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# Features of Identifying the Key-representative Word and Core of the Concept "Motivation" in English, Russian and Uzbek Languages

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#### ABSTRACT

This article explores the linguistic and cultural dimensions of the concept "motivation" in three languages: English, Russian, and Uzbek. Through the analysis of key representative words and core meanings, the study reveals both universal and culturally specific elements of motivation in each language. Across all three languages, common components such as energy, goals, and reasons are evident, but each language's unique cultural context shapes the way motivation is understood and expressed. This comparative analysis highlights how the concept of motivation, though universal, is linguistically and culturally nuanced in different societies.

**Keywords**: Cognitive linguistics, concept, nominative field of the concept, key-representative word, core, lingvoculture.

INTRODUCTION

As noted by Z. D. Popova and I. A. Sternin, «linguistic methods used to describe the lexical and grammatical semantics of linguistic units become methods of lingvocognitive research» (Popova Z. D., Sternin I. A. 2007: 48.) The nominative field of a concept serves as the linguistic material that is the object of the research in cognitive linguistics, while the subject pertains to the semantics of the units within this field, reflecting the researched concept in the linguistic consciousness of its speakers. The objective of linguistic cognitive research is to provide a detailed description of the studied concept. Analyzing the semantics of linguistic units that constitute the nominative field enables a deeper understanding of the concept as it is fixed in language. Thus, a more extensive and diverse nominative field leads to more reliable reconstruction results, facilitating a more precise and comprehensive description of the concept's content and structure.

The structure of a concept in cognitive linguistics is viewed as multilayered, encompassing cultural, cognitive, and emotional components. One of the primary challenges in investigating a concept's structure is its dynamic nature, characterized by a blend of stable and variable traits. The problem of structuring a concept can be addressed through two main approaches: level-based and field-based organization principles (Popova Z.D., Sternin I.A. 2007: 15). In this study, we employ the field-based method of concept structuring, which involves identifying its key representative word and core.

Before identifying these elements, we first establish the key representative word that embodies the concept across three languages. According to Popova and Sternin, a key word is a lexeme defined by the researcher that most fully nominates the concept being studied. Such a word is selected based on its frequency of use, as confirmed by frequency dictionaries. It should possess a sufficiently generalized semantics (medium degree of abstraction) and ideally be stylistically neutral, devoid of pronounced evaluative connotations(Popova Z.D., Sternin I.A. 2007:125). Let us examine the characteristics of selecting a key representative word for the concept of "motivation" in three languages: English, Russian, and Uzbek.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

To identify the key representative words for the concept of "motivation" in the selected languages, we analyzed dictionaries, text corpora, frequency data, and contexts.

In English, the term "motivation" is widely employed and defined as the process that initiates, directs, and sustains goaloriented behavior. Its frequency is notably high in scientific and

business texts, particularly in psychology, management, and education. For example, in the British National Corpus, "motivation" appears 1,498 times, while in the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), it is found 19,810 times. The term is prevalent in literature related to personal development, management, and psychotherapy. Additional terms such as "drive," "incentive," and "inspiration" are contextdependent, but "motivation" remains the primary term. Therefore, for the concept of "motivation" in English, the key representative word is "motivation," which is stylistically neutral and applicable in both informal and formal speech, lacking a distinct positive or negative evaluation.

In Russian, the term "мотивация" has an almost identical meaning and serves as a key term in psychology, pedagogy, and management. According to the Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language, "мотивация" refers to the set of incentives that provoke human activity. Furthermore, data from the National Corpus of the Russian Language (NCRL) indicate that this word has moderate frequency, primarily appearing in specialized texts. It is often used in scientific articles within pedagogy and psychology.Related words such as "стимул" (stimulus) and "побуждение" (incentive) may appear in other genres; however, "мотивация" remains the key representative word for the concept in Russian due to its stylistic neutrality and applicability in various contexts, from colloquial speech to scientific discourse. Like its English counterpart, the term "мотивация" in Russian is non-evaluative, describing the process of motivation without specific moral or emotional overtones.

