COGNITIVE AND SEMANTIC FOUNDATIONS OF LINGUISTIC MEANING

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ABSTRACT

This study presents an interdisciplinary examination of linguistic meaning through the integrated perspectives of cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology. Departing from traditional modular and formalist approaches to language, the paper conceptualizes meaning as a cognitively grounded and dynamically constructed phenomenon shaped by general cognitive processes. The purpose of this study is to develop a unified theoretical framework that explains how linguistic meaning emerges from conceptualization, categorization, embodied experience, and cognitive control mechanisms.

The research adopts a **qualitative meta-analytic literature review methodology**, synthesizing influential theoretical and empirical studies from linguistics, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Data were collected from peer-reviewed publications and foundational theoretical works and analyzed through thematic comparison and conceptual integration.

The findings demonstrate that semantic interpretation is closely linked to domain-general cognitive mechanisms, including working memory, attention allocation, schema activation, and predictive processing. The analysis further shows that models such as frame semantics, construction grammar, and conceptual blending effectively explain figurative language, metaphorical reasoning, and pragmatic inference. Neurocognitive evidence supports the view that semantic processing relies on distributed neural networks and sensorimotor systems, reinforcing the embodied nature of meaning.

The study concludes that linguistic meaning cannot be adequately explained through purely symbolic or structural models. Instead, it emerges from the interaction between linguistic form, cognitive processes, embodied experience, and socio-cultural context. This integrated perspective offers important implications for psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, and language education, and provides a foundation for future interdisciplinary research.

Keywords: cognitive linguistics; semantics; cognitive psychology; frame semantics; embodied cognition

1. INTRODUCTION

The nature of linguistic meaning has long been a central concern in linguistic theory. Classical structuralist and generative approaches have traditionally prioritized formal syntactic organization, often treating meaning as a secondary or derivative component of language. While these frameworks have contributed substantially to the systematic description of grammatical structures, they tend to abstract language away from cognition, experience, and context. As a result, they offer limited explanatory power for phenomena such as metaphor, polysemy, pragmatic inference, and cross-cultural variation in meaning. These limitations have motivated

the emergence of alternative approaches that place meaning and cognition at the core of linguistic inquiry.

Cognitive linguistics arose in the latter half of the twentieth century as a response to formalist paradigms, advancing the view that language reflects general patterns of human thought rather than autonomous syntactic rules. Foundational work by Lakoff, Johnson, Langacker, and others established that linguistic structures are systematically linked to conceptualization, embodied experience, and socio-cultural interaction. From this perspective, meaning is not a static property of linguistic forms but an emergent product of cognitive processes such as categorization, metaphorical mapping, schematic reasoning, and usage-based learning (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Langacker, 1987; Evans & Green, 2006). These principles have reshaped the understanding of language as an integral component of general cognition.

Semantics, particularly in its cognitive orientation, further reinforces this shift by reconceptualizing meaning as dynamic, context-sensitive, and experientially grounded. Unlike truth-conditional models that define meaning independently of human cognition, cognitive semantic approaches emphasize the role of conceptual structures, prototypes, and frames of background knowledge in shaping interpretation (Fillmore, 1982; Rosch, 1975; Jackendoff, 2002). Meaning, within this framework, emerges through interaction between linguistic expressions and culturally mediated conceptual knowledge, allowing for flexibility, variation, and inferential richness in communication.

Cognitive psychology provides essential empirical support for these theoretical claims by examining the mental mechanisms underlying language comprehension and production. Research on attention, working memory, schema activation, and executive control demonstrates that linguistic processing relies on domain-general cognitive resources rather than language-specific modules alone (Baddeley & Hitch, 1974; Kahneman, 1973; Bartlett, 1932). These mechanisms enable language users to manage ambiguity, integrate information across discourse, and generate contextually appropriate interpretations. Neurocognitive evidence further corroborates this view, revealing that semantic processing engages distributed neural networks and sensorimotor systems, thereby supporting embodied and predictive models of meaning (Pulvermüller, 2005; Patterson et al., 2007; Friston, 2010).

