

# Componential Analysis of *Ana/Mat'/Mother* Words: *Mother* Prototype Extension

Aigul Bakenova

Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Shara Mazhitayeva

Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Sayan Kenzhegaliev

Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Assylbek Zhartybayev

“Bolashaq” academy, 100005, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Zhannat Balmagambetova

Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan

Mendykiz Yesmatova

Faculty of Philology, M.Kozybaev North Kazakhstan University, 150000, Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan

**Abstract**—The research is aimed at identifying the specifics of *ana* (mother -Kazakh)/*mat'* (mother-Russian)/mother semantic broadening in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages. The componential analysis method of lexicalized word definitions is used to do this. It has been revealed that they present a prototype of mother semantic markers, as well as “woman”, “giving birth”, “raising”, and “single-generation” distinguishers, which produce the intention meaning. It is important to emphasize that a “mother” prototype semantic broadening is associated with the changes in the world around us, the development of health reproduction technologies, as well as the change of social values. Implicational meanings arise due to variation of “giving birth”, “raising”, “having”, “kinship” intentional functional and relational semes, e.g. a surrogate mother, a birthmother, a genetic mother, etc. This leads to a mother’s ideal prototypical image “blurring” in the minds of native speakers.

**Index Terms**—component analysis, mother prototype, intention, implication, distinguisher

## I. INTRODUCTION

Mother is a fundamental category of human being. Motherhood is a sociocultural institution which is understood as essential and natural to life. The kinship system versatility in human society makes it semantic and conceptual universals. The words denoting this universal in different languages have powerful symbolism and include customs, traditions, beliefs, viewpoints, stereotypes, moral principles, rules, and a set of either rational or irrational norms that are associated with a childcare and his education, specific to each culture. The concept “mother” has both common prototypical for all cultures, and variable meaning in different ethnic cultures. For this very reason we study the semantics of *ana*(mother)/*mat'*(mother)/mother words, verbalizing this concept in such typologically and genetically different languages as Kazakh, Russian, and English as well.

The language concepts about mother have been repeatedly studied from different viewpoints and various theoretical principles. In cultural and anthropological works, the concept “mother” is most often discussed in the context of kinship terms. The relationship between a mother and her child is the basic genealogy, as well as the basic axis of kinship structure (Greenberg, 1990; Levi-Strauss, 1969; Khassenov, 2021; Scheffler & Lounsbury, 1971; Wierzbicka, 1992). The largest number of works is devoted to a cognitive interpretation of a mother concept. Thus, the concept “mother” in descriptive logic is the “woman” and “parent” concept overlapping (Nardi & Brachman, 2003). The sociobiological concept “mother” is given a core status in a mother-child kinship (Wierzbicka, 1992). The “mother” concept is interpreted as a relational category and is always defined towards her child (Gick & Holyoak, 1983; Pirolli & Anderson, 1985). The minimal unit of biological kinship is a “mother-child” relation, which W. Foley mentions as the “atom of kinship systems” (Foley, 1997, p. 134).

In linguistic studies, the concept “mother” is understood on the basis of various languages due to the linguistic worldview dynamics (Alekseenko, 2005). The “mother” concept was linguistically described on the basis of folklore texts (Listrova-Pravda, 1999; Kerbs, 2008; Aleshchenko, 2007). Marchuk (2008) conducted a cognitive and associative

analysis of the “mother” concept as the frame structures based on Indo-European languages. The concept “mother” generally shows rational semantic features, and metaphors of family relations in the English language suggests the significant conservatism and traditionalism of English family standards (Zheleznova, 2009).

A special cluster is represented by comparative studies analyzing the concept “mother” in two or more languages: in Kazakh and Russian (Zhanpeisova, 2003), Russian, English, Persian, French (Smirnova, 2009), Russian and Swedish (Ivanov, 2008), English and Russian (Avanesyan, 2012), Polish and Russian (Vezhbinski, 2017), Indian (Maanini, 2022), etc.

Our goal is to study primary semantics extension of *ana/mother/mother* words in Russian, Kazakh and English by using the componential analysis of definitions from various lexicographic sources.

The problem of lexical meaning can be examined within cognitive semantics, the task of which is to show how extralinguistic reality is reflected and transformed in a word meaning. Nikitin (1988) interprets the lexical word meaning. The author distinguishes two zones in a word semantic structure, i.e. the zones of intention and implication. The intention forms a substantive core of lexical meaning, represented by a set of semantic features forming this class of denotations. The intention is involved in the classification, systematization and nomination of denotations. The core of lexical word meaning is the concept content, which is a set of essential features, since only essential features and properties characterizing the subject and allowing it to be distinguished from others are reflected in human conscience (Kobozeva, 2007, p. 82; Azharbekova et al., 2020).

