

## STUDY OF A HUMAN BEING THROUGH A PRISM OF TWO-COMPONENT COMPOUND NOUNS

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**Abstract:** The article deals with English two-component compound nouns representing knowledge about a human being in cognitive aspect. It argues that the meaning of compound nouns can be determined by metaphorical cognitive models: HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL, HUMAN BEING – PLANT, HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT and others. Metaphorical mappings across a source domain and a target domain are established on the basis of such characteristics as: ‘action’, ‘action performed in a certain manner’, ‘action performed at a certain time’, ‘manner of action’, ‘quality’, ‘function’, ‘behavior’. The lexical categories, which are being supplementing due to two-component compound nouns, are revealed. As a result of the investigation the following lexical categories of compound nouns are revealed: “character”, “behavior”, “mental abilities”, “social role”, “professional status”, etc. The analysis of compound nouns shows that their semantic structure has an evaluative potential. English compound nouns represent information about an individual as a biological, psychological and social being.

**Keywords:** Two-component compound nouns, evaluative categorization, metaphorical cognitive model, conceptual characteristics, lexical category.

### INTRODUCTION

Compounding is a productive way of forming new words in English. That is why from the middle of the twentieth century numerous attempts are made to analyze compound nouns. By the present moment such problems as a genesis of a compound word and its identification (Carstairs-McCarthy, 2002; Lees, 1960; Paul, 1960), differentiation criteria between a compound word and a phrase (Marchand, 1969; Haritonchik; 1992, Arnold, 2012), the classification of compound words (Bloomfield, 1968; Meshkov, 1976; Bauer, 1983; Ryder, 1994; Benveniste, 2002; Plag, 2003, Schmid 2011) received wide coverage.

The meaning of compound words and the relations between their components are of not less interest for researchers. For example, M. Ryder, a representative of the psycholinguistic approach, specifies that meanings of compound words are defined by a set of linguistic templates which are a potential basis for creation of new words. She distinguishes the groups of compound words with a general component - modifier (*sea lion, seaman, sea cow*) or a basic component (*boathouse,*

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*warehouse, tree house*) and the groups of compound words constructed on the models consisting of different components (Substance that can be contained + are allocated to Container = Container to hold/store the substance: *cigar box, coke bottle, grocery bag*) (Ryder, 1994).

The supporters of structural and semantic approaches investigate the interrelation between the meaning of compound words and the nature of logical relationships of their components: (the relation of subjectivity (*sunrise*), the relation of objectivity (*bell-push*), the relation of cause (*handwriting*), the relation of goal (*raincoat*), locative relations (*seaport*), and so on (Jespersen, 1954).

The review of studies on the problem of compound words has shown that it is necessary to analyze not only the structure, the meaning of compound words, but also knowledge structures represented by them. In papers written in the mainstream of cognitive semantics, cognitive mechanisms of creating meanings of compound words are revealed, some propositional, metaphorical, metonymical cognitive models are described (Babina & Fedenko, 2015).

The topicality of study of compound words from the standpoint of cognitive semantics is due to the fact that cognitive processes and the interpretation of the world by people of a certain linguocultural community receive a special reflection in compound words. The evaluative potential of compound words gives the opportunity to explore how people interpret themselves and other members of the linguistic community to which they belong.

The article is aimed at studying what kind of knowledge about a human being is expressed by compound words, defining cognitive models with the help of which compound words are formed.

## **METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK**

The study is based on the conceptual metaphor theory (CMT) established by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson (1980). G. Lakoff and M. Johnson (1999) proclaim that metaphor is a matter of thought and action and only derivatively a matter of language. According to the conceptual metaphor theory conceptual metaphors are systematic mappings across conceptual domains: one domain of experience, the source domain, is mapped onto another domain of experience, the target domain. Mapping in CMT is unidirectional from the source domain to the target domain. The source domain is typically more physical or concrete than the target domain. This determines the potential of the conceptual metaphor, which is one of the most productive ways to create new names and new knowledge (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, 1999; Langacker, 1987, Ludlow 2014). Schematically, in accordance with the designation accepted by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson, the model of conceptual metaphor is as follows: target domain ← source domain.

