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Functional Specificity of Terms of Ethics in the Sentence

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***Abstract:** This article examines the functional specificity of ethics terms in a sentence, and also analyzes the semantic characteristics of ethics terms in context.*

***Key words:** society, diachronic, phonology, morphology, syntax, terminological system, philosophy, lexical system, principle, science, language, vocabulary, lexicography, lexical meaning, semantics, feature, linguists, research, stages, phonetics, morphology, term, structure, ethics, prepositions, parts of speech, semantic-syntactical parameters, word combination.*

To establish general trends that characterize in many aspects the basic composition of the thematic vocabulary of ethics, there is a need to trace the transformations determined by the time factor. "First of all, this relates to the semantic area, and, as M.A. Halliday aptly notes, the line between changes of an intralinguistic nature and socially determined ones is very vague"¹. This conclusion is very appropriate in connection with the analysis of the vocabulary of an ethical nature, which, as we know, has a special influence on the development of the thinking of a nation. It is known that only the consequences of changes are easily observable, and not the changes themselves; the use of the diachronic method to study the evolution of the semantics of the lexical system of the English language gives useful results. In this way, you can track how the language is developing, and the only way to track it is through comparing the results. Blanař's conclusion that it is possible to find out the lexical meaning of a word only by identifying its linguistic, extra-linguistic and linguistic connections is very reasonable². The terminological system, which is an integral part of the language, cannot be considered in parallel as part of extra-linguistic reality. At the same time, it is difficult to deny that, firstly, there is a certain relationship between a certain sociocultural system and the associated system of concepts and the corresponding system of language - secondly. Thus, non-linguistic systems that belong to the sphere of spiritual and material culture manifest themselves in language in a certain sense through certain lexical-semantic groups. Meanwhile, it should be remembered that the reflection of

¹ Halliday M.A. Language as Social semiotic. – L.: Edward Arnold, 1978. – P. 157.

² Бланар В.О. О внутренне обусловленных семантических изменениях // Вопросы языкознания. – М.: Наука, – 1971. – № 1. – С. 4.

these cultural phenomena and the structural relations characteristic of them in language is indirect, and therefore the analysis of structural relations between linguistic units should not replace the analysis of really existing relations that exist in extra-linguistic reality and in the minds of the members of one or another community.

The evolution of a particular term system is determined, “as is known, by the needs of social development. Thus, T. Savory believes that scientific vocabulary does not change meanings over the centuries, explaining this by its stability in form and function, which allows knowledge to be passed on from generation to generation”³.

The point of view of other researchers is somewhat different, who believe that the terms of science are more isomorphic than the words of ordinary language, since they contain a lot of semantic content (Nalimov V.V., Tendl, Turkin, Andrews, etc.).

However, this point of view can hardly be considered correct without any problems when it comes to the formation, formation and enrichment of the vocabulary of the language of English ethics. In many cases, terminological vocabulary actually develops faster than ordinary literary language, since scientific development into an independent branch of the terminological system must be ensured by optimal linguistic means when scientific thinking is ahead of everyday thinking. This, in turn, is the result of a more adaptive semantics of terminological systems and the dynamics of the words themselves, which allow them to reflect not only specific scientific concepts, but also directly record changes in this scientific field and the scientific worldview as a whole.

In the context of thematic series, which differ in the degree of similarity between the meanings of their constituent units, separate lexico-semantic groups are distinguished. In addition, historical differences in thinking, cognition and environmental perception are taken into account. To solve this problem at the semantic level, vocabulary learning is required using a well-known approach from semantic research. By studying how often terms from different semantic groups are used by a particular author or, more generally, in a particular era, we can better understand the dynamics of the vocabulary and its relationship to the era. Such analysis, for example, in paradigmatic terms, is crucial for cultural history, since there are common words symbolizing the material and spiritual life of society in each era, as well as neologisms denoting changes in the industrial or intellectual sphere. “The study of semantic fields in a text allows us to identify the structure of thinking of a person of past eras, his habits, ideas and interests”⁴. It is important to keep in mind that the interaction between the semantics of lexical items is a complex phenomenon, and in some cases we are talking about the intersection of words with similar meanings despite the fact that there are usually significant differences in their semantic structure. The meanings of words that currently exist in the English language conflict with new terms from the studied vocabulary that appeared in the 16th-17th centuries.

The sequence of analysis of vocabulary of an ethical nature is ensured within thematic groups, the location of which is given in accordance with the thematic classification of the previous chapters, where within these groups individual lexical-semantic groups are identified, the composition of which is analyzed along the line of intersection of their meanings. We take into account the following features that unite words into lexical-semantic groups: the dependence of the meanings of words on each other, on their place in the group they belong to, their immediate semantic proximity, partial or complete coincidence of meanings, the possibility of their interchangeability in certain conditions.