Nikitin (1988) defines implication as “a set of semes induced by the intentional meaning due to implicational features. The implication forms meaning periphery around its intentional core and structured due to the probabilistic significance, as well as causative-consecutive and other linear feature dependencies” (Nikitin, 1988, p. 121).

The intention semantic features are capable of generating peripheral semantic features that form linguistic meaning implication. All stereotypical representations and associations related to a certain class of objects or phenomena are fixed in the implication zone. The implication as a peripheral content of linguistic meaning is closely connected with the intentional zone of meaning, on the one hand, and the pragmatic component of meaning, which is followed by subjective meanings of evaluation, modality, and figurativeness, on the other.

Therefore, the article will examine the intention and the implication of *mother/ana/mother* word meanings by using the componential analysis of definitions in various dictionaries.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

The basic method of our study is the componential analysis. The componential analysis method was initially applied to vocabulary, including kinship terms among different tribes. The approach works well only for limited word groups (from ten to three hundred words in extreme cases). E. Naida’s classical analysis of semantic fields in the shamans’ language can serve as an example (Naida, 1962, pp. 45-71). Thereafter, the researchers practiced a more universal componential analysis method based on dictionary definitions, therefore, turning from the analysis of strictly ordered vocabulary groups, such as kinship terms (Arnold, 1991, p. 51).

In modern literature, there are many more or less good schemes describing the component composition of meaning. The theory proposed by R.S. Ginzburg is characterized by the relative simplicity and clarity (Ginzburg, 1978). The semantic components are classified and hierarchized, and each subsequent category is a subcategory of the previous one. The most essential meaning components are categorical semes, i.e. object for nouns, attribute for adjectives, etc. Following Bolinger (1981), Ginzburg subdivides the remaining semes into markers and distinguishers. Markers are referred to the features common to a certain word-class, whereas distinguishers particularize denotation. Further division and its own hierarchy are possible within categorical semes. For example, animateness or person are subordinate semes for nouns. Changes and regroupings within the same hierarchy underlie the changes in word and word formation meanings according to the transmutation.

There are hidden and potential semes in the word meaning (Ginzburg, 1978). Potential semes are related to the word “implication”. They are not included in the obligatory semes corresponding to obligatory features whereby this object differs from others similar to it, but they are among the properties known to native speakers or attributed to this object. R.S. Ginzburg understands hidden components as semes that are revealed through selectional features of words. Implicit and additional meanings, superimposed on explicit meanings, are capable of conveying large amounts of information extracted from language expressions. The linguistic materialization of implications occurs in comparisons, metaphors, idioms, as well as certain types of syntactic constructions.

The polyseme semantic structure remains unstable. Some word meanings appear, whereas the others eventually disappear. The emergence of a new meaning in one word inevitably entails changes in other related words, since everything is interconnected in the lexical-semantic system (Rakhimzhanov et al., 2020). As a result, correlation between the word meanings changes, i.e. primary meanings of a number of words are replaced by figurative ones, whereas the meanings of certain words, which are currently taken as figurative, may turn out to be primary from a historical viewpoint.

The research methodology can be presented as follows:

The definitional analysis of *mat/ana/mother* word meanings is based on the following explanatory dictionaries:

1. “Qazaq tılınıń tüsındırme sözdıǵı”, ed. Zhanuzakova (2008), “Qazaq tılınıń tüsındırme sözdıǵı” ed. Buralkyly (2008); “Qazaq tılınıń tüsındırme sözdıǵı” ed. Kaliyeva (2014);
2. Russian dictionaries – “The Great Dictionary of Russian Language” (Kuznetsov, 2003), “Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Language”, ed. by Dmitriyev (2003), “Modern Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Language” by Efremova (2006);
3. English dictionaries — “Collins English Dictionary”, “Merriam-Webster” (Dictionary, 2002).

### III. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The component analysis of ana/mat/mother polysemes, based on definitions extracted from dictionaries, contains reference to the intention and, partially, to the implication features. The lexical meaning of implication contains a branched structure of semantic features creating an emotional-evaluative aura and reflecting stereotyping of a mother in a particular ethnic culture (Zhakupova, et al., 2021; Asaid, 2022).