In the study of compound nouns the cognitive modeling method is used to identify cognitive models with the help of which the compound nouns that reflect the knowledge about a human being, including evaluative knowledge, are formed. The characteristics of the source domain, on the basis of which metaphorical mappings are established, are revealed. In the study the methods of conceptual analysis, analysis of dictionary definitions are also used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study of two-component compound words created due to metaphorical cognitive models reveals that they represent knowledge about an individual as a biological and social being, about the features of his mentality, psychology, behavior; and belong to the lexical categories “character”, “behaviour”, “mental abilities”, “social role”, “professional status”, “social status”, “interpersonal status”, “situational status”, “social-and-geographical status”, “constitution”. The metaphorical mapping which is established on the basis of a certain conceptual characteristic determines both the meaning of a compound word and the re-comprehension of compound words which already exist in the language.

Let's consider two-component compound nouns belonging to the lexical category “**behaviour**”. This category includes compound words created with the help of several metaphorical cognitive models. Metaphorical mappings can be established on the basis of the characteristics ‘quality’, ‘action performed in a certain manner’, ‘action performed at a certain time’, ‘function’.

HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL. Mappings across the concepts ANIMAL and HUMAN BEING are established on the basis of the characteristics ‘quality’, ‘action performed in a certain manner’, ‘action performed at a certain time’, ‘function’. The characteristic ‘quality – a good sense of smell’ is used to create the meaning of the compound word *groghound* – a drunkard (DASCE, 2000, p. 183). The word denotes an individual who easily finds drinks. The characteristics ‘quality – fertility’, ‘quality – inclination to copulation’ are considered when the meaning of the compound word *bed-bunny* – (1) a young female who will copulate with any male; (2) female who enjoys sex immensely (DASCE, 2000: 32) is created.

Mappings across the concepts ANIMAL and HUMAN BEING can also be established on the basis of the characteristic ‘action performed in a certain manner’. For example, the characteristic ‘to move quickly’ defines the metaphorical shift of meaning of the word *globetrotter* that denotes a person who travels a lot all over the world. The characteristic ‘to warble, to whistle’ determines the meaning of the compound word *boo-bird* – a person who boos frequently at games or other public events (DASCE, 2000, p. 45).

The characteristic ‘action performed in a certain manner’ determines the metaphorical shift of meaning of the compound *bookworm* – a person who enjoys

reading (COED, 2006, p. 159): a book fan goes deep into the plot of a book the same as the worm goes deep into the ground cover.

Our knowledge of the fact that a nighthawk hunts at night defines the figurative meaning of the word *nighthawk* – someone who enjoys staying awake all night (LDCE, 2006, p. 1110). The basis for the metaphorical shift of meaning is the characteristic ‘action performed at a certain time’.

The characteristic ‘function’ can determine the creation of figurative meanings. For example, our knowledge of the working potential of a horse is considered to create the figurative meaning of the word *workhorse* – a person that works hard and reliable over a long period (COED, 2006, p. 1662).

HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT. The mapping across the concept ARTEFACT and the concept HUMAN BEING is established on the characteristic ‘action performed in a certain manner – to move at a small speed’ to create the meaning of the words *slowcoach* – a person who acts or moves slowly (COED, 2006, p. 1359) and *slowpoke* – North American term for slowcoach (COED, 2006, p. 1359). The difference between these compounds is in their origin: *slowcoach* is created by the British, *slowpoke* is thought up by Americans. And, by the way, *slowpoke* is a more popular noun: 2, 2 million requests in Google search comparatively 443,000 for *slowcoach*.

The etymology of *slowcoach* is quite clear: a sluggish person is called so because of his similarity to a slow type of the vehicle. English *poke* in the compound *slowpoke* denotes a certain plant which dry leaves were smoked by North American Indians. Slow burning or slow ignition of smoking mix probably explains the connection between two components of the compound word *slowpoke*. According to other version, *poke* is formed from the adjectives *poky* and *poking* with the meaning “slow or dawdling” (Grammarphobia, 2003).

The characteristic ‘quality – unpredictability’ determines the metaphorical shift of meaning of the word *screwball* “a crazy or eccentric person” (COED, 2006, p. 1293). It designates an eccentric person, whose behavior is as unpredictable as the ball trajectory in baseball when it is thrown in a circle with the return rotation. According to the etymological dictionary, Carl Hubbell, a pitcher of the New York team “Giants”, was a lefthander. This fact explains the unusual direction of his throw and probably a continuous series of twenty four victories of his team. For the nomination of such pitching of a ball when a ball flies in a circle, being displaced in the opposite direction in comparison with a usual throw, i.e. when being pitched from the left hand – to the left, when being pitched from the right hand – to the right, the compound *screwball* was originally created (OED, 2017).

