

5. Chrissochoou X. *Cultural Diversity. Its Social Psychology.* – Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004. – 217 p.
6. Kidd W. *Culture and Identity.* – N.Y.: Grave Publishers Ltd, 2002. – 227 p.
7. Kramsch C. *Language and Culture.* – Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003. – 134 p.
8. *The Encyclopedia Americana.* Internet edition. – Grolier Inc., 1997. – Vol. 8.

Summary

The names of cities on in USA map reflect connection of migrants with their motherlands, thus proving to be an indicator of tolerance among people of different ethnic backgrounds. Desire to minimize the new settlers' nostalgia for their birthplaces led to the creation of the atmosphere of pluralism to their surroundings. Besides, inter-cultural activity in times of the US state building contributed both to the formation of a new American nation based upon the ideas of pluralism and tolerance as well as appeared to be significant for shaping its readiness for globalization. That is why the USA can be treated as the founder of the present-day globalization philosophy, which influences substantially modern literature, fine arts and other spheres of life.

LEXICO-SEMANTIC FIELD OF THE NOUNS DENOTING “HAPPINESS” IN ENGLISH

Leláková Eva

University of Žilina, Slovakia

In the present work we suggest a promising and new approach to categorization and organization of lexicon which deserves a deeper insight and attention. It is a field theory which is applied to one fragment of English vocabulary – a lexico-semantic field of the nouns denoting *happiness*.

The first part of the work is based on the all-round analysis of the fullest explanatory dictionary of English (OED) by observation and language material collection. All the English nouns denoting happiness are collected and analyzed to find out the correlations between words and their meanings. Observation is followed by classification when the received language material is arranged according to the number of meanings of the nouns. All the obtained lexical stock of English nouns denoting happiness is subsequently divided into groups according to the degree of polysemy.

The creation of delineated two-dimensional lexico-semantic fields of the nouns requires the use of componential analysis by which sememes as the smallest units of meaning are singled out and the same stock of happiness field in English is formed.

The essential part of the research is the composition of the matrix which presents semantics of the nouns denoting happiness in English in a formalized way. With its help all the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the language data can be done. It represents the pre-step to constructing the above mentioned happiness fragment of the lexico-semantic system of English where the vertical axis indicates a lexical stock and the horizontal one a seme stock of the language material.

Quantitative analysis requires the knowledge and usage of several mathematical theories and principles, e.g. a set theory, matrix theory, graph and statistical inquiry. Qualitative analysis is based not only on the individual meanings of specifically selected words but also on their relationships with other words of the field. These interrelations are of various kinds and allow coming to certain conclusions regarding different feelings, visions and perceptions of the world by the native bearers of English.

Expect of the above mentioned structural approach, a big attention is also focused on relations between words and reality and relations between language and the world which can be observed in language and culture of both nations. A cognitively-cultural approach to language is essential as the human system is corporeally and culturally determined and metaphorically structured. Language contains people's views of the world; on its basis we can find out how people in their language and cultural society understand, judge and share the surrounding world and how they conceptualise. Thus, a language picture of the world of the English is observed and described in detail.

The concept of happiness denotes a state of mind of a person, his/her short-term as well as stable feelings, and his/her own perception of the world around him. Happiness is a state we all have been looking for and desiring for all our lives long. It depends on many factors, e.g. individual characteristics of a person, a modernity of the country and region a citizen lives in, societal conditions and life chances he/she has. People are individuals with unique capacity for enjoyment, treatment of experiences, disappointments, memories and dreams. Life events and everyday situations modulate not only their behaviour but also their inner world and consequently their reactions to the outside world. Desire for happiness is almost as needed as the desire for health, and definitely it is interconnected with it. Phrases by which people of all nations wish their friends, acquaintances and relatives happiness are ones of the most frequent. And for all these mentioned reasons the word happiness has been chosen as the basis for the creation of nationally specific lexico-semantic field in English.

