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## THE LACUNAE IN THE NAIVE AND SCIENTIFIC WORLDVIEWS

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*The article in question opens the discussion on the necessity of scientific registration of lacunicon units. The process of lacunae formations is being considered in terms of their semantic deviations in the naive and scientific world views.*

**Key words:** *lacunicon, lacunae, naive world view, scientific world view, English.*

### Introduction

The linguistics gave birth to a new science – lacunology, which has its own fixed and non-fixed notions and terms. The category of lacunarity has the characteristics of “cyclical repetition”, reflecting the process of reduction, modifications in the scientific worldview. The terminology of lacunicon is in the state of on-going true-up and renewal. The generation of linguistic metalanguage of lacunology is worth further investigation.

The ontology of lacunicon goes back to Greece, initiating the first cluster of lacunicon - (i) liquid cluster of the *lac-* etymon, later there appeared the second cluster: lacuna cluster of the *lac-* etymon (ii), then, the third lacuna cluster came: lack/absence cluster of the *lac-* etymon (iii) which is considered as pre-terminological state of the lacunicon. The author views the process of lacunae formation as semantic deviations of the language systems, defining close and near cognates of English lacunicon. A man highlights the current important segments in the information flow digesting the worldview elements by the “cut-through process of conceptualization of knowledge” [8, p. 91]. A person as a linguistic identity, does not often notice any vacuum or gaps in communication. On the one hand, the empty places and redundancy of information help to differentiate digest new information. On the other hand, there always come some items in the linguistic worldview - empty, unclear or vague. These gaps are named *lacunae, non-verbal letters, quantas of non-transparency, semantic vacuum, communicative puzzles* [11, p. 73].

The semantic emptiness of nominative and communicative units is increasingly attractive for the linguists attacking the problem of incongruence, ambivalence, and enigmatic mystery [12, p. 86].

The cultural and linguistic specifics in one culture can correspond to the “*zero equivalent*” in another. The establishment and development of new terminology in terms of lacunae theory is a challenge worth attention of the international linguists at large. The aim of this article is to discuss what has been done by linguists considering the linguistic lacunology terminology.

The new science has been designed: (i) to deal with lacunae of the different linguistic levels forming paradigmatic and syntagmatic cluster of the mentioned category, (ii) diachronic and synchronic exteriorization of lacunae and (iii) to show the ways how to compensate ‘zero items’. The terms of *lacuna, lacuneme, lacunarity, the absent element, gap* and other related terms are topically relevant here.

The current linguistic problem is the language semantic deviation and change, its symmetric and asymmetric exposure, the study of the allomorphic and isomorphic correlations in the contrasted languages (English and Ukrainian). The word *formation* and word *change* are well described by the modern linguistics at the high theoretical level, while the opposition *lacunarity* and *reduction*, the status of category of the lacunarity in language and speech, aspects of the lacunicon in the scientific worldview have not been comprehended yet [5, 6, 12].

The purpose of this paper is to initiate the discussion of registry of the linguistic lacunicon within the scientific worldview, the cognitive exteriorization of the linguistic terms of the lacunicon in the paradigm of the linguistic clusters at the syntagmatic, paradigmatic and cognitive levels.

Lacunology as a new science emerged due to the fruitful attempts and scientific heritage of the franco-Canadian scientists Jean-Paul Vinay and Jean Darbelnet, who made a record of the lacunae existence as gaps which should be eliminated / decoded in translation [4, p. 86]. Such scholars as Vladimir Gak, Irene Markovina, Alexander Sorokin and Iosif Sternin worked at the problem of lacunarity focusing attention on definitions of the term *lacuna*, its cross-cultural and cross-language parameterization [7, 10, 11]. The Ukrainian linguistics Michael Kochergan and Marina Delyusto investigated the parameters of lacunae [6].

### **The Ontology of linguistic lacunicon: naive worldview**

The term *lacunology* comes from ancient Greece, it is relevant to Spartan Laconia (Gr. ), known as Lacedaemonia [16]. The word *laconic* has derived from the name of the region: to speak in a concise way, in the way Spartans were reputed to do. The metasign *lacuna* is functioning in different spheres: it operates in terminologies of humanities, in music, law, psychology and medicine [1, p. 284].

The asymmetry of gaps/lacunae formation in the process of lacunization can be explained by the variability of the language system. The benefit lies in economy of the linguistic characters, polysemy, in the frequency of the words. But still, it often works in the case of phenomenon of lacunarity exteriorization [10, p. 4].

