

FRAME MODEL OF THE VOLUNTEER CONCEPT

Medvedovska Daria,

Sumy State University, Sumy, Ukraine

ORCID ID 0000-0002-6532-4108

Corresponding author: d.medvedovskaia@uabs.sumdu.edu.ua

Abstract. *The article explores the linguosynergetic aspects of a concept as a fundamental unit within the conceptual framework of the world. This concept remains central yet controversial in modern linguistics, marked by the ambiguity of its interpretation, which reflects its diverse features and properties. The research focuses on the structure of a concept, aiming to develop a universal model that addresses all its aspects and peculiarities in linguistics. We argue that any definition of a concept should be integral to its structure and align with all its features and properties. We propose that structuring a concept through a linguosynergetic model not only highlights the characteristics of the "original" and the hierarchy of its components but also captures the dynamic modes of its existence, as linguosynergetics provides a unique language for concept investigation. By applying the principles of synergetics, we have created a comprehensive linguistic-synergetic model of the concept. Using the categorical-conceptual framework of synergetics in linguistics, we explained the mechanisms of self-regulation of the concept as a spontaneously organized, homeostatic, hierarchical, complex, and nonlinear system.*

Keywords: *frame, linguistics, volunteer, frame model, cognitive, language.*

Received: 01 September 2024

Revised: 08 September 2024

Accepted: 14 September 2024

How to cite: Medvedovska D. (2024). Frame Model of the Volunteer Concept. *Philological Treatises*, 16(2), 78-85
[https://www.doi.org/10.21272/Ftrk.2024.16\(2\)-8](https://www.doi.org/10.21272/Ftrk.2024.16(2)-8)



Copyright: © 2024 by the authors. For open-access publication within the terms and conditions of the [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/) (CC BY-NC)

ФРЕЙМОВА МОДЕЛЬ КОНЦЕПЦІЇ ВОЛОНТЕРСТВА

Медведовська Дарія,

Сумський державний університет, Суми, Україна

ORCID ID 0000-0002-6532-4108

Автор, відповідальний за листування: d.medvedovskaia@uabs.sumdu.edu.ua

Анотація. *У статті досліджуються лінгвосинергетичні аспекти концепту як фундаментальної одиниці концептуальної картини світу. Це поняття залишається центральним і водночас суперечливим у сучасній лінгвістиці, що позначено неоднозначністю його тлумачення, яке відображає його різноманітні ознаки та властивості. Дослідження зосереджується на структурі концепту, маючи на меті розробити універсальну модель, яка б враховувала всі його аспекти та особливості в лінгвістиці. Ми стверджуємо, що будь-яке визначення концепту має бути невід'ємним від його структури та узгоджуватися з усіма його ознаками та властивостями. Ми вважаємо, що структурування концепту через лінгвосинергетичну модель не лише висвітлює характеристики «оригіналу» та ієрархію його компонентів, але й фіксує динамічні режими його існування, оскільки лінгвосинергетика надає унікальну мову для*

дослідження концепту. Застосовуючи принципи синергетики, ми створили комплексну лінгвосинергетичну модель концепту. Використовуючи категоріально-поняттєвий апарат синергетики в лінгвістиці, ми пояснили механізми саморегуляції концепту як спонтанно організованої, гомеостатичної, ієрархічної, складної та нелінійної системи.

Ключові слова: фрейм, лінгвістика, волонтер, фреймова модель, когнітивний, мова.

Отримано: 01 вересня 2024 р.

Отримано після доопрацювання: 08 вересня 2024 р.

Затверджено: 14 вересня 2024 р.

