

ЛЕКСИЧНА, ФРАЗЕОЛОГІЧНА ТА ФРЕЙМОВА СЕМАНТИКА

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VERBALIZING VAGUENESS QUANTIFIER *MANY*

*Наше дослідження ґрунтується на вивченні квантифікатора невизначеності **many** в англійській мові на лексико-семантичному рівні. Реконструйовано концептосферу **many**, побудовано мікролексико-семантичнополелексеми **many** як засіб семантизації концепту в англійській мові та виділено шляхи її вираження.*

***Ключові слова:** квантифікатор невизначеності, кількість, концепт, компонент значення, лексема, лексико-семантичне поле, концептосфера, компонентний аналіз.*

*Наше исследование основано на изучении квантификатора неопределенности **many** в английском языке на лексико-семантическом уровне. Реконструирована концептосфера квантификатора **many**, создано микро лексико-семантическое поле лексемы **many** как способ семантизации концепта в английском языке и выделены пути ее выражения.*

***Ключевые слова:** квантификатор неопределенности, количество, концепт, компонент значения, лексема, лексико-семантическое поле, концептосфера, компонентный анализ.*

*The research is based on the study of lexeme **many** in the English language on lexico-semantic level. The conceptual system of **many** is constructed, the micro lexico-semantic field of "much" as a means of concept semantization in English is built and the ways of its verbalization are defined.*

***Key words:** vagueness quantifier, quantity, concept, meaning component, lexeme, lexico-semantic field, conceptual system, componential analysis.*

The category of number in the English language is expressed mostly with the help of numerals or vagueness quantifiers. Quantifiers belong to a subcategory of determiners. They give us information concerning quantity of a noun they proceed. The main difference between them is that numerals inform us about a precise quantity of things, while quantifiers do not denote precise number of objects (substance or subjects). They are *some, any, no, much, many, little, a little, few, a few, all, plenty, several, more* and *others*.

The study of quantification in natural language has begun with works since the early 1980s, Barwise and Cooper (1981), Higginbotham and May

(1981), and Keenan and Stavi (1986). Quantification in natural language has been widely investigated by philosophers, logicians, and linguists: J. Channel (1990), K. Bach (2000), L. Matthewson (2001), M. Coop Glanzberg (2004), N. Arutiunova (2005), V. Levytskyj (2004), B. Tshovytych (2005), L. Hryzhak (2008), but no one has yet built the conceptual system of vagueness quantifiers under study.

Our research is based on the study of vagueness quantifier *many*. The model of a conceptual system of vagueness quantifier *many* is represented. We build lexico-semantic field of lexeme *many* and investigate it on lexical, grammatical and sematical levels of the language.

The objective of the paper is a systemic investigation of the vagueness quantifier semantics in order to specify the distributional features and reveal components of lexical meaning of vagueness quantifier *many* that will allow us to model the conceptual system of lexeme *many*.

The topicality of our research lies in the integral semantic analysis of vagueness quantifier *many*.

The object of the investigation is vagueness quantifier *many* in language competence.

Our investigation begins with definitional analysis of dictionary meanings (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Encarta Dictionary, Collins Dictionary and Webster Dictionary) of vagueness quantifier *many*. Definition is the act of defining a word, phrase, etc [8]. The definitional analysis is the systemic investigation of dictionary meanings of vagueness quantifier *many* in order to analyze the components of meanings, that is to lead the componential analysis.

The lexeme *many* includes different dictionary meanings (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Encarta Dictionary, Collins Dictionary and Webster Dictionary), and they are as follows:

- *A grammatical word referring to a considerable number of people or things* [6; 7];
- *Considerable number* [6];
- *A large number* [5; 6; 7; 8];
- *Each of considerable number* [5; 6];
- *Majority* [6];
- *A great number of* [7];
- (the many) *Used with a plural verb to mean 'most people'* [8].

Componential 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 dictionaries (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Encarta Dictionary, Collins Dictionary and Webster Dictionary). The results of componential analysis of vagueness quantifier *many* is represented below.

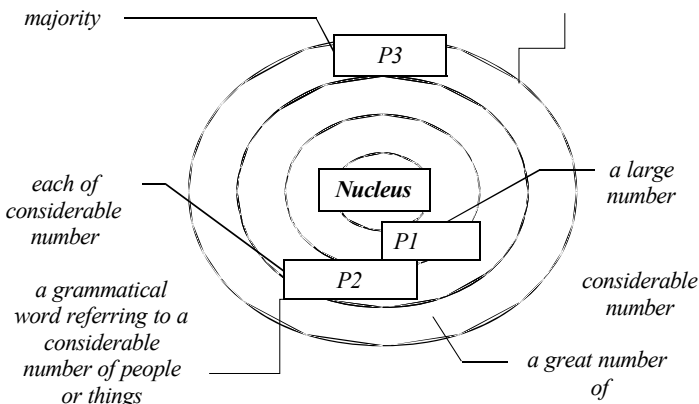
Table 1.
Componential Analysis of Lexeme 'Many'

	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. The most frequent meaning of this lexeme is 'a large number', while the least frequent meanings are 'considerable number', 'used with a plural verb to mean 'most people'', 'majority', 'a great number of'.

