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The concept of "Tea" in the language picture of the world (Based on Chinese and Russian languages)

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Abstract

This article presents a study of the “tea” concept and its representation in the language picture of the world based on the Russian and Chinese languages and identification of linguistic-cognitive and linguistic-cultural specification of its comprehension by Russian and Chinese people. The following issues were examined in the article: the cultural and historical background of the formation of the “tea” concept, the frequency of occurrence of the “tea” token and also the representation of the “tea” concept in both linguistic worlds. The results were as follows: the language representation of the “tea” concept was described and compared, and the similarities and differences in the content of the concept were revealed. The language representation of the “tea” concept in the Chinese and Russian languages was taken as the material of the study.

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1. Introduction

Research on the relationship between man and the world around him has recently become the center of the study of intercultural communication. One of the main issues is an understanding of the identity of national culture and its commonality with the world culture. A language picture of the world is a special worldview that reflects a

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conceptual picture of the world as a set of specially organized concepts (online encyclopedia "Krugosvet", 2014). To date, there is a tradition in the study of concepts in languages that have a different structures.

Nowadays, a subject of research by Russian and Chinese linguists is the national and cultural identity of the linguistic worlds and national concept spheres, a full description of which is impossible without reference to the "tea" concept, which is characterized by high cultural labeling and is informative both in Russian and Chinese linguistic cultures. Belonging to the category of subject concepts, the "tea" concept can be considered a phenomenon of collective nature, which accumulates knowledge from different subject areas and research and represents a significant and vibrant fragment of the national culture. Thus, the object of this study is the linguistic-cognitive and linguistic-cultural content of the "tea" concept in the Russian and Chinese language pictures of the world, and the subject of study is the lexical-semantic representation of the "tea" concept in the Russian and Chinese languages. The aim of this study is to identify the linguistic-cognitive and linguistic-cultural specification of comprehension of the "tea" concept by Russian and Chinese people.

The material of the study is a complex of lexical-semantic representatives of the "tea" concept in the Chinese and Russian languages, identified by continuous sampling of the various types of dictionaries, as well as the literature texts (169 samples in the Chinese language and 73 in the Russian language).

2. Comparative characteristics of the "tea" token in the Russian and Chinese languages

The main means of concept representation in the language is its lexical level units. For a complete understanding of the concept, it is necessary to analyze the main paradigmatic connection tokens, as well as derivatives, stable combinations, proverbs and idioms that make up the interpretative field concept. To do this it is necessary to know the full composition of the linguistic resources that represent the studied concept, as well as using the technique of cognitive interpretation of the results of linguistic research to describe in detail the semantics of these units.

In the analysis of the "tea" concept in the linguistic world of the Chinese and Russian languages, we first considered the word stock in both languages, because the consideration of options of the studied concept in linguistic realization is of special interest to us. The number of the tea terminology units was counted, compared to the range of the tokens in the Russian and Chinese languages, so the specificity of language pictures of the world and cultural and historical background of the "tea" concept in China and Russia were revealed. For a detailed analysis of the "tea" concept we analyzed dictionary entries in the Chinese and Russian languages.

3.1. Comparative analysis of the interpretation of the word "tea" in the dictionaries of the Russian and Chinese

To analyze the "tea" concept in the Russian language we studied the following dictionaries: Glossary of V.I. Dahl (Dahl, 1994) Explanatory Dictionary of D.N. Ushakov (Ushakov, 2000) Explanatory Dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov (Ozhegov, 1986), Dictionary of Russian language of D. Dmitriev (Dmitriev, 2014), Great Dictionary of the Russian language, S.A. Kuznetsov (Kuznetsov, 2000), Russian Dictionary of V.V. Lopatin (Lopatin, 1994), Explanatory dictionary of the modern Russian language (explanatory dictionary of the modern Russian language, 2008), Dictionary of the Russian language, A.P. Evgenyeva (Evgenyeva, 1999), The Modern Dictionary of foreign words (Modern Dictionary of Foreign Words, 2000).

Basing on an analysis of entries in the Russian language the following basic values of the "tea" tokens were found in each of the above dictionaries:

1. Cultivated evergreen, and special dried and treated leaves, with which hot flavored drinks are infused;
2. Dried leaves of the treated plants;
3. Flavored drink, infused tea leaves;
4. The process of tea drinking.

