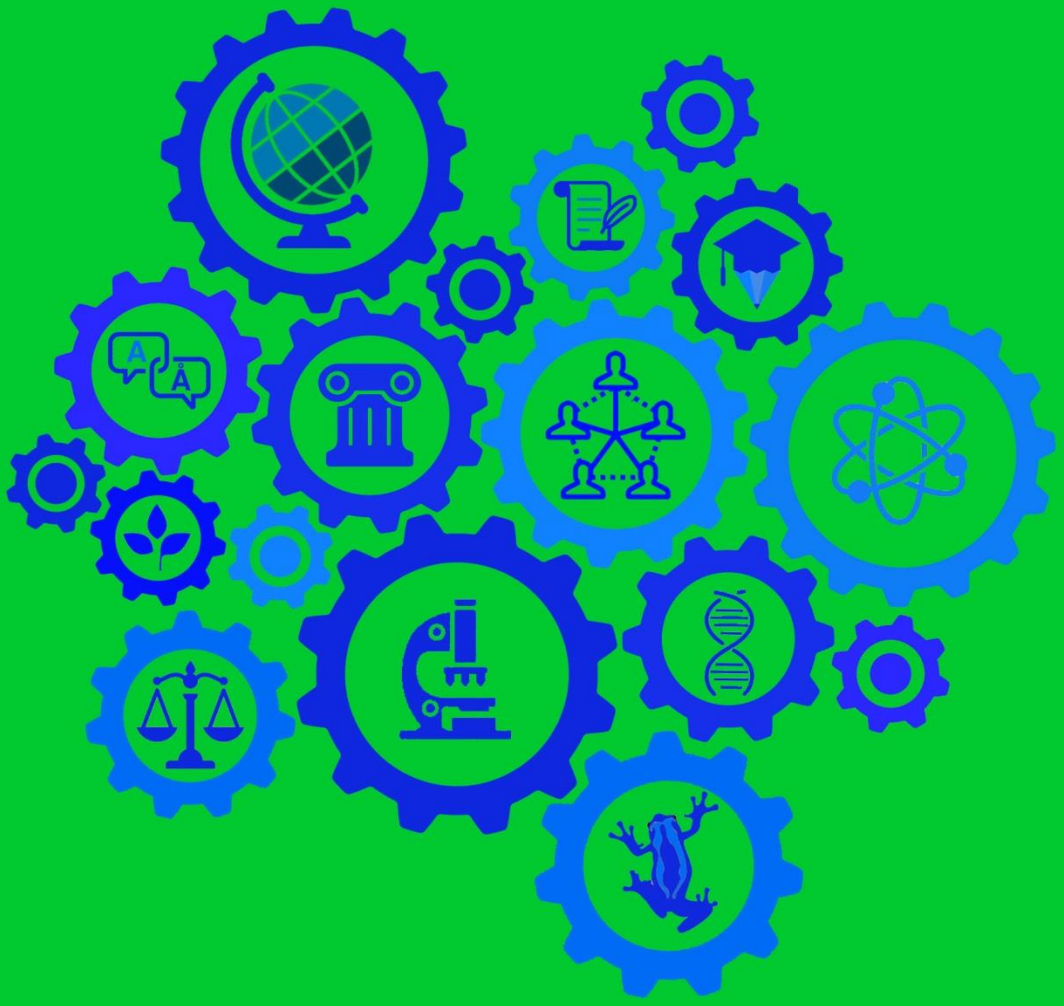
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Nomination Units Objectifying the Concept of 'Child' in the English Language

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Abstract: This work deals with the analysis of the concept child/perzent in the English and Karakalpak languages and various parameters in children's nominations.

Keywords: concept, child, perzent, nominations, parameter, linguaculture, linguistics

Examining the national-cultural peculiarities of the concept of 'child' in the English and Karakalpak languages is regarded to be crucial enough, as nomination units are most transparent for the cultural concepts they represent, reflecting characteristic features of worldview, which speakers reflexively associate with the language.

