

**Abstract**  
**of Narqozy Kartzhan Yesengeldyuly's dissertation titled**  
**«Conceptual Sphere of Intellectual Activity in Fairy Tale Discourse (Based on**  
**Kazakh and English Fairy Tales)» submitted for the degree of Doctor of**  
**Philosophy (PhD) in the specialty «8D02304 – Philology»**

**Description of the Dissertation Topic.** The dissertation is devoted to the linguo-conceptual analysis of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity within Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse and the linguistic means of its realization. The subject of this study is examined through modern linguistic perspectives, such as cognitive linguistics (linguo-conceptology), cultural linguistics, and discourse studies.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among linguists in exploring the national and cultural features of linguistic consciousness across different ethnic groups. The cognitive consciousness of each ethnic group and its individual representatives encompasses elements of objective reality, perceived both sensorially and mentally, which are processed through social activity and communication. This consciousness also includes causal relationships and spatial-temporal connections between objects and phenomena. Throughout human history, the linguistic consciousness of each ethnic group has reflected the specific sociocultural and spiritual values intrinsic to that group at particular stages of development.

Accordingly, studies focused on examining the worldview within an individual's consciousness, mediated through language, help reveal the national and cultural features of a specific ethnic worldview. Linguistic consciousness is multifaceted and requires a holistic and comprehensive approach, while also acknowledging distinct fragments of a national worldview. Indeed, the interrelation between language and culture cannot be denied. Linguists and scholars in related fields point out that «it is impossible to understand a people's culture, the particularities of their national character, moral qualities, and spiritual world without knowledge of their language. Language not only explains the mental and cognitive processes of individuals; these processes cannot be studied independently of language, as they are inherently linguistic in nature».

The unity of language and culture is reflected in linguo-cultural concepts, whose study is crucial for defining the national and cultural specifics of an ethnic group. The linguo-conceptological approach to studying concepts focuses on the semantics of linguistic units, examining vocabulary inextricably linked to the individual, their culture, consciousness, and thinking. Special importance is placed on figurative units, as they most accurately convey cultural values within a language's lexical structure.

**Relevance of the Study.** In the 20th and early 21st centuries, humanity has encountered an immense informational space, creating the need to organize, conceptualize, and structure this information. The processes of acquiring, processing, reproducing, and transmitting information have become areas of interest across multiple fields, including artificial intelligence theory, anthropology, psychology, sociology, philosophy, communicative-cognitive pragmatics, hermeneutics, and linguistics. Specifically, linguistics focuses on how individuals comprehend the world,

systematically categorize knowledge through linguistic structures, and verbalize this knowledge and ideas.

A review of research on the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity by both domestic and foreign scholars has shown a significant level of development in this area. However, the novelty of this research lies in its comprehensive approach to analyzing the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity within fairy tale discourse, comparing languages of different structures (Kazakh and English) from a comparative perspective.

This dissertation also addresses the following issues: it refines the conceptual and terminological framework of the study, detailing concepts such as «discourse», «fairy tale discourse», «concept», «conceptual sphere» and their interrelations; it proposes a method for comprehensive linguo-conceptological analysis of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity; it conducts a linguo-conceptological and comparative analysis of verbalization means for the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse; and it identifies the commonalities and national-cultural specifics in the worldviews of the compared linguistic cultures regarding the expression of intellectual activity. These issues underscore the relevance of the topic and the originality of the dissertation's proposed ideas.

**Research Objective.** The objective of this research is to identify the common and national-cultural specific features in the verbalization and perception of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity within the consciousness of Kazakh and English speakers through a linguo-conceptological and comparative analysis of fairy tale discourse.

To achieve this objective, **the following tasks were set:**

- Conduct a theoretical review of scientific literature to determine the content and structure of the key concepts for this study, namely «discourse» and «fairy tale discourse», from the perspectives of cognitive linguistics (linguo-conceptology) and cultural linguistics;
- Summarize and systematize the approaches and methods of studying concepts in discourse presented in the scientific literature;
- Identification and description of the verbalization of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse;
- Characterization of common and national-cultural features of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse;
- Analysis of the specifics of perception and actualization of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in fairy tale discourse within modern linguistic consciousness through an associative experiment;
- Development of scientific and practical recommendations based on the research results regarding a comprehensive linguo-conceptological method for analyzing concepts in discourse and defining future research directions.

