

THE NOUN "CENTURY" IN N. YAZYKOV'S POETIC WORLD

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Article History: Received on 12th October 2019, Revised on 29th November 2019, Published on 19th December 2019

Abstract

Purposes: The article is devoted to the study of the semantics and the compatibility features of the temporal lexeme "century" in N. M. Yazykov's works, a poet of romanticism period, and A. Pushkin's contemporary.

Methodology: They determined the specificity of its functioning in the poet's work. The word "century" is used by N.M. Yazykov in the following meanings: 'time, the period of time; modern poet's society', 'long time', 'life expectancy of a person', life, the period of someone's existence'.

Results: In the first meaning, the word "century" is used both in the singular and in the plural form. Characterizing a certain period in the life of society, the word century, which is stylistically neutral, is able to appear in various phrases containing a qualitative assessment due to the events occurring during this period. Figurative uses are of interest: personifications, individual-author detailed metaphors, which include the noun "century".

Implications/Applications: A characteristic feature of the word "century" is its ability to appear in a broader sense "for a long time", in some contexts it approaches the semantics of 'eternity'.

Novelty: Based on the analysis of the word "century" compatibility in the poetry by N.M. Yazykov, we can conclude that the poet was ironic about the orders that prevailed in his modern society. The study of the features of temporary lexeme use in poetic creativity allows us to determine the specifics of time perception by the poet, contributes to the study of N.M. Yazykov's linguistic picture of the world.

Implications/Applications: This article will help the student to promotability of giving a speech.

Novelty/Originality: At the same time, being a type of speech activity, foreign language communication in the process of training solves, in turn, educational and development tasks by means of a foreign language sign system, where the whole set of speech actions of the individual is actually present.

Keywords: Time, Century, Temporal Vocabulary, Poetic Text, Yazykov.

INTRODUCTION

The interest of linguists in the language of literary works is explained primarily by the fact that a literary text accumulates both the linguistic picture of the people world in a certain period and the individual author's picture of the world. Researchers' attention to the language of writers does not wane nowadays ([Sadanyan et al., 2017](#); [Volskaya et al., 2018](#); [Nurullina et al., 2018](#); [Erofeeva et al., 2018](#)). Turning to poetic texts allows us to identify the peculiar semantic transformations of lexemes, to consider their figurative potential ([Gizatullina et al., 2018](#)). There are the works devoted to the study of temporal vocabulary functioning, in particular, the word of "century", in the works of writers of the XXth century ([Shtyrlina, 2012](#)). The aim of this work is to consider the features of the temporary lexeme "century" operation in the poetic world by N.M. Yazykov - a poet of the Pushkin era, distinguished by a bright and original talent. "Having experienced the influence of Pushkin's genius, like all poets of these years, he nevertheless managed to contribute to the development of our poetry. His artistic discoveries and achievements significantly enriched Russian lyrics" ([Buchmeyer & Yazykov, 1964](#)). Nowadays N.M. Yazykov's creativity attracts the attention of scientists ([Kosintseva, 2006](#); [Shestakova, 2008](#)), but it has not been studied sufficiently yet. Earlier, we examined the functioning of such lexemes in his poetry as the "year", and "hour". In the future, it seems relevant to identify the features of perception of time in the poetry by N.M. Yazykov and other poets - A.S. Pushkin's contemporaries - to reconstruct the poetic picture of the world of the first half of the 19th century and compare it with the picture of the world of modern poets. The results can be used not only by linguists but also by teachers in their professional activities ([Larionova et al., 2018](#)).

METHODS

The material of this study was N.M. Yazykov's poems, the references are given to the "Complete collection of poems" ([Yazykov, 1964](#)). We also relied on "The dictionary by N.M. Yazykov" ([Vasiliev & Zhatkin, 2013](#)).

