolated to various units of the conceptual level, which led to the formation of a large-scale concept of "conceptual derivation". This term is understood as "a cognitive process that ensures the emergence of a new knowledge structure in the conceptual system of a person" [2, p. 86].

As well as at the language level, conceptual derivation is represented by a multilateral process of the forming new various conceptual structures, ranging from conceptual features to the emergence of new concepts. If the former lead to modifications of conceptual structures, then the latter contribute to the scope expansion of one or another larger concept. Accordingly, each concept has a derivational potential, by which we mean the ability of the conceptual structure to develop due to the potentialities of each of the elements contained in it and their attributes.

In a broad sense, conceptual derivation, according to N. Boldirev, stands as "a linguistic model of changing a certain conceptual content in order to form a new meaning" [9, p. 48]. This process is based on the use and interpretation of already verbalized knowledge through its narrowing, expansion, development, restructuring, generalization or, conversely, concretization. The formation of new meaning occurs through certain language mechanisms, and the links between new and original concepts may be different, subject to different cognitive schemes and models: "part – whole", "neutralizing, strengthening or weakening a certain characteristic", "gradation of the degree of sign manifestation", "changing the perspective of the concept representation" [9, p. 48].

L. Babina considers conceptual derivation as a "cognitive process that

ensures the emergence of a new knowledge structure in the conceptual system of man on the basis of existing concepts and conceptual structures" [2, p. 54]. It is assumed that after the concepts that form the human conceptual system have been named, the language has the prerequisites for their further integration into new conceptual structures, resulting in the fixation of independent lexical meanings [2, p. 54]. Concepts born in the course of cognitive activity, having received linguistic representation, become an integral part of the conceptual system, creating, in turn, the basis for its further development and maintaining derivational links with the original structures.

The conceptual system of man is evolving, modified in the process of its interaction with the outside world. In this case, the internal development of the conceptual system is due to the processes that are constantly carried out in the system, one of which is the conceptual derivation.

In modern linguistics, there are two concepts that attempt to understand and describe the interaction of cognitive elements, which are objectified by the addition of linguistic meanings: "cognitive derivation" and "conceptual derivation". "Cognitive derivation, marked by morpheme combinations, primarily combinations of root and affix morphemes, becomes an arena of interaction of different types of cognitive units (concepts, propositions and frames) and the principles of their integration" [2, p. 53]. "Conceptual derivation" is a redistribution of meanings, in which "new concepts are formed taking into account the original, existing ones" [2, p. 54].

Following N. Boldyrev, we understand the conceptual derivation of "the forming new meaning as a result of a certain way of interpreting the original verbalized knowledge" [9, p. 47].

In carrying out the task of our work, which is to analyze the processes of verbalization of English-language ecocentric lexicalized concepts formed by the metacognitive mechanism of affixation, we rely on the opinion of O. Garmash that affix derivation is a process of creating a new component of linguo-mental environment, arising as a result of heterogeneous conceptual derivation, the source material for which are morphological and lexicalized concepts [10, p. 354].

According to linguists, the concept is

represented in the language by tokens, phrases, word combinations, syntactic structures (sentences) and texts. O. Garmash also considers it obvious that the arsenal of conceptual structures includes those concepts that are verbalized by morphological means. The latter, in turn, are divided into grammatical and derivational (affix) units. These are the mental "quanta of knowledge" that are verbally represented by derivational elements (-abuse, bio-, -crat, crio-, eco-, -erati, -friendly, -free, giga-, -gate, hyper-, -line, macro-, mega-, nano-, neo-, -nomics, -phobia, -speak, -tainment, -watcher, -wise, -wiki-, -zine), the researcher calls "morphologized concepts" (abbreviated morphoconcepts) [12, p. 20].

The most active in derivation terms of lexicalized concepts of ecological nature is the morphological concept ECO-, which, in fact, determines the "ecocentrism" of cluster content of the future derivative concept during hybridization of mirror versions of the original linguo-mental units [11, p. 48].

A study of the morphological concept ECO- shows that its significance relates to the field of ecology and the environment. Thus, in the Longman Dictionary ECO is defined as "relating to the environment" [23]. In the Collins English Dictionary, ECO means "ecology or ecological" [18]. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary provides the following definition: "a combining form representing ecology; also with the more general sense «environment», «nature», «natural habitat» [26].

Using morphological concept ECO- by the metacognitive mechanism of affixation, numerous series of lexicalized concepts were formed, which are actively used at the verbal level of information explication, reproducing the meaning of environmental friendliness.

Among the ecocentric lexicalized concepts that have emerged recently are: ECO-HOUSE, ECO-TOYS, ECO-TECHNOLOGY, ECO-GARDEN, ECO-TOUR, ECO-TOURISM, ECO-ANXIETY, ECOEDUCATION, ECO-SCHOOL, ECO-INSTITUTE, ECOMARKET, ECO-EFFICIENCY, ECOFRIENDLY.