**The object of the study** is the means of verbalizing the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity within fairy tale discourse in structurally diverse languages: Kazakh and English.

**The subject of the study.** The linguo-conceptological and cultural-linguistic parameters of the actualization of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in the discourse of fairy tales.

**Theoretical and Methodological Basis of the Research.** The theoretical and methodological basis of the research encompasses general linguistic issues and findings from scholars such as V. Humboldt, Yu.M. Lotman, and Sh. Bally; the issues of linguistic meaning (J.J. Katz, J.A. Podor, J. Leech, J. Lyons, G. Stern, St. Ullman); discourse theory and discourse analysis (D. Schiffrin, R. Wilensky, St. Stembroke, J. Fiske, N.D. Arutyunova, V.Z. Demyankov, Yu.N. Karaulov, V.I. Karasik, A.A. Kibrik, J. Guillaume, D.E. Maldidier, S. Kubryakova, L.M. Makarov, M. Foucault, T. Van Dijk, G.A. Orlov, N. Fairclough, M. Stubbs, R. Wodak, D. Cameron, D. Tannen, V.G. Borbotko, I.G. Atroshchenko, V.E. Chernyavskaya, V.S. Grigoryeva, A.R. Mukhtarullina, K.O. Yessenova, Z.Sh. Ernazarova, B.A. Akhatova, G.G. Gizdatov, G.N. Smagulova, G. Azimzhanova, B.S. Zhumagulova, B. Kaliyev, G. Burkitbayeva, E. Alkebayeva, N. Uali, K.B. Kuderinova, Zh.M. Kenshinbayeva, Sh.A. Nurmysheva, S.B. Alpatina, A.E. Sadenova, Sh.A. Sabitova, G. Muratova, K.K. Sadirova, A.T. Kasymbekova, L. Aktanova, A. Adilova, A.M. Kurkimbayeva); comparative linguistics (I.A. Sternin, M.A. Sternina, V.B. Kashkin, A.P. Babushkin, V.G. Gak, S.G. Ter-Minasova, Z.K. Akhmetzhanova, K.K. Duysekova, S.Zh. Tazhibayeva, M.B. Amalbekova, S.K. Satenova, S.S. Issakova, Zh.T. Ospanova); text linguistics (I.R. Galperin, T.M. Nikolaeva, Z.Ya. Turayeva, V.E. Chernyavskaya, N.S. Valgina, T.V. Matveeva, T.M. Khomutova); cultural linguistics (V.N. Teliya, Yu.S. Stepanov, N.D. Arutyunova, V.V. Vorobev, V. Shaklein, V.A. Maslova, L.Kh. Samsitova, A. Islam, Zh.A. Mankeeva, A.O. Tymbolova, M.T. Kushtayeva); linguo-conceptology (E.S. Kubryakova, M.Yu. Oleshkov, V.I. Karasik, D.S. Likhachev, L.N. Sinelnikova, N.V. Kryuchkova, V.Z. Demyankov, A.N. Prihodko, A. Islam, R.M. Frumkina, V.A. Maslova, N.S. Bolotnova, O.A. Feschenko, E.V. Dzyuba, Z.D. Popova, I.A. Sternin, Yu.S. Stepanov, G.S. Isayeva, M.V. Pimenova); and fairy tale discourse studies (Yu.V. Mamonova, S. Jingting, N.A. Akimenko, M.V. Demina, A.M. Kerbs, K.T. Batuyeva, I.G. Ulyanova, T. Lugovaya, O.A. Plakhova, L.P. Kovalchuk, I.S. Sobornaya, U.V. Karimova, D.F. Shakirov, A.Sh. Yussupova, Yu.M. Breiger, E.F. Bizunova, Yu.S. Gorodova, S.K. Kenzhemuratova, A.T. Kassymbekova, A.V. Shakolo, N.K. Kultanbayeva, et al.).

**Research Sources.** The sources for this research include theoretical works on conceptual issues in cognitive linguistics (linguo-conceptology), cultural linguistics, and discourse studies; Kazakh and English texts of fairy tales; survey responses in Kazakh and English from 206 participants who took part in an associative experiment; Kazakh and English explanatory dictionaries, and etc.