In the process of work, the following general linguistic and linguistic-stylistic methods were used: the contextual analysis method, the component analysis method, the descriptive method, as well as the method of literary text interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

"The dictionary of the modern Russian literary language" notes the following meanings of the word "century": 1. The time interval of one hundred years, a century; 2. Time, time period; modern society (for anyone); 3. Time, the life

expectancy of a person (The Dictionary of modern Russian literary language, 1951: 125–128). The noun "century" is found in N.M. Yazykov's poems 57 times ([Vasiliev & Zhatkin, 2013](#)). Having analyzed its use in the poet's texts, we identified a number of features.

N.M. Yazykov's poems did not demonstrate the usual combinations of the word "century" with ordinal numbers (for example, the nineteenth century, etc.), we did not find the combinations with quantitative numbers in which the word "century" is used as a unit of time (for example, two centuries). This lexeme is used by the poet in combination with our possessive pronouns, "our", "own" or in combination with the nouns formed according to the "century of something" model. In this usage the meaning 'time, the time period' is implemented, for example: I am free by body, as well as by soul. / From the age of our infection, / From the life of the cursed and empty / I am healed - and the world is with me! After the metonymic transference, the contextual meaning of society appears in the word "century": Let them say: our century is depraved, - Is the golden age not a dream? ([Yazykov, 1964](#)). It is characteristic that the poet treats the morals and customs of his time with irony, and he sees the "golden age" only in dreams.

The phrase "future century" is used by Yazykov in the broad sense of "future time" apparently: Ludmila is sitting under the window, / Evening leisure hours / With her old friend, / And they discuss trifles: / About the life of the future century, / About their imaginary youth ... ([Yazykov, 1964](#)).

Turning to the past centuries, the poet gives a vivid description of these periods, depending on the way he evaluates the activities of the rulers of that time: Here is Yaroslav, here is the century of bloody strife, / Discord and the waste of vigorous forces ([Yazykov, 1964](#)). The poet calls Ivan the Terrible "tyrant", "tormentor", "the horror and shame of nature": But the court of history is free / It pronounced his sentence; / It condemned the Tsar-torturer nationwide / From generation to generation, from century to century! [ibid.]. The combination "from century to century" is used by the poet in the meaning of 'forever, for centuries'.

The plural form of the word "century" is pretty frequent in N.M. Yazykov's poems. In particular, it is used in combination with the adjectives past, future, expressing the meaning 'time, era': The places where the warriors of Christ fought / in the past centuries ... In the poem "To A.M. Yazykov, during the dedication of my notebook of poems to him", addressed to his beloved brother, N.M. Yazykov metaphorically defines the poet's mission, who returns to the past in his dreams, as if talking to him: Perhaps, once you're happy poet, / Talking in a dream with the past centuries, / He will tell by slender poems / the Golden tales of the past. A poetic gift allows word artists not only to look to the past but also to look into the future. So, in the poem "Trigorskoe" N.M. Yazykov writes about his conversations with A.S. Pushkin: What is more delightful, more beautiful / than free, friendly conversations / when a poet speaks with a poet/drinking from a frothy bowl? < > How fast, with an inspired thought / The dreams on rainbow wings, / fly through the universe / In past and future centuries! N.M. Yazykov addresses in the following way to his university friend N.D. Kiselev: "The messenger of future centuries!" ([Yazykov, 1964](#)).

It is important to note that in poetic texts, time receive a qualitative characteristic: both subjective (in terms of any event evaluation by a poet or a lyrical hero), and objective (depending on the significance of events for society). Thus, the form "centuries" in the structures with nouns in the genitive expresses the assessment of a particular era. Often the lexical meaning of phrases is enhanced by the use of expressive syntactic constructions. In the poem "The Bard's Song", the poet speaks of the Mongol-Tatar invasion in this way: And you hid, the centuries of midnight glory, / The centuries of victories and liberties! In the poem "Muse" Yazykov uses the following allegory: the Goddess of strings survived / the Gods of thunder and damask steel; / She did not give her beautiful hands to the fetters / of tyranny and debauchery for centuries... At the end of the poem, the poet, who remained honest in the "age of tyranny", was rewarded: But from the dust of ruined high structures, / From the silence of desolation / the majestic and young/immortal angel of inspiration has risen [ibid.]. It is known that this poem was delayed by censorship [11, p. 596]. It should be noted that attributive combinations, for example, "glorious centuries" can be evaluative ([Yazykov, 1964](#)).