Taken together, these developments point toward an increasingly interdisciplinary understanding of language, in which cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology converge around shared assumptions about meaning construction. However, despite substantial progress within each field, an integrative framework that systematically synthesizes their theoretical and empirical contributions remains underdeveloped. Addressing this gap is essential for advancing a coherent account of how linguistic meaning is conceptualized, processed, and culturally shaped. Against this background, the present study aims to explore the interrelation between cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology with the objective of constructing an integrated cognitive-semantic framework. The study examines key theoretical models across these disciplines, analyzes the cognitive mechanisms underlying meaning construction, and highlights the role of embodiment, prediction, and cultural framing in semantic interpretation. By synthesizing insights from linguistics, psychology, and neuroscience, this paper seeks to provide a comprehensive account of linguistic meaning with implications for psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, and language education.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

This study employs a **qualitative exploratory research design** aimed at synthesizing theoretical and empirical insights from the intersecting fields of cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology. Given the interdisciplinary scope and conceptual orientation of the research, a **conceptual meta-synthesis approach** was adopted. This design is particularly suitable for studies that seek to integrate diverse theoretical perspectives, identify recurring conceptual patterns, and construct comprehensive explanatory frameworks rather than to test hypotheses through experimental or statistical procedures.

The primary objective of the research design is to generate an in-depth understanding of linguistic meaning as a cognitively grounded phenomenon. Accordingly, the study focuses on examining the interdependence between linguistic structures, meaning-construction mechanisms, and mental representations. By systematically synthesizing existing theoretical models and empirical findings, the research provides both **descriptive and explanatory insights**, thereby laying the foundation for an integrated cognitive-semantic framework.

2.2 Data Sources and Materials

The data for this study were obtained from **peer-reviewed academic publications** across multiple disciplines relevant to the research focus. The primary sources consisted of theoretical monographs, empirical research articles, and interdisciplinary review studies indexed in internationally recognized scholarly databases, including **Scopus, Web of Science, JSTOR, and PsycINFO**. To ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic, database searches were conducted using key terms such as *cognitive linguistics*, *semantic processing*, *conceptual metaphor*, *embodied meaning*, *language and cognitive psychology*, and *neural basis of semantics*. The inclusion criteria required that sources (a) be published within the last twenty years, (b) demonstrate clear relevance to at least one of the intersecting domains under investigation, and (c) meet established standards of methodological and theoretical rigor. In addition, seminal works published prior to this period—most notably those by Lakoff and Johnson (1980), Langacker (1987), and Fillmore (1982)—were intentionally included due to their foundational role in shaping contemporary cognitive and semantic theories.

2.3 Data Analysis Procedure

Data analysis was conducted through a **two-stage qualitative analytical process** involving thematic coding and theoretical triangulation. In the first stage, an inductive content analysis was applied to the selected sources in order to identify recurring conceptual themes, including *embodied cognition*, *schema activation*, *semantic memory*, *conceptual blending*, and *frame semantics*. These themes were coded systematically and grouped into higher-order conceptual categories representing shared cognitive mechanisms and semantic principles.

In the second stage, a **triangulation strategy** was employed to cross-examine and validate the identified themes across cognitive linguistics, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. This comparative analysis enabled the identification of convergences and divergences among disciplinary perspectives and facilitated the integration of complementary theoretical insights. Through this process, a synthesized model was developed that captures the dynamic interaction between perception, cognition, language, and meaning. The resulting framework offers a holistic account of how semantic knowledge is structured, accessed, and deployed within the human cognitive system.

3. FINDINGS

3.1 Key Findings in Cognitive Linguistics and Semantics

The synthesis of literature revealed several key findings that elucidate the dynamic interplay between cognitive linguistics and semantics. First, meaning is not static or context-independent but is dynamically constructed through conceptual mapping, metaphorical framing, and experiential grounding. Conceptual Metaphor Theory (CMT) demonstrates that abstract domains (e.g., time, morality) are understood through embodied, concrete experiences (e.g., motion, containment).

To synthesize the foundational constructs that define the cognitive linguistic approach, Table 1 presents the core concepts identified across the reviewed literature.