Let us now turn to the definitions taken from the dictionaries of the Chinese language. We have analyzed the entries from the following sources: 现代汉语词典 (Contemporary Chinese Dictionary, 2014), 高级汉语字典 (Advanced Chinese Character Dictionary, 2014), 汉字大典 (large collection of Chinese characters in 2014), 新华

字典 (New Dictionary of Chinese language, 2014), 康熙字典 (Kangxi Dictionary, 2014), 说文解字 (The origin of Chinese characters, 2014).

The key values in each dictionary are as follows:

1. 茶树 – a tea tree;
2. 茶叶 – a tealeaf;
3. 用茶叶做成的饮料 – a drink, infused from tealeaves;
4. 某些饮料的名称 - It means a drink in a general sense.

If we set a comparison between the definitions of the word "tea", given by the dictionaries of the Russian and Chinese languages, we will see that there are, of course, some similarities. This is because this word was borrowed from the Chinese language.

In total, we noted three common meaning, recurring in both dictionaries of the Russian and Chinese languages. These meanings are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Common meanings of a «tea» in the Russian and Chinese languages.

№	The meaning in the Russian language	The meaning in the Chinese language
1.	A tea tree	茶树 chashu
2.	A tealeaf	茶叶 chaye
3.	A tea drink	用茶叶做成的饮料 yongchayezuochengdeyinliao

Interestingly, the fourth common meaning in the dictionaries of the Russian and the Chinese languages is different - a "tea party" for the Russian language and «某些饮料的名称» - "a drink in a general sense" for Chinese respectively. The meaning of "a drink" is the result of what appeared in the Chinese tea culture for a long time and was practically the only drink, so the drinks that appeared later could also be replaced by the word "tea" as a generic term.

Having considered the phonetic aspect of the "tea" token, we found that the various pronunciations of the word appeared only in the earliest of the dictionaries we have considered both of the Russian and Chinese languages. In particular, it is "tsay" and "tsvay" in the Russian language mentioned in the Explanatory dictionary of V.I. Dahl and "zhia" and "chia" in the Chinese language, stated in the dictionary "The Origin of Chinese Character". Based on this, we cannot ignore the phonetic similarity of the "tea" token in the Chinese and Russian languages, the reason of which is also the adoption of tea as a product and as a proper word in the Russian language from China.

In addition, we cannot deny the fact that the total number of the word "tea" definitions, which is given in the dictionaries of the Chinese language, is much larger than in the dictionaries of the Russian language. This is primarily due to the long history of cultivation and consumption of tea in China, and therefore, more mature tea tradition. Accordingly, the sphere of tea usage in China is wider than in Russia: it is used for carving (茶椅 chayi - chair of tea tree), oil is obtained from it (茶油 chayou - tea oil), different food products are made of it (茶叶蛋 chayedan - egg, boiled in tealeaves), etc.

As an example, a list of interpreting the meaning of the word "tea" in the dictionaries of the Russian language in Table 2 and dictionaries of the Chinese language in Table 3.

Table 2. Defining the meanings of "tea" in Russian dictionaries

№	Defining	Словари
1.	evergreen or shrub, from dried leafs of which a flavored drink is made	Explanatory Dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov
2.	Dried and specially treated plants, from which a drink is made	Explanatory Dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov
3.	Process of tea drinking as itself	Explanatory Dictionary of S.I. Ozhegov
4.	Flavored drink infused of tealeaves	Dictionary of Russian language of D. Dmitriev
5.	infusion of dried herbs, used for medicinal or recreational purposes	Dictionary of D.N. Ushakov