Як цитувати: Медведовська Д. (2024). Фреймова модель концепції волонтерства. *Філологічні трактати*, 16(2), 78-85
[https://www.doi.org/10.21272/Ftrk.2024.16\(2\)-8](https://www.doi.org/10.21272/Ftrk.2024.16(2)-8)

Introduction

In modern linguistics, one of the most important areas of research is cognitive analysis, within which the frame approach to the study of linguistic phenomena is gaining increasing relevance. Such an analysis allows us to view language phenomena through the prism of structured stereotypical situations, or frames. Frames reflect our way of perceiving the world, including through language, and help us to categorise and organise linguistic information. This study focuses on the concept of VOLUNTEER in the English-speaking environment, as in the context of the current Ukrainian-Russian war, and with the support of English-speaking countries, this word has become extremely popular both in Ukraine and abroad. The concept of VOLUNTEER in the English language in the context of the culture of free aid remains under-researched, which is why this paper is relevant. Volunteering and free assistance are important components of the linguistic picture of the world of any nation, and the study of their linguistic representation allows not only a more thorough analysis of intra-linguistic semiological relations, but also a deeper understanding of the cultural and national characteristics of English-speaking peoples and their influence on the formation and development of the language.

Materials and Methods

The emergence of a new term in the linguistic paradigm has not only opened up new opportunities for the study of linguistic phenomena, but also led to certain obstacles, primarily related to its conceptual vagueness. In particular, many studies of foreign and domestic linguists devoted to the frame analysis of linguistic phenomena begin not only with the justification of the choice of research method, but also with the analysis of the concept of "frame" itself (see works by D. Tannen, M. R. L. Petruk, C. F. Baker, L. O. Nizhegorodtseva-Kirichenko, N. V. Tatsenko, U. O. Karpenko, S. V. Kozak, etc.) At the same time, it should be noted that the interpretation of this phenomenon has significant differences.

Discussion

The aim of the article is to study the representation of the culture of volunteering in the English-language worldview based on the frame analysis of the VOLUNTEER concept, as well as to identify the main intralinguistic relations on which it is based.

Summary of the main material. Von Humboldt is considered to be one of the first people to pay attention to and begin to study in detail the interdependence of language, thinking and culture. According to von Humboldt, language not only reflects the way of thinking and cultural characteristics of a people, but also actively shapes these aspects. He emphasised that language is not only a tool of communication, but also a system that defines the framework of thoughts and concepts available to an individual within a particular culture. The researcher also pointed to the close connection between language and the identity of a people. He believed that each language is a unique expression of the way of life and

worldview of a particular people. Thus, individual worldview is shaped by language, which, in turn, influences cultural norms and values. ("Kaisu Korhonen developing intercultural competence as part of professional qualifications. A training experiment", 2003, c.78)

The study of any phenomenon requires versatility and diversity. Language is a complex phenomenon that is closely related to thinking, culture and cognition. Therefore, in order to fully understand language, it is necessary to study it from different sides, taking into consideration various aspects. Linguistics, cognitive science and philosophy are the sciences that provide researchers of language phenomena with important theoretical knowledge and research methods.

Linguistic and cultural studies examine the relationship between language and culture. It shows how language reflects cultural values, traditions, and perceptions of the world. Cognitive science studies the processes of cognition that occur in the human brain. It helps to understand how language is used to encode and reproduce knowledge about the world. Philosophy studies the fundamental problems of being, knowledge and values. It helps to understand how language reflects human thinking and world perception.

The involvement of these sciences in the study of linguistic phenomena allows for a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of language. For example, linguistic and cultural analysis can help to identify cultural connotations of language units, and cognitive analysis can help to understand how language is used to encode and reproduce knowledge about the world. Philosophical analysis can help us understand how language reflects human thinking and worldview. The study of any linguistic phenomenon without taking into account the cultural characteristics of the people cannot be considered complete. Only the involvement of various sciences that study language, thinking and culture allows us to gain a truly deep understanding of language.