Table 1

Core constructs in cognitive linguistics

Concept	Definition	Key source
Image schema	Recurrent, embodied patterns of perception and action that structure abstract reasoning	Johnson (1987)
Conceptual metaphor	Understanding one conceptual domain in terms of another (e.g., *Time is money*)	Lakoff & Johnson (1980)
Construction grammar	Linguistic knowledge represented as pairings of form and meaning (constructions)	Goldberg (1995)
Usage-based model	Language structure emerges from repeated usage and pattern generalization	Langacker (1987)

In addition to cognitive linguistic constructs, several influential theories in cognitive semantics further clarify how meaning is conceptually structured, as summarized in Table 2.

Table 2

Key theories in cognitive semantics

Theory	Core idea	Representative scholar
Frame semantics	Meaning arises from structured background knowledge frames activated during language use	Fillmore (1982)
Prototype theory	Categories exhibit graded membership rather than rigid boundaries	Rosch (1975)
Conceptual structure theory	Linguistic meaning reflects organized mental representations	Jackendoff (2002)

Construction grammar further illustrates that syntactic patterns themselves carry meaning and are not merely structural shells. This view disrupts the traditional separation of syntax and semantics and suggests that meaning permeates all levels of linguistic structure. Frame semantics and prototype theory support the notion that lexical meaning activates schemas of culturally and perceptually grounded background knowledge. These theoretical insights are corroborated by empirical studies showing that speakers activate complex conceptual structures during real-time language use, drawing upon embodied knowledge and social experience.

3.2 Psychological Insights into Language Processing

Psycholinguistic research underscores that semantic processing is deeply intertwined with general cognitive capacities such as attention, memory, executive control, and categorization. Understanding meaning is not a passive retrieval process but an active construction shaped by multiple dynamic cognitive mechanisms. Attention plays a critical role in selecting relevant linguistic input while suppressing competing or irrelevant information (Kahneman, 1973). Efficient semantic processing requires the flexible allocation of attentional resources, especially when navigating ambiguity or resolving referential uncertainty in discourse. Working memory

supports the temporary storage and manipulation of linguistic information, enabling individuals to integrate meanings across complex sentences and extended discourse (Baddeley & Hitch, 1974). Limitations in working memory capacity can directly impact the ease with which meaning is constructed, particularly under conditions of syntactic complexity or when interpreting figurative language.

Empirical studies on semantic priming demonstrate that exposure to a semantically related stimulus facilitates faster recognition and interpretation of subsequent linguistic input (Neely, 1991). This suggests that semantic networks are organized around associative and conceptual links, where activation of one concept spreads to related nodes. Schema activation further structures semantic processing by providing background frameworks that enable rapid inference-making and contextual interpretation (Bartlett, 1932). These mechanisms jointly support real-time language comprehension by predicting likely meanings and integrating them into coherent mental models. Empirical research at the intersection of cognitive linguistics and psychology reveals consistent patterns in how meaning is processed and acquired, as summarized in Table 3.

Table 3

Key findings at the intersection of linguistics and cognitive psychology

Phenomenon	**Dominant cognitive mechanism**	**Implication for semantics**
Metaphor comprehension	Conceptual blending, analogical mapping	Meaning is dynamically constructed rather than retrieved
Bilingual lexical access	Inhibitory control, attentional switching	Semantic selection is cognitively regulated
Early language acquisition	Joint attention, pattern detection	Semantic grounding emerges from shared interaction
Semantic priming	Associative activation within conceptual networks	Meaning access is facilitated through spreading activation

Research into executive functions highlights the necessity of cognitive flexibility and inhibitory control in semantic processing (Miyake et al., 2000). Inhibitory control is particularly crucial when managing polysemous expressions, metaphorical language, or competing interpretations. Cognitive flexibility allows language users to switch between different semantic frames or adapt to shifts in discourse context, facilitating nuanced understanding. These skills are not only essential for native speakers but are also amplified in bilingual individuals, who must navigate dual language systems.

Bilingualism offers unique insights into cognitive-semantic dynamics. Studies demonstrate that bilinguals develop enhanced metalinguistic awareness, attentional control, and cognitive flexibility compared to monolinguals (Bialystok, 2001; Kroll & Bialystok, 2013). According to the Revised Hierarchical Model (Kroll & Stewart, 1994), bilingual semantic processing involves dynamic interactions between lexical and conceptual stores across languages. Frame switching becomes critical when bilinguals interpret culture-specific idioms or metaphors, requiring the activation of appropriate cultural schemas alongside linguistic structures.

