

THE STRUCTURE OF THE CONCEPT «LABOUR» IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract. The research is carried out in accordance with the current direction of linguistics - linguaculturology and is devoted to the study of the concept as the main category of linguaculturology. The article analyzes different approaches to the term «concept», considers the methodology of studying concepts proposed by V. A. Maslova and also establishes the structure of the concept «labour» in the English language.

Key words: linguistics, linguaculturology, concept, nucleus, periphery, labour, work.

СТРУКТУРА КОНЦЕПТА «ТРУД» В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

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Аннотация. Исследование выполнено в русле актуального направления лингвистики – лингвокультурологии и посвящено изучению концепта, как основной категории лингвокультурологии. В статье анализируются разные подходы к термину «концепт», рассматривается методика исследования концептов, предложенная В. А. Масловой, а также устанавливается структура концепта «труд» в английском языке.

Ключевые слова: лингвистика, лингвокультурология, концепт, ядро, периферия, труд, работа.

There have been significant changes in the field of modern linguistics. They occurred due to the processes of integration of linguistics with other sciences. As a result of this integration various new directions appeared in modern linguistics. Such new interdisciplinary sciences as sociolinguistics, ethnolinguistics, psycholinguistics, lingua anthropology and gender linguistics, linguaculturology and cognitive linguistics began their development.

The aim of writing this article is to study the structure of the concept «labour» in the English language. The chosen concept is a universal one, it is associated with long-existing national traditions. This concept makes it possible to draw conclusions about the relevance of certain norms in society. The material of the article was the works of

national linguists on the problems of comparative cognitive science, linguacultural studies, as well as general issues of linguistics besides it is based on the data, collected from various dictionaries. The article uses the method of conceptual analysis in describing the structure of the concept.

Linguaculturology arose about 40 years ago and studies the fundamental issues of interaction of the following phenomena: human and his or her consciousness, language and culture. Of greatest interest to linguists is the aspect of «human in language». In the formation of linguacultural studies as a science, V.A. Maslova, who is a well-known Belorussian linguist, identifies three periods [1, p. 84]:

1. The period of prerequisites for the development of science. The problem of the relationship between language, culture and ethnicity has interested scientists since the beginning of the 19th century. German scientists, the Brothers Grimm, and later Russian linguists F.I. Buslaev and A.A. Potebnya tried to solve it.

The ideas of V. Humboldt were most widely disseminated in the world. According to him, culture presents itself in language. Language is the true reality of culture, as well as a fixed view of the universe and oneself in the world.

2. The period of the formation of linguacultural studies (works of V.N. Teliya, V.V. Vorobyov, V.V. Shaklein, V.A. Maslova).

3. The period of fundamental interdisciplinary science linguacultural studies.

The object of linguacultural studies is language as a reflection of culture, part of the social memory of the people. The subject of linguacultural studies is language units that contain cultural information [1, p. 90]. The most important categories of linguaculturology are the linguistic picture of the world, which reflects the specifics of human and his life, his relationship with the world and a term «concept». V. A. Maslova gives the following definition of a concept: it is a semantic formation marked by linguacultural specificity and in one way or another characterizing native speakers [2, p. 50].

According to the author E. I. Zinovieva, all points of view expressed in scientific literature regarding the definition of the term «concept» can basically be reduced to two:

1. A concept in a narrow sense is a concept that gradually develops, actualizing individual semantic features in speech.

2. A concept in a broad sense expresses the meanings of «national color».

This author gives the following definition of a «concept» – «the basic unit of mentality, which exists in various forms in our mental consciousness – in the form of a representation, image and symbol» [3, p. 76].

According to V. A. Maslova, in order to describe and study a concept, it is necessary to do the following [1, p. 65]:

1) as is known, a concept consists of a periphery and a nucleus. First, it is necessary to determine the core of the concept. This can be done using the dictionary meanings of the lexeme;

2) then it is necessary to study the periphery of the concept, its connotations, associations, subjective experience of use. It is necessary to determine the reference situation to which the concept belongs;

3) establish the place of the concept in the linguistic picture of the world through linguistic dictionaries;

4) turn to the etymological dictionary, taking into account the peculiarities of the etymology of the concept;

5) involve various contexts in the study: philosophical, scientific, journalistic and others;

6) consider and analyze proverbs and sayings that people use;

7) compare the obtained data with the analysis of associative links of the studied lexeme.

Let's have a look at the structure of an English concept «labour». The English concept «labour» is represented by two key lexemes «labour» and «work».

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the main meanings of the concept «labour»:

1. Practical work, especially if it involves heavy physical effort.
2. Workers, especially if they do practical work with their hands.
3. The last stage of pregnancy in childbirth.

According to the same dictionary, the word «work» has the following definitions [4]:

1. Human activity, such as work in which a person applies physical or mental effort, usually for money.
2. The material or place where work is done.
3. Something created as a result of effort, especially a book, painting, or piece of music.

According to the data obtained in the Online Etymology Dictionary, the lexeme «labour» appeared in English in the 13th century in the meaning of «task», «project», later from the end of the 14th century the lexeme was used in the meaning of «bodily effort, complexity, difficulty». The word «labour» comes from the Old French «labor» and is used in phrases: *the labour of Hercules*, *Labour Day*, *labour-saving* and some others. «Work» is a native word for the English language, comes from the Old English «weorc», «worc», which meant «something done, action, something produced», the source of the lexeme is the Old Saxon language. Since the 13th century, due to the borrowing of the French lexeme «labour» were used in parallel with some differences in meaning. The lexeme «work» is used in a large number of set phrases, the dictionary lists: work of art, work ethic, to be out of work, to make clean work, to

make short work of, as well as the proverbs «Many hands make light work», «To have one's work cut out for», «Work in progress». According to the English dictionary of synonyms Thesaurus [5, p. 219], the lexeme «labour» has such synonyms as *chore, effort, exertion, job, slog, sweat, task, toil, work*, and the antonyms are *leisure, rest*. The lexeme «work» in the first meaning is synonymous with the words *business, career, duty, employment, job, labor, occupation, profession, service, skill*, and in the second meaning it has synonyms *book, composition, creation, play, poem, production*.

In a philosophical sense, the lexeme «labour» is closely connected with Karl Marx's theory of «Capital», alienation of labour and ideas of a society without private property and exploitative labour, while the lexeme «work» does not have such a connotation.

As a result of studying the literature, it was found out that proverbs and sayings expressing attitudes towards labour and widely used by English-speaking people can be thematically divided into several thematic groups. The most significant of them are:

1. Work as an integral part of life.

There is a man born in the world whose work was not born with him. A wise man without work is a bee without honey. Labour is the law of happiness.

2. Work is associated with patience and diligence.

Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do and play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do. Nothing worth ever comes without a lot of hard work. Character and hard work go together in nine cases out of ten.

3. Labor brings pleasure.

Work makes life pleasant. Your work expresses you more correctly than your tongue.

Having analyzed the data, obtained in various kinds of dictionaries, we can draw the following conclusions about the structure of an English concept «labour»: proverbs and sayings with a positive attitude towards labour prevail. For the English people, careful and systematic fulfillment of work is very important. Also, according to English proverbs and sayings, workers are assessed by their work, and laziness leads to poverty and hunger. It is also possible to note the high degree of respect of the English for labour activity, and for workers who skillfully and promptly perform their work. Labour in the linguistic consciousness of the English is characterized by such typical features as work, profit and time.

Thus, the structure of the English-language concept «labour» consists of the nucleus meanings of the key lexemes «work» and «labor», and on the periphery lie additional shades of meanings of these lexemes, revealed in proverbs and sayings of the English language.

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