

## VAGUENESS QUANTIFIER SEMANTICS

*Стаття присвячена семантичному аналізу квантифікаторів невизначеності у системі мови. Детально розглянуто питання квантифікаторів невизначеності в англійській мові ('many', 'much', 'little/a little', 'few / a few') на лексичному, семантичному та граматичному мовних рівнях.*

*Статья посвящена семантическому изучению квантификаторов неопределенности в системе английского языка. Детально рассмотрен вопрос квантификаторов неопределенности ('many', 'much', 'little/a little', 'few/a few') на лексическом, семантическом и грамматическом языковых уровнях.*

*The article is focused on the semantic study of vagueness quantifiers in language competence. Vagueness quantifiers in English ('many', 'much', 'little/a little', 'few/a few') are investigated on lexical, sematical and grammatical levels of the language.*

Quantification has been widely investigated by Barwise and Cooper (1981), Higginbotham and May (1981), Keenan and Stavi (1986), J. Channel (1990), K. Bach (2000), L. Matthewson (2001), M. Coop Glanzberg (2004), Peirce (1901) and Russell (1923), Williamson (1994), Channell (1994), Jucker (2003). Though, vague quantification has not been under systemic study yet.

Vagueness is a category of being vague, that is to be of an uncertain, indefinite, or unclear character or meaning. 'Vague' expressions are registered in almost all types of discourse. 'Vague' expressions are mostly fuzzy sets and they do not have well-defined referents [6]. Vague quantifiers, vague adjectives, nouns and adverbs are typical of the English language.

The present paper is a systemic investigation of the vagueness quantifier semantics in order to specify their distributional features and reveal components of lexical meaning of vagueness quantifiers.

The topicality of our research lies in the integral semantic analysis of vagueness quantifiers ('many', 'few', 'much' and 'little') and their features in language competence.

The object of the investigation is vagueness quantifiers ('many', 'few', 'much' and 'little') in language competence.

The subject of the investigation is lexical, grammatical and semantical relationship of vagueness quantifiers.

We start our investigation with definitional analysis of dictionary entries of vagueness quantifiers' meanings. The definitional analysis comprises the act of defining a word in a number of different dictionaries and it shows the most frequent meaning components occurring in the dictionary (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Encarta Dictionary, Collins Dictionary and Webster Dictionary). Definition is the act of defining a word, phrase, etc [8]. We can present the results of definitional analysis of vagueness quantifiers 'many', 'few', 'much', 'little'.

The following table represents the results of the definitional analysis of vagueness quantifier 'many' (see further).

Table 1

*Definitional Analysis of Lexeme 'Many'*

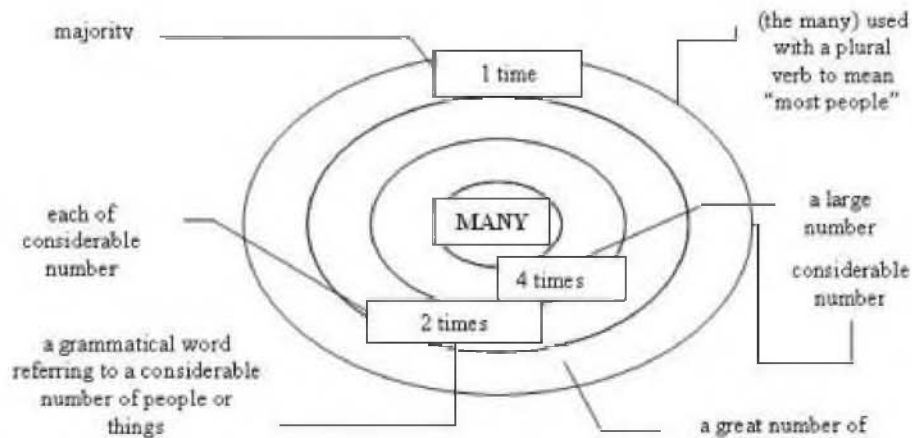
	The meaning of the lexeme	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Encarta Dictionary	Collins Dictionary	Webster Dictionary
1	a grammatical word referring to a considerable number of people or things	-	+	-	+
2	Considerable number	-	+	-	-
3	A large number	+	+	+	+
4	Each of considerable number	-	+	+	-
5	Majority	-	+	-	-
6	A great number of	-	-	+	-
7	(the many) Used with a plural verb to mean "most people"	+	-	-	-

From the Table 1 we see that the most frequent components of the lexical meaning of the vagueness quantifier 'many' is 'a large number' and other components occur not in all the dictionaries.

