Linguistic and Cognitive Depth Beyond "Beyond the Surface"

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Abstract: *The purpose of this article is to shed light on linguistic and cognitive depth. For this, the ideas behind prayer / "prayer" duality line of research, namely the word "prayer" and the concept of prayer, are to be worked on. Additionally, a second layer to the concept of prayer is being added, so as to go even deeper in our understanding of linguistic and cognitive depth.*

Keywords: cognition, cognitive depth, language, linguistic depth, metaphysics, physics, physical/metaphysical level, prayer.

1. Introduction

The progress of linguistics in the last years has derived into a reformulation of the main concepts about language and cognition, being one of the final outcomes prayer/"prayer" duality. This article is an additional effort in which one more layer to linguistic and cognitive depth is added, thus gaining a deeper understanding of linguistic and cognitive phenomena.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Linguistic depth

Linguistic depth, in purely semantic terms, has been identified as the impact of a semantic construction on cognitive processing. This impact, taking place within some operations in the realm of a cognitive model idealization, has a lexical component fundamental to the purpose of this research (Ahmed, 2010; Alvarez, 2018a; 2018b; Cifuentes et al., 2011). Additionally, linguistic depth has a metaphysical nature/component (Alvarez, 2018b).

2.2 Cognitive depth

Cognitive depth has been identified as the kind of thinking through which answers to questions can be found (Murray & Nhlapo, 2001). Since a theoretical loop to identify what cognitive depth is through this definition has been found, the need for a different conception of language has been proposed (Alvarez, 2018a).

2.3 Prayer/"prayer" duality

As defined in previous research, prayer/"prayer" duality is the cognitive-related realm in which prayer, together with other language-related activities having a deep and mysterious nature, take place (Alvarez, 2018b, 2019, 2022).

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3. Discussion

Everything begins with the concept of prayer, an idea opening the scope of linguistic study to a new horizon, beyond a mere rationalization of the linguistic phenomenon (Chomsky, 1957; Alvarez, 2018a, 2019, 2020). As stated, prayer/"prayer" duality has been one of the final outcomes of this quest, and the word "prayer" has been key to achieve this (Alvarez 2018a, 2019).

However, the research line can continue and a new step has been found for that. The next step of prayer/"prayer" duality is "prayer about prayer", which is a linguistic sample. It may provide a deeper insight into the research of language and cognition we have been carrying out so far. If the concept of prayer was about going beyond language and cognition, prayer about prayer is about going beyond the concept of prayer itself[1].

All this can be better worked on if we show a non-semantic and grammatical sentence similar to "Flavorless salty ideas pray unconsciously" (Alvarez, 2018b) but with an additional prayer layer. The sentence is the following:

Flavorless salty ideas pray about prayer unconsciously, showing the answer to human cognition is not only about going beyond a rational view of the linguistic phenomenon, represented by a non-semantic and grammatical sentence like "colorless green ideas sleep furiously" (Chomsky, 1957; Alvarez, 2018b, 2020; Murray & Nhlapo, 2001), by American linguist Noam Chomsky. Rather, it is about going beyond a metaphysical view of language and cognition in humans. We may wonder how we could actually get there successfully. The next paragraphs will try aiming at that.

If an idea is metaphorically able to pray about prayer, then that has to have consequences for our conception of language, of what it is and what it looks like. If the first layer of prayer, was about proving the mysterious and deep nature and dynamics of the language taking place within prayer activity (Alvarez, 2018b), the second layer is about proving the

[1]A path with a similar label ("going beyond the concept of prayer") has been taken in previous research. However, the focus there has been the concept of *fasting* (Alvarez, 2021).

same characteristics not only of the language, but also of the interaction among those features in regard to the language and content of prayer about prayer.

If in first layer the mind is initially in a cloud or fuzzy state of metaphysical connection (Alvarez, 2018b), in second layer this special kind of connection may be between the metaphysical and physical realm. We may call this "(meta)

physical", an in-between realm of reality in which a special connection with a Superior Being, and between and among humans, is likely to take place. We can see here linguistic depth has a lexical component (Cifuentes et al., 2011).

Naturally, this connection has a cognitive dimension and as such, it is cognitively deep (Murray & Nhlapo, 2001). However, if its nature is (meta) physical, it may defy what we know about physical space and its relation with language and communication. Maybe the laws of physics, as we know them, are just formulations within a view of language ending in first layer of prayer. Beyond that, it is something that only time, space-time or whatever dynamics underlying the functioning of the world, will tell.

4. Conclusion

In this article we went through a second layer of the prayer phenomenon, applied to language and cognition. It was found the special connection taking place at the metaphysical level in first layer of prayer, is very likely to take place at a physical/metaphysical level of reality in second layer of prayer. The question of whether there are more layers of prayer able to provide insights into potentially deeper levels of language and cognition still remains unanswered. However, it is likely that question will be answered by the most interesting possibility.

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