The componential analysis of ana/mat/mother words in Kazakh, Russian and English, conducted on the basis of their lexicographic definitions, described below and presented in tables 1, 2 and 3.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS OF ANA WORD IN THE KAZAKH LANGUAGE

Ana polyseme meanings	Categorical seme/Classeme	Markers	Distinguishers	Examples
<b>1. A woman towards children she has given birth to</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female 5. single-generation	6. giving birth/having children/child	ana qamqorlyǵy
<b>2. Female towards her young</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. animal 4. female 5. single-generation	6. giving birth to her young	ana qaz, ana qūr
<b>3. Stepmother</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female 5. single-generation	6. wife of child's father 7. raising a child	ögei ana, ögei şeşe

TABLE 2  
COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS OF MAT' WORD IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

MAT' POLYSEME MEANINGS	CATEGORICAL SEME/CLASSEME	MARKERS	DISTINGUISHERS	EXAMPLES
<b>1. A woman towards children she has given birth to</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female 5. single-generation	6. giving birth to her children/ child	Lose one's mother
<b>2. Female towards her young</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. animal 4. female 5. single-generation	5. giving birth to her young	Fawn mother
<b>3. Something native, close, dear, being some kind of spiritual value</b>	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. value	4. positive 5. similarity according to some feature	Motherland. Earth Mother. Volga Mother.
<b>4. Something that brings some new things or similar to it into origin</b>	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. abstractness	4. source of origin/emergence	Mother Nature. Repetition is the mother of learning.
<b>5. About a woman, a wife. (usually when addressing).</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female	5. address	You want some water, mother?
<b>6. About a priest's wife or a nun (usually associated with a name or title).</b>	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female	5. a priest's wife/a nun	Mother Superior. Mother Evdokia

TABLE 3  
COMPONENTIAL ANALYSIS OF MOTHER WORD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Mother polyseme meanings	Categorical seme/Classeme	Markers	Distinguishers	Examples
1. A woman towards children she has given birth to	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female 5. single-generation	6. giving birth to children/ child	He misses his mother
2. an animal or plant female parent	1. objectivity	3. animal/plant 4. female 5. single-generation	6. giving birth to an animal or plant	a mother bear and her cubs
3. Stepmother, father's wife towards his children by a previous marriage.	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female 5. single-generation	5. stepmother/not giving birth 6. father's wife	mother, stepmother
4. an adoptive woman	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female	5. having adopted a child	foster mother
5. something that gives birth to something, is the source or origin of something, or copies being a mother	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. abstractness	4. source of origin/emergence	mother wit, Mother Nature, mother lode
6. a title given to certain members of female religious orders	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female	5. a faith organization member	Reverend Mother, Mother Theresa of Calcutta
7. used as a title of respect towards an older woman	1. objectivity 2. animateness	3. man 4. female	5. an older woman 6. a title of respect	
8. a stringy slimy substance consisting of yeast cells and bacteria; forms during fermentation and is added to cider or wine to produce vinegar	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. substance 4. slime	5. yeast 6. cider or wine additive	mother liquor occlusion, mother of vinegar
9. basic original computer part	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. technical part	4. basic 5. original part	mother-daughter board connector, mother board
10. something that is an extreme or ultimate example of its kind especially concerning scale	1. objectivity 2. inanimateness	3. of its kind	4. ultimate example 5. concerning scale	the mother of all construction projects the mother of all ocean liners

As the componential analysis of definitions has shown, the meaning 1 intention of ana/mat'/mother words includes relational and functional features specific to the prototype denotation: a woman towards children she has given birth to and is raising; the genealogical distance between a woman and a child is one generation. According to the traditional classical theory, which is based on stereotype normative meanings attributed to lexical items without taking into account various circumstances in the real world, the ideal model is a mother who is a woman carrying and giving birth to a child, giving her genes to a child, bringing up and raising him, married to his father, being one generation older than her child, as well as being his legal guardian (Lakoff, 1987, p. 83). The meaning 2 is close to a prototype, which is recorded in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages as "a female, baby's mother". In the Kazakh and English languages, the definition includes the meaning 3 as "a stepmother, father's wife", which lacks such a prototypical seme as "carrying and giving birth to".