Today the high productivity of this model is proved by the appearance of such lexical concepts: ECOTAGE, ECOCIDE, ECO-BLING, ECOVORE.

Ecotage – destructive or obstructive

action designed to publicize or harass people believed to be harming the environment [25].

According to the FBI, "eco-terrorism" or "ecotage", is now the number one domestic terrorism threat in the US, greater than that of rightwing extremists, anti-abortion groups and animal rights organisations, and on a par with al-Qaida [30].

Ecocide – damage to or destruction of the natural environment, especially as caused by human activity such as pollution, acts of war, etc. [24].

The proposal for the United Nations to accept "ecocide" as a fifth "crime against peace", which could be tried at the International Criminal Court (ICC), is the brainchild of British lawyer-turned-campaigner Polly Higgins [22].

Eco-bling – ecological gadgets and technology which do not save or produce very much energy relative to their cost [21]. "Eco-bling describes unnecessary renewable energy visibly attached to the outside of poorly-designed buildings– it's a zero-sum approach," – he said [30].

Ecovore – an idea of making food choices based on the conditions at a particular time and/or place [24].

Morphologized concept ECO- participated in the formation of lexicalized concepts that are a replenishment source of the following thematic categories in the ecology field: natural phenomena and cataclysms; environmental activities; property; subject; scene; science and industry; persons.

#### **Natural phenomena and cataclysms.**

Anthropogenic activities, industrial development, automation of production processes and other human activities affect the environment, natural resources, nature. In turn, natural changes on the Earth's surface or in the atmosphere have powerful negative consequences for the existence of living beings and humans. In this regard, the ecological terminology of the English language includes terms for natural disasters and phenomena with morphological concept ECO-, for example: ECOANXIETY, ECOBLING, ECOEFFICIENCY, ECOSCAM, ECOCATASTROPHE, ECOINSTITUTE, ECOCIDE.

**Environmental activities.** With the understanding of the importance of human conservation, with the development of

environmental organizations and improving the environmental culture of people in all countries, environmental terminology of the English language began to be supplemented with new words from the ecology field to denote activities that focus on preserving the planet's ecology, for example: ECOTOURISM, ECOMARKETING, ECOEVALUATION, ECOPROGRAMMING, ECOPRODUCTION, ECOAUDIT, ECOCRACY, ECOACTION, ECOWAR, ECOFEMINISM, ECOASSAY, etc.

**Subject.** The more states are aware of the importance of ecology and the need to preserve it for human life, the more attention is paid to the introduction of environmental technologies in human life. As a result, there are terms in the language to denote environmentally friendly products, environmentally friendly materials and new items in the field of technology. For example: AECOCLOTHES, ECOFOOD, ECOMATERIALS, ECOMAGAZINES, ECOPRODUCTS, ECOBAGS, ECO-HOUSE, ECOARCHITECTURE, ECOCAR, ECOHOTEL, ECOLODGE, ECOLABEL, ECO-HOME.

**Places of action.** Today, almost all businesses and facilities use environmentally friendly technologies. This leads to environmentally friendly areas and facilities. For example: ECOPLANT, ECOZONE, ECOTERRITORY, ECOTOWN, ECOBURB, ECOREGION, etc. Also, the ecological terms "places of action" with the concept ECO- are associated with the names of individuals, climatic conditions, etc., which exist in a particular area: ECOTYPE (these are individuals that have adapted to living in the territory), ECOTOPE (natural factors inherent in the land), ECODEME (a population of organisms that occupy a particular ecological niche).

**Property.** With the help of the morphological concept of ECO-, a number of lexicalized concepts for property designation have been formed, for example: ECOFAVOURABLE, ECOPRODUCTIVE, ECOACTIVE, ECOPRACTICAL, ECORECREATIONAL, ECOTONAL, etc.

**Persons.** In the environmental field, there are specialists who perform various functions: management, process control, direct environmental work in the field. Activists who are advocating for the conservation of natural resources, the

reduction of global warming, and so on, are also spreading around the world. This contributes to the emergence of concepts for such specialists and individuals, for example: ECOSPECIALIST (a person who studies the relationship between living things and their environment), ECO-COORDINATOR (environmental coordinators develop and implement environmental programs for companies and organizations that are not necessarily environmentally-based themselves. Coordinators are responsible for overseeing these programs and for reporting to upper management on their progress), ECO-DEFENDER (a person who loves going to events, especially outdoor events during the summer, but these events can cause significant ecological problems), ECOPROGRAMMER (a person who writes computer environmental programs), ECOTOXICOLOGIST (one who studies the immediate effect of a toxic substance on individual organisms and species in food webs, with the ultimate aims of predicting effects on wildlife populations, ecosystems and on human food resources such as fish and shellfish), ECOHYDROLOGIST (ecohydrologists study both terrestrial and aquatic systems. In terrestrial ecosystems (such as forests, deserts, and savannas), the interactions among vegetation, the land surface, the vadose zone, and the groundwater are the main focus), ECO-GUARD (someone whose job is to protect wild animals, especially those that are endangered), ECO-ALARMIST (one who alarms others with environmental issues).

