

Language competence, therefore, expands educational mobility, supports lifelong learning, and facilitates integration into global academic networks.

In conclusion, foreign language proficiency has become a fundamental requirement in the context of globalization. It expands academic mobility, improves access to scientific knowledge, and enhances professional competitiveness in an interconnected world. English, as the dominant language of global communication, plays a particularly significant role in higher education and international cooperation. As globalization continues to shape educational systems and labor markets, mastering foreign languages is no longer an optional skill but a strategic necessity for personal and professional success.

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THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LANGUAGE AND THOUGHT

The interaction between language and thought is a subject of discussion in the fields of linguistics and cognitive science. Language is not only a tool of communication but also a means through which people perceive and interpret reality. Thought involves mental processes such as reasoning, understanding, and decision-making. Studying the influence of language and thought on each other is essential for understanding cognitive

processes and human perception. These theses aim to examine the main theoretical approaches to the interaction between language and thought and to analyze relevant empirical studies that support these claims. To better understand this phenomenon, it is important to consider both classical theoretical approaches and contemporary research findings.

Linguistic determinism and relativity represent one of the key approaches, suggesting that the structure and vocabulary of a language can influence cognitive processes. Language can influence thought in various ways, including subtler effects on perception (Boroditsky, 2011, 65). Core concepts such as linguistic determinism and linguistic relativity occupy a central place in discussions about the impact of language on cognition.

Thought can also influence language from the perspective of cognitive processes and development. Humans possess basic cognitive structures that determine how language is used and perceived. Studies involving children show that cognitive abilities and language skills develop in parallel, reflecting an active interaction between language and thought (Gentner & Goldin-Meadow, 2003, 3).

Research on cross-linguistic influence demonstrates that speakers of different languages process the same information in different ways. Differences between monolinguals and multilinguals highlight how linguistic experience may affect memory, attention, and categorization (Pavlenko & Jarvis, 2008; Park, 2015). These findings suggest that, despite the general universality of thought, language can modulate the way reality is perceived and interpreted.

Empirical studies provide concrete examples of the interaction between language and thought. Their findings indicate that speakers of different languages perceive certain types of distinctions differently, including spatial, temporal, and color distinctions. Multilingual speakers are often characterized by cognitive flexibility, which reflects the influence of multiple linguistic systems. Experiments aimed at a deeper investigation of

spatial reasoning, motion events, and temporal cognition reveal differences in perception depending on linguistic experience (Boroditsky, 2011). Taken together, these studies support the idea of a close relationship between language and thought, but do not imply absolute determinism.

A comparison of different theoretical approaches shows that neither strict linguistic determinism nor complete independence can fully explain the interaction between language and thought. Recent studies favor a model of mutual influence, in which language and cognitive processes shape each other depending on context. Cultural and social factors are also involved in this interaction, as language habits are formed under the influence of social and situational experience (Li, 2022). Understanding these dynamics is important for interpreting research findings and applying them in education, translation, and cross-cultural communication.

In conclusion, language and thought are closely interconnected, and each influences the other. While language affects the perception and interpretation of reality, thought also shapes the use and development of language. Recent studies support a model of mutual influence rather than complete determinism. Future research may focus on cross-linguistic comparisons, cognitive processes of multilingual speakers, and the role of culture in shaping the interaction between language and thought. Overall, understanding this relationship provides deeper insight into cognitive processes and the role of language in shaping perception.

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