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THE LEXICO-SEMANTIC FIELD OF ADJECTIVES OF POSITIVE EMOTIONS IN THE DISCOURSE OF IAN MCEWAN

Робота присвячена дослідженню лексико-семантичного поля прикметників позитивних емоцій в авторському дискурсі. Емотивність розглядається в дослідженні як одна з базових лінгвістичних категорій. У роботі проаналізовано реалізацію виокремленого лексико-семантичного поля в авторському дискурсі, визначено його структуру та типи зв'язків між його елементами.

Ключові слова: емотивність, сема, семема, лексико-семантичне поле, лексико-семантична група, ядро, периферія, авторський дискурс, мегадискурс.

The article deals with the analysis of the lexico-semantic field of English adjectives of positive emotions. Emotiveness is viewed as one of the basic linguistic categories in this research. The given field has been verified in author's discourse, its structure and the types of relationship between its elements have been determined.

Key words: emotiveness, seme, sememe, lexico-semantic-field, lexico-semantic group, core, periphery, author's discourse, megadiscourse.

In modern linguistics the problems of semantics occupy one of the leading places which is caused by the necessity to prove the functioning rules of language units in the process of communication. Lexical meaning is one of the most important tools to fix the results of human cognitive activity in language. Thereupon lexico-semantic fields are constant object of investigation in linguistics.

The objective of our work is to examine the realization of the lexico-semantic filed of adjectives of positive emotions in author's discourse by investigation of field constituents, the character and nature of relations between them. The actuality of the paper is caused by the fact that linguistic research in the field of emotiveness may shed light not only on the universal qualities of human language abilities, but also on culturally determined distinctions in its organization and functioning.

The analysis of the fundamental works in this domain (V. I. Shakhovskyi, O. Iu. Miahkova, V. D. Soloviov, O. M. Volf, L. H. Babenko, O. O. Leontiev, O. O. Zalevska, V. Z. Demiankov, I. B. Levontina, A. A. Zalizniak, P. Johnson-Laird, A. Ortony, M. Turner, F. Ungrer) pointed to the need of thorough study of the means of emotion verbalization with application of field model of description of system relations between language units.

Emotiveness is a linguistic category that involves all language means of emotions realization. V. I. Shakhovskyi defined emotiveness as communicative quality of speech [11, c. 4]. Emotive vocabulary comprises lexemes bearing strong emotional colouring [1, c. 214]. It is a complex and heterogeneous phenomenon, characterized by some controversial features. Vague boundaries between connotative semes of emotive lexemes depend upon the lexeme's function in discourse. The context may neutralize, weaken or intensify connotative meaning of emotive lexeme [7, c. 7].

B. O. Plotnikov underlined that discourse serves as a kind of natural laboratory where all the sememes may be registered, however, some of the meanings can be revealed only in discourse. A lexeme reveals certain meaning only in discourse, out of context it is "dead", it fulfills only its informative function, not a poetic one [8, c. 50].

On the other hand, it is not correct to strongly oppose cognive and emotive sememes within the lexical structure of the word. It is incorrect to refer all types of emotive semantics to nonnotional type.

A special componential analysis proved that emotive sememes of the word semantics are also preconditioned by the notion contents like the denotative ones [10, c. 14]. From this point of view the emotive semantic component may be viewed as a specific means to interpret the real worldview and to represent the notion of an emotionally evaluated object of the real world in the word semantics and through it – in the language worldview.

Our research deals with the analysis of emotive semantics of English adjectival vocabulary denoting positive emotions. In the article emotiveness is viewed as one of the basic linguistic categories. The object of our research is a structural part of language system, as well as part of the English language world view, namely lexico-semantic field of adjectives, expressing positive emotions. The aim of the paper is to model lexico-semantic field of adjectives of positive emotions in the author's discourse. This objective is achieved by means of determining field constituents and clarifying the character and nature of connections between them.

Author's discourse belongs to the fundamental notions of contemporary pragmatic linguistics and text linguistics. From the point of view of B. A. Zilbert, discourse is a communicative unit where language elements and structures are used for the realization of certain communicative aims and tasks [5, c. 3]. N. D. Arutiunova defines discourse as "a coherent text in combination with extralinguistic, social and cultural, pragmatic and psychological factors. Discourse is speech submerged in life" [5, c. 4].

One can differentiate between various levels of discourse structure – macrostructure (global level) and microstructure (local level) [3, c. 1]. V. V. Mykhailenko uses the term "megadiscourse", denoting speech continuum of a certain author, certain epoch and certain topic in diachrony, i. e. all the relations

between the parts of the whole designated by the subject, object, methodology and topic. Megadiscourse is an effective method to present language material of a considerable size. From the linguist's point of view, the works of certain author, taken as a speech continuum to single out a definite phenomenon or category, may be treated as megadiscourse [4, c. 305].