**Research Methods.** The following general scientific methods were employed in this research: observation, comparison, generalization, analysis, and deduction. The primary linguistic research methods employed in the study included the descriptive method, componential analysis, lexico-semantic analysis, field method, conceptual analysis, oppositional method, comparative method, continuous sampling method from the text, and quantitative-statistical analysis methods. A comprehensive linguo-conceptological method for analyzing the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity is proposed.

**Main Points for Defense**

1. In modern linguistics, a system of multifaceted approaches to defining the concept of «discourse» has emerged, including communicative, structural-stylistic, socio-pragmatic, and structural-syntactic approaches. The concept of «discourse» is multifaceted, drawing attention to its threefold nature: first, it is closely connected to the notion of text; second, it is defined in relation to cognitive processes in the minds of communication participants; and third, pragmatics reveals the communicative nature of "discourse." Within the anthropocentric paradigm in linguistics, a linguo-cultural formulation defines «fairy tale discourse» as a complex cultural and semantic construct. «Fairy tale discourse» represents a form of communication that incorporates fairy tale elements and appears as a dynamic text combining semantic, value-laden, structural, and cultural features.

2. Any discourse contributes to the formation of concepts, creating knowledge about the surrounding reality. Discourse is built around core concepts that reflect the worldview of both the creator and recipient of the discourse. Discursive strategies and tactics govern the use and conditions of concepts. A concept is regarded as a complex structure that exists in human consciousness, continuously changing, evolving, and expanding. In human interactions, concepts are actively applied depending on the specific context or situation. The collection of concepts forms the «conceptual sphere», within which concepts are closely interconnected. The semantic structure of a concept is determined by its place within the lexical system of the language, its use in specific communicative situations, its origin, and its activation within speakers' consciousness.

3. The study identified linguocultural criteria for conceptual cognition: mentality, value, and variability. A concept is a mental structure that forms in a person's consciousness and is activated as needed in communication. Not only does a concept structure and systematize knowledge about the world, but it also reflects a people's cultural uniqueness, historical experience, and heritage. Concepts formed based on individual and collective cultural experiences become ingrained in the consciousness of a population. They are the result of understanding the surrounding world, shaping the linguistic image and national mentality. The primary linguocultural criterion of a concept is its value, as the structure of a concept accumulates a system of culturally significant knowledge unique to a particular nation. Collective consciousness undergoes changes under the influence of external factors, which in turn alter the content of concepts. Consequently, each individual's conceptual sphere and the content of their concepts exist at different levels. The activation of a concept in a text refers to the entry of a concept into discourse, its transformation into a word, and its expression depending on the purpose of the speaker's speech act, thereby contributing to the successful execution of communication.

4. The quantity of linguistic material from Kazakh and English fairy tales, used as research material, differs, with the Kazakh material being 23.2% greater. This advantage in quantitative terms can be explained by the fact that the creators of fairy tales possess a free narrative of fairy tale categories using artistic means such as «wonder, value, and fantastic imagination». It can also be attributed to the richness of the Kazakh language's vocabulary. We conclude that the numerical presence of linguistic units in English fairy tales is directly related to the positions and ideological

perspectives of various directions in the development of English folklore and children's literature.

5. It was established that the common, universal features of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse include: thinking, belief, decision-making, observation/control, imagination, and education. The similarities in the conceptual spheres of the two languages can be explained by the universal, human nature of cognitive activity. At the same time, national peculiarities specific to the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in the two analyzed linguocultures were identified. For instance, in the Kazakh fairy tale discourse, the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity is characterized by parameters such as: following the advice of elders, reasonableness and caution in actions, acquiring knowledge through craft training, cunning and inventiveness of the mind, quick-wittedness, and resourcefulness. Nationally marked features of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in English fairy tale discourse manifest in concepts such as rational thinking, patience, caution, planning, brevity, self-criticality, appropriate humor, composure, emotional self-control, elevation of spirit, imagination, standing firm on one's position, and expressing opinions. A person's character reflects their worldview, moral and spiritual values, and behavioral attitudes, which motivate their actions. Therefore, in the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in fairy tale discourse, the features of world cognition and perception of people living within the same linguocultural environment are reflected.

