

UDC 811.111:81

doi: 10.15330/jpnu.2.2-3.48-50

Section:

LEXICAL, PHRASEOLOGICAL SEMANTICS AND TRANSLATION THEORY

SEMANTIC CLASSIFICATION OF THE VERBS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN AREA OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

L.V. MYKHAILYUK

Abstract. The article deals with the problem of semantic classification of the verbs of the North American continent. 60 verbs marked in the dictionaries (Hornby, Webster, Gage) as British, American, Canadian have been chosen for the investigation. The classification of verbal lexemes according to their semantic meaning suggested by A.A. Ufimtseva has been taken for the basis of this research. According to this classification all the verbs fall into two groups: lexemes of active action and lexemes of non-active action.

Keywords: lexis, semantic field, lexeme, lexico-semantic variant.

1. INTRODUCTION

The recognition of lexis as a system presupposes the examining of lexical units of language within the groups of semantic proximity (semantic fields). The studying of their substance and structure gives us an opportunity to present the part of lexis of a certain language which is under review as a systematic and structural organization.

Very often dealing with semantic classification of words the term "lexico-semantic group of words" is used. Though in linguistics there doesn't still exist synonymous usage of this term. The notion "lexico-semantic group" was examined in the works of F.P. Filin, A.A. Ufimtseva, V.I. Kozhukhov, V.A. Zviahintsev, A.I. Kuznietsova. Taking into account the critical analysis of the works of the above mentioned linguists, we suggest "lexico-semantic group of words" be treated as the union of words on the basis of both semantic proximity and similarity of their lexical meaning.

The majority of scientists also consider that one lexico-semantic group may consist of words related to only one part of speech that enables them to interact and influence each other more deeply.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Being guided by the definition of I.V. Arnold that "a certain lexical meaning forms the content of two-faced linguistic sign – lexico-semantic variant" [1, p. 168], we can speak about the rightfulness of singling out classes and groups of lexico-semantic variants of the words which are under study. As a

result of the whole selection of words marked as Br., Am., Cn. in the dictionaries (Hornby, Webster, Gage) 60 verbs have been chosen for this article; among them there are 56 verbs marked as British, 3 verbs marked as American and only 1 verb marked as Canadian. They are:

Br. – barrack, belt up, black, book, breast, bucket, cant, cast, chair, chat, chunter, come over, cosh, crow, cry off, down, fly over, fly past, gate, go, indent, keep, kip, knock back, knock up, lash, lay on, levant, lionize, muck, muck up, nip, part, peg, rate², post, ring, rusticate, sain, scorch, sky, sledge, stash, stone-wall, stop, swob, tine, tump, tup, turf, turn off, turn out, vet, wassail, winkle, worry, wot.

Am. – preempt, repeat, table.

Cn. – acclaim.

3. DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

As among the chosen words there are verbs denoting different actions, semantic classification of verbal lexemes according to their semantic meaning presented in the work of A.A. Ufimtseva has been borrowed as the one which reveals the character of verbs best of all. [5, p. 170-179].

A. Lexemes of active action				B. Lexemes of nonactive action			
Objective verbs		Objective-subjective verbs		Subjective verbs		Subjective-objective verbs	
1. The action not directed at the object	2. The action directed at the object	1. The process (the moving of the object by the action)	2. The process (the result of the object being involved in action)	1. Peculiarities of relations of the subject (the doer) of the action	2. Peculiarities of relations of the subject (all the objects) of the action	1. The state, situation of the living objects, the subjects of the action	2. The changes of the state, situation of the subject (any objects)
stone-wall turn off turn out chair cry off lash lionize rate ² barrack go down	rusticate black gate indent sain vet worry post	stash bucket cant fly over fly past nip sky sledge	book cast chat chunter come over crow lay on muck up part peg ring tump tup turf repeat swob	cosh knock up muck wot preempt acclaim tine	breast	kip knock back scorch wassail keep	belt up stop levant winkle table

Tab. 1. Semantic Classification of Verbal Lexemes according to Their Semantic Meaning

The given division of verbs is rather relative as it is based on a subjective evaluation of the character of verbs. Thus, the verb “repeat” marked in the dictionaries as American is related to the lexemes of active action of objective-subjective group of verbs which denote the process (the result of the object

being involved in action) as in the British variant of the English language it means “to say or to do something once more”; at the same time in the American variant of the English language it means “to vote more than once at the election”.

One of the verbs related to the lexemes of nonactive action of subjective verbs that denote peculiarities of relations of the subject (the doer of the action) is the Canadian variant of the verb “acclaim” which means “to elect for the post unanimously”, though in the British variant it means “to greet noisily”.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The given examples highlight the fact that semantic classification of verbal lexemes according to their semantic meaning contributes to our better understanding of the semantic structure of English words at the present stage of their development and functioning and British, American, Canadian variants in particular.

REFERENCES

- [1] Arnold I.V. *The English Word*. Moscow, 1996. (in Russian)
- [2] *Gage Canadian Dictionary*. Toronto, 1983.
- [3] *Oxford Canadian Dictionary*. Toronto, 1982.
- [4] Shveitsar A.D. *Social Differentiation of the English Language in the USA*. Moscow, 1983. (in Russian)
- [5] Ufimtseva A.A. *The Word in the Lexico-Semantic System of Language*. Moscow, 1968. (in Russian)
- [6] *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*. Springfield, 1985.

Address: L.V. Mykhailiuk, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, 57, Shevchenko Str., Ivano-Frankivsk, 76000, Ukraine.

E-mail: khr.mykhailiuk@gmail.com.

Received: 09.02.2015; **revised:** 04.05.2015.

Михайлюк Л.В. Семантична класифікація дієслів Північноамериканського ареалу англійської мови. *Журнал Прикарпатського університету імені Василя Стефаника*, 2 (2-3) (2015), 48–50.

Стаття присвячена проблемі семантичної класифікації дієслів Північноамериканського континенту. 60 дієслів, маркованих у словниках (Горнбі, Вебстера, Гейджа) як британські, американські, канадські та обраних для дослідження, класифіковано як вербальні лексеми за їх семантичним значенням на основі класифікації, запропонованої А.А. Уфимцевою. Згідно з нею дієслова поділяються на дві групи: лексеми активної та неактивної дії.

Ключові слова: лексика, семантичне поле, лексико-семантичний варіант.