In order to determine how the lexico-semantic field of the adjectives denoting positive emotions is realized in the author's discourse, we have chosen Ian McEwan's novels. The laureate of numerous literary prizes, including one of the oldest British literary rewards – James Tate Blake award, Ian McEwan belongs to the most popular British fiction writers [12].

Any fictitious discourse indispensably reproduces human emotional life. In fiction it is especially perceptible that the goal of speech activity in the majority of cases is emotional contact (phatic function of emotions) or affectation of feelings (pragmatic function of emotions). In fictitious discourse emotions are observed indirectly, but through specific language signs that are material and serve for the manifestation of emotions, e.g. adjectives [9, c. 3]. Adjectives constitute a semiological subclass of nominal attributes, denoting properties, qualities and relations. They reflect not only outer, but also inner world of a man, his attitude towards the surrounding reality [6, c. 51]. Emotive adjectives belong to not adequately explored language phenomena. Such state of affairs is caused by both peculiar semantics of adjectives, and their usage in discourse. Adjectives share common distinctive feature, namely – extremely high semantic mobility [2, c. 4]. In discourse they are easily adaptable to the nouns with various semantic compatibility, assuming in such a way the most diverse changes in meaning.

Thus, emotive adjectives readily acquire derivative, secondary meanings, forming semantic sphere of usage which is difficult to classify and describe. Difficulties in investigation of adjectival vocabulary are caused by the fact that the usage of the emotive adjectives is strongly influenced by language norms. Emotive adjectives may serve as the best example of restricted usage, stipulated by norms.

At the initial stage of research, we have carried out an investigation of the adjectives of positive emotions as lexical units in their system. As a result of the investigation we have revealed a considerable number of semantic subclasses that are intersected and have diverse relationships with one another.

Thus, we have modeled the lexico-semantic field (LSF) of adjectives of positive emotions, consisting of 432 adjectives subdivided into 18 lexico-semantic groups (LSG). The following step is to verify the lexico-semantic field in the author's discourse, i.e. the application of the contextual method of analysis. For the analysis we have selected two novels by Ian McEwan: "Amsterdam" (1998) and "Atonement" (2001) – altogether approximately 138 600 words.

It is obvious that in discourse the frequency of use of the adjectives, denoting positive emotions, is different than in dictionary definitions. That is why we may consider author's discourse to be a specific filter in order to ascertain more precise list of adjectives.

Hence, in order to verify the LSF of the adjectives of positive emotions in the author's discourse, we have analyzed the novels for the presence of the previously designated adjectives. Primarily, it should be noted that in Ian McEwan's discourse all 18 lexico-semantic groups of the lexico-semantic field of adjectives of positive emotions are registered. The most numerous are the LSG of the adjectives of the type *"animated", "amazing", "cheerful", "enchanting"* and *"calm"*. (See Table 1)

Table 1

The realization of the LSF of adjectives of positive emotions in Ian McEwan's discourse ("Amsterdam", "Atonement" ≈ 138 600 words)

The type of the lexico-semantic group	The constituent adjectives of the lexico-semantic group	The number of occurrences in discourse	The constituent adjectives of the lexico-semantic group	The number of occurrences in discourse
The LSG of adjectives of the type "animated"	determined	13	sincere	2
	alive	11	fiery	2
	wild	10	agile	2
	vivid	9	active	1
	fierce	7	wholehearted	1
	emotional	7	committed	1
	keen	6	zealous	1
	energetic	5	alert	1
	vital	5	vigorous	1
	eager	5	avid	1
	lively	4	fervent	1
	violent	4	soulful	1
	passionate	3	invigorated	1
	dedicated	3	ambitious	1
	intense	3	pushy	1
	animated	2		
The LSG of the type "enchanting"	beautiful	19	tempting	2
	fine	15	adorable	1
	lovely	7	winning	1
	irresistible	4	taking	1
	attractive	3	arresting	1
	gorgeous	3	seductive	1
	enchanting	2	fair	1
	charming	2	tasty	1
	delightful	2	hot	1
	desirable	2		