Bilingual individuals often demonstrate an advantage in managing semantic interference, especially when interpreting idiomatic or figurative expressions that may lack direct equivalents across languages. For example, in high-context communication cultures, bilingual speakers must infer intended meanings based on subtle pragmatic cues rather than explicit semantic markers.

This ability reflects heightened sensitivity to frame selection and contextual nuance, crucial for accurate interpretation across different linguistic and cultural systems.

Neuroimaging studies reveal that bilinguals engage executive control networks more intensively during semantic selection tasks, particularly in the prefrontal cortex (Abutalebi & Green, 2007). This enhanced cognitive control enables bilinguals to inhibit irrelevant semantic competitors and facilitates efficient frame selection during language comprehension. These findings further validate the theoretical claims of cognitive linguistics that meaning is not static but dynamically constructed through interaction with cognitive mechanisms. In sum, psychological insights reveal that meaning construction is an active, resource-intensive process governed by attention, memory, executive control, and cultural knowledge. The cognitive flexibility required for frame switching and metaphor comprehension highlights the dynamic and embodied nature of semantic processing, offering robust support for the cognitive-semantic models outlined in contemporary linguistics.

3.3 Interdisciplinary patterns and emerging themes

Triangulated data from linguistic theory, psychology, and neuroscience reveal a number of converging themes that highlight the integrated nature of meaning construction. First, there is consistent evidence supporting the theory of embodied cognition, which posits that understanding language involves simulation of sensory and motor experiences. Functional neuroimaging studies have shown that processing action-related words activates motor regions of the brain, underscoring the embodied basis of lexical semantics.

Second, neurocognitive models confirm that semantic representation is distributed across a network of brain areas rather than localized in a single region. Key regions such as the anterior temporal lobe, angular gyrus, and inferior frontal gyrus coordinate to support the integration of conceptual knowledge, linguistic structure, and contextual cues. These findings validate the theoretical assumptions of frame semantics, which emphasize background knowledge and context-dependent interpretation.

Third, predictive processing has emerged as a core principle in understanding real-time language comprehension. The brain continuously anticipates upcoming linguistic input based on contextual information, allowing for rapid and efficient interpretation. This aligns with usage-based approaches in cognitive linguistics, where meaning is viewed as emergent from repeated exposure and contextual inference.

Finally, the cross-linguistic variability in the realization of semantic frames highlights the interplay between universal cognitive structures and culturally specific linguistic expressions. Languages such as English, Japanese, Arabic, and Malay illustrate how different grammatical systems and conceptual priorities shape the way meaning is structured and communicated. For instance, Arabic often encodes politeness and honorifics through frame selection, while Malay relies heavily on context and discourse structure to infer meaning.

Table 4.

Examples of frame realization across languages

Language	Frame Example	Linguistic Realization	Cultural/Functional Notes
English	Commercial Transaction	"She gave him the book"	Explicit role marking (subject, object, recipient)
Japanese	Motion/Event Structure	Verb-final structure with subject/topic ellipsis	Context determines agent and trajectory
Arabic	Politeness and Honorifics	Verb forms + honorific nouns (e.g., (د، حضد تك)	Frame selection encodes social hierarchy and deference

Malay	Request/Interaction Frame	Implicit frame, reliance on discourse markers and repetition	High-context language relying on pragmatic inference

The results collectively endorse an integrated cognitive-semantic model in which language is shaped by and simultaneously shapes cognitive processes. This model accounts for the embodied, distributed, and predictive nature of meaning construction and is supported by evidence from multiple disciplines. Such a model has significant implications for applied fields, including second language teaching – where understanding frame alignment enhances instructional design – and neurolinguistic assessment, where frame deficits can be indicators of semantic processing impairments.