In Uzbek, the term "motivatsiya" is borrowed from Russian (and earlier from Latin through other languages). It is used in scientific and professional vocabulary, though it is encountered less frequently in everyday speech (https://uzbekcorpus.uz).Analysis of materials from YouTube and articles on psychology and pedagogy, as well as translations of self-development books, demonstrates its presence. Alternative terms include words such as "ilhom" (inspiration), which may be used in less formal or artistic contexts, and "to'lqinlanish" (stimulus), which can denote motivating factors. Thus, in Uzbek sources and translations, the word "motivatsiya" is found in educational and scientific materials, but "ilhom" and "to'lqinlanish" may also be used for the more emotional aspects of motivation. This is related to the characteristics of Uzbek culture and language, where borrowed words may carry a more technical connotation.

While the word "motivatsiya" is borrowed, it is actively used in modern Uzbek texts, especially in business, educational, and scientific discourse, justifying its choice as the key representative word in this language. However, it is worth noting that compared to Russian and English, its frequency may be lower in everyday speech, where simpler or more colloquial expressions may be used to describe this phenomenon, even though they retain the same semantics as in Russian and English, encompassing a wide range of processes related to the impetus for action and goal achievement.

From the above, it follows that despite the fact that the key representative word for the concept of "motivation" in the three languages - English, Russian, and Uzbek-shares common Latin roots and similar meanings, the following differences are observed: in English and Russian, the a) word "motivation"/"мотивация" is more actively used in everyday and professional speech, while in Uzbek, the word "motivatsiya" is more specialized and may be less frequently used compared to other expressions in informal speech (although it is worth noting that its frequency of use is increasing); b) although the basic meaning of the word "motivation" is similar in all three languages, cultural differences may influence the perception of motivation, especially in Uzbek culture, where collective motives may play a more significant role compared to individual incentives, which is characteristic of Western cultures; c) in English and Russian, the word "motivation" retains a more neutral and non-evaluative character (than in the Uzbek language), allowing it to be used in a wide range of contexts.

#### DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Before we move on to defining the core of the concept, it should be noted that it is beneficial if the key word is polysemous, as

keywords with multiple meanings (as established by dictionaries) provide the researcher with a rich source of material for cognitive interpretation. Whenever possible, it is preferable to choose the substantive form of the key word, as this form ensures the broadest nominative coverage of the denotation and facilitates the selection of synonyms and antonyms (Popova Z.D., Sternin I.A. 2007:125).

As noted by Z.D. Popova and I.A. Sternin, the core of the nominative field is established through the following methods: - synonymous expansion of the key word. This involves using synonym dictionaries and phraseological dictionaries to identify various terms that relate to the concept; - analysis of contexts. This method focuses on examining the contexts in which the researched concept is nominated, including artistic and journalistic texts. All nominations of the researched concept are documented, including occasional, individual-author, and descriptive terms (Popova Z.D., Sternin I.A. 2007:126).

Thus, having studied synonym dictionaries and phraseological dictionaries, we can highlight the following synonyms and expressions that are part of the core nominative field of the concept of "motivation" in English:

- 1. Stimulus, drive, desire or willingness;
- 2. Incentive, drive, impetus, encouragement, stimulus, momentum, impulse, reason, boost, catalyst, spur, stimulant, provocation, fuel, instigation, yeast, motive, goad, cause, incitement, shot in the arm, incitation, consideration, inducement, invitation, spark, grounds, antecedent, occasion, catalyzer;
  - in the sense of **incentive**: inspiration, motive, stimulus, reason, spur, impulse, persuasion, inducement, incitement, instigation, carrot and stick;
  - in the sense of **inspiration:** inspiration, drive, desire, ambition, hunger, interest;
  - in the sense of **ambition** (strong desire for success, a mixture of ambition and ruthlessness): enterprise, longing, drive, fire, spirit, desire, passion, enthusiasm,

warmth, striving, initiative, aspiration, yearning, devotion, zeal, verve, zest, fervour, eagerness, gusto, hankering, get-up-and-go (informal), ardour, keenness, avidity, fervency;

- in the sense of **desire**: wish, want, longing, need, hope, urge, yen (informal), hunger, appetite, aspiration, ache, craving, yearning, inclination, thirst, hankering;
- in the sense of **drive:** initiative, push (informal), energy, enterprise, ambition, pep, zip (informal), vigour, welly (slang),get-up-and-go (informal);

Phraseological combinations in English that can be included in the synonymic expansion of the key term "motivation" include: *driving force, burning, fire in the belly, thirst for success, push factor, spark of inspiration, reason to strive, urge to achieve, drive to succeed, impulse to act (Cambridge Dictionary of Idioms. Oxford English Dictionary.* These phraseological expressions are utilized in the English language to articulate the concept of motivation, encompassing various dimensions of what inspires individuals to pursue their ambitions.