	calm	17	relaxed	3
The LSG of the type "calm"	still	12	comforted	2
	cool	9	untroubled	2
	relieved	7	composed	2
	tranquil	6	serene	1
	easy	5	peaceful	1
	soothed	3	placid	1
	settled	3	unfazed	1
The LSG of the type "secure"	safe	14	sheltered	1
	secure	4	cosy	1
	comfortable	4	comfy	1
The LSG of the type "confident"	certain	23	persuaded	3
	sure	16	optimistic	2
	confident	7	assured	1
	poised	5	positive	1
	convinced	4	level-headed	1
The LSG of the type "satisfied"	satisfied	8	gratified	3
	proud	7	content	3
	pleased	5	smug	1
	triumphant	4	complacent	1
The LSG of the type "interested"	curious	7	attentive	1
	absorbed	5	gripped	1
	interested	3	intrigued	1
	intent	3	nosy	1
The LSG of the type "loving"	close	6	affectionate	1
	loving	5	adoring	1
	fond	3	taken	1
	tender	2	sentimental	1
The LSG of the type "compassio-nate"	comforting	6	sensitive	2
	patient	5	tolerant	2
	helpful	5	consoling	2
	sympathetic	3	compassionate	1
	thoughtful	3	supportive	1
	mindful	3	forgiving	1
	indulgent	2		
The LSG of the type "friendly"	kindly	16	affable	1
	friendly	6	open	1
	warm	3	easy-going	1
	sociable	2	obliging	1
	companionable	1		

The LSG of the type "amazing"	brilliant	9	exciting	2
	extraordinary	8	thrilling	2
	shocking	7	fascinating	2
	wonderful	7	incredible	2
	startling	5	magnificent	2
	surprising	4	moving	1
	awesome	3	remarkable	1
	imposing	3	stupendous	1
	unbelievable	3	fantastic	1
	wondrous	3	fabulous	1
	astonishing	2		
The LSG of the type "pleasant"	pleasant	17	agreeable	2
	sweet	14	satisfying	2
	nice	12	amusing	1
	great	10	pleasurable	1
	pleasing	4	mellow	1
	funny	3		
The LSG of the type "en-couraged"	inspired	4	stimulated	1
	encouraged	3	hopeful	1
	reassured	2	feisty	1
	strengthened	1		
The LSG of the type "intuitive"	instinctive	1	natural	1
The LSG of the type "good"	good	65	selfless	2
	kind	14	superior	2
	decent	12	gracious	1
	generous	5	beneficent	1
	good-natured	4	excellent	1
The LSG of the type "reverent"	awed	4	godlike	1
	holy	3	heavenly	1
	respectful	1	sacred	1
	blessed	1	devout	1
	reverential	1	hallowed	1
The LSG of the type "cheerful"	happy	36	joyful	2
	glad	11	hilarious	2
	jolly	9	carefree	2
	bright	8	cheery	2
	light	6	gay	1
	playful	4	jovial	1
	cheerful	4	joyous	1
	delighted	4	festive	1
	light-hearted	3	high-spirited	1
	chirpy	3	genial	1
	merry	2		

The LSG of the type "elated"	excited	11	ecstatic	1
	elated	3	exhilarated	1
	exultant	2		

Thus, according to the outcomes of the analysis it was ascertained that the LSF of adjectives, denoting positive emotions, is realized in Ian McEwan's discourse with the help of 18 lexico-semantic groups which are represented by 213 adjectives. Altogether, in the author's discourse we have counted 896 occurrences of the adjectives, expressing positive emotions.

The centre of the LSF comprises those lexemes that are characterized by greater strength of semantic connections between semes, and have more general meanings, while the periphery consists of the words with lesser strength of such connections, those that have narrow specific meanings. At this stage of investigation the frequency of use of the adjectives, constituting the LSF, in the author's discourse appeared to be the fundamental criterion of the differentiation between the elements of the core and the periphery.

Hence, the core lexemes are noted for high frequency of use. According to the results of the analysis and necessary calculations it was determined that the core of the lexico-semantic field of adjectives, expressing positive emotions, in Ian McEwan's discourse make up such lexemes: *vivid, alive, wild, determined, lovely, beautiful, fine, calm, still, cool, safe, comfortable, confident, certain, sure, satisfied, proud, absorbed, curious, loving, close, comforting, helpful, patient, friendly, kindly, good-natured, shocking, extraordinary, wonderful, brilliant, pleasant, nice, sweet, encouraged, inspired, good, kind, decent, holy, awed, happy, jolly, bright, glad, elated, excited*.

All the other adjectives which are characterized by lesser frequency of use belong to the periphery of the LSF. It should also be added that the adjectives, constituting the LSG of the type *"intuitive"*, must have been referred to the peripheral zone, as far as the author used the above-mentioned lexemes only once.

In the linguistic sphere under consideration there appear to be a considerable number of various aspects requiring further investigation. They consist in the study of the ways of communication of denotatively-significant and connotative macrocomponents of meaning of the English adjectives of positive emotions by the process of translation into other languages, in the determination of functional peculiarities of the category of emotiveness in the texts of other genres, in the investigation of the ways the lexical units, constituting the LSF of positive emotions, act in natural communication, in the situations of everyday intercourse.

One more interesting point to be viewed is to define whether there exists any influence of gender aspect upon the realization of the LSF of the adjectives, denoting positive emotions, in the discourse, i.e. whether the given LSF is similarly or differently realized in the works of male and female authors. Such

investigation would make certain contribution to the solving of the problem of gender representation in language.

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