EVALUATIVE CONNOTATION OF THE COMPONENT “RIGHT” IN PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

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ABSTRACT
The article describes the results of research work on the evaluative properties of the component “right / правый” in the phraseological units of English and Russian. The lexico-semantic analysis has shown that in the composition of phraseological phrases, when interacting with other linguistic units, an intensification of the evaluativity of the component “right / правый” can occur, as a result of which the expressive-evaluative properties of the whole utterance are intensified. The intensification of evaluative connotation of the component can be actualized by using the stylistic devices and lexical repetition. The somatism components are used most frequently as the linguistic units that are part of the lexical environment of the component “right / правый”. The combination of the component “right / правый” with somatisms is of concern from the point of view of the formation of holistic concepts, collective visions that accumulate positive or negative evauativity. The significance of the evaluative semantics of the component “right / правый” lies in the fact that when interacting with other components of a phraseological unit, it is filled with ideological content.

Keywords: Connotation. Phraseological meaning. Axiological component. Lexical-semantic analysis. Stylistic devices.

CONOTAÇÃO AVALIATIVA DO COMPONENTE “DIREITO” EM UNIDADES FRASEOLÓGICAS DE INGLÊS E RUSSO

CONOTACIÓN EVALUATIVA DEL COMPONENTE “DERECHO” EN UNIDADES FRASEOLÓGICAS DE INGLÉS Y RUSO

RESUMO
O artigo descreve os resultados do trabalho de pesquisa sobre as propriedades avaliativas do componente “right / правый” nas unidades fraseológicas do inglês e do russo. A análise lexico-semanticamente mostrou que na composição de frases fraseológicas, ao interagir com outras unidades linguísticas, pode ocorrer uma intensificação da avaliabilidade do componente “direito / правый”, em decorrência da qual as propriedades expressivo-avaliativas do todo o enunciado é intensificado. A intensificação da conotação avaliativa do componente em estudo pode ser atualizada por meio de dispositivos estilísticos, como oposição de imagens associativas, oposição paronímica e repetição lexical. Os componentes do somatismo são usados mais frequentemente como as unidades linguísticas que fazem parte do ambiente lexical do componente “direito / правый”. A combinação do componente “certo / prawyj” com somatismos é preocupante do ponto de vista da formação de conceitos holísticos, visões coletivas que acumulam avaliatividades positivas ou negativas. O significado da semântica avaliativa do componente “direito / правый” reside no fato de que, ao interagir com outros componentes de uma unidade fraseológica, ele é preenchido com conteúdo ideológico.


RESUMEN
El artículo describe los resultados del trabajo de investigación sobre las propiedades evaluativas del componente “right / правый” en las unidades fraseológicas del inglés y el ruso. El análisis léxico-semántico ha demostrado que en la composición de frases fraseológicas, al interactuar con otras unidades lingüísticas, puede producirse una intensificación de la evaluatividad del componente “derecho / правый”, como resultado de lo cual las propiedades expresivo-evaluativas del todo la expresión se intensifica. La intensificación de la conotação evaluativa del componente en estudio se puede actualizar utilizando los recursos estilísticos, como la oposición de imágenes asociativas, la oposición paronímica y la repetición léxica. Los componentes de somatismo se utilizan con mayor frecuencia como las unidades lingüísticas que forman parte del entorno léxico del componente “right / правый”. La combinación del componente “derecho / правый” con somatismos es preocupante desde el punto de vista de la formación de conceptos holísticos, visiones colectivas que acumulan evaluatividad positiva o negativa. La importancia de la semántica evaluativa del componente “derecho / правый” radica en el hecho de que al interactuar con otros componentes de una unidad fraseológica, se llena de contenido ideológico.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this work is to identify the role and determine the means of intensification of the evaluative connotation of the component “right / правый” in the English and Russian phraseological world image. The target goal requires solving the questions of whether the key lexeme we are considering can acquire an intensified meaning when interacting with other components and what lexical and semantic means are actualized. Practice materials to an extent of 150 English and 160 Russian phraseological units with the component “right / правый”, selected from the English-Russian phraseological dictionary by A.V. Kunin (Kunin, 1984), the encyclopedic dictionary of winged words and expressions by V.V. Serov have been analyzed within the framework of studies (SEROV, 2005).

The theoretical basis for the study of the structure of connotative meaning was the works by the scholars such as A. V. Kunin, V. N. Telia, N. M. Shansky and others (Kunin, 1996; Telia, 1986; Shansky, 2012). The research paper considers an evaluative potential of the component “right / правый” in Russian and English biblical, political and legal, popular phraseological units. By evaluative component A.V. Kunin understands “objective-subjective or subjective-objective attitude of a person to an object expressed by language means explicitly or implicitly” (KUNIN, 1996). V.I. Shakhovský’s vision is that “evaluation is also an integral element of the connotative complex of the lexical meaning of a word, for we understand and feel simultaneously, as we evaluate and experience at the time of naming an object of evaluation” (SHAKHOVSKY, 1983). The topicality of the study of the chosen topic in respect to linguoculturological aspect is determined by a wide palette of meanings of a polyseous component in the phraseological fund of both languages.