Words and phrases that nominate people have repeatedly attracted the attention of linguists. In several studies, criteria were identified based on which the thematic organization of the class of person-names can be constructed (e.g., "occupation," "age," "internal qualities," "external features," "social status," etc.). Issues related to lexicographical representation of the thematic fields of the "Human" section were discussed , as well as the nomination of people (1,m 86].

According to V.V. Katermina, nominations of people can be viewed as evaluations, which, although they can be highly individual, most often correspond to the system of values embedded in society [1,51].

Based on the analysis of linguistic material from various lexicographical sources, we selected the following parameters for the thematic organization of person-names:

1. Physical characteristics (height, body type, appearance, etc.);
2. Social maturity (level of social maturity in relation to oneself—ranging from complete dependence on the outside world, e.g., an infant, to full ability to care for oneself);
3. Social characteristics (relation to social institutions, e.g., a schoolboy; legally defined adulthood, e.g., juvenile; social status, e.g., damsel; family position or relation to family, e.g., firstborn, foundling);
4. Behavior and abilities, e.g., a crybaby, tattletale;
5. Expression of the speaker's attitude toward the person being characterized, e.g., mite [http://www.dialog-21.ru/materials/archive.asp?id=6255&y=2000&vol=6077].

Thus, the implementation of various parameters in children's nominations allows for the identification of the following thematic blocks in the conceptual sphere of "child":

1. Child as a living being (age-related physiological features);

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2. Inner world of the child (character, behavior, emotions, intellectual abilities);
3. Child as a social being (social status of the child in society, moral norms);
4. Child in the system of social relations (family, school, religion).

The thematic block "Child as a Living Being" includes the following characteristics:

- The period when the child appears in the womb of the mother: embryo, fetus, child, in Karakalpak these words are the same as they are regarded as international words: Емброион and the word ҳамиле.
- Small (by age): *babe*, *baby*, *infant* (a child in the earliest period of life, especially before they can walk), *bairn* (a child: son or daughter), *lad* (a boy, youth), *lass* (a girl or young woman), *little one* (a child), *nipper* (a small child), *toddler* (a young child, usually one between one and two and a half years old), *stripling* (a juvenile between puberty and maturity), *youngster* (a young person, child or youth);
- Small (by height): *ankle-biter* (a small child), *chit* (a child), *kid* (a young child or infant), *kiddie* (a child), *mite* (a tiny person or child), *moppet* (a little girl), *tiny tot*, *tot* (a small child) *in English while in Karakalpak: бөпе, гөдек, нәресте (a child till 1 or 2 years old) нәресте and бала (general words meaning a child), перзент, зурият (offspring), ул,ер бала, қыз, қыз бала* (child as a son and daughter), ақлық, шаўлық (grandchildren), *жас өспирим(teenager), жас (youngster), жетим бала (orphan).*

This group also includes stylistically marked nominations, such as *small fry* (children, derogatory), *bambino* (a young child, colloquial), *bundle of joy* (a baby, sweetheart), *rug rat* (a small child), *toto* (a child), *sunbeam* (a cheerful child), *fledgling* (a young or inexperienced person) whilst in the Karakalpak language: шайтан, фантамас (children, derogatory), палапан (a baby, a small child), қуяш (light-coloured or a cheerful child).

The representation of a person's appearance in relation to their inner world is central to every national culture, typically shaped by many sources—legends, fairy tales, myths—and reflected in language. Positive evaluations of a child's appearance indicate conformity with a certain cultural standard in society. Furthermore, in the Karakalpak nursery rhymes or lullabies, with different words children are pampered and mostly there are wishes for children’s future:

Хәйиү-хәйиү ***қарагым-ау,***
Айдай болған ***шырагым-ау,***
Жұрт сүймесе сүймесін-ау,
Өзимнин сүйген ***айдайым-ау.***
Айнанайын ***апагым-ай,***
Қызлар кийген ***қалпагым-ай,***
Қатарынан кем болмай-ай,