The term "linguistic worldview" was coined by the German philologist L. Weisgerber in 1923. He believed that language is not just a tool for communication, but also a tool for understanding the world. Language reflects the unique perception of objective reality by a particular people. Weisgerber identified the following main characteristics of the linguistic worldview: systemicity, syncretism, variability, historicity, multilevelness, and multifunctionality. The introduction of this concept into linguistics emphasises the importance of language as not only a communicative tool, but also as a cultural expression and worldview shaper. (Артемчук, 2012, с. 325)

In 1955, the American psychologist George M. Bates first used the term "frame" to refer to a cognitive structure that represents knowledge about a particular subject area. (Orap, 2019, с. 23)

In the early 70s of the twentieth century, the American scientist M. Minsky introduced the term frame to the conceptual apparatus of artificial intelligence research. The researcher defines a frame as information data formed in a certain way, which reproduces the knowledge of a certain stereotypical situation acquired through experience (the concept of "situation" has a generalised meaning, as it can refer to an action, image, story, etc. According to M. Minsky, a frame can be represented graphically by a multi-level network consisting of nodes and connections between them. The upper, superordinate nodes of the network are clearly defined, as they are formed by concepts whose content always corresponds to the situation that this frame represents. Below these nodes, at the subordinate levels, are terminal nodes - obligatory components, the verbalisation of which depends on the speech situation. (Минский, 1979, с. 61)

Minsky's frame theory was further developed in the ideas of C. Fillmore, who made a significant contribution to the development of cognitive linguistics. In his work, Fillmore proposed the theory of frames, which is used to explain how people understand language. The scientist defined a frame as "a structure of knowledge that represents a typical situation, action, or object (Fillmore, 2006, с. 52). He claimed that frames are the primary way in which people store and use knowledge about the world.

The further evolution of C. Fillmore's ideas about the frame ends with the identification of frames with cognitive structures, the knowledge of which is associated with

the concepts represented by words. In his works, the frame appears as a model of the prototypical meaning of a lexical unit, thanks to which the information about the world inherent in the semantics of the sign is identified. (Коляденко, 2013, с. 140)

We can summarise the following understandings of the term frame in linguistics:

1) frames (according to C. Fillmore) are cognitive structures that represent knowledge about typical situations. They include information about roles, norms of behaviour, and the meaning of attributes associated with the situation. Frames are used to explain a wide range of linguistic phenomena, including syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

2) a frame is a complex of standardised actual and potential knowledge about phenomena, characterised by a complex multicomponent structure and is a holistic representation of a concept with a multilevel meaning (Z. D. Popova, Y. A. Sternin).

3) frame - a cognitive model that represents knowledge and assessments related to specific, often repeated situations (F. Ungerer, H.-J. Schmidt).

4) frame as a unit of knowledge organised around a concept, containing information about the essential, typical and possible for this concept within a particular culture (T. A. Van Dyke, R. Bogrand, W. Dressler) (Коляденко, 2013, с. 142)

According to the latest research and publications in the field of cognitive science, the traditional understanding of frame theory may not be sufficient to cover all dimensions of the concept in this interdisciplinary field. We share Jabotinsky's opinion that frame theory, in the classical sense, is only a conceptual model of stereotypical subject situations and does not engage in conceptual analysis that would cover knowledge about the world. The concept of frames focuses on stereotypical situations and is not able to take into account the conceptual analysis that covers knowledge about the world. It is important to note the importance of conceptual analysis in the cognitive and communicative activities of an individual, as well as its implementation in a speech act.

It is also important to take into account the external relations of the concept that go beyond the frame itself and the need to take into account all external relations in the consideration of the concept for a complete understanding of its functioning. In general, it is necessary to emphasise the need to extend and modify traditional concepts, such as frame theory, to better understand cognitive processes and their impact on cognition and communication.

The purpose of this research is to build a frame model of the name of the concept VOLUNTEER that would be able to explain the essence of the phenomenon of volunteering in the English-speaking worldview, based on linguistic facts about the phenomenon under study.

To achieve the aim of the study, the following tasks were set: to systematise the existing approaches to the definition of "frame"; to identify the logical predicates of the denotative meaning of the lexeme volunteer; to build a frame network of the concept VOLUNTEER; to prove its fractality; to draw a conclusion about the content of the conceptual basis of the name of the studied concept.

Based on the analysis of the dictionary definitions of the lexeme VOLUNTEER, it seems possible to build a general model of the concept VOLUNTEER in English, represented in the form of a frame.