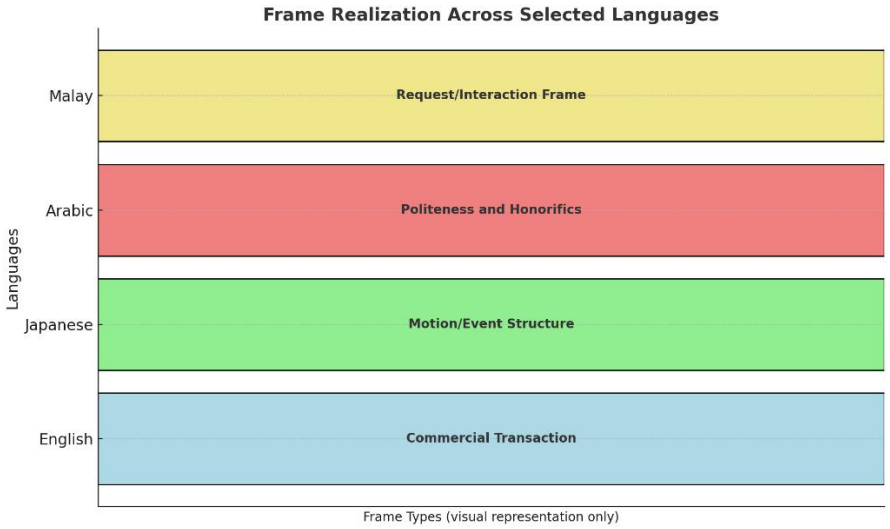

Figure 1. Frame realization scross selected languages

This diagram visualizes the linguistic realization of core conceptual frames across four typologically and culturally distinct languages: English, Japanese, Arabic, and Malay. Each bar represents a frame frequently instantiated in that language, highlighting differences in syntactic encoding, pragmatic inference, and cultural salience. The color-coded categories correspond to the frames listed in Table 5. The visual representation supports the argument that while underlying cognitive frames may be universal, their linguistic realizations are shaped by grammar, sociocultural conventions, and discourse norms.

3.4 Neurocognitive and Cross-Linguistic Evidence: Recent Advances

3.4.1 Neurocognitive Findings on Embodied Semantics

Recent research in cognitive neuroscience has strengthened the theoretical foundations of embodied semantics, demonstrating that conceptual processing is inherently tied to sensorimotor systems (Barsalou, 2016). Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and electroencephalography (EEG) studies reveal that understanding action-related language (e.g., *"grasp", "run")* activates corresponding areas in the motor cortex even in the absence of overt physical movement (Hauk et al., 2004).

Importantly, Barsalou (2016) argues that such activation is not epiphenomenal but functionally constitutive of conceptual understanding. Semantic representations are thus grounded in perceptual symbols – neural activations derived from sensory and motor experience – rather than amodal symbolic systems. This embodiment of meaning provides strong empirical

validation for cognitive linguistic models emphasizing the experiential basis of conceptual structures.

Moreover, predictive coding frameworks complement these findings by showing that motor-related brain areas not only respond to action words but also pre-activate during anticipatory processing based on linguistic context. For example, before hearing the word *"kick"* in a sentence, listeners' motor cortices may already exhibit increased activity corresponding to lower-limb movement expectations (Pulvermüller, 2005).

Neurocognitive research provides converging evidence for the embodied and distributed nature of semantic processing, as summarized in Table 5.

Table 5

Neuroscientific contributions to semantic theory

Neural region	Function in semantic processing	Key reference
Left anterior temporal lobe (ATL)	Integration of multimodal semantic knowledge; amodal conceptual hub	Patterson et al. (2007)
Inferior frontal gyrus (IFG)	Semantic control, selection, and inhibition of competing meanings	Hagoort (2005)
Motor cortex	Sensorimotor simulation during action-related language comprehension	Pulvermüller (2005)
Angular gyrus	Conceptual combination and contextual integration	Binder et al. (2009)

These results reinforce the notion that linguistic meaning is neurally distributed, sensorimotor-grounded, and dynamically constructed through interaction between top-down predictions and bottom-up perceptual input.

4.4.2 Cross-Linguistic variations in frame realization

Recent cross-linguistic research highlights the variability in how different languages realize conceptual frames, revealing the cultural embeddedness of cognitive-linguistic structures. Cross-linguistic analysis reveals systematic variation in how conceptual frames are linguistically realized across languages, as illustrated in Table 6.