6. The results of the associative experiment show that the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in the consciousness of Kazakh and English speakers fully aligns with the conceptual, imagistic, and value components of lexicographic, paremiological, phraseological, and fairy tale discourse. The associative fields of the key concepts, proposed by the respondents as their response words, are extensive. The findings of the study indicate that the similarities in the features of this conceptual sphere in the two compared linguocultures can be explained by the universal, human nature of cognitive activity. Specific historical-geographical, socio-political, and religious-cultural factors in the development of the Kazakh and English peoples contributed to the formation of their national worldview and, consequently, to the unique characteristics of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in these linguocultures.

**Characterization of Main Research Results.** The dissertation attempts to identify and describe the means of verbalizing the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in the discourse of Kazakh and English fairy tales; to define the conceptual, imagistic, and value components of key concepts; to conduct a comparative analysis of the characteristic features of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in the compared linguocultures; to highlight common and distinctive parameters; and to explain the reasons for these differences through linguistic-conceptological and comparative analyses.

The research includes a comprehensive analysis of theoretical and methodological works on discourse, fairy tale discourse, concept, and conceptual domains. The identification of the scientific and theoretical foundations of the dissertation contributed to the selection of appropriate research methods and techniques.

The work clarifies the status of the concept in relation to discourse, presenting an analytical overview of approaches to its study. As a result, a methodology for comprehensive linguistic-conceptual analysis of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in fairy tale discourse is proposed, based on linguistic-cognitive and linguistic-cultural approaches to concept research. At the initial stage of the study, dictionary definitions were analyzed to determine the conceptual features of the intellectual activity sphere. This was followed by an analysis of the paremiological and phraseological resources of the two languages to reveal the imagistic components. The results of the analysis were compared with the means of verbalizing the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in fairy tale texts, and, using an associative experiment, cross-checked with associations in the minds of the speakers, ultimately determining the core, center, and periphery of the conceptual sphere of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse.

For the first time, this dissertation presents a comparative analysis of fairy tale discourse in Kazakh and English, identifying the concepts that constitute the conceptual domain of mental activity, from which key concepts were grouped and schematized. Lexical-semantic, field, and linguistic-conceptual analyses were conducted, alongside quantitative and percentage-based analyses, leading to corresponding conclusions.

**Justification of the Novelty and Significance of the Results.** In the research presented for defense, the conceptual structure of intellectual activity in fairy tale discourse is analyzed for the first time using material from two structurally diverse languages. The results of the research demonstrated that intellectual activity is a critical conceptual system in the consciousness of any nation, shaped by universal features of human cognitive processes. The description of national characteristics in the language parameters of intellectual activity in Kazakh and English linguistic cultures was supported by a comprehensive linguistic-conceptual and comparative analysis of 306/235 linguistic units collected from fairy tale texts. As a result, a system of values related to national cognition, mentality, religion, history, and culture was identified within the worldview of the Kazakh and English peoples.

An associative experiment was conducted during the research to identify the semantic specificity of the concept of «ақыл/mind» and the perception of the conceptosphere of «ақыл-ой әрекеті/mental activity» in the consciousness of Kazakh and English speakers. As a result of the study, it was found that the associative field of the concept «ақыл/mind» and the conceptosphere of «ақыл-ой әрекеті/mental activity» are broadly established in the consciousness of speakers, and it was proven that the associative connections in bilingual consciousness fully align with lexicographical sources and the content of intellectual activity in fairy tale texts.

**Theoretical Significance of the Study.** The study's findings contribute to the development of linguistic conceptualization theory and discourse studies. The stages of the methodological review proposed for the analysis of the concept in fairy tale discourse during the study will undoubtedly be useful for future research aimed at the study of concepts in various types of discourse. The theoretical conclusions from this study will also aid language instruction in areas such as cognitive linguistics

(linguoconceptology), cultural linguistics, and discourse studies, supporting foreign language teaching.

**Practical Significance of the Study.** The linguistic material analyzed in the study has great potential for use in compiling dictionaries, supplementing educational materials, and developing academic training resources. The recommendations aimed at preventing the identified shortcomings in the results of the associative experiment will be of great importance in shaping the level of academic writing, thesaurus knowledge, and skills. The scientific conclusions drawn from the linguoconceptological and comparative analysis of Kazakh and English fairy tale discourse can serve as a foundation for writing thesis papers, master's theses, doctoral dissertations, monographs, and educational manuals.