The analysis is based on the methodology of building conceptual networks on the basis of basic frames by S.A. Jabotinskaya. According to the researcher, basic frames have the ability to form conceptual networks through various combinations of propositional schemes. In particular, the researcher identifies:

- the subject frame, in which the same entity (someone, something) is characterised by its quantitative, qualitative, existential, locative, temporal parameters, combines existential schemes - quantitative "X is SO much-quantity" qualitative "X is THIS-quality", locative "X exists/acts THERE / LC-locative (beginning, path or place, end)", temporal "X exists then / TM-temporal (beginning, period or moment of time, end)" and the scheme of the way of being "X exists in this-WAY";

- an actional frame, in which several subjects are united by relations and assigned argumentative roles, includes the actional schemes of state/process "AG-agent acts", contact action "AG-agent acts on PT-patient/AF-affect" and causation "CR-causer performs FT-fact". The above schemes can be extended by the argumentative roles of syllabic constants (varieties: AT-accompanion, AD-assistant, CG-contractor, IN-tool, MD-mediator), stimulus (GL-goal, CS-cause), precondition (CD-condition, CS-concession), recipient (AD-addressee, BN-benefit/ML-malefactor), as well as by means of locative and temporal schemes;

- the propositional frame, in which the WH-owner has the WH-thing he owns, is constituted by the propositional schemes of partiality "WH-whole has PR-part", inclusivity "CR-container has CT-content" / "CT-content has CR-container" and ownership "OW-owner has OD-ownership" / "OD-ownership has OW-owner";

- the identification frame, in which the permanent taxa of the subject entity are temporal non-permanent taxa, combines the identification schemes of personification "ID-individual is PS-personifier (proper name)", classification "ID-individual/species is CL-classifier: species/genus" and characterisation "ID-individual is CH-characteriser";

- comparative frame, formed by the relations of identity, similarity and resemblance, represented by the comparative schemes of identity / metamorphosis "CV-comparative is /as/ MS-correlative", similarity / analogy "CV-comparative is as if AN-correlative" and simile / metaphor "CV-comparative is as if MT-correlative". (С. Жаботинская, 2013, с. 55)

In this work, we claim that basic frames can form conceptual networks through combinations of propositional schemas. Propositional schemas are the primary categories of thinking and types of relations between them, and they have the highest level of generalisation. The type of propositional scheme is determined by its belonging to one of five basic frames. These frames are combined with each other to form integrative conceptual models.

In accordance with the type of frame, we characterise the VOLUNTEER concept by its quantitative, qualitative, existential, locational and temporal parameters (subject frame). We also characterise it in terms of its actions (action frame), identification and accessory characteristics (identification and accessory frames), and participation in interdimensional similarity relations (comparative frame). These connections are most often realised at the level of metaphor.

Structurally, the frames are organised using schemes that are interdependent and interrelated.

Based on the analysis of dictionary definitions of the lexeme volunteer, it seems possible to build a general model of the phenomenon of volunteer in English, represented in the form of a frame, and to identify logical predicates of the denotative meaning of the lexeme.

1) someone who does a job willingly without being paid; (<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/volunteer>)

2) an individual who contributes their services through personal choice and without compensation, for example, to a public or private health or social welfare agency or organization; (<https://dictionary.apa.org/volunteer>)

3) c. 1600, "one who offers himself for military service," from French *voluntaire*, "one who volunteers," also as an adjective, "voluntary," from Latin *voluntarius* "voluntary, of one's free will," as a plural noun "volunteers" (see [voluntary](#)). Non-military sense is first recorded 1630s. As an adjective from 1640s. Tennessee has been the Volunteer State since the Mexican War, when a call for 2,800 volunteers brought out 30,000 men; (<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=volunteer>)

4) someone who does a task voluntarily and usually without pay; (<https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/volunteer>)

5) a person who gives time and labour to a charity, organisation or other body without payment or other form of remuneration; (<https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/volunteer>)

6) an unpaid do-gooder; (<https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/volunteer>)

7) a person who freely enlists for service; (https://www.synonyms.com/synonym/volunteer#google_vignette)

8) a person who performs voluntary work. (https://www.synonyms.com/synonym/volunteer#google_vignette)

9) a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/volunteer>)

The frame structure of the VOLUNTEER concept is presented as follows.

