



УДК 371.124:33:378

STRUCTURAL AND SEMANTICAL PECULIARITIES OF VOCABULARY FOR THE HUMAN APPEARANCE DESCRIPTION (A CASE STUDY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

СТРУКТУРНЫЕ И СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ СЛОВАРЯ ПРИ ОПИСАНИИ ВНЕШНОСТИ ЧЕЛОВЕКА (СОЦИОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА)

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Abstract. *This article investigates the specificity of using and the features of estimated lexicon, particularly adjectives. The following categories of assessment, as a sign of femininity/masculinity in the human characteristics, specificity of zoomorphism and zoonyms, as the means to evaluate the subject, significance and factors of colloquial slang with its negative/positive assessment of certain human features, the ability of the adjective to combine with other parts of speech are considered in the article. The special attention is paid to the role of Adjectives in formation and expression of opinions about the human appearance peculiarities.*

Key words: *adjectives for the human appearance description, signs of femininity/masculinity, zoonyms and zoomorphisms, colloquial slang.*

Introduction.

As is known, researchers were interested in the problem of human during all times. Even in the V century Protagoras declared that man is "the measure of all things." Over the centuries many physiologists, psychologists, sociologists, philosophers and linguists have been studying the human. Nowadays it is generally accepted that every language divides the world in its own way and has its particular way of conceptualizing.

Linguistic view of the world is an image of all things as the holistic universe, which was made by the centuries-old experience of the people. It is carried out by means of speech nominations. Lexical system represents the world that surrounds us with the aid of its own features. The study of external features and characteristic of the person has an important place in this issue. Due to these facts, it is seems relevant and appropriate to study the lexical-semantic microsystems of the adjectives which describe a person's appearance.

The problem of language study and systematization of a person's appearance evaluation was investigated by Amosova N. N., Vynogradova V. V., Bochyn T. H., Meschriakova U. V., Kravtsova N. M.

The main **purpose** of the research is to determine the semasiological characteristics of the assessment vocabulary, including adjectives, which denote the



human appearance in modern English.

The adjective is the most frequency discharge of the lexical linguistic means. The adjectives include emotional and estimates property and combines in its structure semantic and pragmatic aspects of the language. They have a high ability to be combined with other words, making deeper and specifying characteristics of a particular subject more possible. Mostly the adjectives have a high degree of compatibility with the nouns.

The adjectives are lexical-semantic class of predicative words, which denote non-procedural features (properties) of the object, event or other features that indicated with the help of the name. The adjective denotes both, qualitative indication of the subject, in his relationship to other objects, events or characteristics, the relative sign that denotes a property of the object through its relation to another object, features, events.

The adjective as a part of speech is not only a universal category, but also a class of words, which are the least compared to other specific morphological and syntactic classes. In many languages, the adjective does not stand out as a separate part of speech, which has its morphological and/or syntactic characteristics [2, p. 112].

Generally, when is necessary to give assessment of a person's appearance, the logical question is - what should be described? Will it be only face features or build? The concepts of the appearance are not only external physiological traits or personal appearance, but also the character and behavior. These three criteria make up the portrait of the person's appearance.

It is very valuable correctly and fully to describe the person's appearance (physical appearance or less formal looks).

An assessment is the result of the evaluation. The interaction of human and reality is reflected in the language in different aspects, one of which is aspect of evaluating. When the human assesses the phenomenon, he/she establishes its significance (compliance or non-compliance to own interests, tastes, preferences, etc). The assessment can be expressed in different forms, depending on the degree of the compliance (non-compliance): approval or condemnation, criticism or consent, likes and dislikes, love or hate and others. An evaluative meaning formed by a structure which includes the estimative scale, evaluative stereotype, the object and the basis of assessment, subject of the assessment, evaluative modes, axiological predicates, motivation of the evaluation. [1, p. 93]

The evaluation is regarded as a component in the pragmatic meaning of the word, expressing the relation of the subject's assessment to the object of the extralinguistic reality, by using the ratio of some its features with the system of values adopted in a given language community. The evaluation identifies certain characteristics of the subject, facts, phenomena; it is anthropocentric phenomenon and helps to orient a human in historical time and space. The assessment is implemented as a separate dichotomy: it can be positive or negative, general and private, external and internal, absolute and comparative. The assessment in the language is connected with the notion of norm which applies only to a positive evaluation. The positive assessment means that the process occurs normal; a negative evaluation appears in the case of deviation from the norm, or when the nature of the



process does not satisfy all regulatory requirements. The assessment's mechanism includes the subject, the object, the reason, and the regulator of estimate.