The characteristic ‘quality – a fraud’ determines the meaning of the word *goldbrick* – a swindler or shirker (COED, 2006, p. 611). The word is used to denote a swindler who poses out a model of a gold ingot for the real one. Originally this compound was used to denote a fraud sold by a swindler.

The characteristic ‘function’ is taken into account when the figurative meanings of words *clotheshorse*, *swizzle-stick* are created. A person who is interested in fashion – *clotheshorse* – someone who is obsessed with clothing and looking good (DASCE, 2000, p. 81). The name of a rod for stirring cocktails is used to denote a person who is keen on them: *swizzle-stick* – a drunkard (DASCE, 2000, p. 416).

It is difficult to reveal a conceptual characteristic which becomes the basis for the metaphorical shift of meaning of the words *fruitcake* (*nutcake*) and *squirrel-food*. We can only track its etymology that explains to some extent the creation of these compounds.

It is known that the meaning of the word *fruitcake* (*nutcake*) – “crazy or eccentric person; nut” (DC, 2016) arose from the expression “nutty as a fruitcake”; nevertheless, the reason of such metaphorization is unknown. But the third meaning which is logically following from the second one is quite explainable: male homosexual (DASCE, 2000, p. 287). In the first half of the 20th century people belonging to sexual minorities were considered to be mentally sick, that is *fruitcake*. However doctors believed that “patients” had a potential for treatment, and such methods of treatment as a castration, a lobotomy, an electric shock were widely applied to patients. Psychiatric institutions of the United States, where such procedures were carried out, were called *fruitcakes factories* (CDS).

There is one more word to denote a mad person – *squirrel-food* – a loony person (DASCE, 2000, p. 397) which originally appeared as a slang name of the favourite delicacy of squirrels – a nut (*nut*).

Let’s analyze compound words belonging to the lexical category “**character**” that are formed by the following metaphorical models.

HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT. The characteristic ‘quality – heavy weight’ determines the figurative meaning of the word *paperweight* – a serious, hardworking student (DASCE, 2000, p. 302). The word is used to characterize the serious attitude of a hardworking student to the process of study. The characteristic ‘quality – firm structure’ determines the meaning of the word that is used to name a ruthless boss: *ramrod* – a strict foreman or manager (LDCE, 2006, p. 1189): our knowledge that a ramrod for cleaning a gun is manufactured of metal is considered. It should be noted that the compound words *paperweight* and *ramrod* can also belong to the lexical category “professional status”. But the specified conceptual characteristics projected from the source domain ARTEFACT lead to the creation of the figurative meaning of these words, as members of the lexical category “character”.

The characteristic ‘quality – fighting character’ determines the figurative meaning of the word *battleaxe* – a formidable aggressive older woman (COED, 2006, p. 115): to denote such a woman with a fighting character the word originally naming a weapon of the Stone Age is used. The characteristic ‘quality – certain temperature’ is considered to create of the meaning of the word *spitfire* – a person,

especially a girl or woman, who is of fiery temper and easily provoked to outburst (DC, 2016).

Our knowledge about the function of a powerhouse– to work out energy forms the basis for the metaphorical shift when the word *powerhouse* – a person or thing having great energy or power (COED, 2006, p. 1126) is created. In both cases the mapping across the source domain ARTEFACT and the target domain HUMAN BEING is established on the basis of the characteristic ‘function’.

HUMAN BEING – NATURAL PHENOMENON. The characteristics ‘quality – low temperature’ and ‘quality – high temperature’ determine the metaphorical shift of meaning of the words *iceberg* and *fireball*. To create the figurative meaning of the compound *iceberg* – a cold and unemotional person (DASCE, 2000, p. 217) it is necessary to remember about the temperature of ice massif. A quick-tempered person is called *fireball* – an energetic or hot-tempered person (COED, 2006, p. 534) as a result of the metaphorical mapping of the information about fireball temperature on the domain HUMAN BEING.

HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL. The mapping across the concept animal and the concept human being that determine the meaning of the word *hellcat* - a spiteful, violent woman (COED, 2006, p. 663) is based on the characteristic ‘quality - nastiness’. The willfulness of an adult cat is probably taken into account to create the meaning of the compound.