**Study Approbation.** The main results and conclusions of the research were presented and discussed in both domestic and international academic institutions and universities, including the IX International Scientific Conference "Current Issues in Theoretical and Applied Philology" (Ufa, April 29-30, 2021), at the scientific webinar "The Present and Future of Turkic Philology" (Sterlitamak, November 17, 2021), and were reflected in reports at the doctoral seminar "Scientific Knowledge Friday" seminar (2022) at the Department of Kazakh Philology of the Philological Faculty at Aktobe Regional University named after K. Zhubanov. To reveal the specific features of mental activity perception in the national linguistic consciousness of Kazakh and English speakers, an associative experiment was conducted using the Google Forms virtual platform.

#### **Publication and Approval of the Study**

Five articles were published on the main sections of the dissertation.

#### ***Publications in journals indexed in the Scopus scientific database include:***

1. Lexico-Semantic Field and Conceptual Feature of the Concept "АҚЫЛ/Mind" // *World Journal of English Language*. Vol. 15, No. 5, 2024. Percentile 47%, Q2.

<https://www.sciedupress.com/journal/index.php/wjel/article/view/25841>

#### ***Publications in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan:***

1. Lexico-Semantic Representation of the Concept "Пазым/Mind" in Kazakh-English Fairy Tale Discourse // *Bulletin of Abylai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages*, Philology Series, No. 4(67), 2022, pp. 102-116.

<https://bulletin-philology.ablaikhan.kz/index.php/j1/issue/view/41>

2. The Problem of Studying Fairy Tale Discourse: Definition, Classification, and Interrelationship // *Bulletin of Eurasian Humanities Institute*. No. 2/2023, pp. 94-108. <https://ojs.egi.kz/index.php/BULLETIN/issue/view/40/67>

3. Linguistic Representation of the Concept of "Mental Activity" in Kazakh Fairy-Tale Discourse // *Bulletin of Eurasian Humanities Institute*. No. 3, 2024, pp. 63-79. <https://ojs.egi.kz/BULLETIN/issue/view/45/73>

#### ***Publications in international conference proceedings:***

1. Conceptual Aspect of the Concept "Пазым/Mind" // *Current Issues in Theoretical and Applied Philology: Proceedings of the IX International Scientific*

Conference (Ufa, April 29-30, 2021). Ed. A.R. Mukhtarullina. – Ufa: RIC BashSU, 2021, pp. 166-184.

**Structure and Volume of the Study.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, two chapters, a conclusion, a list of references, and appendices. The results of the research are reflected in 43 illustrations. The reference list includes 259 sources, and the overall volume of the dissertation is 178 pages.

The dissertation research work is prepared in accordance with the current directions of linguistic development **cognitive linguistics (linguistic conceptology), linguocultural studies, discourse studies, and the State Programs of the Republic of Kazakhstan:**

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 914, dated October 16, 2023, on the «Approval of the Concept for the Development of Language Policy in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2029».

Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 659, dated September 13, 2021, on the «Measures for Implementing the Address of the Head of State to the People of Kazakhstan» from September 1, 2021, «Unity of the People and Systemic Reforms – A Strong Foundation for the Country's Prosperity» (with amendments from April 17, 2023).

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 724, dated October 12, 2021, on the approval of the national project «ҰЛТТЫҚ рухани жаңғыру» (National Spiritual Revival).

Historical and cultural heritage and spiritual values of Kazakhstan. The unity of history and culture, literature and language, customs and values // On the approval of the State Program for the Development of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2020-2025: Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 27, 2019, No. 988.

**Contribution of the Doctoral Candidate to the Preparation of Each Publication.** The entire volume of the dissertation, including the selection of the research method, and the resolution of tasks aligned with the research objectives, as well as the preparation of publications, were carried out independently by the author. The doctoral candidate participated in the development of theoretical conclusions for the published works related to the research study, as well as in the analysis of practical material. The assignment of tasks and the discussion of the obtained results in accordance with the research topic were carried out in collaboration with the scientific advisors.