**Environmental sciences and industries.** Morphological concept ECO- is a source of replenishment of the thematic category of ecology science and industry, for example: Ecopsychology (an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary field that focuses on the synthesis of ecology and psychology and the promotion of sustainability), Eco-art (any of various forms of art that promote living in harmony with the natural environment), Ecohydrology (the study of the ecological processes associated with hydrology), Ecohydrodynamics (the hydrodynamics of an ecosystem), Ecotoxicology (the branch of science that deals with nature, effects, and interactions of substances that are harmful to the environment), Ecohistory (environmental history).

Thus, as the illustrations above show, the number of ecocentric lexicalized concepts, which include the morphologized concept ECO-, is rapidly increasing. The popularity of affix derivation processes with the participation of this morphological concept outlines extremely wide opportunities for the formation of derivatives.

Modeling of conceptual knowledge structures and features of their verbalization allows us to establish that morphological concepts, functioning together with models at the metacognitive level of the linguo-mental environment, due to the processes of conceptual derivation, are reproduced at the cognitive level in lexicalized concepts. At the same time, they play the role of "identifiers" in the processes of packaging, storage and representation of verbocentric units of

information [12].

**Conclusions.** Thus, the analysis of factual material allows us to conclude that the creation of new concepts based on existing concepts is ensured by the action of conceptual derivation, which is a cognitive process. It provides the emergence of a new knowledge structure in the conceptual system of a person on the basis of existing concepts and conceptual structures. High activity in terms of conceptual derivation of English environmental units is marked by the morphological concept of ECO-, as evidenced by the significant number of lexicalized concepts represented in the study. Morphologized concept ECO- provides eco-identification of lexicalized concepts in the linguo-mental continuum.

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**Анотація.** Стаття присвячена дослідженню концептуальної деривації англomовних екологічних лінгво-ментальних одиниць, утворених за метакогнітивним механізмом афіксації з морфологізованим концептом ECO-. За його допомогою було утворено чисельну низку лексикалізованих екоцентричних концептів, які активно використовуються на вербальному рівні експлікації інформації, відтворюючи значення екологічності.

Морфологізований концепт ECO- взяв участь у формуванні лексикалізованих концептів, що являються джерелом поповнення таких тематичних категорій сфери екології, як природні явища і катаклізми: ECOANXIETY, ECOBLING, ECOEFFICIENCY, ECOSCAM, ECOCATASTROPHE, ECOINSTITUTE, ECOCIDE; екологічна діяльність: ECOTOURISM, ECOMARKETING, ECOEVALUATION, ECOPROGRAMMING, ECOPRODUCTION, ECOAUDIT, ECOCRACY, ECOACTION, ECOWAR, ECOFEMINISM, ECOASSAY; властивість: ECOFAVOURABLE, ECOPRODUCTIVE, ECOACTIVE, ECOPRACTICAL, ECORECREATIONAL, ECOTONAL, предмет: AECOCLOTHES, ECOFOOD, ECOMATERIALS, ECOMAGAZINES, ECOPRODUCTS, ECOBAGS, ECO-HOUSE; ECOARCHITECTURE, ECOCAR, ECOHOTEL, ECOLODGE, ECOLABEL, ECO-HOME; місце дії: ECOPLANT, ECOZONE, ECOTERRITORY, ECOTOWN, ECOBURB, ECOREGION; науки та галузі: ECOPSYCHOLOGY, ECOHYDROLOGY, ECOHYDRODYNAMICS, ECOHISTORY; особи: ECOSPECIALIST, ECOCOORDINATOR, ECODEFENDER, ECOPROGRAMMER, ECOTOXICOLOGIST, ECOHYDROLOGIST, ECO-GUARD, ECOALARMIST. Значна кількість лексикалізованих концептів, репрезентованих у дослідженні, свідчить про високу активність морфологізованого концепту ECO- у плані концептуальної деривації англomовних екологічних одиниць. Морфологізований концепт ECO- забезпечує екоідентифікацію англomовних лексикалізованих концептів у лінгво-ментальному континуумі.

**Ключові слова:** сфера екології, концептуальна деривація, морфологізований концепт ECO-, лексикалізований концепт, тематичні категорії.