Next, we will present words and phrases identified through the analysis of contexts in which the studied concept is nominated in the English language. We have chosen a literary text: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and a journalistic text: "Drive: The Surprising Truth about What Motivates Us" by Daniel Pink.

In Fitzgerald's novel, the main character, Jay Gatsby, is driven by the desire for success and the wish to win back his beloved Daisy. Here, motivation is expressed through the following nominations: "Gatsby believed in the green light (a metaphorical representation of a goal or motivational symbol), the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us."; "He stretched out his arms toward (a symbolic expression of aspiration and motivation) the dark water in a curious way..."; "His dream (dream as an expression of motivation) must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it."; "No amount of fire (fire as a metaphor for passion) or freshness can

challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart (heart as a symbol of internal motives)"; "So we beat on, boats against the current (boats against the current — a symbol of effort and motivation), borne back ceaselessly into the past" (Fitzgerald, F. Scott (Francis Scott), 1896-1940).

In Pink's book, which is based on scientific research into motivation, various types of motivational stimuli are examined, including intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Examples of nominations include: "The science shows that the secret to high performance isn't our biological driveor our reward-andpunishment drive, but our third drive—our deep-seated desire to direct our own lives...", intrinsic drive, purpose, freedom, chart one's course, pursue purpose, autonomy, engagement (Pink, Daniel H. 2009).

Now let's define the core of the chosen concept in the Russian language. Here is the definition which is given in *Great Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language*: (мотивация), noun, feminine (literary). A system of arguments and reasons in favor of something; justification.The totality of motives underlying aparticular action (psychology).

Another online dictionary defines motivation as: 1) Biological active states of brain structures that compel higher animals and humans to perform actions aimed at satisfying their needs (e.g., hunger, thirst, parental care, etc.); 2) Justification; the presentation of arguments or motives; the totality of motives and causal factors that underlie something.

Related terms: incentive, impulse, motive, stimulus, affiliation, explanation, motivation, reason for action, justification, excitement, inspiration, desire, interest, passion, enthusiasm, driving force, ambition, attraction, goal orientation, mood, affect.

**Phraseological expressions**: a) work with enthusiasm, engage in tasks wholeheartedly, invest soul into the work, find one's calling (Zhukov V. P. *Great Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language*.2006); b) go all out, charged for success, grit one's teeth, move forward, break a path. (МолотковА.И. 1984).

To analyze the core of the concept of "motivation" in the Russian language, we also examined examples from literature and journalism, specifically from Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, Alexander Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*, and an article by Dmitry Bykov discussing motivation in the life of a modern individual.

From these works, the following synonyms for the word "motivation" were identified: 1) "I wanted to become Napoleon..." (The internal motivation of the character is described as a striving for greatness, a desire to become a significant figure); desire for power, ambition, self-assertion; 2) "To survive, one had to believe in something greater than just one's existence" (faith, survival, spiritual resilience, meaning of life); "A person can endure anything if they know what they are suffering for" (purpose, meaning of suffering, determination, perseverance); "Motivation is the driving force of a person in the modern world. The desire for success and the wish to avoid failure govern our decisions" (aspiration for success, avoidance of failure, driving force, resolve); "Only internal motivation, based on personal values and goals, can give us true freedom and satisfaction" (internal motivation, personal values, freedom, satisfaction).