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*.

(the many) used with a plural verb to mean 'most people'



Graph 1 Lexico-Semantic Field 'Many'

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*.

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.

A general characteristic of language is that words are not directly combined into sentences, but rather into intermediate units, called 'phrases', which then are combined into sentences. This hierarchical structure that groups words into phrases, and phrases into sentences, serves an important role in establishing relations within sentences.

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. Quantifiers are determiners and pronouns denoting quantity or amount. Quantifiers which are determiners, some (like *all*) function as pre-determiners in the noun phrase, others (like *some*) function as central determiners, and yet others (like *many*) as post-determiners. Vagueness quantifier *many* is used with plural nouns, that is with countable nouns.

Vagueness quantifier *many* can function as a noun determiner, e. g. : *But though Bingley and Jane meet tolerably often, it is never for many hours together; and as they always see each other in large mixed parties, it is impossible that every moment should be employed in conversing together* (J. Austen).

The quantifier *many* followed by an of-construction, e. g. : *Many of his expressions were still fresh in her memory* (J. Austen).

The functions of vagueness quantifier *many* in sentences are as follows. Vagueness quantifier *many* can be used in the functions of an attribute or a predicative in the sentence, e. g. :

1. *But I hope you will get over it, and live to see many young men of four thousand a year come into the neighborhood* (J. Austen).

It may perform different functions, modifying different types of words, phrases, sentences. Quantifier *many* in the function of adverbial modifiers:

1. *Very few days passed in which Mr. Collins did not walk to Rosings,*

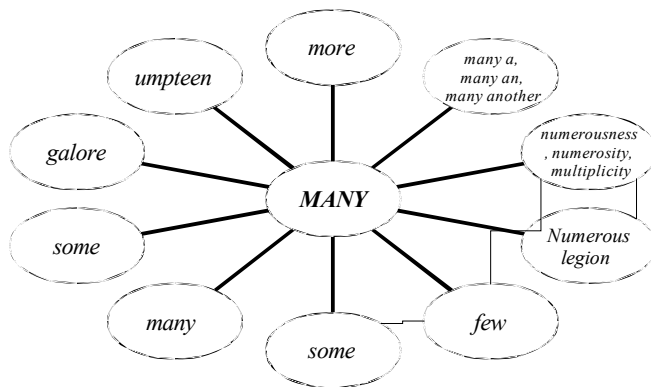
and not **many** in which his wife did not think it necessary to go likewise... (J. Austen).

Vagueness quantifier *many* can be used in the function of a subject, predicative, object, objective predicative, attribute, adverbial modifier (in prepositional phrase), e. g. :

1. **Many** stared (J. Austen).

2. Mr. Wickham's society was of material service in dispelling the gloom, which the late perverse occurrences had thrown on **many** of the Longbourn family (J. Austen).

Now let us present the conceptual system of lexeme *many*, which is connected with the following words: *numerousness*, *more*, *galore*, *some*, *umpteen*, *few*, *multiplicity*, etc. Graphically the concept of *many* is represented in Graph 2, where each oval stands for a word that is a part of concept *many*.



Graph 2 Conceptual System of Lexeme *Many*

Graph 2 contains nouns (*numerousness*, *numerosity*, *multiplicity*) and adjectives (*more*, *umpteen*, *galore*, *some*, *few*, *numerous*, *many a*, *many an*, *many another*). All of the words are connected with one another being derivatives (*numerousness* – *numerous*), similar to each other (*many* – *numerous*, *many* – *many a*, *many an*, *many another*, *many* – *galore*, *many* – *some*, *many* – *umpteen*), attributes (*many* – *numerousness*, *numerosity*, *multiplicity*; *few* – *numerousness*, *numerosity*, *multiplicity*) or opposites (*many* – *few*) of the meaning components of lexeme *many*.

The definitional, componential and conceptual analyses of vagueness quantifier *many* prove that it reveals indefinite quantity of something. The definitional and conceptual analyses have given us an opportunity to build the lexico-semantic field of vagueness quantifier *many* under study, to systematize structurally its meanings and to model its conceptual system.

These results provide an impetus and a resource for further investigation of vagueness quantifiers in order to build up a functional semantic field of lexeme *many*.

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