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THE SYNONYMY OF ADJECTIVES IN JOHN ASHBERY'S POEMS

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ХРИСТИЧ Ніна. АД'ЕКТИВНА СИНОНІМІЯ У ПОЕЗІЇ ДЖОНА ЕШБЕРІ

У статті розглядаються семантичні та прагматичні особливості синонімії прикметників на матеріалі поетичних творів американського поета Джона Ешбері. Встановлено, що семантичні властивості синонімів тісно пов'язані з прагматичними. Доведено, що прагматична зорієнтованість синонімів-прикметників диференціюється відповідно до контексту та стилю.

Ключові слова: Синонімія, ад'ективна синонімія, прикметник, епітет, лексико-семантичне поле, лексична одиниця, американська поезія, Джон Ешбері.

KHRYSTYCH Nina. THE SYNONYMY OF ADJECTIVES IN JOHN ASHBERY'S POEMS

The article deals with the semantic and pragmatic features of the synonymy of adjectives on the material of the poetic works of the American poet, John Ashbury. The essence of the study involves the interpretation of the structural, semantic and functional properties of epithets, which the author divides into permanent, individual and metaphorical. For this study, the recognition of the influence of the language picture of the world on the nature of the cultural and language community is still relevant. It is precisely the appeal to the research of the linguistic personality as a carrier of universal and national communicative values, knowledge, attitudes and behavioral reactions of a certain ethnic group. It helps to study the peculiarities of the formation of the linguistic and cultural specificity of people's spirit, that is, the national linguistic culture. The reception of a poet, to a certain extent, is an expression of his personal views as a bearer of a whole set of psychological features and qualities that are often inherent in the author himself. On the whole, the characteristic features of poetry are a significant adjective vocabulary achieved through the use of figurative techniques and expressive linguistic means. The author tries to focus on peculiarity study of objective world segmentation, which is differently reflected in English speakers' mentality and to find the pragmatic goal of choosing the synonym from the semantic field. While doing this job, the author discovers a long range of synonyms. However, the semantic fields can intersect and the relationship between fields ensures the continuity of the semantic space, combining all fields into a single semantic macrosystem of language. The larger the semantic space is, the more words it contains.

Keywords: synonymy, adjective synonymy, adjective, epithet, lexical and semantic field, lexical unit, American poetry, John Ashbury.

The synonym is a universal phenomenon for enriching the English vocabulary with new semantics. The enrichment of vocabulary at the expense of synonyms is a historically inevitable process necessary for the language at every stage of its development. Language is one of those spheres of human activity that is the first to bring reaction in human life. The synonym is a powerful mechanism to create the literary image by using the words belonging to the same part of speech, differing in sound form, and possessing one or more identical or nearly identical meanings. The descriptive synchronic approach demands a study not of individual word but of semantic structures typical of the language with a general semantic system.

The study of the problem of different part of speech including the adjectives remains one of the leading directions of linguistics. The very essence of this process has been treated by a number of scholars (R. Fisher, G. Jackson, G. Leech, I. Plag and other famous scholars in the whole world including the Ukrainian scientists. Adjectives can be studied from different linguistic points of view: as productive word-formation models and micro-models of English derivative adjectives (V. Ischenko); as a class of meaningful words (L. Efimov); as a fragment of the linguistic picture of the world which have the meaning of a generalized positive assessment (N. Kislytsina). Adjectives were also studied as color names (T. Venkel, T. Onoprienko) and the expression of invariant meanings and typical meanings of adjectives of the semantic field of the temperature characteristic (N. Batrin). Adjectives awake a considerable interest in the studies devoted to the evolution of the epithet in the history of English language fiction (prose and poetry) on the basis of individual author's styles. Such kind of interest can be explained by the fact that adjectives often have the stylistic functions of epithets.