The semantics of pre-terminological Lacunicon of the naive worldview is open to identification. The lacuna is firstly mentioned as “*lake*”, later lacuna came to mean “empty space”, “absence”, “lack of something”. The dynamics of lacunicon has been described in the etymological observations as “salmon argument”, “lakes”, “Lachness”, and “liquids of liquor” and “lack of something/milk”. The potential derivations of words *black*, *blanket*, *Lackadaemonian*, *elide*, *elision* and other words are widely discussed by linguists.

In English after the fifth century, early changes became obscured, their results were no longer marked as regular or predictable. Allomorphic variations came into being due to assimilation of consonants and vowel loss.

The semantic shifts are highly valuable to understand phonetic, morphological, semantic patterns, the internal laws of word-formation model. The model is considered productive provided it ensures the creation of variable rows, inherent stereotypes and components frequency. The word *lacuna* derives from the word *lake* of the Greek origin: *lacuna* ‘hole, pit’, dim. of *lacus* ‘pond, lake’. The Latin plural is *lacunae*, related: *Lacunal*; *lacunar*; *lacunose*.

Exploring further figures of *lac*-derivates generated by the Visual Thesaurus, let’s firstly compare the definitions and synonyms of the word ‘*lacuna*’ in terms of their developing *lake*<*lacuna*<*hole* < *gap*<*interval*, cf.::

(i) *hole, aperture, breach, break, burrow, cave, cavern, cavity, chamber, chasm, chink, cistern, cleft, covert, crack, cranny, crater, cut, den, dent, depression, dimple, dip, excavation, eyelet, fissure, foramen, fracture, gap, gash, gorge, hollow, hovel, keyhole, lacuna, lair, leak, mouth, nest, niche, nick, notch, orifice, outlet, passage, peephole, perforation, pit, pocket, pockmark, puncture, rent, retreat, scoop, shaft, shelter, space, split, tear, tunnel, vacuity, vent, void, window*;

(ii) *gap, aperture, blank, breach, break, chasm, discontinuity, interim, interval, lacuna, lapse, opening, rift, space*; antonyms: *continuation, continuity*;

(iii) *interval, interim, breach, break, breather, breathing spell, coffee break, cutoff, downtime, gap, hiatus, interlude, interregnum, interruption, lacuna, layoff, letup, meantime, meanwhile, pause, take ten, time\*, time-out*;

\* = informal/non-formal usage (according to the Visual Thesaurus.com).

Thus, *Lake* (i) is a first starting point of lacunicon of the naive worldview. When the water was reduced the lacking space arose (ii). Thus, the second derived meaning of *lacuna* was *empty space* (dried up / dehydrated lake). There was a *Lakodomanian* place near waters in Greece (iii), where are the laconic people from (iii) – thus the meaning ‘reduction’ as lacunarity appeared from ‘reducing words’, ‘making shorter sentence’, ‘compressing the utterance’ appeared.

*Lacedaemonius, Lakedaimonios*, from *Lakedaimon*, an ancient Greek name for Sparta and the district around it. *Lacedaemonian* (adj.) 1780, from L. from Gk. Semantic vector reduction and reduction acquired later after reconsideration and entry features the word laconic brevity, clarity wording shortened form of Greek Spartan Laconia (Sparta Greek name) traced [18].

The cognates of *lacuna* formed into some etymological groups ‘*etymologichni gnizda*’ (etymological nets). The place named *lake* yielded to a place near water. All the lakes and later water pools and rivers had morphemes *-lac/-lak/-lack* of meaning was the Greek Lake. The family of *lacuna* etymon comprises words with *lac-* morpheme and other later derivatives. Etymon *lacuna* has close cognates: *lake, laconic, lacuna* and near cognates *lace, lactation, liquorice, laguna*, and *liquor* which have correspondingly *lac-, liq-, lag-* morphemes [17]. The meanings of those cognates are very close to such notions as (i) **liquid** (lake, river, water, and milk), (ii) **lacuna** (hole, gap, reduction, shortening, and compression), **and lack of something** (*defect of manuscript, misunderstanding, absence*). The words are lexical and semantic derivatives, the changes caused by the historical replacement (e.g. *lacuna < laguna*), deletion (e.g. *lacuna < lack*), or epenthesis (e.g. *black*). Thus, it is well seen that lacunarity as the process is adherent to change and reduction.

