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The conceptualization of KÆRLIGHED in Danish

Abstract:

LOVE is an abstract and very complex concept that many philosophers and, most recently, psychologists from various countries have tried to explore (Wojtyła 1960, Fehr et al. 1991, Golaszewska 1992, Fromm 2012). Although the concept seems to attract the attention of scholars across the world, the language-specific and culture-specific research in this field is scarce, since nearly all the analyses treat LOVE as an universal concept and are based on the Anglo-Saxon point of view. The present analysis is an attempt to reconstruct the conceptualization of KÆRLIGHED by Danish speakers, accounting for the uniqueness of Danish culture and language.

In the first part of the presentation, I will analyze the linguistic worldview connected to the concept of KÆRLIGHED and reconstruct the conceptualization of KÆRLIGHED based on the evidence derived from the system of Danish language. The linguistic material used in the analysis will include lexical definitions, synonyms, derivatives, compounds and phrasemes related to the lexical representations of the concept.

The second part of the presentation will focus on methodological questions and the perspectives for further research. I will, among others, discuss if one can talk about one, coherent linguistic worldview (Bartmiński 2012, Tokarski 2014) or prototype (Taylor 1995) in the case of highly abstract and complex concepts and how much information about the conceptualization of given concepts by a speech community data derived from the system of language can provide. I will also touch on the subject of defining concepts and compare different defining strategies used in the modern linguistics (Wierzbicka 1980, Bartmiński 1988, Tokarski 2014). Lastly, I will present the perspectives for further research such as cognitive metaphors, discourse analysis and questionnaires.