The figurative meaning of the word *jellyfish* – a person without strong resolve or stamina; an indecisive or weak person (DC, 2016) is created on the basis of the characteristic ‘quality – softness’: an analogy between a weak-willed, spineless person and the soft jellylike body of a sea animal is drawn.

The lexical category “**mental abilities**” is represented by the compound word *pinhead* – a stupid person (LDCE, 2006, p. 1088). As a result of the metaphorical shift the characteristic ‘quality – small size’ of the concept ARTEFACT is projected on the concept HUMAN BEING: an analogy between the size of a pin head and the size of brain of a silly person is drawn.

Let’s consider two-component compound nouns belonging to the lexical category “**professional status**”. This category includes compound words formed by such metaphorical models as:

HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL. To create the meaning of the words *newshound* – a newspaper reporter (LDCE, 2006, p. 964), *rockhound* – a geologist or amateur collector of mineral specimens (LDCE, 2006, p. 1245), *sleuth-hound* – an investigator or detective (LDCE, 2006, p. 1356) the mapping across the concepts ANIMAL and HUMAN BEING on the basis of the characteristics ‘quality – good sense of smell’, ‘quality – quick reaction’ is established. It is obvious that, a journalist, a geologist, and a detective should have a keen scent for searching of newspaper sensations, minerals or criminals. The characteristics ‘quality –

nimbleness’, ‘quality – dexterity’ determine the metaphorical shift in the process of creation of the word *ballhawk* – a skilled ball player (LDCE, 2006, p. 101): an athlete able to use a ball has qualities of a hawk.

The characteristics ‘quality – briskness’ and ‘quality – agility’ form the basis for the metaphorical shift when the meaning of the word *ballhawk* - a skilled ball player (COED, 2006, p. 101) is created, as an athlete with a ball has the same features as a hawk. The characteristics ‘quality - rapacity’ and ‘quality - shrewdness’ determine the metaphorical shift of meaning of the word *legal-eagle* – a lawyer, especially a clever and aggressive one (DC, 2016).

The characteristic ‘function’ is projected from the source domain ANIMAL on the target domain HUMAN BEING when the figurative meanings of the words *stool-pigeon*, *watchdog* and *warhorse* are created. The compound word *stool-pigeon* originally denotes a pigeon which is tied to a chair to lure wild pigeons, or used for an enticement of a hawk in a cage. The similarity between such a forced betrayal of a bird and the behavior of a police informer is taken into account in the process of word formation (DC, 2016). The knowledge of security function of a sentry dog is reflected in the meaning of the compound word denoting a person who monitors the activities of the organization: *watchdog* – a person or group that monitors the practices of companies providing a particular service or utility (LDCE, 2006, p. 1630).

HUMAN BEING – ABSTRACT PHENOMENON. The characteristic ‘quality – light weight’ leads to the metaphorical shift in the words created to denote a boxer in the minimum weight (*strawweight*) as a sportsman has “the weight of a straw “, and to denote a fighter in the lightest weight, “the weight of a fly” – *flyweight*.

The first meanings of the compound words *heavyweight* and *lightweight* are created on the model HUMAN BEING – ABSTRACT PHENOMENON: *heavyweight* – a boxer, wrestler, etc., of the heaviest competitive class, especially a professional boxer weighing more than 175 pounds (79.4 kg) of (DC, 2016), *lightweight* – a boxer or other contestant intermediate in weight between a featherweight and a welterweight, especially a professional boxer weighing between 126 and 135 pounds (56.7–61 kg) (DC, 2016). Later the characteristics ‘quality – heavy weight’ and ‘quality – light weight’ determined the creation of figurative meanings of the compounds designating the “weight” of a person in society: *heavyweight* – an important and successful person (DASCE, 2000, p. 200), *lightweight* – an inconsequential person; someone who accomplishes very little (DASCE, 2000, p. 251). The compound words used in their figurative meanings belong to the lexical category “interpersonal status”.

HUMAN BEING – HUMAN BEING. To create the meaning of the compound words *anchor-clanker* – a sailor (DASCE, 2000, p. 6), *benchwarmer* – a ballplayer who spends most of the game on the bench waiting to play (DASCE, 2000, p. 26),

*gas-passer* – an anesthetist (DASCE, 2000, p. 158), *number-cruncher* – someone who works with figures; an accountant (DASCE, 2000, p. 285), *pill-pusher* – a physician; *paper-pusher/pencil-pusher* – an office worker (DASCE, 2000, p. 310) the mapping across the concept HUMAN BEING (engaged in a professional activity) and the concept HUMAN BEING (performing a certain physical action) is established on the basis of the characteristic ‘action’.