The reception of poetry as a linguistic and national cultural sign depends on the features of the linguistic community. For this study, the recognition of the influence of the language picture of the world on the nature of the cultural and language community is still relevant. It is precisely the appeal to the research of the linguistic personality as a carrier of universal and national communicative values, knowledge, attitudes and behavioral reactions of a certain ethnic group. It helps to study the peculiarities of the formation of the linguistic and cultural specificity of people's spirit, that is, the national linguistic culture.

The aim of this article is, therefore, to explore the adjective-synonyms of poetic style of the American poet, John Ashbery (1927-2017), and comment their implications.

The reception of a poet, to a certain extent, is an expression of his personal views as a bearer of a whole set of psychological features and qualities that are often inherent in the author himself. While reading John Ashbery's poetry, we always want to learn more about him, as an extraordinary creative personality, and to better understand the peculiarities of the inner world of his poetry. John Ashbery's (1927-2017) is an American poet. He published more than twenty volumes of poetry and won nearly every major American award for poetry, including a Pulitzer Prize in 1976 for his collection '*Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*'. Renowned for its postmodern complexity and opacity, Ashbery's work still proves controversial. J. Ashbery stated that he wished his work to be accessible to as many people as possible, and not to be a private dialogue with himself. At the same time, he once joked that some critics still view him as a 'harebrained, homegrown surrealist whose poetry defies even the rules and logic of surrealism' [3, p. 36].

The essence of the study involves the interpretation of the structural, semantic and functional properties of epithets, which we divide into permanent, individual and metaphorical. An attempt is made to prove that the cognitive approach helps to reveal the content and methods of linguistic objectification of all kinds of expressive means of poetry, the message of which is understanding in relations between a poet and a reader. We confirm that the pragmatic structure of epithets shows the interaction of cognitive and emotional processes that intersect with other expressive means.

In order to find synonyms we propose to apply the whole body of adjectives, which we divided into some semantic subclasses. They are formed on the basis of association of common categories for each subclass, for the implementation of the portrait or nature description: 1) color, 2) light, 3) dimensions, 4) shape, 5) surface, 6) physical nature, 7) assessment, 8) emotion, 9) character, 10) intellect, 11) movement, 12) name, 13) texture, 14) smell, 15) temperature, 16) weight, 17) material, 18) intensity. We should warn that the names of subclasses are conditional. This classification will help us more closely examine the semantic field of the adjectives.

The semantic fields can intersect. For example, the word '*coldness*' is one of the meanings of the *cold, chill, freeze, alquidity, frigidity, chill, distance, frost*. However, the relationship between fields ensures the continuity of the semantic space, combining all fields into a single lexical-semantic macrosystem of the language.

In many cases the adjectives in J. Ashbery's poems act as epithets, a way of figurative imagination, emphasizing the essential property of a certain person or situation, giving the vivid brightness and individualizing the author's style. The analysis of the studied adjectives has been proved by the fact that via using the adjectives the reader can recreate the individual peculiarity of the individual language picture of the poetic world.

The linguistic personality of a poet consists of two components: universal and individual. They are interspersed with each other. A universal component enables mutual understanding of various dialect groups and understanding texts that are remote in time. Knowing the structure of adjectives, we try to find the synonyms. Let us study the following extract:

These were moments, years,

***Solid** with reality, faces, **namable** events, kisses, **heroic** acts ('Soonest Mended').*

In general, there is a deep structure of the verse in which we can find the hidden elements of meaning (subtext, polysemy, ironic color, etc.) are calculated on the savvy, guessing of the recipient. In such a way, the recipient can understand the words deeper because he associates these words with his / her own picture of the world, namely as :

A. The synonyms of 'solid' are *commonsense, commonsensible, commonsensical, firm, good, hard, informed, just, justified, levelheaded, logical, rational, reasonable, reasoned, sensible, sober, valid, well-founded* [6].