Table 6

Examples of frame realization across selected languages

Language	Conceptual frame	Linguistic realization	Cultural / functional characteristics
English	Commercial transaction	Explicit role marking through subject–object–recipient structure	Low-context communication; grammatical clarity
Japanese	Motion / event structure	Verb-final syntax with topic–comment organization and ellipsis	Context-dependent interpretation; discourse prominence
Arabic	Politeness and social hierarchy	Frame-sensitive morphology and honorific lexical items	Encoding of social relations and respect
Malay	Request / interaction	Implicit framing relying on discourse markers and repetition	High-context communication; pragmatic inference

Cross-linguistic analysis reveals systematic variation in how conceptual frames are linguistically realized across languages. While core cognitive frames appear to be shared across

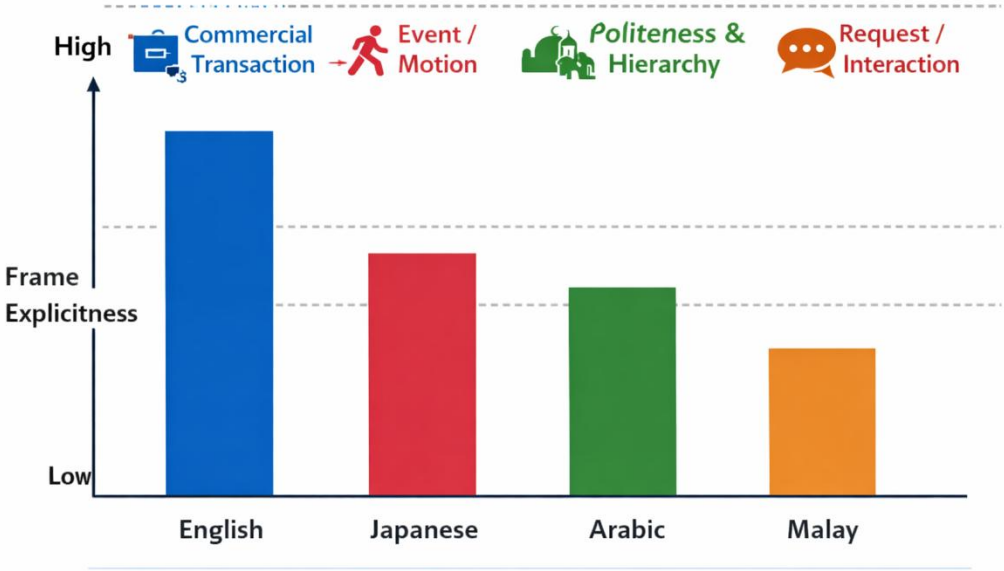

Figure 1. *Frame realization across selected languages.*

linguistic communities, their grammatical encoding and pragmatic prominence differ depending on cultural conventions and discourse norms. To visually illustrate these differences in frame explicitness and contextual reliance across languages, Figure 1 presents a comparative representation of dominant frame realization patterns in English, Japanese, Arabic, and Malay.

Chinese, for instance, frequently utilizes metaphors of verticality and balance (e.g., 上 *shàng "up"* for good, 下 *xià "down"* for bad) like English but embeds them within Confucian relational schemas emphasizing harmony and social hierarchy (Yu, 1998). This affects the

framing of social interactions, obligations, and emotional states through vertical spatial metaphors.

Finnish, in contrast, emphasizes locational containment and boundedness more strongly than English. Spatial prepositions like *"sisällä" (inside)* and *"päällä" (on top)* are not merely physical but extend to abstract domains like legal relationships or social roles, reflecting a cognitive model where bounded spaces play a central organizing role in thought (Juvonen, 2000).

Comparative studies reveal that while cognitive frames such as Motion, Containment, and Social Hierarchy are broadly shared across cultures, their linguistic realizations, pragmatic salience, and cultural interpretations vary substantially. These cross-linguistic differences emphasize the importance of culturally calibrated models of frame semantics, challenging universalist assumptions and reinforcing the need for nuanced, context-sensitive analyses in cognitive linguistics and semantics.