In spite of the fact that *happiness* is an abstract word, it is used in modern English with ease and the stock which its LSF contains is extensive enough to serve for further reference and consequent or supplement inquiries in future.

Lexical Stock

The first group of English nouns denoting happiness contains 26 lexical units semantics of which is characterized by 16-10 meanings. They are characterized by the highest degree of polysemy. The second group is presented by 102 nouns having 9-4 meanings – middle degree of polysemy. The third one contains 60 polysemic nouns with 3-2 meanings – low degree of polysemy. And the last (fourth) group is made up by 12 monosemantic nouns. The total number of 198 nouns is arranged according to the number

of meanings and put on the vertical axis of the Matrix of LSF of the nouns denoting happiness in English.

Lexical units with the highest degree of polysemy

26 lexical units with the highest degree of polysemy form the first group of the happiness vocabulary. It represents approximately 13% of the total number of our language material. According to the number of meanings the first group has been divided into 5 smaller subgroups, each of which is characterized by its semantics and certain relations with other words of the English language.

Lexical units with the middle degree of polysemy

The second group of the English nouns denoting happiness with its 100 lexical units forms the most extensive part (51.505%) of the studied lexical stock. There are fourteen words with 9 meanings, nine words with 8 meanings, fifteen words with 7 meanings, twelve words with 6 meanings, twenty-five words with 5 meanings, and twenty-five words with 4 meanings.

Lexical units with the low degree of polysemy

The third group of the lexical stock of the field is formed by 60 nouns, including twenty-three words with 3 meanings and thirty-seven words with 2 meanings. The relations between them are characterized by the low degree of polysemy. The tendency to be connected with other words of the studied language system here is much lower in comparison with the nouns of the first and second groups, but these words are noticeable and expressed by the density of filled stands in the matrix.

Monosemantic lexical units

Happiness lexis of present English consists of 12 monosemantic words. It can be seen from the Matrix of the LSF of the nouns denoting happiness that 8 lexical units are interrelated with one another as well as with the polysemantic words of the field on the basis of reference to *quality, attribute, trait* (the quality of being lovable, sportive, frolicsome, full of repose, pleasant and amiable). It is generally known that good inner qualities can bring strength, courage and goodwill to the life of people and help them to achieve their personal happiness.

Seme stock

The seme stock of nouns denoting happiness in modern English language is made up of 158 meanings, which have been divided into 4 groups and put on the horizontal axis of the matrix. The classification of sememes has been done on the basis of the frequency of their occurrence in the semantic structures of the words.

The first group is formed by 15 sememes which characterize the semantics of 94-19 lexical units. The second group contains 43 sememes used less frequently but still with high meaningfulness – from 14 to 4 words, and the third one includes 31 sememes which are used in meanings of only 3 – 2 lexical units. And finally, the last one is represented by 68 sememes which are monofunctional. Thus, due to the functional criteria, all the words' meanings are divided into: 1. polyfunctional; 2. the ones with the limited functions or less degree of functionality; and 3. monofunctional.

The obtained and subsequently hierarchically arranged semantic record is essential for further studying of relations between individual components of the field. It is evident

from the Matrix of LSF that different meanings of polysemantic words have different componential structure and there is one-to-many correspondence between the sememes and lexemes. The only exception in our study is the case of monosemantic lexemes which are in one-to-one correspondence with the appropriate sememes. However, monosemy forms only about 6 % of the whole lexical stock.

The English language, as a principal means of international communication, has its own grammatical and lexical structure and reflects semiotic needs of the English society. It contains lexemes which denote objects referred to by the English people. In this respect the nouns denoting happiness occupy a significant place in the vocabulary of the language under study. They have been carefully selected and studied from the viewpoint of their semantics in the system of the language. They enter synonymic/antonymic groups of the words which belong to different lexico-semantic fields.

According to the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913), the value of the word can only be determined by defining it in the relation to the value of neighbouring and contrasting words (Saussure, 1986, p.114). His assumption presented a century ago still remains urgent and important, being acknowledged by different scholars. Thus, words denoting happiness can be understood by the relations they have with other ones.