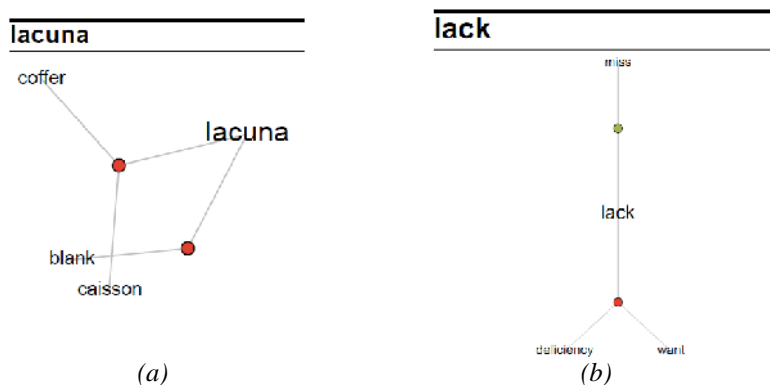


Figure - 1 *Lacuna etymon meanings (a) The derivative of lacuna etymon: lack (b)*

**Cluster (i) Liquid of the lac- etymon.** Etymon *lacunae* is of Greek origin (< μ ), which later sent out users lexico-graphic sources to Latin etymology *lac* (<*lac na*). The fossilized allomorphs of *lacuna* are deceptively unlike each other in form, yet they are historically related – they are cognates. The morpheme - was borrowed from Greek, adapted and changed in Latin to *lac(k)-*, then *lacuna* group had a consequence of systematic changes in the Old English times [15].

**lac** (n.) ‘red resinous substance’, Skt. *laksha* ‘red dye’, *lakh* is an alteration of Skt. *rakh*, from an IE root word for ‘color, dye’ (Watkins); *the color of salmon* (Barnhart), from Pers. *lak*, earlier *lacca* (early 15 c., from ML form *lacca*), from Hindi *lakh* (Prakrit *lakkha*),

1550 s perhaps via M. Fr. *Lace* not traced [18]. It is not evident that salmon is of *lac*-cluster. Still, the word developed from the ancient word *lox* from PIE \**lax*. **salmon** (n.) c.1200, from O.Fr. *salmun*, from L. *salmonem* (nom. *salmo*) "a salmon," possibly originally "leaper," from *salire* "to leap," though some dismiss this as folk etymology. Another theory traces it to Celtic. Replaced O.E. *lax*, from PIE \**lax*, the more usual word for the fish (see *lox*) [18]. *Lac*-derivatives have developed into Laguna cluster with *lag*- morpheme. Compare, **lagan** (noun), anything sunk in the sea, but attached to a buoy or the like so that it may be recovered. Also, **ligan**. Origin: 1525–35; < Middle French (> Medieval Latin *laganum*); probably < Germanic; compare Old Norse *lagn* ('net laid in the sea') [17].

That is not obvious how morphemic derivation *lake* < *lac* worked. Probably, the argument of "salmon" is working here. Really, the 'red fish', "salmon" inhibited lakes and rivers. As the colour of fish was red, this semantic correlation is not obvious but possible. In Ukrainian the similar semantic correlation works with fish 'okun' from 'okunatysya' (meaning 'to dive into river'). The semantic cognate of *lac* is *red*. What is extremely interesting about lacuna etymon and its further word building models that both in English and in the Slavonic Indo-European Ukrainian derivation were similar: e.g. Ukrainian [lak ti] (to lick), Ukrainian [lasoshi] (sweets), Ukrainian [lak] (red clue).

**Cluster (ii) Lacuna of the lac- etymon.** The Special derivative cluster of lacuna etymon with the semantic core 'hole/gap/empty space' form the word derived from *lacuna* > *lace*: *lace* (n.) early 13c., *laz*, "cord made of braided or interwoven strands of silk", from O.Fr. *laz* "a net, noose, string, cord, snare" (Mod.Fr. *lacs*), from V.L. \**lacium*, from L. *laqueum* (nom. *laqueus*) "noose, snare" (It. *laccio*, Sp. *lazo*), a trapping and hunting term, probably from Italic base \**laq* – "to ensnare" (cf. L. *lacere* "to entice"). Later also "net, noose, snare" (c.1300); "piece of cord used to draw together the edges of slits or openings in an article of clothing" (late 14c.) [18].