4. DISCUSSION

The present study has illuminated the complex interrelations among cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology, emphasizing their collective role in shaping our understanding of linguistic meaning. One of the core insights is the affirmation that meaning is not confined to symbolic representation, but is fundamentally tied to perceptual experience, cognitive categorization, and cultural framing. Frame semantics, as supported by neurocognitive and psycholinguistic data, proves essential in explaining how language users activate and navigate conceptual knowledge structures during communication.

The interdisciplinary findings consolidate the theoretical proposition that language functions as an emergent property of general cognition. For instance, the activation of motor cortices in action-related language processing, the involvement of the angular gyrus in conceptual combination, and the reliance on predictive coding mechanisms collectively reinforce a model in which meaning emerges from dynamic brain-behavior interactions.

Cross-linguistic evidence, as shown in the case of English, Japanese, Arabic, and Malay, demonstrates both the universality and variability of semantic frames. While certain conceptual frames (e.g., transaction, motion) appear across cultures, their grammatical realization and pragmatic functions diverge significantly. Arabic encodes social hierarchy through frame-sensitive morphology and honorifics; Malay relies on contextual inference within high-context discourse; Japanese uses syntactic ellipsis and topic-comment structures; and English emphasizes explicit role marking. These differences highlight the importance of integrating cultural cognition into frame-based models of semantics.

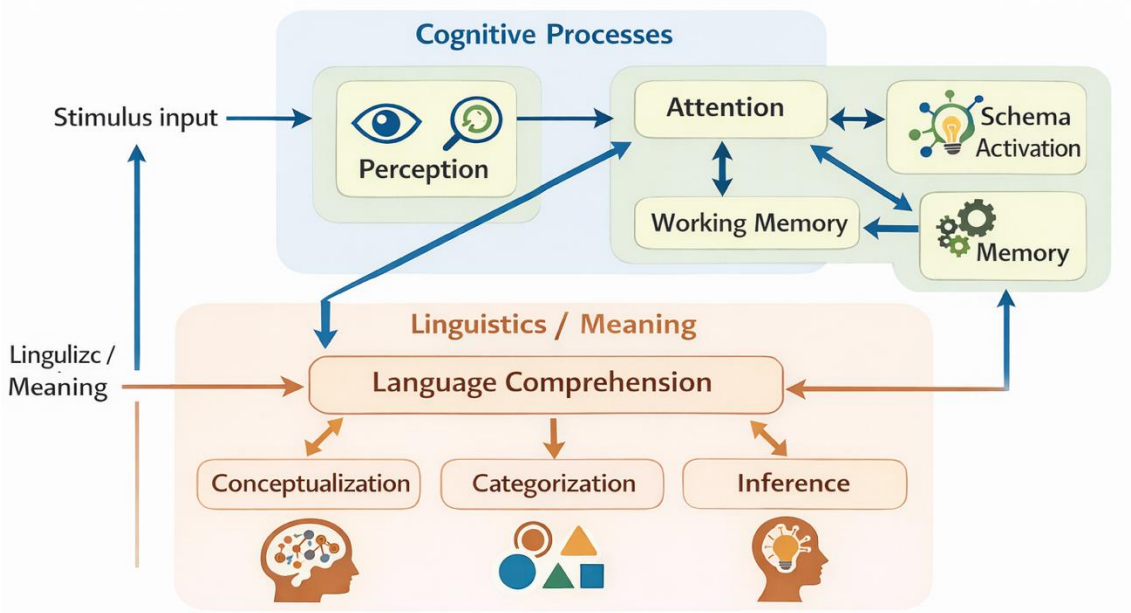

Figure 2. *Cognitive processes influencing language use.*

Moreover, the findings have practical implications for fields such as second language acquisition and translation studies. Understanding how frames are constructed, accessed, and transferred across languages allows educators and translators to anticipate challenges learners may face, particularly with figurative and culturally embedded expressions. Pedagogical approaches that incorporate frame awareness can improve comprehension and communicative competence.

The study also underscores the significance of embodied simulation and predictive processing in real-time language comprehension. These mechanisms enable listeners and readers to anticipate meaning, resolve ambiguity, and generate inferential understanding, all of which are crucial for processing non-literal language such as metaphor, irony, and sarcasm.