Boguslavskiy V. M. identifies six aspects of a person's appearance evaluation:

- The existential aspect (the perception of person as a certain natural givens).
- The emotional aspect (the expression of emotional relation to the person which is perceived).
- Aesthetic aspect (the evaluation of appearance in terms of its beauty and harmony).
- Psychological aspect (the attribution of a human personality traits based on observed signs of the appearance).
- The social aspect (the social attribution of human characteristics).
- The age aspect (associations are perceived on grounds of appearance with a certain age).

Most researchers distinguish the following properties of evaluation: anthropocentrism, cognition, pragmatism, subjectivity, intuitiveness, its value of the character, binary.

The study of the adjectives that describe the person's appearance lets to evade various errors. It helps to express own views and also to appreciate the person. The adjectives combine with other parts of speech and their semantic value, its stylistic qualities and values, which is formed with word-formation suffixes and its categorical essence at a certain stage of historical development of language (the objectivity, signs and so on). Antonymic pairs are the most basic relations between the adjectives. Most adjectives that describe the appearance and quality have words with opposite meaning. According to Lytvyn F. A.: «Antonyms are words with opposite, but comparable meaning (good - evil, fat - thin)». Antonyms of adjectives vary by the structure and content of the word [7, p. 180].

In content antonyms of adjectives can carry the following character: 1. The adjectives which express opposite qualities may gradually increase and decrease, *ugly - nice - beautiful*; 2. The adjectives which express qualities that are mutually exclusive and contradictory one to another *blind - sighted*.

More complex relations between the adjectives create synonymous ranks, thematic groups. The adjectives are characterized by acting as a lexical unit and they always called a phenomenon reality: (*thin man*) - it is meant that a person has a slender body that has excess weight. The lexical meaning of the word - is its content, the correlation between sound and complex object or phenomenon of reality that is historically fixed in the minds of speakers. It is executed by the grammatical laws of the language, also it is the part of general vocabulary semantic system.

The adjective is a significant part in assessing the human. It is inherent to complete other parts of speech in order to provide coloration and accuracy for the word. The seriousness of nouns during the evaluation of a human is that they are an important part of the vocabulary through which you can characterize the human [9, p. 194].

In the descriptive group of the meanings of nouns incorporated a variety of signs: the intellect, the intellectual activity; such nouns form a group with the meaning of "person associated with intellectual activity", *an expert an analyst, a*



philosopher, a theorist, a scholar and etc.; the outlook; groupware meaning "man on the views, manifested in behavior, the way of life": *an ascetic, a dreamer, a tradesman, an optimist, an snob an esthete*; and etc.; emotions; groupware meaning "man for the emotional state": *a humorist, a misanthrope, an altruist, a coward* and etc.; the appearance; groupware meaning "man for the specifics of appearance, clothing»: *a slob, a dandy, a scarecrow* and etc.; the profession; groupware meaning "man by profession, specialty": *a designer, a teacher, an editor, an electrician* and etc.

Signs of femininity/masculinity in linguistic semantics may be defined as modus features that set what should be a man or a woman in one society or another, and how they are manifested mainly in the context of the axiological and deontic modality. Existing human values and national-specific regulations, standards and benchmarks recorded in the lexical meanings of words and get additional interpretation in the usage of words.

Estimates vocabulary indicates about the axiological dominant of the culture. This knowledge is usually included in a pragmatic encyclopedic information. Possession of this information provides the status of the member of relevant nation. Since the language is also one way of structuring and substantial representation of knowledge, It is necessary to recognize that the information about "womanly" and "manfully" are competences of linguistics [8, p. 436].