Table 3. Defining the meaning of a "tea" in Chinese dictionaries

№	Defining	Transcription	Translation	Dictionaries
1.	某些由蒸发或研磨所制调匀的食品	mouxie you zheng fa huo yan mo suo zhi tiao de shi yong pin	products made by evaporation and trituration of the tea- based	新华字典(The new dictionary of Chinese language)
2.	茶座	chazuo	Tea room	新华字典(The new dictionary of Chinese language)
3.	茶市	chashi	Tea market	新华字典(The new dictionary of Chinese language)
4.	旧时订婚聘礼的代称	jiushi ding hun pin li de daicheng	The name of a dowry for the bride's parents	新华字典(The new dictionary of Chinese language)
5.	饮茶;喝水	yincha; heshui	The drink tea or water	新华字典(The new dictionary of Chinese language)
6.	指油茶树	zhiyouchashu	Tea tree's oil	现代汉语词典 (Modern dictionary of the Chinese language)
7.	特指“茶点”	tezhichadian	The ceremony of tea drinking	汉字大典 (Anthology of the Chinese words)
8.	檳	jia	Chinese camellia (tea bush)	说文解字 (Genesis of the Chinese words)
9.	藪	she	Flavored plant	说文解字 (Genesis of the Chinese words)
10.	茗	ming	Tea bush, leaves of a tea bush	说文解字 (Genesis of the Chinese words)
11.	薺	chuan	Tea leaf of a late harvest	说文解字 (Genesis of the Chinese words)
12.	常绿灌木，叶长椭圆形，有锯齿，经 加工制为饮料，就是茶叶；秋末开花 ，白色；种子可榨油；木质致密，供 雕刻用	changluguanmu, yechangsuiyuanxing, youjuchi, jingjiagongzhiweiinliao, jiushichaye; qiumokaihua, baise; zhongzikezhayou; muzhizhimi, gongdiaokeying	evergreen shrub with oblong oval leaves, the leaves that can be used for drinking; obtained seed oil; dense wood that can be used for carving;	汉字大典 (Anthology of the Chinese words)
13.	山茶科的一种灌木,有披针形的叶和芳 香的白花	shanchakedeyizhongguanshu, youpizhenxingdeyehfangxiangd ebaihua	Bush that has lanceolate leaves and fragrant white flowers	康熙字典 (KangXi Dictionary)

Basing on the reviewed entries examples from tables 2 and 3, we can identify the distinctive meaning of the "tea" token, unique to the Russian or Chinese languages only. According to the dictionary sources, in the Russian language there is no such meaning of the word 'tea', which does not exist in the Chinese language. This is because this word came to us from China, therefore, its definition could only apply to the area in which it is used in the Chinese language. In addition, the cultivation of the tea plant becomes extremely difficult in the climatic conditions of Russia, so tea comes to the Russian tea market only as a finished product. As a result, firstly, the Russian language has not much of the terminology related to the processes of cultivation and processing of tea; there is only

the lexical material relating to the process of tea drinking. Secondly, tea is only used for the preparation of a tea beverage, while the wide range of tea in China has led to the emergence of additional dictionary meanings, which have no analogies in the Russian language: «某些由蒸发或研磨所制的调匀的食品» - "products made by evaporation and trituration based on a tea"; «茶座» - «tea», «茶市» - «tea market», «指油茶树» - «tea tree oil» etc.

It is worth noting that some Chinese tea lexicon has no analogue in the Russian language. We found it necessary to translate some of the realities of the Chinese culture that we have taken from the dictionary 构词字典 (word-formation dictionary of the Chinese language, 2014) using descriptive translation. These realities are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Realities of the Chinese culture related to the word «tea».

№	Word	Transcription	Translation
1.	茶油	cháuyóu	Tea seed oil (used in food industry)
2.	茶枯	chákū	Tea seed cake
3.	茶末	chámò	Tea crumbs
4.	茶色	chásè	Dark brown (literally: tea color)
5.	茶镜	chájìng	Dark glasses (literally: tea glasses)
6.	茶饭	chāfān	Food and drinks/table
7.	茶叶蛋	chá'yèdàn	An egg, boiled with a tealeaves
8.	茶房	cháfāng	The room for tea drinking
9.	茶水摊	cháshuǐtān	A tea shop
10.	茶亭	chátíng	
11.	茶钱	cháqián	Fees for a tea
12.	茶水	cháshuǐ	Free tea or boiled water
13.	茶锈	cháxiù	Tea scarf (on dishes)
14.	茶博士	chaboshi	Master of tea processing and drinkig

All the phrases mentioned in Table 4 are related to different areas of tea use: the products obtained from the processing of tea (茶末 - tea crumbs), the color of tea (茶镜 - dark (tea) points), products which are involved in the preparation of tea (茶叶蛋 - egg, boiled in tea leaves), the place where tea is stored / sold (茶亭 - stall, which sells hot tea), and a few phrases not included in the general classification (茶锈 - tea plaque).

3.2. Comparative analysis of derivatives token "tea" in Russian and Chinese

According to historical data, tea appeared in Russia in the 17th century and since this time became increasingly widespread and accepted. This was naturally reflected in the lexical fund of the Russian language. In particular, there were some derivatives from the word "tea", which we have taken from the "Dictionary of V.I. Dahl "(Dahl, 1994). A list of these derivatives is given in Table 5.