B. The synonyms of 'namable' are *citable, memorable, mentionable, notable, noteworthy, observable, remarkable* [6].

C. The synonyms of 'heroic' are *bold, brave, courageous, dauntless, doughty, fearless, gallant, greathearted, gutsy, intrepid, lionhearted, manful, stalwart, stout, stouthearted, undaunted, undaunted, valiant, valorous* [6].

Let us illustrate another example:

And Angelica, in the Ingres painting, was considering,

*The **colorful** but **small** monster near her toe, as though wondering whether forgetting ('Soonest Mended').*

The synonyms of 'colorful' are *bright, flashy, vivid, picturesque, flashy, hued* [6]. The synonyms of 'small' are *little, small-scale, compact, portable; tiny, miniature, mini, minute, microscopic, nanoscopic, minuscule* [6].

The author uses 'colorful but small' but not 'bright but plain'. Therefore, 'colorful but small' must be another way of expressing poet's ideas. The author could have written 'bright but compact'. Since 'colorful but small' is less figurative, that is why the author chose this variant.

Synonyms serve as context clues by providing the meaning of an unknown word that is nearby. The sentence below provides the synonym clue for 'tolerated'.

*Barely **tolerated**, living on the margin*

In our technological society, we were always having to be rescued (Soonest Mended).

'Tolerated' means 'patient', 'bearing'. Instead of using 'patient', 'bearing' Jonh Ashbery used the strongest synonym in the beginning of the poem. This synonym introduced the readers into the world of 'thunder in the bushes, a rustling of coils'.

Let us study the poetic epithet 'bronze':

I've saved the descriptions of chicken sandwiches,

and the glass eye that stares at me

*in amazement from the **bronze** mantel,*

and will never be appeased ('The Problem of Anxiety').

The poetic epithet 'bronze' acts not only with the semantics of material, but also has a metaphorical value, height, positive emotional evaluation, purity, perfection and refinement of the appearance of certain characteristics.

Another example:

*I was offered no **urgent** dreaming,*

Didn't need a name or anything.

Everything was taken care of ('Meaningful Love').

The adjective 'urgent' has the synonyms *compelling, critical, crucial, exigent, immediate, imperative, important, instant, not to be delayed, now or never, pressing, top-priority*. 'Dreaming' about anything 'urgent', or a situation confronted with urgency, it usually portends financial issues ahead. The same dream can suggest a dramatic situation in the private life, such as an illness that you will have to deal with right away, or a loss that might come your way and that you will have to handle in order to support your family or friends.

In the poem 'Duffy Duck In Hollywood' the poet writes: *Something strange is creeping across me.* 'Strange' has two meanings 1) 'unusual or surprising; difficult to understand or explain' and 2) 'not previously visited, seen, or encountered; unfamiliar or alien' [6]. The author could have used other synonyms such as *unusual, odd, curious, peculiar, funny, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, untypical, different, out of the ordinary, out of the way, extraordinary, remarkable, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, inexplicable, incongruous, uncommon, irregular, singular, deviant, aberrant, freak, freakish, surreal* but he chose the word 'strange' with a neutral meaning.

For the further analysis we take the adjective 'companionable'.

Are its lineaments – fun, no doubt, for some quack phrenologist's

Fern-clogged waiting room, but hardly what you'd call

Companionable. *But everything is getting choked to the point of Silence ...* ('Duffy Duck In Hollywood').

The adjective 'companionable' has many synonyms: *friendly, affable, cordial, genial, congenial, amiable, easy-going, approachable, sympathetic, well disposed, good-natured, neighbourly, hospitable, comradely, easy to get along with*. The most popular word from this list is 'friendly' but the author used 'companionable'.

The adjectives denoting color make the situation more understandable and, at the same time, create the imagery of the world, due to another adjective, for example, *dark, dreary prison; black, bulbous eyes; a terrible black mark; black, dead eyes' a gray, sleety rain*.

Let us examine the following examples:

1. *Life anyway, is between. We don't mind*

Or notice any more that the sky is green, a parrot ('Duffy Duck In Hollywood').