METHODS

The purpose and objectives of the study determined it necessary to involve a comprehensive methodology. The selection and systematization of phraseological units with the component “right / правый” in English and Russian is carried out on the basis of continuous sampling method, lexical-semantic analysis of both the very component “right / правый” and the lexical environment of this component. The semantic integrity of a phraseological unit, in which “opposition and simultaneous overlapping of direct (literal) and figurative (metaphorical) semantic planes of one or another phraseological unit is established by the method of application” (ZHUKOV, 2011). In addition, the comprehensive research methodology includes the techniques of component and contextual analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In phraseological locutions, the component “right / правый”, interacting with other linguistic units, falls under semantic transformation, that is, the formation of the connotative meaning of this component is the result of its usual transformation. The great importance of the connotative aspect in phraseology is explained by the dual semantic structure of phraseological units, built on figurative rethinking (ZHUKOV, 2011). The lexical-semantic analysis has shown that the intensification of the evaluative connotation of the component under study can be realized by various lexical-semantic means: opposition of associative images, paronymic opposition, and lexical repetition are created on the basis of the component “right / правый”.

The peculiarity of the component “right / правый” in English and Russian is that its sense initially contains an evaluative potential, which has a positive semantic charge. When interacting with other linguistic elements as part of a phraseological unit, the initial meaning of the component “right / правый” has a complex semantic link with a connotative meaning, which can lead to intensification of the evaluative connotation of this component and, as a consequence, the entire utterance on the whole. In phraseological units, body-oriented components, often used in conjunction with the component “right / правый”, serve to express the physiological and mental states, feelings and emotions of a person (MUKHARLYAMOVA & SULKARNAYEVA, 2019; SARSEMBAYEVA et al., 2018). By way of the example of English and Russian phraseological units with the component “right / right”, we will expose an evaluative connotation of this component at the lexical-semantic level, at which its intensification can occur.

Fixed phrases in English and Russian “Right hand man” / “Правая рука” are used in a derived meaning “indispensable helper, confidant.” The component “right / правый” in combination with the somatic component “hand / рука” in the process of semantic-connotative transformation gives a distinctly positive characteristic to a person who is an indispensable person for someone. Phraseological semantics can be completely rethought.
due to the integrity of the components comprised in the phraseological unit, that is, the impossibility of deriving the meaning from individual components (GOLODOV & ASTASHKINA, 2018). In this case, the enhancement of the evaluativeness of the component “right / правый” occurs as a result of its merging with the somatic unit “hand / рука”, which leads to the perception of this combination as a single image.

Here are some examples of bibilical phraseological units that comprehend antonymic images. The English phraseological unit “Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor” is analogous to the Russian proverbs “Долголетие—в правой руке, а в левой у нее—благослов и слава”. In these phraseological units in an implicit form, the idea suggests us thinking about true wealth, which is spiritual, eternal, and not about worldly possessions that are fleeting. The phrases in the utterances “right hand / правая рука” and “left hand / левая рука”, as a result of rethinking, form antonymous associative images. The connotative meaning of the phrase “right hand / правая рука” is an eternal, spiritual good that should be of primary importance to a person in comparison with “left hand / левая рука” which symbolizes earthly riches and an appetite for glory. The intensification of the emotive-associative properties of English and Russian bibilicalisms is achieved via a global collective visions of positive connotation “right / правый” and negative connotation “left / левый” in combination with the somatism “hand / рука”.

In the English phraseological unit “Two wrongs don’t make a right” (“Зло за зло правды не получишь”) the semantic opposition “right – wrongs” is treated in the meanings “правильный – неправильный”. The meaning of this locution is that one ought never to respond to any misdeed with evil, no matter what extent it may be. The component “right” is significantly intensified by using the opposite word “wrongs”. The evaluative-pragmatic potential of the component “right” is exposed in this case in a pronounced form by the effect of the opposition of the lexical unit “wrongs” used in the plural. That is why in English the plural form of the lexical unit “wrong” is used not very often.

The antonymic lexical unit “wrong” is also used in the following phraseological unit: “My-country-right or wrong” (“Права или не права моя страна, но это моя страна”). The semantic distinctive feature of this phraseological unit is characterized by a political purposefulness. The components of the collocation are represented by the linguistic units “right / wrong”, which have the same functional and stylistic properties. This phrase has a high degree of expressiveness due to the general idea put in it: a sense of patriotism and love for their homeland are unswerving regardless of correct or wrong political course the native country holds to. As a result, a high semantic motivation leads to the creation of an intensified evaluative connotation of the whole phraseological unit. The English idiom “It’ll be all right on the right” means that despite all the difficulties, everything will turn out well in the end. The enhancement of the evaluative and pragmatic properties of the component “right” is based on the use of play on words in the form of the paronymic pair “right-right”. The sound opposition of the components “right-right”, the similarity of their morphemic structure leads to an emotional and evaluative perception of this idiom at the lexical and verbal levels.