Table 5. Deratives from the word «tea» in the Russian language.

№	Производная	Значение	Словари
1.	Чаёк	Diminutive from the word «Tea»	
2.	Чайный	Related to tea	
3.	Чайная (сущ.)	A sort in diner where you can drink tea or eat	
4.	Чаепитие	Drinking of tea	The modern dictionary of foreign words
5.	Чаевые (сущ.)	Tips	
6.	Чайник, чайница	A tea lover	
7.	Чаевщик м. и чаевщица ж.	In Kamchatka: a tea lover	
8.	Чайник	large copper vessels in which warm water is supplied	Explanatory dictionary of Dahl
9.	Чаёвничать (разг.), чайничать (прост.)	To spend time drinking tea	
10.	Чайница	Vessel that keeps dry tea	The modern dictionary of foreign words
11.	Чайник	a vessel with a handle and a spout for boiling water or brewing tea	Explanatory dictionary of Dahl

In the above examples derived from the noun "tea" in Table 5 we can see that they are all related to the process of tea drinking and designate a place where the process of tea drinking takes place (tea room) or tea accessories (teapot), or people involved in the Tea Party (a tea lover, caddy).

Let us now consider the examples of the derivatives of the word "tea" in Chinese, which were taken from 构词字典 (word-formation dictionary of the Chinese language, 2014). These derivatives are not only and not so much related to the process of tea drinking, as seen in the dictionaries of the Russian language. As a result of this analysis, we have compiled a list of structured derivatives shown in Table 6.

Table 6. The derivatives of the word "tea" in the Chinese language.

Derivative	Transcription	Translation
Tea growing:		
1. 茶场	cháchang	The place of growing Tea garden
2. 茶园	cháyuan	Tea garden
3. 茶圃	chapu	Tea garden
A type of a plant		
4. 茶花	chahua	Japanese camellia (literally: tea flower)
5. 茶树	chashu	Tea tree
6. 茶叶	chaye	Tea leaf
A person who sells or grows tea		
7. 茶农	chanong	Peasant – tea grower
8. 茶户	chahu	Peasant – tea grower
9. 茶博士	chaboshi	the waiter in the tea room (skilled in tea infusion, used for tea seller or waiter in the tea room)
The products made of tea:		
1. 茶油	cháyóu	tea seed oil (balsams for hair, also used in the food industry)
2. 茶枯	chákū	Tea seed cakes (after oil)
3. 茶末	chámò	Tea crumbs
Цвет чая:		
1. 茶褐色	cháhèsè	Dark brown color (as the color of black tea)
2. 茶色	chásè	Dark brown (literally: tea color)
3. 茶镜	chájǐng	Dark glasses (literally: tea glasses)
The products contains the part of tea:		
1. 茶饭	chafàn	Drinks and food/a table
2. 茶点	chadian	Snacks (tea/muffin)
3. 茶叶蛋	cháyèdàn	An egg, boiled with tealeaves
4. 茶汤	chatang	Tea and compote
5. 茶卤儿	chá luér	Strong tea
The place where tea sells/stores:		
1. 茶座	cházuo	Tea room (the place for tea drinking)
2. 茶坊	chafang	
3. 茶馆	cháguan	
4. 茶楼	chálóu	
5. 茶社	cháshè	
6. 茶房	cháfǎng	A room dedicated for tea storage
7. 茶水摊	cháshuītān	A shop where you can buy a hot tea
8. 茶亭	Chátíng	
Процесс чаепития:		
1. 茶话	chahua	A discussion while tea drinking
2. 茶道	chádào	Tea ceremony
3. 茶话会	cháhuàhuì	Tea party
Чайные принадлежности:		
1. 茶匙	cháchí	A tea spoon
2. 茶缸	chagang	A tea mug
3. 茶缸子	chagangzi	
4. 茶壶	cháhú	A teapot

5. 茶几	chájī	A tea table
6. 茶具	chájù	Tea accessories
7. 茶托	chatuo	Tea dishes
8. 茶碗	cháwǎn	Tea cup without a handle
Дпырое:		
1. 茶钱	cháqián	Tips
2. 茶水	cháshuǐ	Free tea or boiled water
3. 茶锈	cháxiù	Tea scurf (remains on tea dishes)