The characteristic ‘action’ is also used for the metaphorical shift of meaning of the word *bible-basher* – a person who expounds the teachings of the Bible in an aggressively evangelical way (COED, 2006, p. 130) formed by the model HUMAN BEING (fanatically fulfilling the professional duties) – HUMAN BEING (striking blows).

In the compound word *ambulance-chaser* – a lawyer who specializes in bringing cases seeking damages for personal injury (COED, 2006, p. 41) the component *ambulance* is conceptualized as a reference point behind which a person moves. The meaning of the word is created at the expense of the metaphorical model HUMAN BEING (engaged in a professional activity) – HUMAN BEING (performing a certain physical action) on the basis of the characteristic ‘action’.

Let’s consider the lexical category “**interpersonal status**”. The compounds which belong to this category are formed by three metaphorical models.

HUMAN BEING – HUMAN BEING. The characteristic ‘behaviour’ is taken into account to create the figurative meaning of the word *underdog* – a person, team etc. that is weaker than the others, is always expected to be unsuccessful, and that is often treated badly (LDCE, 2006, p. 1801). To understand the meaning of the word it is necessary to refer to our background knowledge and remember that the word was originally used to denote a dog beaten in a fight.

HUMAN BEING - ARTEFACT. Our knowledge that a punching bag is an apparatus for improvement of boxer’s blows determines the metaphorical shift of meaning of the compound word *punchbag* – a person who is hit, criticized strongly, or blamed, even though they have done nothing wrong (LDCE, 2006, p. 1329). The mapping across the concepts is determined by the conceptual characteristic ‘function’.

The characteristics ‘quality – location, value, the percentage content of the substance, serial number’ is considered when the figurative meaning of the word indicating the status of a person is created. So, *kingpin* – a major figure in organized crime (DASCE, 2000, p. 238) holds the central position in the criminal section of society like a skittle, standing in the center of the others in the game skittles.

HUMAN BEING – ABSTRACT PHENOMENON. The characteristic ‘quality – insignificance’ is considered to create the meaning of the word *makeweight* – an unimportant person or thing that is only included to complete something (COED, 2006: 682). The characteristic ‘quality – expected success’ is projected from the



source domain ABSTRACT PHENOMENON on the target domain HUMAN BEING.

The lexical category “**social role**” includes compound words formed on the model HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL.

The characteristic ‘quality – color’ is projected from the source domain ANIMAL on the target domain HUMAN BEING to create the figurative meaning of the compound *firebug* – an arsonist (COED, 2006, p. 534): our knowledge that a firebug’s belly sends out phosphorescence is taken into account.

The lexical category “**situational status**” is presented by compound words formed on the following models:

HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT. The characteristic ‘function’ determines the meaning of the word *stopgap*. The metaphorical mapping across the source domain ARTEFACT and the target domain HUMAN BEING based on our knowledge of the function of a plug: *stopgap* – someone that you use for a short time until you can replace it with something better (LDCE, 2006, p. 1636).

HUMAN BEING – PLANT. The characteristic ‘action performed in a certain manner’ is taken into account to create the figurative meaning of the word *wallflower* – a girl who hasn’t been invited to dance, but sits with her back to the wall in the ballroom without a partner (PDEI, 2001, p. 46). The peculiarity of growth of a wallflower – in crevices of walls – becomes the basis for naming a girl who on dances remains without a gentleman and “props up” a wall.

HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL. The characteristic ‘function’ determines the figurative meaning of the word *scapegoat* – a person or group made to bear the blame for others or to suffer in their place (DC, 2016). According to Judaism at a sacred holiday Yom Kippur two goats were brought into the Jerusalem temple. The first was sacrificed. The sins of all Jewish people were symbolically assigned to the second who was taken away to the Judaic desert where it was dumped from the rock, thereby clearing Israelis from their sins. Subsequently the word *scapegoat* is used to denote a person who is unfairly accused of what he hasn’t done.

The lexical category “**social status**” is represented by compound words formed on the cognitive models HUMAN BEING – PLANT and HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL.