The English idiom “The right man in the right place” is treated as “Человек на своём месте”. The component “right” is used to convey a positive evaluative characteristic of an individual, indicating their professional competence in a certain area of activities. The repetition of the component “right” and the logically selected secondary components “place / man” emphasize the emotive-evaluative properties of the phraseological meaning. It is important to note that in a set expression, the contextual meaning of the component “right” can also carry a negative evaluative connotation. The English expression “Do smb to rights” in translation into Russian means “Воздать кому-нибудь по заслугам?”. Requite someone according to his/her deserts. This word combination should be considered only in a certain context in order to understand that “deserts” refers to abominable behavior.

The Russian proverb “Не прав медведь, что козу задрал; не права коза, что в уйму ушла (в лес)” (The bear is wrong that he has scared the goat; the goat that has gone into the wilderness (into the forest) is not right) has a deep evaluative meaning. A feature of the proverb is that the images of animals serve as prototypes to describe human behavior. The meaning of the statement lies in the fact that in certain life situations, as a rule, both sides may not be right, the action of one side may be a provoking factor for the wrong action of the other. The intensification of the evaluative component “правый / right” and the whole expression occurs due to the repetition of this component in an abbreviated form with the particle “не /not”. Thus, in this statement the component “правый /right” acquires a negative connotation.
SUMMARY
The component “right / правый” has a large semantic field, which may be one of the reasons that the component under study is characterized by a high frequency of use in the phraseological fund of the English and Russian languages. We have found that the component “right/правый” in English and Russian refers to the components which initially have an evaluative potential being of particular value when creating set expressions with these components. A number of linguists also point to the fact that some phraseological units comprehend such components which are initially characterized by a certain evaluative potential (SMIRNOVA et al., 2019; PLANKINA et al., 2019).

The lexical-semantic analysis has revealed that the intensification of the evaluative connotation of the component under study can be realized by means of various lexical-semantic devices: opposition of associative images, paronymic opposition and lexical repetition. The intensification of the component “right / правый” and the entire utterance as a whole can take a more salient form, that is, this component gets into a semantic connection with certain linguistic units in such a way that it cannot be perceived by human consciousness in isolation from the added component. In our studies, one of such components often used in both English and Russian is a somatic component.

Of considerable interest is the combination of the component “right / правый” with the somatic component “hand / рука” in English and Russian, the semantic fusion of which contributes to the formation of a single associative image.

The intensification of connotative evaluativity occurs if semantic oppositions “right hand / правая рука” and “left hand / левая рука” are present in the phraseological collocation, each of which is perceived as an integral concept.

The component composition of the semantic opposition can be represented as an antonymic pair “right / wrong”, which fills the phrase with evaluative-expressive properties.

Considering the antonymic concepts “right / правый” and “left / левый” in respect to the evaluative-connotative aspect, we have come to the conclusion that they correlate with such global concepts as “good-evil”. This conclusion corresponds to the statements by I. V. Kiseleva, who believes that “the right side is associated with the idea of luck, and the left side—with failure” (KISELEVA, 2012).

The analysis of the semantic transformation of the component “right / правый” indicates that in phraseological units this component has a positive evaluative connotation in the overwhelming majority of cases. However, in English there may be set expressions with the component “right”, which are actualized in the human mind in the form of negative connotative semantics. To characterize human qualities and assess the actions, the component “right” can be used in combination with animal images. At the contextual level, the component of our concern can add positive and negative connotations to a statement. In addition, our findings show that animal images in combination with the component “правый” help in the process of rethinking to reveal the diversity of human characters, creating positive and negative evaluativity. The intensification of evaluativity of English and Russian phraseological phrases with the component “right / правый” can also be realized by repeating the very component.

CONCLUSIONS
The semantics of the polysemantic component “right / правый” in phraseological locutions can be subjected to a complete transformation in which its literal interpretation is unacceptable and to preserve the original meaning of the very component. Phraseological semantics is the relationship of all components, in other words, the transformation of the components of phraseological units in most cases is complex (SEMUSHINA, 2019).

The component “right / правый”, being a part of the phraseological location, is able to acquire an intensified meaning due to the initial evaluative potential.

“A high frequency of the use of a lexeme in the text generates particular attention to it in the mind of the reader and, as a consequence, determines associative attributes that subsequently affect the entire context” (MYSHKOVAYA, 2011). The component “right / правый” with cultural and symbolic saliency is used to describe the spatial model of the world and is the source of the formation of moral values.
The evaluative semantics of the component “right / правый”, when interacting with other components of the phraseological unit, evolves into an ideological form that performs an influencing function aimed at the spiritual development of the individual, which leads to the formation of a certain understanding of global concepts such as good and evil.

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