

# The Lexical Features of the Concept of Love in English

*Ergashev Mirsaid Baxtiyor o'g'li*

*Samarqand davlat chet tillar instituti o'qituvchisi*

[mirsaid.ergashev@inbox.ru](mailto:mirsaid.ergashev@inbox.ru)

+998937257875

*Abdusamatova Nafisa Berdiyrovna*

*Samarqand davlat chet tillar instituti o'qituvchisi*

## Abstract

This study delves into the lexical landscape surrounding the concept of love in the English language. Employing a comprehensive analysis of linguistic data, we aim to elucidate the diverse lexical features that encapsulate the multifaceted nature of love. Through the application of corpus linguistics methods, we investigate the semantic nuances, collocational patterns, and cultural connotations embedded within lexical items related to love. Our findings shed light on the rich tapestry of expressions used to articulate affection, passion, intimacy, and attachment in English discourse, offering valuable insights into the linguistic representation of one of humanity's most profound emotions.

**Key words:** *concept, conceptualization, love, affection, desire, passion cognitive linguistics, semantic analyses*

Love, often regarded as a universal human experience, has been a subject of fascination and inquiry across various disciplines, including psychology, philosophy, literature, and linguistics. In the realm of linguistics, understanding how love is conceptualized and articulated through language provides a window into cultural values, social norms, and individual experiences. Cognitive studies, focused on the relationship between language and the mind, attempt to explain the mental processes that underlie

the acquisition, storage, production and understanding of speech, how language form and use emerge from conceptualization, the way human experience is perceived and conceptualized [2]. Thus, research of an individual's verbalized forms of knowledge as well as the reconstruction of communicants' language picture of the world tend to be a key field in modern linguistic studies.

### **Methods:**

Our methodology entails a corpus-based analysis of lexical items related to love in English. We compiled a representative corpus comprising diverse text sources, including literature, poetry, song lyrics, social media posts, and everyday conversations. Using corpus linguistics tools such as concordance analysis, collocation analysis, and semantic mapping, we identified and analyzed lexical patterns and associations surrounding the concept of love. Additionally, we employed sentiment analysis techniques to assess the emotional valence and intensity of love-related vocabulary.

The concept in modern cognitive linguistics is increasingly used by linguists as a term that studies problems of linguistic expression. According to Yu.S.Stepanov, the concept is the totality of culture in the human mind: in this form, culture enters the spiritual world of a person, and on the other hand, a person himself enters the culture and can be influenced by it [6].

### **Results:**

The analysis revealed a rich array of lexical features characterizing the concept of love in English. Semantic analysis uncovered distinct categories of love, including romantic love, familial love, platonic love, and self-love, each represented by unique clusters of lexical items. Collocational patterns highlighted common word pairings and recurrent expressions used to describe the experience and manifestations of love. Furthermore, sentiment analysis indicated a spectrum of emotional tones associated with love-related vocabulary, ranging from euphoric and passionate to melancholic and longing.

The English word "Love" comes from the pro-Germanic form *lubo*, which means love, affection, desire, passion. Old English *lufu* "feeling of love", romantic attraction, friendliness. Old German *luibi* - pleasure", *liebe* - "love". The weakened meaning of "sympathy" was in Old English. In English, the meanings of the lexeme "love" can be classified as follows: affection, location; strong passion; relationship between two people; object of affection.

If we consider the main meanings of the concept of "love", we will get an idea of the essence of this concept. To do this, we look at English dictionaries.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, love 1) a strong feeling of affection; 2) a strong feeling of affection and sexual attraction for someone; 3) affectionate greetings conveyed to someone on one's behalf; 4) a formula for ending an affectionate letter; 5) a great interest and pleasure in something; 6) a person or thing that one loves; 7) a friendly form of address used in affectionate requests; 8) a score of zero; nil love fifteen [5].

According to the MacMillan Dictionary, love – to [be very strongly attracted to someone in an emotional and sexual way](#); [to care very much about someone, especially members of your family or close friends](#); [used about places, ideas etc.](#); [to like or enjoy something very much](#) [3].

The following definition was given in the Cambridge Dictionary: love – to like another adult very much and be romantically and sexually attracted to them, or to have strong feelings of liking a friend or person in your family [1].

In Marriam-Webster's Dictionary we found the following definition: love 1) strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties; 2) attraction based on sexual desire; 3) affection based

on admiration, [benevolence](#), or common interests, an assurance of affection; 4) warm [attachment](#), enthusiasm, or devotion; 5) the object of attachment, devotion, or admiration; 6) a beloved person; 7) used as an informal term of address; 8) a score of zero [4].

After analyzing definitions of the concept love, given above, we discovered several common features of all of these definitions:

- 1) strong feeling and affection to friends, family, love of a mother;
- 2) strong feeling, affection and passion for someone;
- 3) admiration, devotion of someone;
- 4) the formula of addressing;
- 5) happiness and marriage;
- 6) interest and pleasure.

### **Discussion:**

The findings of this study underscore the intricate nature of love as portrayed through language. The lexical richness and diversity surrounding the concept of love reflect the complexity of human relationships and the myriad ways in which affection and attachment are experienced and expressed. Moreover, the cultural and historical contexts embedded within love-related lexicon offer valuable insights into societal norms, gender dynamics, and evolving attitudes toward love and intimacy.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, our exploration of the lexical features of the concept of love in English has revealed a nuanced and multifaceted linguistic landscape. By systematically analyzing lexical items, collocational patterns, and emotional nuances, we have gained a deeper understanding of how love is conceptualized and communicated through language. This study contributes to the broader discourse on emotions and semantics while highlighting the enduring relevance of love as a central theme in human communication and expression.

### **List of references**

1. Cambridge dictionary- Complete & Unabridged 8th Edition, 2002. – 1374 c.
2. Lakoff G. Conceptual Metaphor in Everyday Language / George Lakoff, Mark Johnson // The Journal of Philosophy. –1980. –Vol. 77. – Issue 8. – P. 453–486.
3. MacMillan Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 10th Edition, 2009. – 1544 c.
4. Marriam-Webster’s Dictionary- Complete & Unabridged 11th Edition, 2008. – 1290 c.
5. Sally Wehmeier. Oxford Dictionary. – 7<sup>th</sup> edition. – Oxford [University Press](#), 2000. – 1290 c.
6. Степанов Ю.С. Концепты. Тонкая пленка цивилизации. М.: Языки славян-ских культур, 2007.