



## COMPARATIVE INVESTIGATION ON THE SEMANTIC MEANING OF SOME TERMS OF ETHICS OF THE XVI-XVII CENTURIES

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### Abstract:

This article is devoted to the diachronic investigation of the formation of semantic meaning of the terms of ethics of the XVI-XVII centuries. Several comparative examples that are given in the English language, as well as, definition on their initial source meaning serve as a scientific base when highlighting various aspects of the terms of ethics of the Renaissance period.

### Key words:

Culture, determination, interpretation, semantic, research, linguistic changes, semantics, method, effect, transfer, connection, term, divergence, independent, autonomy, scientific, concept

In the works of most national and foreign linguists of recent decades, it is noteworthy that the development of terminology in them is associated with the reflection not only of scientific and technical, but also social, linguocultural and culturological aspects of the development of society<sup>1</sup>.

In modern world linguistics, studies the problems of general and specific terminology and its place, as well as the process of ordering linguistic terms are carried out within the framework of one language to a certain extent, however, the lexicographic interpretation of linguistic terms using the example of comparing multilingual dictionaries has not yet been the subject of a separate study. At the same time, scientific research is being conducted in such priority areas as selection, unification, classification and interpretation of terms, determination of their functional and lexical-semantic features.

Ethics, like any other social and humanitarian philosophical phenomenon, has a historical character. This is one of the oldest theoretical disciplines that arose as part of philosophy during the formation of a slave-owning society<sup>2</sup>. Ethical issues have been at the center of public attention since the advent of homo sapiens. Moreover, it is the emergence of ethical forms of relationships between individuals that gives us one of the grounds for identifying such a historical and sociological category as Homo sapiens, ascertaining his transition from a primitive state to a more developed one<sup>3</sup>.

The problems of ethics as a science and a form of social life were undoubtedly considered at all stages of human civilization. However, each time and in each country, the interpretation of ethical concepts and norms, and hence the terms, bore a specific historical and national character.

To establish general trends that characterize the main composition of the thematic vocabulary of ethics in many aspects, it becomes necessary to trace the transformations determined by the time factor. First of all, this refers to the semantic area, and, as M.A.Halliday aptly notes, the

<sup>1</sup> Samuels M.L. Linguistic evolution. – Cambridge University Press, 1982. P. 52.

<sup>2</sup> Watt W.M. A History of Islamic Spain.- Edinburgh. 1978;

<sup>3</sup> Wersicker A. The Muslim Creed: Its Genesis and Historical Development.- Cambridge, 1985.

line between changes of an intra-linguistic nature and socially determined ones is rather vague. This remark is very useful in connection with the analysis of the vocabulary of an ethical nature, which, as you know, plays a special role in shaping the thinking of the nation.

The use of the diachronic method in the study of the development of the semantics of the lexical system of the language of English ethics gives a good effect, since only the results of changes are available to observation, and not the changes themselves<sup>4</sup>.

This remark is very useful in connection with the analysis of the vocabulary of an ethical nature, which, as you know, plays a special role in the formation of the thinking of the nation. The use of the diachronic method in the study of the development of the semantics of the lexical system of the language of English ethics gives a good effect, since only the results of changes are available to observation, and not the changes themselves.

The evolution of a particular term system is determined, as is known, by the needs of social development. So, T.Savory believes that scientific vocabulary does not change meanings during centuries, explaining this by its stability in form and function, which allows the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation<sup>5</sup>.

The point of view of other researchers is somewhat different, who believe that the terms of science have greater isomorphism than the words of an ordinary language, since more semantic content is embedded in them (Nalimov V.O., Tendl, Turkin, Andrews, etc.). The validity of the above points of view cannot be disputed, provided that we are talking about a structurally stable and in many respects really isomorphic nomenclature, say, chemical, medical, etc., although this nomenclature, as is commonly believed, is not element of the terminological system. However, when it comes to the period of formation, formation and enrichment of the vocabulary of the language of English ethics, this point of view can hardly be recognized as correct without reservations.