Ultimately, the discussion advances a unified, empirically grounded model of language that transcends disciplinary boundaries. Cognitive linguistics, enriched by semantics, psychology, and neuroscience, offers a comprehensive approach to understanding how language is conceptualized, acquired, and used across diverse linguistic and cultural contexts.

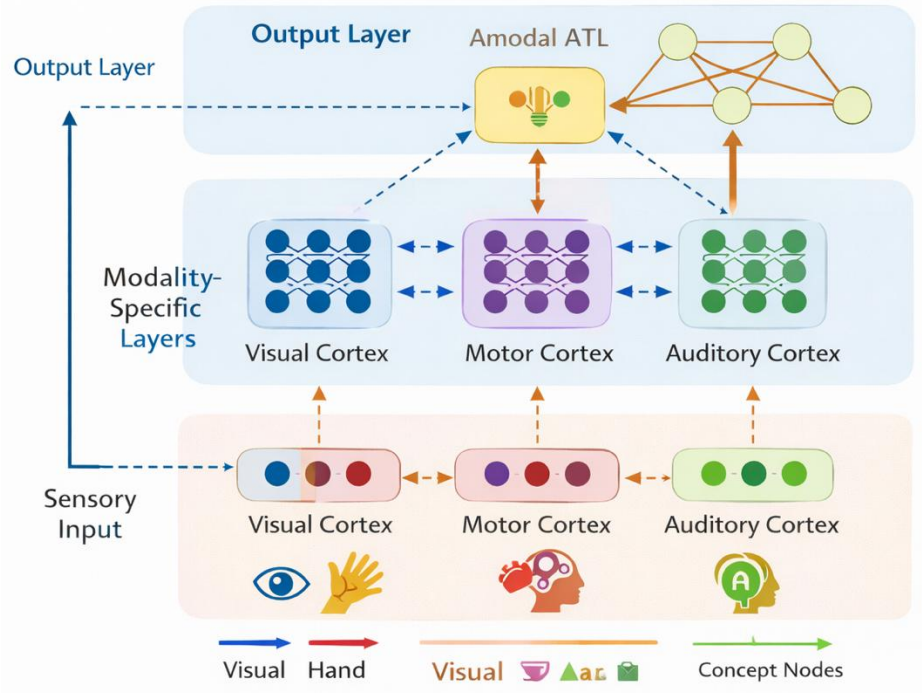

Figure 3. *Neural network model of semantic processing.*

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5. CONCLUSION

This study set out to examine linguistic meaning through an integrated perspective combining cognitive linguistics, semantics, and cognitive psychology. By synthesizing theoretical and empirical research across these disciplines, the study demonstrates that linguistic meaning is not a static or purely symbolic entity but a dynamic, cognitively grounded phenomenon emerging from interaction between language, cognition, embodiment, and socio-cultural context.

The findings confirm that meaning construction relies on domain-general cognitive mechanisms such as attention, working memory, executive control, schema activation, and predictive processing. Cognitive linguistic models—including frame semantics, conceptual metaphor theory, construction grammar, and conceptual blending—provide effective explanatory tools for understanding how speakers and listeners construct meaning in real time. These models are further supported by psycholinguistic and neurocognitive evidence showing that semantic processing involves distributed neural networks and sensorimotor systems, reinforcing the embodied nature of conceptual knowledge.

Cross-linguistic analysis highlights the dual character of linguistic meaning as both universal and culturally specific. While core conceptual frames are broadly shared across languages, their grammatical realization and pragmatic interpretation vary according to cultural norms and discourse conventions. This variability underscores the importance of context-sensitive and culturally informed approaches to semantic analysis.

Overall, the study advances a unified cognitive-semantic framework that transcends disciplinary boundaries and offers a more comprehensive account of language as an emergent property of general cognition. The proposed perspective has important implications for psycholinguistics, second language acquisition, translation studies, and language education. By emphasizing the cognitive, embodied, and predictive foundations of meaning, this research provides a robust foundation for future interdisciplinary investigations into the nature of human language and cognition.

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