The moral and aesthetic standards and social-role playing stereotypes, which are reflected in language, are very flexible and sometimes very controversial. For example, a number of synonymous in English «man who pays attention to his appearance»: *gallant, dandy, exquisite, beau, buck, coxcomb, fop, blade, peacock, rake, popinjay, ponce, wide boy*. Differential features of these words subtly detailed and considered in the explanatory dictionary, and it is essential to pay attention only to estimated differences of synonyms. On the one hand, there is a requirement of society to pay attention to the appearance. In this regard, the words of the given range must be positively labeled. But this meaning is right only for lexeme *gallant - a fashionable young man, espone who gives polite attention to women*. Anyway, other lexemes contain a negative component of estimation. So, there are words that negatively characterize the man as excessively concerned about their wardrobe, clothing, appearance: *dandy, exquisite beau, buck, coxcomb, fop*. Words *blade, peacock* used in relation to the attractive, dressed in the latest fashion young people, but really, self-righteous, arrogant and pompous. The word *rake* denotes well and fashionably dressed, wealthy, unprincipled man who is dissolute and has a riotous lifestyle. *Popinjay* - is a fashionable, self-satisfied and overly talkative young man, while *ponce* indicates effeminate man, who is overly captured of clothing and appearance. The phrase *wide boy* is used for negative description of richly dressed man who earns money by dishonest way.

The evaluation structure of the concept *woman* is determined by a number of parameters in English and Ukrainian languages. Among these parameters allocated dominant field for *man* signs *external man* and *inner man*. The first group includes such universal features as *appearance, manner, behavior* and others, and the second group *-personal characteristics*, such as *mind, soul*, etc. [6]. Next, it is possible to



allocate more personal characteristics, if they play any role for native speakers of considered cultures and particularly represented in language, thus revealing the specific characteristics of a particular language.

The dominant areas in the assessment of women's appearance in the English language are: face, figure, gait, clothing, emotional impact. Color of hair, eyes and skin are important in assessing a person in Ukrainian and English language. In the Ukrainian language was revealed a sufficient number of lexemes which called the woman with the details. For example, eyes: *blue-eyed, black-eyed*; eyebrows: *black-browed*; shape of the face: *chubby-faced*; skin color and hair: *brune, Gipsy* - (figurative sense), *goldilocks*. While in English is necessary to express the semantic hair color: *blonde, goldilocks, brunette, redhead*.

Such parameters, as *height, volume, proportionality, features of a figure* are relevant to assessment figures. In the English linguistic consciousness is allocated the aspect *female form*, namely *attractive roundness forms: curvaceous - (of a woman) having a pleasingly well developed figure, with attractive curves; voluptuous - (of a woman) having a beautiful soft rounded body that excites sexual feeling*.

English canons of the person's appearance clearly contrasted the beauty of women and men. It is normative to use the word *beautiful* to describe appearance of woman and child because we do not need clarification of aesthetic evaluation. If we talk about the beauty of men, the presence adverbial specification is indicative, for example, *frigidly beautiful*.

The concept of masculinity and femininity contain many components in its structure, which are opposed by many lines - different standards of ideal appearance, the character, the range of interests, the type of mind, logic.

Variant of the expressive vocabulary assessment identifies the unit formed by metaphorical transfer from animal names - zoonyms, and those that serve for imagery characteristics of human.

The names of animals form a a special semantic field in the system of language, which are called zoonyms. Zoonyms can function as independent lexical units and may also be a member of various phraseological fusions, idioms, proverbs, sayings. They can operate as a metaphor which denotes a person or object.

Zoomorphism - representation of gods in images of animals, and animals as sacred animals that embody the essence of the gods; zoomorphisms were essential elements of many ancient pagan religions (eg, Egyptian).

Zoomorphisms promote the expression of feelings, reactions, emotional human life like the rest of estimative vocabulary of any language. They form and indicate the axiological view of the world, the estimation of objects on ethical and aesthetic standards of the linguistic community (*good - bad, pretty - ugly* and etc.). They also describe predicative semantic variant that includes nominative option as a base. This variant also add significance (sema) characteristic, which complicates the structure of option and makes qualitative changes.

