Abstract
Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper
(Master’s degree)

Title: Kognitive-Semantic Characteristics of the Locative Prepositions of Vertical Axis in the English Language
Author: Dolaeva Z.M.
Research Supervisor: Kulakova T.N.
Research Initiator: Chair of Theoretic Linguistics and Practice of Intercultural Communication

Topical Importance: Currently in the center of a large number of linguistic studies in the semantic field there are issues related to the study of the part of speech, which was previously considered as devoid of its own lexical meaning. Researches in the linguistic semantics, in particular in the field of prepositions, give grounds to assume that the analysis of meaning allows us to discover the mechanisms of the formation of ideas about reality more precisely.

Goal: The aim of the thesis is to give a thorough description of the semantic characteristics of the prepositions above, over, below, under, beneath and underneath in the English language, finding out their integral and differential features.

Tasks:
• to describe the modern approaches to the study of connectors-prepositions by Russian and foreign linguists with the special attention to the researches in Cognitive Linguistics;
• to find out semantic representations through lexicographic sources;
• to analyze and describe integral and differential characteristics of the locative prepositions through their contextual usage.

Theoretical value and practical applicability: the thesis contributes to the general study of the connectors-prepositions of the English language, to the study of the cognitive and semantic traits of the spatial prepositions. The materials of the thesis can be widely used while preparing lectures and seminars on cognitive linguistics, practical lessons and in translation practice.

Results: The main integral feature of the prepositions above, below, under, beneath, over, underneath lies in their reference to the vertical orientation of the objects in space. Lexicographic analysis made it possible to classify the prepositions into three groups. Prepositions above and over refer to the higher level of spatial position, while the prepositions below, beneath, under and underneath mark the lower position. Contextual usage of the connectors under discussion contributes to finding out differential features of the prepositions inside each synonymic group. Each of the prepositions easily forms metaphorical meanings due to cognitive abilities of a person to reflect his mental experience through his physical practice. The result of the research showed that every preposition under the investigation has its own set of semantic features.

Implementation advice: materials of the thesis can be used in university courses on Cognitive Linguistics and Lexicology and in translation practice.