From Table 6 it is clear that the derivatives of the "tea" token in the Chinese language includes not only the process of tea drinking (3 tokens), but also the cultivation of tea (9 tokens), the products obtained by the tea processing (3 tokens) denotes tea color (3 tokens), products which are involved in the preparation of tea (5 tokens), the place where tea is stored / sold (8 tokens) and tea accessories (8 tokens). A large number of derivatives related to the field of tea, due to the complicated ritual of the tea ceremony, for which the special tea accessories are required (茶碗 chawan – a bowl without a handle, 茶托 chatuo - saucer). The presence of several derivative meaning "the place where tea is stored / sold» (茶座 chazuo, 茶馆 chaguan – a tea room) due to the popular tradition of tea drinking in China, and hence the appearance of a large number of special tea establishments, where visitors can enjoy tea and to become a part of the tea ceremony. It is also worth noting that tea is a major component of the Chinese way of life, as, for example, such a derivative as 茶饭 chafan (food in general, literally, tea and rice) reflected that tea along with rice is the main product on the table of every China citizen.

After analyzing the submitted derivatives in the Russian and Chinese languages, we can conclude that the number of derivatives in the Chinese language is much higher than the same number in the Russian language (in particular, we have found and analyzed 11 derivatives of the word "tea" in the Russian language and 42 derivatives taken from the dictionary of the Chinese language).

3.3. A comparative analysis of stable combinations of the "tea" tokens in the Russian and Chinese languages

Tea terminology with the meaning "a drink" is the primary constituent of tea culture in Russia. This is because Russia is a country which does not produce but actively consumes tea products. Thus, in our language there cannot be many words and expressions indicating the specificity of tea cultivation and processing of tealeaves or the number and variety of tea types, various methods for filling and packaging of the tea. However, it is undeniable that Russia has managed to form a characteristic tea culture, which is reflected in stable combinations. Thus, Russian people usually drink tea with some snacks, for example, with sweets or added sugar or honey ("sweet tea", "tea with sugar, honey"). Also, a Russian tea party is characterized by drinking tea with lemon or milk. According to the analysis, most set phrases in the Russian language are related to the designation of tea as a beverage or the process of tea drinking (11 phrases), as well as the selection of tea (9 phrases). A small part of phrases is for the tea cultivation aspect (5), the packaging of tea (4) and tea additives (3). For example, collection of tea, tea production, tea beverage, strong tea, sweet tea, a glass of tea, tea bags, flavored tea and so on.

For comparison, let us look at the set phrases in the Chinese language, which were discovered much more than in the Russian language. The reason for this is the fact that for centuries China has been a leading country in the sphere of production and consumption of all kinds of tea, and only a limited number of tea products come to the Russian market. Due to the fact that the Chinese are engaged in cultivation of all kinds of tea, the Chinese language has an entire layer of terminated "tea" vocabulary.

In the Chinese language, there is a wide variety of set phrases. A large number of terms describe the characteristics of the manufacturing and the tea processing (27 phrases) (蒸青 zhengqing - steaming), to which may also be included the components meaning the types of tea packages (4) (真空包装 zhenkongbaozhuang - vacuum packaging) and fermentation (5 phrases) (热发酵 refajiao - hot fermentation). In addition, the varieties of Chinese tea in the Russian market have their subspecies in China. For example, the sub-species of green tea (7) (蒸青绿茶 zhengqinglucha - steamed green tea), red tea (2) (碎形红茶 suixinghongcha - pierced tea) tea "Puer" (4) (生普洱 shengpuer - «Puer of natural formation») tea "Oolong" (4) (白茶五龙 baichawulong - white tea "Oolong"). Thus,

all the different aspects of Chinese tea culture are reflected in the language, where fixed terms related to various aspects of the functioning of the "tea" concept.

Based on this analysis we can conclude the following: the number of set phrases related to the "tea" concept in Chinese (53 combinations) is significantly higher than in the Russian language (32 combinations). On the one hand, this is because the history of tea in China occupies an incomparably long period, and, accordingly, the "tea" concept was significantly more common in the Chinese culture and language picture of the world. On the other hand, these examples suggest that the functioning of the "tea" concept in China is wider in comparison with Russia. For example, in the Russian language there is no set phrases denoting the process of making tea (晒青 - drying in the sun), and the fermentation of tea (冷发酵 - cold fermentation). In addition, the diversity of tea in Russia due to a receipt of certain of its varieties as imported goods, so tea has names such as: black, green tea, while in China, these names have their own subspecies 蒸青绿茶 - steamed green tea, 碎形红茶 - pierced red tea.