Zoomorphism may occur in the form of separate lexemes - Ukrainian: *crow (ворона), donkey (осел), bear (ведмідь), eagle (орел)*; English: *bear, bull, pig, fox*, and as the components of zoomorphic units, such as - Ukrainian: *cat in the bag (кіт в мішку), rats desert a sinking ship (як щури з корабля), dog in the manger (собака*



на сіні), *lovey-dovey behaviour* (телячі ніжності), *poor as a church mouse* (бідний як церковна миша), *a wolf in sheep's clothing* (вовк в овечій шкурі); English: *as blind as a bat, like a bear with a sore head, play cat and mouse, white elephant, a big frog in a little pond.*

Comparisons and metaphors that are based on the similarity between animal and man are often used. Comparison may be divided into logical (non-figurative) and figurative, which include comparison-phrase of formal elements: like, as, as if, for example: *like a bull in a china shop, crazy like a fox, quiet as a mouse*, and comparison with difficult words with elements such as: *-like, -shaped, -looking*, which are used as epithets, for example, *monkey-looking*.

«Figurative comparisons» (metaphor) have a particular interest. Most of them are not the same in different languages. The fact that members of one culture allocate and emphasize some of the properties of animals, and representatives of other cultures - the other properties, often is known as «the mythological context». The mythological context has properties that animals are endowed in fairy tales, myths, legends of one culture and also are fixed in the minds of the carriers of culture. In addition, there are also parallel variants of the idioms of comparison with the same content, but without zoonyms: *as cold as a frog, as cold as charity, as cold as stone; as dumb as fish, as dumb as statue.*

Zoonyms may provide for the idiom of comparison some emotional coloration through its imagery: *as fat as a pig, as sly as a fox, as poor as a church mouse, as greedy as a dog (pig), as happy as a lark, as harmless as a dove (kitten), as quiet as a lamb, as silly as a sheep, as brave as a lion, as free as a bird, as blind as a bat.*

Zoomorphism describe the appearance, character and style of behavior, the professional activities of person, attitude to the opposite sex, family and children in different languages. English shows a person as individuality, personality, accentuating the positive qualities such as competitiveness, independence, conviction of fraud and bad faith, for example, *a tiger - dangerous opponent, a strong player; a lone wolf - person, who acts alone; barracuda - selfish, dishonest predator; shark - sharpie, cheater, extortionist; custom official; pickpocket; weasel - wriggler, slick opportunist, sycophant; stalking horse - dummy, screen.*

In British culture, human is often characterized by own professional activities. Therefore, there are many zoomorphism of jargon describing the political and business activities of person in English: *bull - gambler who plays for promotion; bear - stock-jobber who plays for reduction; stag - stock-jobber, who buys shares in a company that sells them, he intends to resell them later; lame duck - politician, whose term of fasting comes to the end; a fat cat - rich and privileged people.* Professional activity of women is submitted by the following zoomorphism: *canary - canary; bunny girl - waitress in a nightclub, dressed in a special costume of rabbit: ears and furry short tail* [5, p. 29-37].

There are zoometaphors models that show the relationship between a men and a women. English language emphasizes direct sexual aspect, considering the man as producer and consumer: *horse - active male; wolf - womanizer, lady-killer, jolly dog - womanizer, humorist.* The woman mainly represented, as a mother, wife: *tigress - furious woman* (especially woman who protects their children). Thus, this fact



confirms the assumption about the impact of industrial, democratic order, urban lifestyles in England on the specific ideas about men and women.

The particular view of the world is manifested in the English language in the form of marking historical figures by using the zoomorphism: *the Hog - Richard III, the Lion Heart - Richard the Lionheart, the Swan of Avon - Shakespeare*.

There are some names of animals that are associated in the English society with the qualities that have extremely negative assessment and presented for British, as a serious drawback or deviation from the norms of human social behavior, so they can be used to hurt people. This group of animal names considered as invective vocabulary.

Invective vocabulary usually has culturally-based character. Therefore the correlation of codified - uncoded (authorized - unauthorized) is always nationally specific. Invectives are inherent to emotionally expressive semantics. They express opinions about a person in an extreme form, and clearly illustrate the system of values of a cultural community.