Thus, it can be concluded that the identified core of the concept of "motivation" in the Russian language encompasses rational, emotional, and existential elements. The rational aspects are supported by the definition of motivation in dictionaries as a combination of arguments and reasons that drive a person to act. It is related to concepts such as purpose, justification, and incentive. Emotional elements are reflected in phrases such as "to work with enthusiasm" or "to go all out," as well as in words like passion, enthusiasm, and excitement. On the other hand, existential aspects can be seen in literary works. For instance, in Dostoevsky's and Solzhenitsyn's works, motivation is associated with self-assertion, the meaning of life, and spiritual resilience. Motivation becomes an internal force directed towards survival or the achievement of goals.

Finally, let us define the core of the nominative field of the concept of "motivation" in the Uzbek language. The key

representative word identified in this language is "motivatsiya." To establish its core, we studied explanatory and phraseological dictionaries, as well as synonym dictionaries in this language. However, since this term has been borrowed recently, we found that the corresponding nomination was not present in the studied dictionaries. Consequently, we examined the synonyms for this word, which were identified and analyzed in the first chapter.

It is important to note that only the online Uzbek language dictionary provides a definition for this term. From the definitions, we identified words such as sabab (cause) and kuch (force).

Next, from the explanatory dictionary, the following words have been identified that can be included in the core of this concept: sabab (cause, basis for action); maqsad (goal, primary motivation); ilhom (inspiration, motivating force) (*Explanatory Dictionary of the Uzbek Language*, 2006-2008).

Additionally, from the Uzbek synonym dictionary, the following words were highlighted: tashabbus (initiative, activity that often serves as a motivating factor to initiate action); intilish (aspiration, which reflects a strong desire to achieve something); iroda (will, which is closely associated with motivation and determination); qiziqish (interest, which can serve as the initial motivation for action) (Uzbek Synonym Dictionary, Tashkent, 1981).

For the analysis of the core concept in the Uzbek language, we also selected works from literary and journalistic sources: Abdulla Qodiriy's "O'tkankunlar" (Past Days) and a psychology paper written in Uzbek language.

The work "O'tkankunlar" (Past Days) by Abdulla Qodiriy (1926) reveals the motives of the characters and their internal aspirations that drive their actions. The novel showcases various types of motivation, including love, patriotism, the pursuit of justice, and personal ambitions. During our analysis of this work, we identified the following synonyms that help elucidate the core concept of "motivation" within the Uzbek lingvoculture:

- "Garchiqizaytkannusxanitayyorlashog'irbo'lsa ham qandaydirbirkuchta'siridahaligiqizgava'daberibyuboribman." Here, the character realizes that fulfilling a promise is difficult but still gives it under the influence of some internal or external impetus, with the word "kuch" (force) verbalizing the concept we have chosen.
- "...bujamoaningo'zmaslakiyo'lidakuzatkanma'lumbirnishona sibo'lmoğızarur. Ana shundankeyinhaliginishonagaqarabintilishdaoyo'gostigaelash kanch'op-haslarnisupiraborishlozim." In this instance, the characters see a certain reference point (nishona) that they aspire to, and they are ready to overcome all obstacles on the way to its attainment. This may exemplify internal motivation based on ideology and aspirations.
- "... xalqimiznishuzamonning 'Tohir-Zuhra'lari, 'Chordarvesh'lari, 'Farhod-Shirin' va 'Bahromg'ūr'laribilantanishtirishkao'zimizdamajburiyat his etamiz." Here, a sense of duty and responsibility to the people is evident. The character feels an obligation to familiarize others with the heroic tales of the past, which is motivated by cultural and historical mission.
- "O'zingizToshkentlikbo'laturibnimamajburiyatostidaMarg'ilo ndanuylandingiz?" This question expresses the motive of personal responsibility or duty associated with the choice of a spouse, with the word "majburiyat" (obligation) emphasizing the role of commitment or social pressure.
- "Umidimyulduzi, orzumchechagi, hayotimtiragiKumushimga!" This expression symbolizes motivation rooted in love and emotional attachment. Kumush becomes a source of inspiration for the character, a support in life, and a symbol of all his hopes and dreams.
- "O'g'lim, bizningsandanboshqaumidnishonimiz, hayotquvonchimizyo'q. Dunyoko'ribo'taturganbarchaorzumiz, havasimizfaqatsangaqarabqolgan." Here, for the character, his son is the sole source of hope and joy in life; all dreams and expectations are focused on him. The motive here is the care for the future generation and the desire to invest all strength and hopes into his child.