In order to outline the nucleus and peripheries of 'many' we can continue our investigation on the

lexico-semantic level, which can give us an opportunity to build micro lexico-semantic field of the lexeme ‘many’ (see below).

The lexeme ‘many’ is the nucleus and other components of meanings form the peripheries of the lexico-semantic field. The definitional analysis of the lexeme ‘many’ presented in Table 1, shows frequency of registered components occurring in the dictionaries and Graph 1 shows the lexico-semantic field ‘many’.



Graph 1. Lexico-Semantic Field ‘Many’

We present this graph to distinguish the nucleus and periphery of the given field. The nucleus is ‘many’ and the periphery is formed with such components: ‘each of considerable number’, ‘majority’, ‘considerable number’, ‘a large number’, ‘considerable number of people or things’.

The periphery components are less frequent in the dictionaries. The components occurring twice are ‘each of considerable number’ and ‘a grammatical word referring to a considerable number of people or things’. Such components of meaning as ‘considerable number’, ‘majority’, ‘a great number of’ and ‘(the many) used with a plural verb to mean “most people” occur only once in the lexico-semantic field.

Dwelling upon the combinability of vagueness quantifiers we are to take into consideration the fact that their occurrence in a sentence is congruent to the valency of nouns they precede. Vagueness quantifier ‘many’ is used with plural nouns, that is with countable nouns. It is used mainly in questions and negative sentences. Although it is common in statements, it is used after ‘so, as and too’.

Table 2

Definitional Analysis of Lexeme ‘Much’

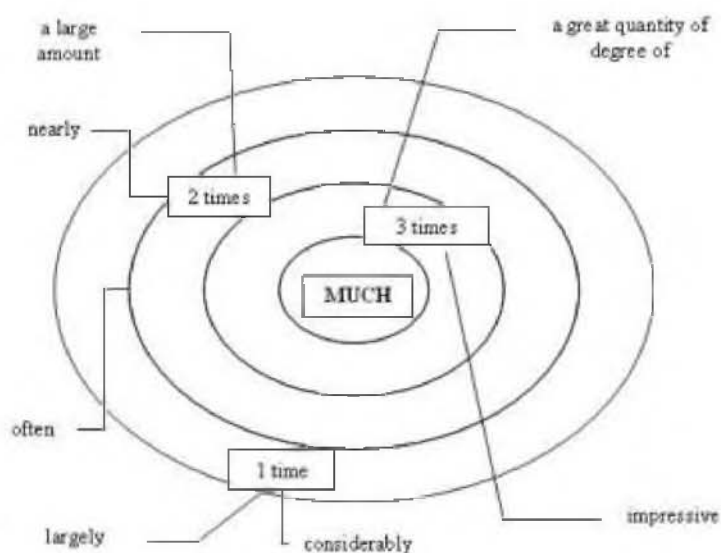
	The meaning of the lexeme	Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary	Encarta Dictionary	Collins Dictionary	Webster Dictionary
1	Largely	-	+	-	-
2	Often	-	+	+	-
3	Nearly	-	+	+	-
4	A large amount	+	+	-	-
5	Impressive	-	+	+	+
6	A great quantity or degree of	+	-	+	+
7	Considerably	-	-	+	-

The Table 2 shows that the most frequently used components of lexeme ‘much’ are ‘impressive’ and ‘a great quantity or degree of’, they are used in at least three dictionaries under study. We have represented the results of the definitional analysis of lexeme ‘much’ in order to build its lexico-semantic field.

The word ‘much’ is nucleus and other meaning components form the periphery of the lexico-semantic field.

The definitional analysis of lexeme ‘much’, which is represented in the Table 2, shows frequency of registered meanings’ occurrence in the dictionaries and Graph 2 shows the lexico-semantic field of lexeme ‘much’.

We have constructed this graph to distinguish the nucleus and periphery of the field. The nucleus is ‘much’ and the periphery is formed with components: ‘a great quantity of degree of’, ‘nearly’, ‘considerably’, ‘largely’, ‘often’, ‘impressive’, ‘a large amount’.