All invective expressions with the names of the animals are divided into the following groups: 1) biological human nature (*bald as a coot, cock-eyed, grizzly chicken, etc.*); 2) intellectual and volitional personality (*act the goat, as silly as a goose, a queer duck, etc.*); 3) the moral and ethical side of human (*behave like a hog, dirty dog, pigs in clover, etc.*); 4) the emotional and psychological sphere of personality (*like a hen with one chicken, like a singed/scalded cat, etc.*); 5) the social sphere of human (*like a drowned mouse, as poor as a church mouse, etc.*); 6) gender invective (*old cat, chicken, cock of the school, etc.*).

Investigation of various layers of the vocabulary is an urgent problem for lexicology and stylistics. In this sense, the vocabulary of spoken language and slang are the most interesting. The end of XX and the beginning of XXI century was characterized by increasingly activity of usage of colloquial slang units and even vulgar lexicon in the language.

Partridge, E. and his followers (Greenock J. and Kittredge K. I.) were the most famous researchers of slang. They determine that slang is «existing in the field of spoken spere, very fragile, unstable, not codified, and often quite chaotic and random set of lexemes that reflect the social consciousness of people, who belong to a certain social or professional environment» [11, p. 94].

Thus, the slang is seen as a conscious, deliberate usage of elements of the literary standard in the spoken language in a purely stylistic purposes: to create the effect of novelty, unusual, different from the universally samples for a particular mood of the speaker, to give expression of concreteness, vitality, expressiveness, conciseness, imagery. There are means which help to achieve these goals: metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, euphemism litotes.

The stylization under conversational style takes a serious place in the British and American literature and in movies that literally flooded with slang and vulgarisms. Thus, there is a problem of adequate translation. Most frequency lexical units and colloquialism form the core of such thematic group that belongs to a common slang. Integrated features that combine lexical units of the thematic group are: 1) belonging of lexical unit to the colloquial slang sphere; 2) objective and logical meaning



"positive or negative evaluation of human" or the presence of assessment element of human qualities in the connotative sense. The formation of vocabulary of slang is due to the same sources and means that are inherent to all language, including English.

The main types of word formation, conversion, affixation, compounding, cutting and others are represented in the youth slang. According to Vilyuman V. H. the rethinking plays a major role in recruiting this group of words in relation to their portable usage, constriction and expansion of meaning. Many slang words appear by reducing the words compounding. The role of affixation is insignificant in the formation of slang words. Borrowings which are phonetically adapted and reinterpreted is also productive way of word formation [3, p. 137-138]. We consider only some features of slang word formation units used to describe a person who clearly reflect the general trends of development of English slang: 1. Back word-formation: *to crack wise - wisecrack*; 2. Borrowing from other languages: *swami guy - a divine husband* (from *swami - Hindu god*); 3. Affixation (from the Latin *affixus - attached*) - a way of creating words using affixes. In other words, affixation is the adherence affixes to the root or base of the word. Affixes cannot exist in the language beyond words, they accompany root serving for inflection and word formation. For example: *hacker - programmer-fanatic, crocky - gentle person, who afraid of change*. It is appropriate to consider the following suffixes: suffix *-loo* has not an independent significance but is only as suffix that increases the value of slang and gives the word a fetch out meaning (*fakeloo artist*); suffix *-ly* is diminutive-caressing and also emphasizes the semantics of slang (*pally*); suffix *-ola* (by analogy with Italian word) provides a playful slang connotation and has not special meaning, often serves to form nouns *payola, mayola. Umpchay - chump* (this is an example of so-called encrypted languages when he first letter transferred to the end of word. To the base attached meaningless suffix *-ay*); *Keeno* (suffix *-o* has a similar function with suffixes *-loo -ola*). 4. Composition, telescopic formation - is a way of word formation by which part of a word merges with another word to form part of a single word or the whole word. Young people really like such way of word formation. These words cannot be found in any dictionary, but you can find out the word, when there are two primary words: *Cyberbuddy - interlocutor on the Internet*.