**Cluster (iii) lack of something of the lac- etymon.** A special place in comparative and typological analysis takes study of word families of the *lac*- etymon where \**lac* has semantics of absence:

*lack* (n.) *lack* c.1200, may have existed as unrecorded O.E. \**lac* or else it was borrowed from M. Du. *lak* "deficiency, fault;" in either case from P.Gmc. \**laka-* (cf. O.N. *lacr* "lacking"). The verb is attested earlier, late 12c., but is considered to be from the noun [18] late 12c., 'absence, want; shortage, deficiency', perhaps from an unrecorded OE \**Lac*, or else borrowed from M.Du. *lak* 'deficiency, fault'; in either case from P.Gmc. \**Laka-* (cf. O.Fris. *lek* 'disadvantage, damage', ON *lacr* 'lacking'), from PIE \**leg-* 'to dribble, trickle.' Middle English also had lackless 'without blame or fault'. from an unrecorded O.E. \**Lac*, or else borrowed from M. Du. *lak* 'deficiency, fault' \**lac* has no semantics [18].

Word families (historical and etymological, genetic) are systems of words that are genetically related and grouped around a common etymon (root or tokens), whereby these lexical items are as historically attested to more or less broad genetic unity of language, and those related to the ancestor and restored by reconstruction. *Lac*- etymon clusters (i) liquid (ii) lacuna, (iii) lack/absence have unrecorded PIE root \**lak* or \**lek*. The words from liquid cluster are very similar in English and Ukrainian:

The availability of a common word for milk in Indo-European languages is considered proven by the Ukrainian etymologists Boldarev, Levitsky and Melnechuk while analyzing words nominating 'milk' in the most Indo-European languages [13].

Table 1 - PIE root of lac-etymon in English and Ukrainian

PIE/Latin	English	Ukrainian
PIE root * <i>glakt-</i> pp. stem of latin <i>lactare</i> “suckle”, from L.L. <i>lactationem</i> (nom. <i>lactatio</i> ) “a suckling”	<i>lactation</i> , 1660s <i>lactate</i> (n.) 1794	laktaziya (Ukr. )
PIE root * <i>melg-</i> from lac (gen. <i>lactis</i> ) “milk”	<i>milk</i>	Moloko (Ukr. )
PIE root * <i>lak</i>	<i>to lick</i>	lakaty (Ukr. )

Some lacuna cognates, non-productive allomorphic variation, may be described in historical terms, for which the conditions have ceased to exist. There are some completely unpredictable alternate forms of cognates. Historical analysis may still be helpful to show some general patterns of lexical and semantic derivation in etymological cognates in spite of their overt differences. Diachronic Lacunarity has three fossilized processes: the Consonant Shifts, Vowels Elision, and Reduction.

The words from naive worldview formed later lacunicon of the scientific terms. As a disciple of a ‘young age’, lacunology has its stage of formation, the subject of categorical apparatus and methods.

The process of formation of gaps associated with the historical development of the language, which is experiencing a formal semantic changes and withdrawals at all levels of its being.

#### **The category of lacunarity and its basic terms: the scientific worldview**

The creation of the linguistic terms of the lacunicon is a powerful reason for the emergence of a new science lacunology. Accepting and approving the terms of the linguistic lacunicon, the new science of the lacunology is rising. Developing of the term-specific field of the linguistic lacunicon, a lacunologist begins with the identification of the proto-term “*lacuna*”, represented in both English and Ukrainian.

The analysis of the lacunicon of the naive worldview is a condition for further analysis of the scientific terminology. Lacuna in the naive view of the world has such semantic correlates: Ukr. “*dira*”/ Engl. “*small pit*”, Ukr. “*zagliblennya*” / Engl. “*small opening*”, Ukr. “*puste miszte*”/ Engl. “*small blank space*”, in the scientific – Ukr. “*vidsutnist*”/ Engl. “*lack*”, Ukr. “*depressiya*”/ Engl. “*depression*”, Ukr. “*lacunarnist*”/ Engl. “*lacunarity*” [14, p. 644].

Lacunae are “*empty cells*” in the language and culture, which have common inter-, intra-, confront, contrastive, implicit, culturological and paradigmatic vectors [7, p. 29-30]. The lack of the single-word equivalent in the language of linguistic and cultural transfer is also called a lacuna [6, p. 326].

Lacunarity is a new linguistic category that has been implemented at the level of paradigmatics by such features as inclusion, the possibility of making subcategories, similarity and contrast, derivation, reduction, and replacement; lacunarity has such features as variability, asymmetry, and syntactic lacuna (pause) at the level of syntagmatics. The linguistic terms of lacunicon ha been structurally organized as a set of clusters of syntagmatic, paradigmatic and cognitive lacunarity.