The intention prototypical features generate peripheral semantic features that are included in the implication of mat' word meaning. All stereotypes and associations related to a certain class of objects or phenomena are fixed in the implication zone. It should be emphasized that the semantic feature implications have different degrees of intensity. In this sense, it is described as a strong, weak and negative implication. The strong implication features are close to the intentional core. They are reflected in the lexical entries. In the multivalent English word mother, the figurative meanings 6, 8, 9, and 10 have strong implication and their meanings are recorded in dictionaries. They are closely related to the "birth/generation" intentional feature. In the Russian word mat', figurative meanings 3 and 4 also refer to strong implicational features. The componential analysis of definitions showed that the polysemantic word mother in English has 10 meanings interpreted in various dictionaries, whereas in Russian mat' has 6 meanings, and ana in Kazakh is interpreted in dictionaries by 3 meanings. Such a difference in the semantic representation of the word ana is most likely due to the insufficient lexicographic representation of polyseme meanings, as well as the functioning of *şeşe* (mother in Kazakh) synonym in the Kazakh language, the semantics of which includes many presentations about motherhood. Another reason may become the fact that many associative and connotative meanings in the Kazakh and Russian languages are included in a weak implication zone that creates an image-expressive halo and is not recorded in

dictionaries. As Nikitin (1988) suggests, such combinations are characterized by an implicit meaning beyond the dictionary meanings of combined names.

Such important cultural concepts as motherhood and childbearing generated other implicational meanings in the words *ana/mat'*/mother due to historical and sociocultural circumstances. These words carry a number of meanings on the basis of such intentional features as “giving birth”, “having”, or “raising”. For speakers, it is important to differentiate between these distinguishers, which are manifested in the meanings *asyrap aluşı ana/priemnaja mat'*/foster mother, *surrogatty ana/surrogatnaja mat'*/surrogate mother, *biologialyq ana/biologicheskaja mat'*/birth mother (Khamitova et al., 2016).

In *asyrap aluşı ana/priemnaja mat'*/foster mother meaning, the distinguisher “having” is foregrounded, whereas the distinguisher “giving birth to” is neutralized and appears in a negative form, i.e. a foster mother is a woman having children, but not giving birth to them. This concept can be compared with “a native mother” concept. In recent decades, due to the development of health reproduction technologies, the concepts *surrogatty ana/surrogatnaja mat'*/surrogate mother, *biologialyq ana/biologicheskaja mat'*/birth mother, *genetikalyq ana/geneticheskaja mat'*/genetic mother were generated or foregrounded and their meanings differently interpret mother prototype features. The seme-distinguisher “giving birth to” in the expression *biologialyq ana/ biologicheskaja mat'*/birth mother is foregrounded, while such features as “having” and “raising” stay neutral. The Russian native speakers understand the abovementioned distinguishers as evaluative and emotional coloring, which are manifested in the proverb: A true mother is not the one that gave birth but the one who cared and brought up; in the cuckoo metaphor (about a mother who gave birth, but does not raise her children, leaving them to others) (Temirgazina, 2013). The distinguisher “giving birth to” in the expression *surrogatty ana/surrogatnaja mat'*/surrogate mother is also compared with the original prototype of *mat'* word: “giving birth to, but not having children”, since children are considered to be relatives for another mother. In this expression, such functional feature of a woman as “the ability to give birth/bear a child” is foregrounded, whereas such relational prototype feature as “child kindred” is neutralized. The word *surrogat* /surrogate, used in the nomination, means “a product or an object having only some of the properties of the replaced and being a substitute for natural only by some similarity” (Efremova, 2006). *Genetikalyq ana/geneticheskaja mat'*/genetic mother is a woman who donated genetic material (ovum) for in vitro fertilization.

It should be emphasized that implicational features, weak in intensity, can be strengthened and remain fixed lexicographically. Thus, e.g. the dictionary edited by Dmitriyeva (2003) interprets the expression *surrogatnaja mat'* as “a woman who agreed to bear an embryo instead of another woman who cannot bear or give birth to a child herself” (p. 569).

Therefore, we can say that the development and extension of *ana/mat'*/mother multivalent word in different languages is due to implicational features that emerge on the basis of intentional meaning zone and different variations of prototypical markers and such distinguishers as “giving birth to”, “having”, and “raising”. See Table 4.

