METHODS OF NOMINATION AND THE
LINGUISTIC WORLD PICTURE OF
VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

Do Viet Hung*

BACKGROUND

The concept “the linguistic world picture” was originated from the V. Humboldt’s thoughts and New Humboldt researchers, as well as from the thoughts of American ethnic-linguistics, partly the Sapir – Whorf’s hypothesis on language relativity. The development of cognitive linguistics in recent years results in the much more attention to this concept paid by many researchers over the world as well as Vietnamese researchers such as Ly Toan Thang (2005), Tran Van Co (2007), Nguyen Duc Ton (2010), and Le Quang Thiem (2008), etc. According to the popular conception mentioned by Cognitive Linguistics, the linguistic world picture established in daily cognition of a language community could be considered as an overall image of the world reflected in language, as methods of receiving and forming the world and the conceptualization of the fact.

Most of cognitive linguists mentioned that the linguistic world picture is related to ways by which the language community conceives the world and has been transmitted from generation to generation. Following to Popora Z.

* Hanoi National University of Education
D and Sternin I.A, “The linguistic world picture is an image of the fact, which is expressed through language signs and their meanings. This consists of the division of the world through language, the arrangement of things and phenomena through language, and the information on the world hidden within the system of word meaning”. (Попова З. Д. Стернин И. А, 2001: 68)

Every language has its own language picture despite of their common ground among them. Quoted Iu. D. Apraxjan’s thoughts, Nguyen Duc Ton affirmed: “On the perspective of cognitive linguistics, the methods of conceptualization, or the ways of seeing the world, are general on one hand, and nationally specific on another hand, therefore people who speak different languages can see the world a little differently through their language prism”. (Nguyen Duc Ton, 2010: 93)

Considering the linguistic world picture as a specific view of each language community, we can easily approach language issues in relation with culture-thoughts characteristics of each community. One of the most important aspects in researching community’s cultural–thoughts is vocabulary. The view of a community could be seen on such various aspects as:

(i) The ways by which a community divides the world expressed through vocabulary;
(ii) The views of a community on things and phenomena through language’s methods of nomination;
(iii) The views of a community on things and phenomena through word’s meanings and word’s symbols.
(iv) The views of a community on things and phenomena through idioms.
(v) The views of a community on things and phenomena through