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Témavezető:

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I HAD MY HEART ON MY PALM: CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE HEART IN MODERN STANDARD ARABIC

Kulcsszavak: conceptual metaphor, cultural embodiment, cultural models, cultural linguistics, cognitive linguistics

The human heart holds profound symbolic significance across cultures, serving as a locus for conceptualizing emotions, morality, and cognitive processes. While heart metaphors have been investigated in several languages, their manifestation in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) remains underexplored. This study aims to fill this gap by analyzing the conceptualization of the heart in MSA through the lens of cultural embodiment and cultural linguistics. Drawing on a qualitative corpus-based analysis of idiomatic expressions from dictionaries and the Arabic Web Corpus 2024, the research identified a rich variety of conceptual metaphors, metonymies, and cultural models surrounding the heart. Key findings reveal the heart's conceptualization as a moral compass, a source of strength and fortitude, a responsive entity manifesting emotions, a container for psychological states, an object of immense value, and an authoritative guide for insight and spiritual wisdom. These linguistic representations reflect the heart's deep symbolic grounding within the Arabic-Islamic cultural framework, embodying virtues like purity, resilience, and divine receptivity. The analysis sheds light on potential cultural variations, with romantic love less prominently associated with the heart compared to Western contexts. By adopting an interdisciplinary approach combining cognitive linguistics and cultural studies, this research contributes nuanced perspectives on embodied cognition and culturally-situated meaning-making surrounding a vital bodily source domain.