HUMAN BEING – PLANT. The characteristic ‘quality – unpretentiousness’ forms the basis for the metaphorical shift in the compound word *grassroots* – the common people, especially rural people (DASCE, 2000, p. 180). The indication of the concrete part of a plant – “roots” allows to draw an analogy between the lower part of a plant and population which is at the first step of the social hierarchy: ordinary people, especially as contrasted with the leadership or elite of a political party, social organization, etc.; the rank and file (DC, 2016).

HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL. To name an outsider, a person having a low position in society, the compound word, that denotes a fish eating small organisms and living at the bottom, is used in its figurative meaning: *bottom-feeder (bottom-fisher)* – a member of a group of very low social status who survives by any means possible (LDCE, 2006, p. 163). The establishment of mapping is carried out on the basis of the characteristic ‘manner of life’. The characteristic ‘quality – held in captivity’ is considered to create the words *jailbird* – a person who is or has repeatedly been in prison (LDCE, 2006, p. 759) and *yardbird* – a convict (DASCE, 2000, p. 477).

The lexical category “**social-and-geographical status**” includes words naming an individual who is an inhabitant of a certain territory. For example, the compound word *sandgroper* – a Western Australian (LDCE, 2006, p. 1273). The compound word is formed with the help of the metaphorical model HUMAN BEING (living in a certain territory) – HUMAN BEING (doing a physical action) on the basis of the characteristic ‘action’. The meaning of this compound word appeared due to the fact that the state Western Australia has a special landscape: its soils consist of sand and are often covered with laterites. Besides in this part of Australia the Big Victoria Desert is located. All this makes difficult and slows down the movement of an individual.

Let’s consider two-component compound nouns belonging to the lexical category “**constitution**” that are formed on the models HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT, HUMAN BEING – PLANT.

HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT. For example, the word *beefcake* – men with well-developed muscles (LDCE, 2006, p. 121), is created by analogy with the already existing word *cheesecake*. In October, 1949 “The Chronicle Telegram” noted the growing popularity of the brawny actors with the female audience. General “undressing” of film stars to a belt began and film cameraman began to use the term “beefcake” to describe this phenomenon. In general, the compound word *beefcake* appeared thanks to Robert Ozell Moseley. Being an employee of the Coast guard of the USA, Moseley went for the weekend to Hollywood where he was noticed by a perspicacious casting agent Henry Wilson. Then he adopted the pseudonym Guy Madison. For the first time Madison appeared with a naked torso on the screen in 1944. Then the journalist Sidney Sklosky called Guy *beefcake*, «presented» a new word to public. The metaphorical shift in this case is based on the characteristic ‘quality – muscularity’. The characteristic ‘quality – length’ is considered to create the word denoting a thin and tall person: *beanpole* – a tall, thin person (LDCE, 2006, p. 117).

HUMAN BEING – PLANT. The characteristic ‘quality – an elongated form’ determines a metaphorical projection in the process of creation of the figurative meaning of the compound word *stringbean* – a thin person (DASCE, 2000, p. 407): our knowledge of the oblong form of green beans is considered.

Thus, the considered material proves that metaphorical cognitive models are actively used to form two-component compound words.

## CONCLUSION

The investigation shows that an individual is presented through the prism of two-component compound nouns as a biological and social being, which has a certain behavior, character, psychology. The considered compound words can belong to such lexical categories as “character”, “behavior”, “mental abilities”, “social role”, “professional status”, “social status”, “interpersonal status”, “situational status”, “social-and-geographical status”, and “constitution”. Many words thus contain an evaluation, positively or negatively characterizing an individual. These compound words are formed at the expense of metaphorical cognitive models which are used to form new words in the English language and to re-comprehend the meanings of already existing compound words. In both cases such metaphorical models are used: HUMAN BEING – ANIMAL, HUMAN BEING – PLANT, HUMAN BEING – ARTEFACT, HUMAN BEING – HUMAN BEING.

To create the new meanings of compound words it is required to establish mappings across the source domain and the target domain on the basis of such characteristics as: ‘action’, ‘action performed in a certain manner’, ‘action performed at a certain time’, ‘quality’, ‘function’, ‘behavior’.

The results allow us to deepen the theoretical knowledge of cognitive derivation in general and the theory of cognitive modeling in particular due to the modeling of knowledge structures about a human being represented by two-component compound nouns, establishing types of conceptual relationships between the components of the conceptual structures represented by two-component compound nouns.

Further research of evaluative potential of abbreviations and compound words in which one of the components is a compound word itself is perspective.

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