There is a profound background for the category of “lacunarity”, with its own terminology, the future of the scientific paradigm. The terms of linguistic lacunicon have the tendency to make up the terminological system of lacunology. Nowadays it is too early to “put a seal of approval” confirming the lacunology as “officially registered” new science

with its own metalanguage. But it is high time to confirm that the lacunology has its basic terms and notions of the lacunicon [1, p. 282].

The phenomena of lacunization and delacunization are viewed as the linguistic universals which are viewed as the processes that are characterized by development and decline of the linguistic forms. When one fails to find the translation equivalent, it is a lacuna. Thus, the term *lacunization* means “zero-verbalization”. The process of finding the proper word or a near equivalent is seen as the filling process of a lacuna is called delacunization [9, p. 165] associated with the process of elimination of gaps, or lacunar elements [7, p. 4].

The phenomenon “*lacunarity*” is characterized by multifaceted “*lacunae of the language*” and “*lacunae of the speech continuum*”. Lacunae/gaps refer to the verbal and non-verbal communication unequally represented by the theory of communication. The problems of fixing and explication of inconsistencies (e.g. vague cultural linguistic or elements) remain theoretically loaded home and abroad. The status of the cultural and interlinguistic lacunae/gaps is currently a central and challenging matter. There are interesting cases of metaphorical gaps in various languages, mismatches of the text frame and slot-and-filler model, quantitative and qualitative inequalities that can be qualified as major challenging difficulties of translation [2, p. 106].

The pragmatic vector of the lacunology correlates with the problems of incongruent images of the world, with lacunae of the sociotypical behavior of the multilingual members of various discourses, and cross-cultural and cross-language activities [12, p. 88].

### **The linguistic lacunicon: dichotomies and clusters**

The term *linguistic lacunicon* as a component part of the structure of the linguistic identity was suggested by Yuriy Sorokin; later by the term *lacunicon* was meant “a mechanism that controls the filtering of all incoming information” [3, p. 33]. In our article, we consider the lacunicon as a terminologic registry, which includes linguistic units correlating with the semantics of *lacunarity*, *absence*, *reduction*, *compression*, *truncation*, *elision*; these gaps are empty, implicit, *compressed elements of language systems*, *voids of communication*, *speech emptiness* (e.g. *pauses*, *silence*, *the silent effect*), and *the lacunae of cognition*.

The linguistic lacunicon includes the linguistic terms within grammatical, lexical, phonetic, lexical and syntactic clusters (the paradigmatic gaps), the terms in respect with communicative and neuro-physiological gaps in speech (the syntagmatic gaps), also, the terms denoting lack of background or specifically oriented knowledge of add to the linguistic lacunicon relating to the semantics of decoding (the cognitive gaps).

The semantic vector of the lacunicon is oriented towards terminology development, producing such linguistic terms in the scientific worldview as: *a reduced form*, *aphetic form*, *altered/transformed meaning*, *changed/modified meaning*, *faulty interpretation*, *incorrect interpretation*, *wrong interpretation/misinterpretation*, *erroneous interpretation*, *nonproductive substitution*, *discrepancy/variance/mismatch of the multilingual products-correlates*. The effects of “delacunization” (establishing of clarity) are defined by the following terms: *expanded comment*, *translation commentary*, *citation in the original language for the untranslatable elements*, *text callout*, *footnote*, *intertextual reference*.

There appeared some dichotomous data in terms of lacunology, among them such dichotomies as, *lacunarity :: language*, *lacunarity :: speech*, *lacunarity :: lexicography*, *lacunarity :: speech genres*, *lacunarity :: thinking*, *lacunarity :: culture*, *lacunarity :: gender*, *lacunarity :: graphics*, etc. There are some fixed and non-fixed terms in the lacunology, among them such terms as: *wasted units*, *empty cells*, *ethos*, *situational lacunae*, *delacunization*, *latent structure*, *the category of absence*, *default verbalization*, *lexicographical gap*, *implication*, *lacunae of gender*, *composition lacunae/gaps*, *interlacunarity*, *intralacunarity*, *register of lacunology*, *typology of interlinguistic lacunae/gaps*, *contamination of lacunae/gaps*, *cross-cultural lacunae/gaps*, *lexical lacunae/gaps*, *grammatical lacunae/gaps*, *phonetic lacunae/gaps* [12, p. 85-86].



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