³ Savory Th.H. *The Language of Science: its growth, character and usage*. – L.: Deutsch, 1967. – P. 51.

⁴ Бородина М.А., Гак В.Г. *К типологии и методике историко-семантических исследований*. – Л.: Наука, 1979. – С.74.

The study of the semantic aspect of the assimilation of words of an ethical nature is carried out both through the consideration of the “process of formation of their semantic structure on English soil, and through the study of those transformations that are caused by the interaction of new borrowings of an ethical-philosophical order with existing vocabulary perceived language”⁵. It seems to us that both approaches are correct and recognized to complement each other, that is, to reveal various aspects of the complex process of interaction between borrowed and original, on the one hand, and vocabulary borrowed in previous centuries, on the other, in the lexical-semantic system recipient language. Particular attention is paid to two main stages: the “moment of penetration” and “further development on new linguistic soil.” The lexical structure and set of syntactic devices used to organize linguistic material of a moral and ethical nature in various fields and genres were influenced by this linguistic situation, in which Latin predominated in such areas as science, politics, education, upbringing and religion. One of the defining characteristics of the literature of the era is the widespread use of ethical terminology in the vast majority of genres. The acquisition of new meanings and shades by lexical units, characteristic of the expression of moral and ethical thought, confirms the fact that there is a process of gradual professional differentiation of the language of ethics in connection with the specialization of knowledge, its separation into a separate science (anticipation, concurrence, gradation etc.): «anticipation is when we prevent those wordes that another would saie» (T.Wilson. Rhetorics. P.100) (SOD, P.75); «so shall my anticipation prevent your discovery» (Shaks. Haml. 11.2. 304).

Unambiguous lexical units are characterized by low frequency, but they have a high degree of semantic autonomy, independent of context (modesty, presupposition, ratiocination), «...is according unto the light and presupposition of that which is delivered» (F.Bacon. Adv. L. 11.126) (SOD, P.1577); «withot any discourse of reason, or ratiocination» (Plutarch, p.1344) (SOD, P.1660); «...be pastime passing excellent, if it be ... with modesty» (Shaks. Ado. 1.66) (SOD, P.1269); «The that which maiden modestie doth warrant, bet all my sins look meray» (Shaks.Ado. IV. 181).

There is a clear difference in the meanings of the same word, which are not accompanied by a violation of its identity; the appearance of two or more different ethical and philosophical meanings of a word is the result of expanding the semantic boundaries of the word due to the development of its internal semantic capabilities (modesty, compendium, quiddity, vacuity, expectation, levity). The figurative meaning of a borrowed word directly develops an essential element of the original meaning in the source language, thereby the word on the basis of the English language is, as it were, freed from specific etymological features while preserving the integral feature of the “functional purpose” of the concept (example: word + citations). The connection between the etymological meaning and the figurative meaning transferred to English is based on associative features associated with the basic meaning of the word in the etymonic language (coherence, semination).

The ethical lexicon is divided into two groups depending on its origin/appearance: 1) words borrowed from the vocabulary of the native language (emergence from the original vocabulary) and 2) words borrowed from other languages. The following features of the use of newly appeared borrowed units should be noted: a) author's interpretations found in dictionaries, where clarity of presentation and simplicity are decisive elements; b) paraphrases, which are often translated using synonyms or in a descriptive way, as in the example below: ratiocination is, that cometh of logie of any Commodity, or to ecaheve any discomodity, levity, lightnesse, inconstancie.

⁵ Бородина М.А., Гак В.Г. К типологии и методике историко-семантических исследований. – Л.: Наука, 1979. – 232 с.

Lexical units of an ethical nature in the 16th-17th centuries. used in various genres (*modesty, levity, constancy, coherence*), expressing the moral and ethical qualities of a person. The attraction of these groups is due to the fact that they are characterized by abstractness and are used mainly in the style of written speech (F. Bacon, Cr. Marlowe, Shakespeare, T. Grafton, J. Milton, Stowe, G. Fletcher, Cox).

A large number of conjugated words (or their lexical-semantic variants) appeared in the same (XVI) century: hardheartedness; falsity; deceitfulness; perspicuity; inclination; reflection; the vulgar; forecast; epitome. In the 16th-17th centuries, a clearer and more unambiguous presentation of the concept replaces the polysemy of the semantics of these conjugate words, which previously expressed a specific concept in English at an earlier time and throughout the Middle Ages.

The results of the analysis of the semantic structure of the studied units in the analyzed era and in modern English (based on the content of literary-book style nouns) confirm the working hypothesis regarding the comparative simplicity of the semantic structure of words of an ethical and philosophical nature. The English language of ethics operates as a complex multidimensional system, characterized by the emergence of many transitional circumstances, which reflects the complexity of interactions and relationships between its component parts. This vocabulary is also subject to the same procedure as all borrowings of the 16th century.

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