Indeed, terminological vocabulary develops in many cases faster than general literary vocabulary, because the need for a terminological system that takes shape into an independent branch should be provided with optimal linguistic means, when scientific thinking is ahead of everyday thinking. This, in turn, is due to the more flexible semantics of terminological systems and the dynamism of the terms themselves, which allows them to reflect not only certain scientific concepts, but also to record potential changes in a particular scientific field, as well as directly in the scientific worldview. The use of ethical vocabulary in the overwhelming majority of genres is one of the characteristic features of the literature of the era. At the same time, the acquisition by lexical units of new meanings, shades characteristic of the expression of moral and ethical thought, indicates that there is a process of gradual professional differentiation of the language of ethics in connection with the specialization of knowledge, its registration in a separate science (anticipation, concurrence, gradation etc.): "anticipation is when we prevent those words that another would saie" (T. Wilson. Rtet. 100); "so shall my anticipation prevent your discovery" (Shaks. Haml. 11.2.304).

Unambiguous lexical units differ in insignificant frequency, but they have a high degree of semantic autonomy, independent of context (modesty, presupposition, ratiocination), " ..is according to the light and presupposition of that which is delivered" (F. Bacon. Adv . L. 11.126); "withot any discourse of reason, or ratiocination" (Holland Plutarch, Mog. 1344); "..be pastime passing excellent, if it be ... with modesty" (Shaks. Ind. 1.66); "The that which maiden modestie doth warrant, bet all my sins look meray" (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 emergence of two or more different ethical and philosophical meanings of a word is the result of the expansion of the semantic boundaries of the word due to the

<sup>4</sup> Halliday M.A. Language as Social Semiotic.- L., 1989. -P.157.

<sup>5</sup> Savory T.H. The Language of Science: its growth, character and usage. -L., 1967. -P.51

development of its internal semantic capabilities (modesty, compendium, vacuity, expectation, levity). According to its origin, ethical vocabulary is divided into: 1) words arising from the native vocabulary and 2) words borrowed from other languages. Some features of the introduction of new borrowed units into everyday life are noted: a) author's interpretations in dictionaries, where by their very nature simplicity and clarity of presentation are inherent; b) paraphrases - usually by descriptive translation or by using synonyms, for example: ratiocination is, that cometh of logic of any Commodity, or to eacheve any discomodity, levity, lightnesse, inconstancie;

Lexical units of ethical character in the XVI-XVII 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, are used mainly in the style of written speech (F. Bacon, C. Marlowe, Shakespeare, T. Grafton, J. Milton, Stowe, G. Fletcher). A certain number of conjugating words (or their LSV), which arose within the same (XVI) century, stand out: hardheartedness, falsity, deceitfulness; perspicuity; inclination; reflection; the vulgar; forecast; epitome. Observed in the English language of a more ancient period and in the Middle Ages, the polysemantic semantics of these conjugated words that expressed a particular concept, in the 16th-17th centuries gives way to a clearer and more unambiguous expression of the concept.

Thus, the vocabulary of ethics appears before us as a single, integral system, subordinate to certain objective laws of history and thinking, reflecting the really existing dialectical relationship and further development of the most important ethical concepts, the worldview of representatives of the 16th-17th centuries. It is significant that in the foreground is that part of the vocabulary that is directly related to the central concepts of the philosophy of humanism and enlightenment (reflex, modesty, levity, identity, coherence, anticipation, education, correlation). The epoch of the XVI-XVII centuries most decisively influenced not only the content, but also the composition of the vocabulary of ethics, as evidenced by the appearance in the era under study of a large number of words to explain the new worldview and worldview in the light of the revolutionary scientific discoveries of the era. The presence of words of ethical and moral order among playwrights, poets, theologians suggests that their authors mastered a new worldview, and were also well acquainted with the main works of the ethical and philosophical nature of the Old and New times, with the vocabulary used in such works.

### **The list of used literature:**

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