TABLE 4  
THE CONCEPT “MAT” PROTOTYPE DISTINGUISHER EXTENSION

Semes/ Meanings	giving birth	Having	Raising	kinship
Ögei <i>ana/ macheha/stepmother</i>	—	+	+	—
<i>Asyrap aluşı ana/ priemnaja mat'/foster mother</i>	—	+	+	—
<i>Biologialyq ana/ biologicheskaja mat'/birth mother</i>	+	+ / —	+ / —	+
<i>Surrogatty ana/surrogatnaja mat'/surrogate mother</i>	+	—	—	—
<i>Genetikalyq ana / geneticheskaja mat'/genetic mother</i>	—	—	—	+

The seme “kindred” is foregrounded in the concept *surrogatty ana/surrogatnaja mat'/surrogate mother*, which was previously included in a “giving birth to” distinguisher, but the development and improvement of health reproduction technologies made it possible to give birth to a child without consanguinity between a mother and a child.

The point to be emphasized is that the semantic structure extension of *ana/mat'*/mother polyseme occurs due to mother prototype variability, which includes such obligatory distinguishers as “giving birth to” and “having children” (Nikolaenko et al., 2020). In addition, the seme-marker “female” is also being degraded due to the liberalization of relations towards same-sex marriages in the world, as well as the legitimization of same-sex families who can adopt children.

The Kazakh, Russian, and English dictionaries lag behind the new social realities, since they include only prototypical ones, i.e. a perfect mother. They reflect a relational aspect, i.e. a woman’s attitude towards her children, mother’s social and biological relations to her children, figurative meaning “new beginnings, the start of something”, “final figure”; using as an address to an older woman or to a nun. In *ana/mat'*/mother word implication, which is not included in the definition, the prototypical meanings are primarily varied in a functional sense, i.e. child’s birth and

upbringing by his mother, as well as metaphorically, i.e. the meanings of primacy, dominance, control, and upstream cause, etc.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The implication, or peripheral zone of meanings, is defined by extensions, and the elements, included in it, have derived meanings, formed from primary ones by semantic expansion. The concept “mother” in the analyzed languages is being developed due to new realities associated with childbearing modern technologies, value changes and epistemic moods in society. All this leads to the new meaning emergence or existing verbal means reinterpretation. The set of mothers’ namings in the Kazakh, English and Russian languages tends to extend due to the new mankind reproduction technologies and a change in the subjective attitude towards motherhood.

When there is a conceptual diversity of mother types, i.e. from normal mothers to egg donor mothers, surrogate mothers whose function is to bear a child, adoptive mothers, unmarried mothers leaving their children for adoption, stepmothers, etc., there is no need for applying necessary and sufficient parameters to determine motherhood. All the above mentioned mothers are mothers towards the prototype which various models come to (Lakoff, 1987, p. 74). The prototype has a dramatic impact on general ideas of a mother, and other subcategories are defined through its features.

The componential analysis of *ana/mat’/mother* lexicographic definitions and the comparison of its results showed an intentional core and a periphery, i.e. the implicational meanings associated with the core. The method seems promising for examining and improving definitions in explanatory dictionaries, since it promotes penetration into the semantic nature of word, which reflects the knowledge acquired by a man in social practice and its understanding.

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**Aigul Bakenova** is master of philology, Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.  
Her research is linguistic convergence, comparative-historical linguistic, lexicology.  
Her ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0092-7143>

**Shara Mazhitayeva** is Doctor of Philological Sciences.  
She is a professor at the Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.  
Her Scientific interests: general linguistics, problems of Kazakh language. She is the author of more than 200 scientific and methodical works, of 6 monographs, 10 electronic textbooks.

**Sayan Kenzhagaliyev**, Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.  
He is an associate Professor at the Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.  
His Scientific interests: general linguistics, problems of Kazakh language.  
He is the author of more than 80 scientific and methodical works. He is the author of 2 monographs, 1 electronic textbook.

**Assylbek Zhartybayev** is Doctor of Philological Sciences.  
He is a Professor at the Faculty of Philology, "Bolashaq" academy, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.  
He is author of several works of general linguistics, problems of the Turkic languages.  
His ORCID: ORCID: 0000-0003-2563-9284

**Zhannat Balmagambetova** is a Senior Lecturer, Doctor in Philology, Faculty of Philology, Karaganda Buketov University, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.

Her Scientific interests: general linguistics, language theory.

She is the author of more than 200 scientific and methodical works. She is the author of 2 monographs, 1 electronic textbook.

Her ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9190-3517>

**Mendykiz Yesmatova** is an associate Professor, candidate of Philology at the M. Kozybaev North Kazakhstan University, Petropavlovsk, Kazakhstan.

Her Scientific interests: general linguistics, problems of Kazakh literature language.

Buketov University