1. Subject frame, its function is voluntary participation in activities aimed at the benefit of others (person who carries out volunteering; organisation where volunteering takes place; type of volunteering; duration of volunteering; frequency of volunteering). In 1871, the U.S. Fish Commission had been established, and Goode spent the summer of 1872 working for it as a volunteer collector in Eastport, Maine. There he chanced to meet Spencer F. Baird, head of the Fish Commission but also the Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian as well.

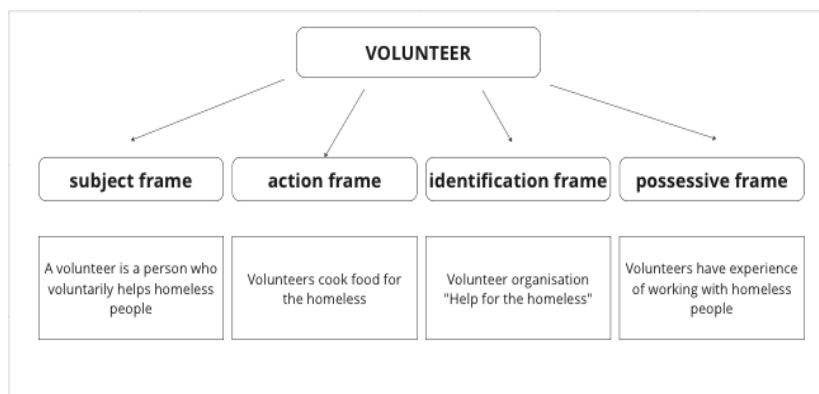
2. Action frame - helping others; doing good; changing the world. Krist is part of the volunteer doctor panel, the US Preventive Services Task force, that makes recommendations about preventive health services. I am happy to go volunteer with her at a shelter or hand out blankets and socks with an organization. Earlier in the week, I spoke to Jenn Budd, a former Border Patrol agent turned migrant aid volunteer, who has been outspoken about the myriad problems within the agency.

3. Identification frame and its identifiers: volunteer organisation; volunteer activity; volunteer values. Within eight weeks, I was hired as a national volunteer services coordinator for the data team and paid \$4,000 a month.

4. The possessive frame - volunteer skills; volunteer experience. Smollett was indicted on 16 counts of disorderly conduct -- but on March 26, Cook County prosecutors dropped all charges, saying in a statement: " After reviewing all of the facts and circumstances of the case, including Mr. Smollett's volunteer service in the community and agreement to forfeit his bond to the City of Chicago, we believe this outcome is a just disposition and appropriate resolution to this case. "

5. Comparative frame volunteering is similar to charity, but differs in that volunteering is a voluntary activity, while charity can be both voluntary and compulsory. Could we have campaign chairmen and women running around the U.S. paid for by foreign entities, choosing to volunteer on campaigns, going forward? Is that legal? Eventually, it wants this new portal to provide access to all 1.4 billion works in the commons -- but that could take time, given that its work relies on a community of volunteer developers who work alongside the engineering team at Creative Commons.

The frame structure of the concept of VOLUNTEER allows us to summarise knowledge about this concept. It reflects the main characteristics of volunteering, as well as the links between this concept and other concepts.



Conclusions and Prospects

On the basis of the analysis of dictionary definitions of the lexeme VOLUNTEER as the most generalised designation of the conceptualised by the English-speaking community notion of volunteering and related nominal units, the article models a frame model of the concept VOLUNTEER, which reflects its structure, as well as mechanisms and principles of functioning in the linguistic and mental space of the modern English language. The article deals with the frame model of the VOLUNTEER concept. Based on the analysis of dictionary definitions and nominative units related to volunteering, a structured model has been developed that reflects both linguistic and mental aspects of this concept.