Similar use can be found in the poems by N.M. Yazykov: Let storms and thunderstorms not blow up the century / of those canopies where you found your own happiness ... If the thing is about the events that are significant for the heroes, the length of time, called by the word "century", is associated with a person's life: May I be loved by you for a century, / Let me call you mine, / You call me yours! [11, p. 285]; and you are prospering / by solemnly high life - and it will be bright for centuries / Your open forehead / And a keenly fiery eye ([Yazykov, 1964](#)).

Finally, the meaning of "man's life" in the word "century" is actualized when it is used with possessive pronouns and adjectives (for example, earthly), as well as with the verb live: Dream is our earthly age ...; She gave you the grandee's right / To live royally for a century without doing glory ...; ... if fate has been awarded / to praise and glorify wine all her life ... The last lines speak of poetry, so Yazykov uses the personification technique here. The poet uses the same technique, pointing to the changes in the life of people that occur over time: So centuries change / The inhabitants of the earth: / Now the knights are in the dust, / And the pygmies live ([Yazykov, 1964](#)).

For Yazykov, the poet of the era of romanticism, a high pathos of creativity is characteristic in general. But sometimes he revives a poetic dictionary, in particular, accepts a mixture of styles: I would wake him up for light / From the dusk of centuries / of Heroes-mosquitoes ([Yazykov, 1964](#)). The combination of the dusk of centuries appropriate in a high style with the concrete noun "mosquitoes" in one context creates a comic effect.

In the poem "Get away with a despicable crowd ...", addressed to the "scholastics", who do not understand poetry, who have a "callous soul", one uses the form of the "century" in the phrase that is unusual for a temporary lexeme: They will beat fools / by poetic whips / And your shame, children of the darkness, / will be given to the whistle of centuries! (Yazykov, 1964). Such use can be considered occasional.

SUMMARY

The word "century" is used 57 times in N.M. Yazykov's poetry. The word "century" is not used in the main meaning, recorded by the dictionaries of the Russian language of the XIX – XXI centuries, - 'the time interval of one hundred years, century' in Yazykov's works. This can be explained by the fact that the combinations with temporary lexemes in their direct meaning are devoid of imagery, as a rule, and, therefore, are not typical of romantic poetry.

The word century is used by N.M. Yazykov in the following meanings: 'time, period of time; modern poet's society', 'long time', 'life expectancy of a person', life, the period of someone's existence'. In the first meaning, the word "century" is used both in the singular and in the plural form. Characterizing a certain period in the life of society, the word "century", which is stylistically neutral, is able to appear in various phrases containing a qualitative assessment due to the events occurring during this period. So the poet conveys his sense of the era. The following figurative uses are of interest: N.M. Yazykov uses the personification technique, individually-authored detailed metaphors, in which the noun is used. After the metonymic transference, the word "century" acquires the meaning 'modern society for the poet'.

The word "century" in a number of other lexemes - the terms of time - occupies a special place, since it has the ability to name human life. Besides, it is the symbol of a long time. The noun "eternity" is not used in poetry by N.M. Yazykov.

CONCLUSIONS

Having analyzed the use of the word "century" in the work by N.M. Yazykov, we can draw the following conclusions. Like other temporal lexemes, the word "century" is stylistically neutral. However, in the poetic language, it is able to appear in the phrases with emotionally colored lexemes containing an assessment, thereby the author conveys his sense of the era. Based on the analysis of the compatibility of the word "century" in the poetry by N.M. Yazykov, we can conclude that the poet was ironic about the orders that prevailed in his modern society. Thus, his poems are not without political hints. The study of the features of temporary lexeme use in poetic creativity allows us to determine the specifics of the perception of time by the poet, contributes to the study of N.M. Yazykov's linguistic picture of the world.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

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