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Ашылгай балам бул бақтың-ай.
Айнанайын ***кулымын-ай,***
Қызлар қойған ***тулыным-ай***,
Сайраган барда ***булбылым-ай,***
Ақ тамагын булкілден-ай.
Айнанайын ***аппагым-ай,***
Қызлар кийген ***қалпагым-ай,***
Жұрт сүймесе сүймесін-ай,
Өзимнин сүйген ***томпагым-ай.***

Children are often associated with mythical beings: *little angel* (a kind and lovable child), *cherub* (an innocent child), *elf* (a lively, mischievous child), *little imp* (a mischievous child), *dickens* (a mischievous child), *changeling* (a child exchanged by fairies for another).

Some nominations are based on metaphorical transfer: *little monkey* (a mischievous child), *little shaver* (a baby), *little minx* (a pert or flirtatious girl), *nymph* (a beautiful girl).

Several nominations describe children by gender: *boy*, *girl*, *lad*, *lass*, *little chap* (boy), *lassie* (girl), *young man* (young boy), *maid*, *damsel* (young girl), *sprog* (a child). Some point to the child's ethnic background, such as *pickaninny* (a small African child), *papoose* (a child of Native American descent), *colleen* (an Irish girl), *bairn* (a child, son or daughter).

The thematic group describing the child's inner world, including their behavior, character, and intellectual abilities, is mostly represented by nominations based on the evaluation of their behavior and individual characteristics .

Particular interest lies in the study of words interpreting children's behavior across cultures, often viewed as misbehaviors or innocent offenses by adults. Such behavior is culturally defined and carries evaluative signs, making it a cultural concept.

Mischievousness and pranks are typical of children, though the intensity can vary. When children's actions have negative consequences, adults often react negatively. The evaluation of children's behavior includes:

- Mischief: *urchin* (a mischievous child), *tearaway* (reckless child), *tomboy* (a girl with boyish behavior), *romp* (a girl with boyish mannerisms), *minx* (a pert or cheeky girl);
- Bad behavior: *cub* (an awkward, inexperienced child), *whippersnapper* (a cheeky, presumptuous boy), *yob* (a surly, aggressive teenager).

Other nominations refer to specific behaviors, such as *hobbledehoy* (awkward adolescent boy), *thumbsucker* (a child who sucks their thumb), *destructive child* (a child who breaks things), *crybaby* (a child who cries excessively).

As children grow, they start to engage with music, fashion, and youth movements, which is reflected in the following nominations: *mod* (a British teen), *flapper* (a young girl in the 1920s), *rocker* (a rebellious teenager), *punk* (a member of a counterculture), *skinhead* (a youth with aggressive views), *teenybopper* (a teenage girl into pop culture), *groupie* (a young girl who follows a rock band).

The evaluation of children's intellectual abilities is often linked to their age and lack of experience. Abilities beyond the norm are reflected in terms like *infant prodigy* and *child prodigy* (a talented child).

Some nominations describe children with disabilities: *disabled child*, *deformed child*, *underdeveloped child*.

The thematic block on social status includes terms like *celebritot* (celebrity's child), *abandoned child* (child abandoned at birth), *unowned child* (child not acknowledged by father), *forsaken children*, and those related to a child's birth circumstances, such as *test-tube baby* (child conceived outside the body).

Social status nominations also include *vagrant child* (child without a permanent home), *waif* (orphaned child), and *ward* (a child under legal guardianship).

The status of children in families is represented by terms like *offspring*, *first-born*, *cadet* (youngest son), and those related to foster care or adoption, such as *fosterling* (raised by foster parents) and *foundling* (abandoned child).

Nominations also describe children's roles in social institutions, such as *kindergartener*, *preschool child*, and *schoolboy* (child attending school).

Legal status terms include *juvenile* (minor), *minor* (underage child).

Our analysis shows that most examples were found in thematic groups describing the inner world of children, their role in social relations, and their behavior, reinforcing the relevance of this concept in English and Karakalpak speaking cultures.

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