Emotional estimative vocabulary is always a more complex phenomenon. It expresses emotional assessment of human, unlike a rational assessment. When we talk about the man *Casanova* (colloquialism) *Casanova, ladies' man*, our assessment has a complex character: a) *a womanizer*; b) *as Casanova* (Giovanni Giacomo Casanova (1725-1798), Italian writer, author of «Memoirs» in 12 volumes, which refers to the customs of his contemporaries and many adventurous adventures of the author) [10, p. 264]. This «*layering*» makes evaluation more intense and expressive. It also expresses emotional attitude of the speaker to the subject of evaluation: it is unpleasant to me whether it attracts me, is associative and imaginative understanding of the behavior of the prototype.

In this lexic traced the relationship of emotionality, expressiveness and evaluation, their opposition to each other and logical objective component of each token. The presence of these lexical units indicates about the type of emotional communication, emotional characters and means through which they show human



individuality most clearly.

Thematic group «*evaluation of human*» can be divided into such semantic groups: 1) moral assessment of man, for example, *awful shit* (vulgarism) *evil spirits*, *villain*; *snot-nose* (slang) *young upstart*, *self-confident young man*; 2) evaluation of intellect, for example, *ass-head* (vulgarism) *stupid*, *idiot*; *daffy dame* (slang) *physically attractive woman with foreseeable mind*; *look an absolute tit* (stylistically reduced verbal phraseological unit) *give the impression of a girl with low intelligence*.

It should be emphasized that the distinction between the moral and the intellectual assessment is not clear. [4, p. 164].

Phraseological units (preferably with a model Adj + N) often clearly express some «*evaluation of human*» such as, *idiot*, *blockhead*. Herewith, noun is a metaphorical surrogate of words man, person, for example: *cold fish - cold man*», *queer fish - eccentric*, *strange customer*, *old trout - old woman*», *pain in the ass - bore*, *black sheep - freak (in the family)*, *old bag - nasty old woman*, *pee-head* (student slang) a) *idiot*, *fool*; b) *sophomore*, *stuffed shirt - windbag*, *arrogant man*, *big shot/wig gun - padishah*, *big head*, *deadheat loafer*, *parasite*, *jackanapes - upstart*. Phraseological locution *dark horse - candidate in the election campaign*, *which appears at the time and whose purpose is not clear* has political overtones. Multiplicity is typical for lexical units of the areas, although it is not in such amounts, as we can commonly believe.

Such lexeme as *powder puff* (slang) has meaning: a) *effeminate man*; b) *silly woman*. Both meanings refer to the content of *evaluation of human*, but second meaning has some *evaluation of intellectual abilities*. Synonymy phenomenon is widespread in this thematic group.

Slang in the language have considerable importance and eventually flow into the vocabulary not only English, but other languages.

Conclusions.

It was discovered the significance of assessment vocabulary, its importance in the society to express own opinions, positive and negative aspects of such assessment, peculiarities of usage with various ethnological aspects and the role of adjectives in the formation of expression, which describe the person, their types and possibilities of adaptation in the speech. It is essential to conclude that such measurement category as a denotation of femininity/masculinity in characterizing of human, specificity of zoomorphism and zoonyms, as a means to assess the subject and value of the properties of slang spoken language with its negative/positive assessment of certain qualities which are inherited for person have a prominent role in forming and expressing their own opinions about the human appearance.

Particularly, the adjective has a special place in the characteristics of person's appearance. It has a specific property to combine with other parts of speech, provide a more vivid meaning of word and it serves as an integral component in the assessment.

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Анотація. У статті досліджено специфіку використання, та властивості оцінювальної лексики, зокрема прикметників. Розглянуто такі категорії оцінки, як позначення жіночності/мужності при характеристиці людини, специфіка зооморфізмів та зоонімів, як засобів для оцінки суб'єкта, значення та ознаки розмовної сленгової мови з її негативною/позитивною оцінкою певним якостям які притаманні людині, а також вміння прикметника при цьому поєднуватись з іншими частинами мови. Особлива увага звернена на роль прикметників у формуванні та вираженні суджень про зовнішні особливості людини.

Ключевые слова: прикметники опису зовнішності людини, позначення жіночності / мужності, зооніми та зооморфізми, розмовний сленг.

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