The main results of the study allow us to identify the key components and relationships in the framework model. The concept of VOLUNTEER turned out to be multilayered, taking into account various aspects of volunteering, relationships with volunteers and interactions in this context.

Prospects for using the research results. The results obtained in the course of the study can be used for frame modelling of other conceptual structures. The resulting model can be a useful tool for further linguistic and cultural studies. Its use can contribute to a deeper understanding and analysis of the concept of volunteering in the modern English-speaking environment. Potential applications of the findings include frame modelling of other conceptual structures, expanding the methodological approach and opening up new research perspectives in the field of cognitive linguistics and cultural anthropology.

REFERENCES

- Artemchuk H. Leo Weisgerber and His Role in the Development of Modern Linguistics. *Scientific Bulletin of the Lesya Ukrainka East European National University. Series: Philological Sciences. Linguistics.*, 2012, 23, pp. 174–179.
- Davydyuk, Y., & Panasenko, N. (2016). Figuring the male and female: Fire and water in Bradbury's (science) fiction. *Lege Artis*, 1(1), 4–74. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lart-2016-0001>
- Fillmore, C. J. (2006). Frame semantics. *Y Encyclopedia of language & linguistics* (c. 613–620). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/b0-08-044854-2/00424-7>
- Kaisu korhonen developing intercultural competence as part of professional qualifications. A training experiment. (2003). *The 10th NIC Symposium on Intercultural Communication*.
- Koliadenko O. The Term "Frame" in Linguistics. *Terminological Bulletin.*, 2013, 2(1), pp. 13–145.
- Maievska K., Anisimova A. "Concept" in Modern Linguistics. *Grail of Science.*, 2023, 34, pp. 236–237. DOI: 10.36074/grail-of-science.08.12.2023.52.
- Minsky M. *Frames for Knowledge Representation*. Energia., 1979.
- Ohar A. Verbalization of the Concept "War" in Modern Artistic Discourse. *Native Word in Ethnocultural Dimension.*, 2019. DOI: 10.24919/2411-4758.2019.177323.

- Prihodko, G., & Prykhodchenko, O. (2020). Cognitive-pragmatic aspect of the category of evaluation. *Polonia University Scientific Journal*, 38(1-1), 93–101. <https://doi.org/10.23856/3812>
- Tatsenko N. V. Empathy in Modern English Discourse: Cognitive-Synergetic Dimension [Thesis]. eKhNUIR – Electronic Archive of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University., 2018. Available at: <http://dspace.univer.kharkov.ua/handle/123456789/14208>. APA dictionary of psychology. (б. д.). APA Dictionary of Psychology. <https://dictionary.apa.org/volunteer>
- Volunteer. (б. д.). TheFreeDictionary.com. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/voluntee>
- Volunteer. (б. д.-а). Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/volunteer>
- Volunteer. (б. д.-б). TheFreeDictionary.com. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/volunteer>
- Volunteer. (б. д.-с). TheFreeDictionary.com. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/volunteer>
- Volunteer | meaning of volunteer in longman dictionary of contemporary english | LDOCE. (б. д.). Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English | LDOCE. <https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/volunteer>
- Volunteer | search online etymology dictionary. (б. д.). Etymonline - Online Etymology Dictionary. <https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=volunteer>
- Volunteer synonyms & antonyms | synonyms.com. (б. д.-а). Synonyms.com. https://www.synonyms.com/synonym/volunteer#google_vignette
- Volunteer synonyms & antonyms | synonyms.com. (б. д.-б). Synonyms.com. https://www.synonyms.com/synonym/volunteer#google_vignette
- Zhabotynska S. The Name as a Text: Conceptual Network of Lexical Meaning (Analysis of Emotion Name). *Cognition, Communication, Discourse.*, 2013, 6, Article 10.26565/2218–2926-2013-06-04.
- Zhabotynska S. A. Cognitive Linguistics: On the Issue of Conceptual Model Levels. *Bulletin of Cherkasy University. Series "Philological Sciences"*., 1997, 3, pp. 3–11.