It is not typical for the sky to be *green*, not *blue*. Green is the color of life, renewal, nature, and energy, is associated with meanings of growth, harmony, freshness, safety, fertility, and environment. Green is soothing, relaxing, and youthful. Green is a color that helps alleviate anxiety, depression, and nervousness. Green also brings with it a sense of hope, health, adventure, and renewal, as well as self-control, compassion, and harmony. The green color is often used to indicate safety in the advertising of drugs and medical products. Green also means money, finances, banking, ambition, jealousy. Green is directly related to nature and energy.

In the following extract there are a lot of epithets:

To reduce all this to a small variant,

To step free at last, minuscule on the gigantic plateau.

This was our ambition: to be small and clear and free ('Soonest Mended').

In this extract the author uses oxymoronic epithet '*minuscule on the gigantic plateau*'. There are different kinds of epithets: ironical, comparative, hyperbolic, metaphorical and others. The choice of oxymoronic epithet gives a colorful impression, based on contrast, of the described scene. '*Minuscule*' means *tiny, minute, microscopic, nanoscopic, very small, little, micro, diminutive, miniature, baby, toy, midget, dwarf, pygmy, Lilliputian*. '*Gigantic*' means *big, giant, vast, enormous, huge, massive, colossal*.

In the following example we found the adjective expression '*unbound golden hair of sleeping maidens*':

The Atlantic crawled slowly to the left

pinning a message on the unbound golden hair of sleeping maidens,

a ruse for next time ('Meaningful Love').

In the adjective collocation '*unbound golden hair*' there is a color-name '*golden*' which means figuratively '*colored or shining like gold*', *excellent, fine, superb, splendid, tremendous, special, unique, favourable, exciting, promising, bright, brilliant, rosy, full of promise, optimistic, hopeful, advantageous, profitable, valuable, fortunate, providential, auspicious, propitious*.

Let us study the following example:

Their own eyes. A digest of their correct impressions of

Their self-analytical attitudes overlaid by your

Ghostly transparent face ('Wedding Preparations in the Country').

The most interesting adjectives of this extract is '*transparent*' that means *frank, open, candid, honest, direct, forthright, unreserved, plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, ingenuous, innocent, guileless, simple, artless*. When there are a lot of synonyms, the author chooses those ones which firstly, the most relevant, and, secondly, are rhythmic.

On the whole, the characteristic features of poetry are a significant adjective vocabulary achieved through the use of figurative techniques and expressive linguistic means.

So, we tried to focus on peculiarity study of objective world segmentation, which is differently reflected in English speakers' mentality and to find the pragmatic goal of choosing a synonym from the semantic field. While doing this job, we discovered a long range of synonyms: some of them are widely used, others – only in a poetic style. However, the semantic fields can intersect and the relationship between fields ensures the continuity of the semantic space, combining all fields into a

single semantic macrosystem of language. The larger the semantic space is, the more words it contains.

The author applies his individual approach to the poetic world. Hence, the choice of synonyms is directly connected with the author. Ashbery's poetry took shape under the influence of abstract expressionism, a movement in modern American painting stressing nonrepresentational methods of picturing reality. Ashbery's style is multiphonic, narrative, full of high allusion. So, synonyms as a poet's device of transmitting the message tend to have the semantic structure of poetic synonymous adjectives including additional connotations that broaden the semantic structure of the respective utterances which make it possible to consider them as adjective units of higher literary value. In our opinion, the researches of semasiology devices of individual author's texts will be of great interest and can be continued in the further scientific researches.

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ЛІНГВІСТИЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВІДЕОКОНТЕНТУ ПЛАТФОРМИ YOUTUBE

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ЦЕПЕНЮК Тетяна, ЯНОВСЬКА Христина. ЛІНГВІСТИЧНІ ОСОБЛИВОСТІ ВІДЕОКОНТЕНТУ ПЛАТФОРМИ YOUTUBE

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