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• "O'zsarguzashtibilanfarqsizgao'xshabko'ringanbuhikoyaniesh itishgauningishtiyoqiortqanedi..." The character is motivated by a strong desire to hear a story that initially seems insignificant to him.

From the scientific work, the following words related to the concept of motivation were identified:

- **Kuch** (force): In this context, "force" may refer to the energetic aspects that facilitate movement toward a goal.
- **Sabab** (reason): Here, motivation can be seen as a reason that encompasses personal circumstances, social factors, or cultural conditions influencing an individual's choices and actions.
- Ehtiyojlaryig'indisi (aggregate of needs): Motivation is often based on needs, which can vary in level (for example, physiological, social, self-actualization).
- **Mayllar** (tendencies): Tendencies or predispositions of an individual affect their choices. They reflect internal preferences and aspirations that drive actions and decisions.
- **Maqsadlar** (goals): Goals serve as benchmarks and create meaning in actions.
- Ideal (ideals): Ideals can act as long-term benchmarks, inspiring actions and personal development.
- Energetikfaoliyatmanbai (source of energetic activity): Motivation can be a source of energetic activity that activates and mobilizes a person's resources to achieve set goals.
- Ichkiintilish (internal aspiration): Internal aspiration typically leads to deeper engagement in activities.

Based on the words identified, several key components that form the core of «motivation» can be outlined: energy and force (motivation as a source of energy that enables overcoming obstacles); reasons and factors (the reasons behind actions and the factors shaping motivation); needs and goals (the awareness of needs and the pursuit of fulfilling them through achieving goals); aspiration and ideals (internal aspiration guided by high ideals and standards).

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#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the concept of "motivation" in English, Russian, and Uzbek languages reveals both universal and culturally specific elements. While the key representative word for the concept, "motivation," shares Latin roots and similar meanings across these three languages, its usage and nuances differ due to cultural and linguistic contexts. In English, motivation encompasses a wide range of internal and external drivers, reflected in various literary and scientific contexts. In texts like The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Daniel Pink's "Drive," motivation is expressed through metaphors of aspiration, dreams, and desires for success. The English language offers a broad spectrum of terms associated with motivation, such as ambition, inspiration, drive, and goals, which collectively form the core of this concept. In Russian, motivation is deeply intertwined with emotional, rational, and existential elements. From classic literary works like Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment to modern articles, the core of the motivation concept combines elements of striving for power, personal ambition, and a search for meaning in life. Russian language and literature reveal how motivation is shaped not only by logical reasoning but also by emotional drive, passion, and a sense of responsibility. The rich set of synonyms and expressions in Russian, like "стремление" (striving), "цель" (goal), and "долг" (duty), highlight both personal and collective dimensions of motivation. In Uzbek, the concept of motivation, represented by the loanword "motivatsiya", is still developing and integrates a blend of native terms and borrowed terminology. Through literary works such as "O' tkankunlar" by Abdulla Qodiriy and scientific texts, motivation is conveyed through words like "sabab" (reason), "kuch" (force), and "maqsad" (goal). These terms reflect both practical and aspirational aspects of motivation, emphasizing duty, love, and personal responsibility. Additionally, Uzbek culture often prioritizes collective motives and values, adding a unique layer to the understanding of motivation compared to more individualistic Western perspectives. In all three languages, the core of the concept

includes components such as energy, goals, reasons, ideals, and aspirations. However, cultural nuances play a significant role in how motivation is understood and expressed. In English, motivation is often goal-driven and focused on individual achievement. In Russian, motivation blends emotional and existential depth with rational goals, and in Uzbek, collective responsibility and personal ideals heavily influence motivational drivers.

Thus, while "motivation" as a concept remains consistent in its basic function of driving human actions, its representation in language and culture varies, reflecting deeper societal values and philosophical understandings of purpose and human endeavor. This cross-linguistic analysis highlights how universal concepts can take on distinct flavors depending on the cultural and linguistic contexts in which they are embedded.

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