Linguistic data access and the ways of collecting a large amount of language material have improved a lot and the possibilities of its obtaining and processing have influenced a significant growth of lexicology in the last twenty years. All theoretical considerations are open to thought and discussion, and need further study. It is only the question of time when the criticised two-dimensionality of the lexico-semantic fields will be replaced by so demanded poly-dimensionality. Computational linguistics will become an irreplaceable help for the semanticists and lexicographers dealing with these complex tasks.

As regards the LSF research, it has brought a large amount of new information on words' semantics and their semantic relations influenced by the linguistic and extralinguistic factors. We confirm that the happiness lexis is widely used by the English speaking people as it includes feelings and emotions which help to live, communicate in the society and cause positive changes in their lives.

Happiness of English people is driven by the perception and reality. They perceive all the challenges, experiences and relationships in their lives, and their attitudes and reactions involve various expressions of the emotional state. They acknowledge everyday tiny joys and pleasures and do not hesitate to designate them. Their routes to happiness are both internal and external. They take many actions which utilize the external environment to contribute to their happiness and activities which provide interest and fun in itself. But they also create and develop their own worlds which give them direction, positive feelings, energy and harmony. Their vocabulary reflects the strong desire to attain and cultivate a quiet, peaceful, free and balanced state of mind in which they will have more control over their emotions and actions.

Literature

Burchfield, R.W., Randolph Quirk and comp. Oxford English Dictionary, 2nd Edition on CD-ROM. Version 3.1. OUP 2004.

Carter, Ronald, Michael McCarthy: Vocabulary and Language Teaching. Longman Group UK Limited, 1988. 242 p.

Cruse, D.A. Lexical Semantics. Cambridge: CUP, 1986. 310p.

Crystal, David. The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language. 2nd Edition. CUP, 2003. 499 p.

Crystal, David. A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. 5th Edition, Blackwell Publishing, 2003. 508 p.

Čermák, František. Základy lingvistickej metodológie. Praha, 1993. 97 s.

Fabian, M. Етикетна лексика в українській, англійській та угорській мовах. [Etiketna leksika v ukrajinskij, angliskij ta ugoriskij movach]. Ужгород: Інформаційно-видавниче агентство "ІВА", 1998. 255 с.

Finch, Geoffrey. How to study linguistics. A Guide to Understanding language. 2nd Edition. Palgrave Macmillan, 249 p.

Jeffries, Lesley. Meaning in English. An Introduction to Language Study. New York: Palgrave, 1998. 263 p.

Howard, Jackson. Words, Meaning and Vocabulary. An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology. London: Continuum, 2007. 248 p.

Katz, J. J., Fodor, J.A. The Structure of a Semantic Theory. In: *Language*. Vol.39, No.2.(Apr.-Jun., 1963), p.170-210.

Leech, Geoffrey N. Towards a semantic description of English. Longmans, Green and Co Ltd, 1969. 277 p.

Lehrer, Adrienne. Semantic fields and lexical structure, North-Holland Publishing Company, 1974. 225 p.

Lyons, John. Linguistic Semantics. An Introduction. Cambridge: CUP, 1995. 376 p.

Lyons, John. Semantics 1. Cambridge: CUP, 1977. 336 p.

Nunan, David. Research Methods in Language Learning. Cambridge Language Teaching Library. CUP, 1992. 249 p.

Saussure, Ferdinand. Course in General Linguistics. Open Court Publishing Company, 1986. 231 p.

This paper has been written with the support of Cultural and Educational Grant Agency of Slovak Ministry of Education, project: K-09-004-00.

Summary

The paper deals with the research of one fragment of English vocabulary – lexico-semantic field of the nouns denoting *happiness*. A field and matrix theory, and both structural and cognitive approach are applied in the detailed lexico-semantic analysis, which leads to the deductions concerning the ways of perception and expression of happiness by English people.