However, in the Russian language there are set phrases with the meaning of "additives to tea": flavored tea, vitamin tea. There are no such expressions in the Chinese language, as the Chinese always drink, as Russians would say, "clear tea", without any additives.

3.4. Comparative analysis of proverbs and idioms in the Russian and Chinese languages

Having considered the proverbs and idioms related to the "tea" concept in the Chinese and Russian languages, we have concluded that proverbs of the Chinese languages surpass those in the Russian languages both in quantity (20 proverbs were identified, and 38 in the Chinese), and by dividing by the scope of use. Therefore, we found that in the Russian language, most proverbs are related to the pastime ("have not drunk tea - what a power? Drank tea – totally ebbed!"), and to the tea etiquette, hospitality ("Bringing tea – doesn't mean expel"). In the Chinese language there are a large number of proverbs that relate to aspects of the cultivation and growing of tea (茶季施化肥, 冬季培生泥 - Fertilize tea plant during its growth, and add clay in the winter). In addition, many proverbs reflect the therapeutic effect of tea on the human body (儿童一杯茶, 可防龋齿病 - tea helps prevent tooth decay in children). In addition, sayings characterize a complex ritual of tea drinking (主人要敬客人四碗茶, 四季平安 - The host must offer guests four cups of tea as a symbol of prosperity in the four seasons of the year).

Thus, we can say that the proverbs and sayings related to the "tea" concept in the Chinese language have more applications than in the Russian language. Many of them have applied nature, as even the ancestors of the Chinese people have laid the foundations in proper tea cultivation, its use for medicinal purposes, some of the tenets of the tea ceremony. On the contrary, in the Russian language's picture of the world there are many proverbs which have no application or teaching nature, but reflect the attitude of Russian people to tea drinking as a symbol of relaxation and hospitable, friendly relations.

4. Conclusion

The study of a country's cultural and linguistic world is conducted through the description of the marked cultural concepts and their comparison with the concepts that operate in another conceptual culture sphere. The "tea" concept has a high cultural markedness in the cultures of China and Russia, and thus has a large number of language representatives, with which you may explore the cultural specificities and the people's mentality.

The analysis has shown that the "tea" concept has a special linguistic-cultural specificity in the Chinese and Russian language picture of the world. This proves that tea, being an integral part of both Russian and Chinese cultures, reflects the cultural identity of these two countries, their cultural identity, the ways of life and special customs of Russian and Chinese people.

Despite the fact that the culture concept "tea" penetrated in Russia much later than it settled in the Chinese culture, despite the fact that its appearance in Russia was the result of this phenomenon and it was borrowed from China, nevertheless the "tea" concept in the Chinese and Russian cultures was able to create a specific linguistic-cultural space.

When considering the cultural and historical background of the "tea" concept formation in China and Russia, we found that this concept has both common and different features in the Russian and Chinese linguistic-cultural

worlds. The similarities are due to the fact that the whole Russian terminology related to the notion of "tea", as the concept itself were borrowed from the Chinese language, along with the arrival of Chinese tea to the Russian market. The differences are dictated by the fact that the Chinese tea tradition has much greater history than Russia does; China has been producing tea for centuries, the Chinese people treat it with reverence and conduct special rituals while use it and all of these facts were reflected in the language. Tea is mainly associated with the process of tea drinking, pastime and as a symbol of hospitality for the Russian people.

After the comparison and analysis of lexical units that represent the "tea" concept, we have found that this concept, which is a synthesis of linguistic and cultural content, reflects the uniqueness of people and the way of the existence of various forms of culture. According to the conducted research, we can distinguish the following substantial aspects in the Chinese language world: historical, home, aesthetic, ritual, medical and industrial. After analyzing the lexical embodiment of the "tea" concept in the Russian language, we have identified the following main aspects of its content: the historical and aesthetic. After analyzing the lexical representatives of the "tea" concept, we concluded that there are three main language levels for both Russian and Chinese tea cultures: tea cultivation, processing of tealeaves and tea ritual (tea drinking).

We may conclude that the "tea" concept is a significant fragment of both Chinese and Russian concept spheres. Despite the fact that the "tea" concept penetrated in the Russian culture much later than it settles in the Chinese culture, despite the fact that its appearance in Russia was the result of this phenomenon and it was borrowed from China, nevertheless the "tea" concept was able to create its linguistic-cultural space in the Chinese and Russian cultures.

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