

# Beyond prayer/"prayer" duality: implications for language and cognition

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**Abstract**— The aim behind this publication, is proposing a deep concept in terms of language and cognition, in the line of prayer/"prayer" duality line of investigation. The concept in this case is fasting, both in the practical and linguistic dimensions. Through a series of analytical deductions, we aim at going one step further in our understanding of the cognitive-linguistic phenomenon. Besides, we aim at continuing previous work on the concept of prayer and its linguistic implications.

**Index Terms**— cognition, cognitive science, fasting, language, lexical depth, linguistics, prayer/"prayer" duality, word "fasting".

## 1 INTRODUCTION

LINGUISTIC research progress in the last years has been exponential. With new insights everyday, we seem to be closer to the deep linguistic understanding we have been looking for, especially in the last few years. In the line of Generative Grammar, we have gone one step further from Chomsky's proposal, based on "Syntactic Structures" (Chomsky, 1957; Alvarez, 2020).

However, in this research, we want to go even further, by proposing a new proof on lexical depth, through an analysis of the word "fasting". This concept, just like the word "prayer", seems to be the window to an even deeper conception of language. In that sense, we aim at developing a new subline of research, based on this.

## 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Language and prayer/"prayer" duality

For the purpose of this investigation, we conceive language as a fuzzy object (a fuzzy subset), within prayer/"prayer" duality (Bhattacharyya, 2015). This duality is a linguistic-cognitive system for prayer and other mysterious, non-measurable activities (Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020).

### 2.2 Cognition

Cognition is the continuous and dynamic human conscious and preconscious processes of thinking. These are the mental activities we are aware of, or can be aware of, through reflection (Hutchison, 2016, 2018; Newen *et. al.*, 2021).

### 2.3 Lexical depth

Lexical depth is the feature individual words can have, showing how deep the knowledge of a lexical unit is. In this case we apply this notion to the analysis of the word "fasting", following the line of analyzing the word "prayer" in previous work (Meara & Miralpeix, 2016; Alvarez, 2018).

## 3 DISCUSSION

As mentioned in previous sections, a proof similar to the analysis of the word "fasting" has already been established through the concept of prayer (Alvarez, 2018). In this case, the concept at hand is fasting but we are certain the process of analysis, if not absolutely equal, is practically the same.

If we begin with the analysis, we have a word like "fasting", which may seem very common at first sight. However, it is not and since it represents the very act of fasting, it deserves attention. Let us not forget, in this case we take the word "fasting" in the religious sense, as an act able to provoke a special state, both in our cognition and the ghost within the machine (Chomsky, 1993; Hutchison, 2016, 2018; Newen *et. al.*, 2021).

Of course, fasting is not a scientific concept and for that reason, it is not possible to define it in academic terms<sup>1</sup>. However, as the word "fasting" is a "sample" from human communication, including that word in an analysis like this is pertinent, and in this case also necessary.

We may speculate on the potential nature of the word "fasting", as deep as it is (Meara & Miralpeix, 2016; Alvarez, 2018). If we take the concept of prayer as a comparison point (Bhattacharyya, 2015; Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020), we may derive these aspects into the idea the concept of prayer is a subset of the word "fasting".

How can we continue with the discussion? Maybe we can speculate on the special nature of a word like "fasting" (Meara & Miralpeix, 2016; Alvarez, 2018). We mentioned before the word "prayer" -which is similar, is a special sample of lexical depth, projected to (fuzzy) lexicon (Meara & Miralpeix, 2016; Alvarez, 2019).

We can go into the lexical world of the word "fasting" and see what we can find there. After some thinking, we realize a word like "fasting" cannot be separated from the reality it represents, that is the act of fasting. In that sense we notice we are dealing with a special human behavior, with potential

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<sup>1</sup>We have faced a similar problem with the word "prayer" in the past (Alvarez, 2020).

consequences to our understanding of the cognitive system and linguistic processes (Bhattacharyya, 2015; Hutchison, 2016, 2018; Alvarez, 2018, 2019, 2020; Newen *et. al.*, 2021). However, they are hard to identify at this point but may be an interesting focus of attention for future research.

It remains the question of whether a word like “fasting” may generate computations of some special kind, linguistic most likely. It is possible a word of this nature has to do with syntax, not just lexicon. However, there is little or no intuition about that yet.

Maybe a word like “fasting” implies more than just religious discipline. Maybe it relates to the concept of prayer (Alvarez, 2018), and a desire for meaningful and lasting connection. What we know is that only time will tell if these insights provide deep conceptual connections, within linguistics and cognitive science.

## 4 CONCLUSION

In this article, we have tried to go one step further from prayer/“prayer” duality, through the analysis of the word “fasting” and the concept of fasting. The concepts covered in this analysis are the foundations of a quite likely sub-line of research, based on prayer/“prayer” duality. This may have consequences for our understanding of language and cognition, and the unmeasurable realm related to these.

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