Graph 2. Lexico-Semantic Field 'Much'

The periphery is formed with less frequently used components (see Table 2). The components occurring twice are 'nearly', 'often' and 'a large amount'. Such components as 'considerably' and 'largely' occur only once.

Table 3

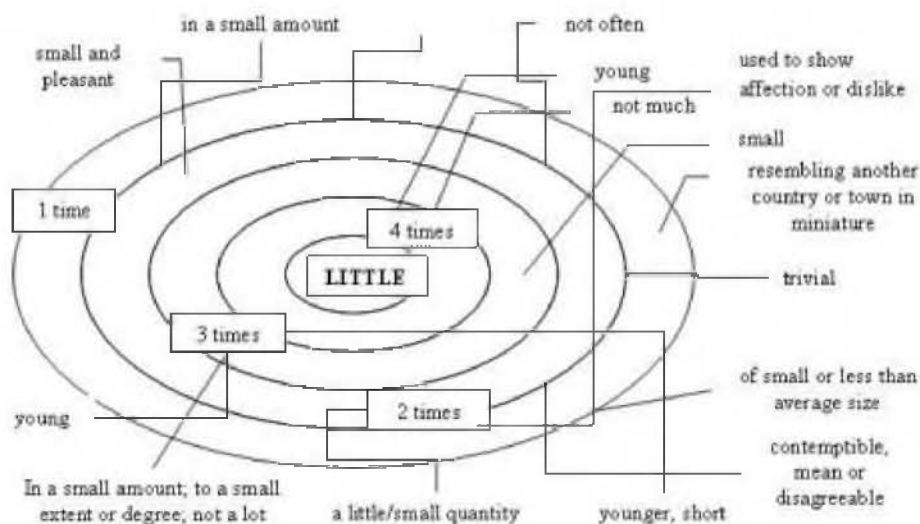
Definitional Analysis of Lexeme 'Little'

	The meaning of the lexeme	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Encarta Dictionary	Collins Dictionary	Webster Dictionary
1	Small	+	+	-	+
2	Young	+	+	+	+
3	Younger	-	+	-	-
4	Small and pleasant	-	+	-	+
5	Short	+	+	-	+
6	Trivial	+	+	-	-
7	A little/small quantity	-	+	+	-
8	Not much	+	+	+	+
9	Hardly	-	+	+	-
10	Not often	-	+	+	-
11	Of small or less than average size	-	-	+	-
12	Endearingly familiar; dear	-	-	+	-
13	Contemptible, mean, or disagreeable	-	-	+	+
14	(of a region or district) resembling another country or town in miniature	-	-	+	-
15	in a small amount; to a small extent or degree; not a lot	+	-	+	+
16	Used after an adj. to show affection or dislike, esp. in a patronizing way	+	-	-	+

The Table 2 shows that 'young' and 'not much' are the most frequently used meaning components of the lexeme 'little'. They appear in all four dictionaries under study (see Table 3). Other components do not occur in all the dictionaries.

Combinability of the quantifier 'much' differs from that of the quantifier 'many'. The vagueness quantifier 'much' is used only with uncountable nouns, as opposed to the vagueness quantifier 'many'. 'Much' is used mainly in questions and negative sentences.

Graph 3 depicts a lexico-semantic field of 'little'. The nucleus is 'little'. The periphery is formed with the components: 'not much', 'young', 'small', 'small and pleasant', 'used to show affection or dislike', 'trivial', 'not often', 'hardly', 'in a small amount', 'not a lot', 'of small or less than average', 'a little/ small quantity', 'size resembling another country or town in miniature', 'contemptible, mean, or disagreeable', 'in a small amount; to a small extent or degree; not a lot', 'younger', 'short'.



Graph 3. Lexico-Semantic Field 'Little'

