

RECURRENCE IN THE COGNITIVE-SEMANTIC DOMAIN OF LANGUAGE: A CATEGORIAL PERSPECTIVE

The study of recurrence as a linguistic phenomenon has gained renewed scholarly attention in the context of contemporary cognitive and functional approaches to language analysis. While recurrence has traditionally been examined within the framework of stylistics and text linguistics as a means of ensuring cohesion, its cognitive-semantic dimensions remain insufficiently explored, particularly in terms of its categorial status within the linguistic system. Recurrence, understood as the systematic return of linguistic units at various levels of language organization, constitutes a fundamental mechanism of both text construction and cognitive processing. Its significance lies not merely in the observable repetition of surface forms, but in the deeper cognitive and semantic processes that such repetition activates and sustains. At the phonological level, recurrent sound patterns contribute to the rhythmic and prosodic organization of discourse, creating acoustic coherence that guides the recipient's perception. At the lexical level, the systematic return of key lexical units reinforces thematic dominants, anchors meaning, and signals the conceptual priorities of the text. At the syntactic level, recurrent structural patterns generate parallelism and symmetry, which serve both aesthetic and argumentative functions, lending the text a sense of logical progression and internal consistency.

What distinguishes recurrence from mere accidental repetition is its systemic character. Recurrence is not a random or incidental feature of language use but a principled mechanism governed by the cognitive and communicative intentions of the speaker or writer. It operates across all registers and genres of discourse – from poetic and literary texts, where it achieves its most explicit and stylistically marked forms, to scientific and journalistic discourse, where it functions more covertly as a device of thematic continuity and argumentative reinforcement. In each case, the underlying cognitive logic remains the same: the return of a linguistic unit signals to the recipient that a given semantic domain, conceptual structure, or communicative intention remains active and relevant.

From a theoretical standpoint, recurrence occupies a unique position at the intersection of langue and parole. As a property of the language system, it reflects the inherent tendency of linguistic structures toward regularity, economy, and pattern formation. As a feature of speech, it manifests in concrete textual and discursive realizations that are shaped by context, genre, and communicative purpose. This dual nature – simultaneously systemic and contextual, abstract and concrete – makes recurrence a particularly productive and complex object of cognitive-semantic inquiry, one that resists reduction to any single level of linguistic analysis and demands an integrative, multidimensional approach.

From the perspective of categorial grammar, recurrence exhibits properties characteristic of a fully-fledged linguistic category. A philologist L. Marchuk's research into the structure of functional-semantic fields demonstrates that lexical and semantic units form dynamic systems organized around shared semantic features, operating across multiple levels of language simultaneously [2, p. 223]. Applied to the phenomenon of recurrence, this insight suggests that

recurring linguistic units do not merely repeat surface-level forms but activate and reinforce underlying cognitive schemas, contributing to the formation of stable mental representations in the recipient's mind.

The cognitive-semantic domain of language provides a productive theoretical framework for examining recurrence beyond its traditional textual functions. Within cognitive linguistics, recurrence correlates with the concepts of frame and script: the repeated activation of certain lexical or syntactic patterns triggers established mental structures that organize the recipient's perception of the world [3, p. 87]. This connection between recurrence and cognitive schemas underscores its role not only as a textual device but as a mechanism of meaning construction and conceptualization. Furthermore, recurrence functions as a key parameter of semantic field organization. Recurring lexical units tend to cluster around semantic dominants, reinforcing the thematic and conceptual coherence of a text. In this respect, recurrence operates in close interaction with reiteration – a more locally motivated form of repetition aimed at semantic emphasis – while simultaneously extending beyond it to encompass broader patterns of structural and conceptual repetition [1, p. 26]. The distinction between recurrence and reiteration is therefore not merely terminological but reflects fundamentally different levels of cognitive-semantic organization.

The categorial perspective on recurrence also opens productive avenues for interdisciplinary research, positioning recurrence as a phenomenon that transcends the boundaries of any single discipline and invites collaborative inquiry across linguistics, cognitive science, computational analysis, and communication theory. The recognition that recurrence operates not only as a stylistic or textual device but as a fundamental cognitive-semantic mechanism has encouraged researchers from diverse fields to examine its manifestations and functions through complementary methodological lenses. This interdisciplinary momentum reflects a broader shift in contemporary linguistics toward integrative approaches that acknowledge the complexity of language as both a cognitive system and a social practice.

From the perspective of computational linguistics and natural language processing, recurrence has emerged as a key measurable parameter in the automated analysis of text quality, coherence, and comprehensibility. Computational tools designed to assess discourse structure have consistently demonstrated that the systematic return of lexical and syntactic units correlates with higher levels of textual coherence and facilitates the recipient's cognitive processing of complex information. These findings are significant not only for their practical implications in areas such as automated text evaluation and readability assessment, but also for the theoretical validation they provide for claims long advanced within cognitive linguistics regarding the role of repetition in meaning construction and communicative efficiency. The convergence of computational evidence and theoretical insight represents one of the most productive developments in contemporary discourse studies, offering empirical grounding for what has traditionally been a domain of qualitative and interpretive analysis.

At the same time, recurrence has attracted sustained attention within cognitive neuroscience and psycholinguistics, where researchers have sought to understand the neurological and psychological mechanisms underlying the human capacity to recognize, produce, and process recurring patterns in language. Studies in this domain have shown that the brain responds to linguistic recurrence in ways that parallel its responses to other forms of pattern recognition, suggesting that the cognitive processing of recurrent linguistic units is deeply integrated with more general mechanisms of perception, memory, and attention. This

neurological dimension of recurrence further reinforces its status as a fundamental cognitive-semantic category rather than a peripheral stylistic phenomenon, and points toward the possibility of a unified theoretical account that bridges the gap between linguistic description and cognitive explanation.

The interdisciplinary study of recurrence also holds considerable promise for applied domains, including corpus linguistics, where large-scale quantitative analysis of recurring patterns across texts and genres can yield new insights into the regularities of language use, and discourse analysis, where the examination of recurrent structures in political, media, and institutional communication reveals the mechanisms by which language shapes perception, constructs ideology, and organizes social meaning. Taken together, these interdisciplinary perspectives confirm that recurrence is not a marginal or narrowly defined linguistic phenomenon but a central organizing principle of language that demands and rewards sustained scholarly attention from multiple directions. In the domain of applied linguistics, the implications of recurrence as a cognitive-semantic category are particularly relevant for language teaching and discourse analysis. Understanding the mechanisms by which recurrence shapes cognitive processing can inform pedagogical strategies aimed at developing learners' textual competence and their ability to recognize and produce coherent discourse.

In conclusion, recurrence in the cognitive-semantic domain of language represents a multifaceted categorial phenomenon whose significance extends well beyond its traditional role as a stylistic or cohesive device. Its analysis within the framework of categorial grammar and cognitive semantics reveals its fundamental role in the organization of meaning, the activation of cognitive schemas, and the construction of coherent textual and discursive structures. Further research in this direction promises to yield important insights for both theoretical linguistics and its applied dimensions.

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