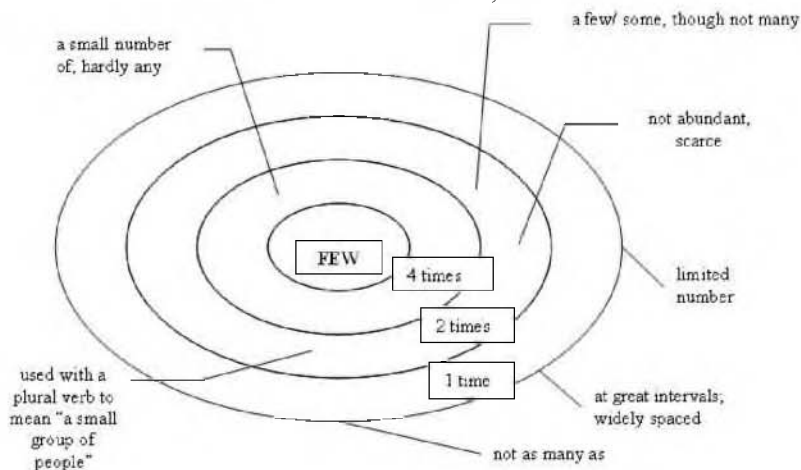
The components 'small and pleasant', 'trivial', 'a little/small quantity', 'hardly', 'not often', 'contemptible, mean, or disagreeable', 'used after an adjective to show affection or dislike, especially in a patronizing way' and 'in a small amount; to a small extent or degree; not a lot' occur in two dictionaries. The least frequent are the components 'younger', 'of small or less than average size' and '(of a region or district) resembling another country or town in miniature'.

Table 4

Definitional Analysis of Lexeme 'Few'

	The meaning of the lexeme	Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary	Encarta Dictionary	Collins Dictionary	Webster Dictionary
1	a small number of; hardly any	+	+	+	+
2	Limited number	-	+	-	-
3	A few/some, though not many	+	+	-	-
4	at great intervals; widely spaced	-	-	+	-
5	not abundant; scarce	-	-	+	+
6	(fewer) Not as many as	+	-	-	-
7	(the few) used with a plural verb to mean "a small group of people"	+	-	-	+

The combinability of vagueness quantifier 'little' with nouns in a sentence reveals that 'little' is used with singular (uncountable) nouns. The vagueness quantifier 'little', and vagueness quantifier 'few' are rather negative; they mean 'not much / many'. 'A little' and 'a few' are more positive; their meaning is more like 'some'. 'Little' as well as 'few' are rather formal, are not used in conversational style.



Graph 4. Lexico-Semantic Field 'Few'

The components registered twice are ‘a few/some, though not many’, ‘not abundant, scarce’ and ‘(the few) used with a plural verb to mean “a small group of people”’. There are also components registered once (see Table 4), for example, ‘limited number’, ‘at great intervals; widely spaced’ and ‘(fewer) not as many as’.

The definitional analyses of the vagueness quantifiers ‘many’, ‘much’, ‘little’, ‘few’ prove that all of them reveal indefinite quantity of something. The definitional analyses have given us an opportunity to build the lexico-semantic fields of vagueness quantifiers under study and to systematize structurally their meanings.

These results provide an impetus and a resource for further investigation of vagueness quantifiers in order to build a lexico-semantic field of ‘vagueness quantity’.

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#### МЕТОНІМІЧНА АТРАКЦІЯ У ФУНКЦІОНАЛЬНІЙ ПАРАДИГМІ ГАЗЕТНОГО ЗАГОЛОВКА

*У статті розглядається проблема розподілу способів функціонування і типів метонімічних переносів ознак у структурі газетного заголовка; констатується різноманітність таких конструкцій і їх специфіка в досліджуваному газетному дискурсі.*

*В статье рассматривается проблема деления способов функционирования и типов переносов метонимии в структуре газетного заголовка; отмечается разнообразие таких конструкций и их специфика в исследуемом газетном дискурсе.*

*The problems of division of means of functioning and types of metonymy transpositions in newspaper headlines are considered in the given article. The diversity of such constructions and their specific character in the newspaper discourse are also specified.*

Проблема розгляду газетного заголовка (далі ГЗ) як об'єкта лінгвістичних студій виникла на межі 50–60 рр. минулого століття (див. наприклад, В. Абашина (1999), Н.С. Бахарєва(1970, 1971), В.П. Вомперський (1966), О. О. Калякіна (2007), В.Г. Костомаров (1966), Л. Пархолюк (1990), В. Г. Попова (1966), В.М. Ронгінський (1968), А.А. Сафонов (1973, 1980), В.Тарасюк (2004) та ін.). Газетний заголовок цікавить дослідників у фокусі багатьох актуальних лінгвістичних проблем, серед яких на окрему увагу заслуговують мовні особливості ГЗ. У наукових працях проблема ГЗ висвітлювалася в різних аспектах: з погляду їхньої структури, синтаксичної природи, функціонального розвитку, семантики, стилю, прояву законів заощадження мовних засобів тощо.