

VERBALIZATION OF “FAMILY” AS A CULTURAL NOTION IN THE NOVELS “WAR AND PEACE” BY L. TOLSTOY AND “IN CHANCERY” BY J. GALSWORTHY

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Abstract

Purpose: The paper is devoted to the study of verbalizing the social and cultural notion "family" in the second volume of the novel "War and Peace" by L. Tolstoy and the novel "In Chancery" by J. Galsworthy. It describes the stylistic devices enabling to realize positive and negative connotative components of the meaning of linguistic units verbalizing the notion "family".

Methodology: In order to achieve the goal of our research we conducted a thorough comparative analysis of the texts of the works under study.

Result: The results of our study allow us to draw a conclusion regarding the linguistic means enabling to realize ameliorative and pejorative connotative components in the meaning of the word "family" used in combination with it. Furthermore, the evidence from this study allowed us to compare the images of the British and Russian in the studied works represented by the analyzed linguistic means.

Applications: This research can be used for universities, teachers, and students.

Novelty/Originality: In this research, the model of Verbalization of "Family" as a Cultural Notion in the Novels "War and Peace" BY L. Tolstoy and "In Chancery" by J. Galsworthy is presented in a comprehensive and complete manner.

Keywords: Cultural Notion, Social Notion, Verbalization, Stylistic Devices, Ameliorative Emotiveness, Pejorative Emotiveness.

INTRODUCTION

The sociological dictionary describes the notion "family" as a unit generating considerable interest in the field of sociology. The author underlines the existence of many explanations to the notion "family" in sociology and highlights that it is studied from different angles. Traditionally, scientists have seen family as "homogeneous unity of people who co-reside, often with a sole head of household, clearly defined social roles and a distinct division of labor" (Turner, 2006). Recent developments in sociology have led to a change in perspective, with "family" being understood as "real or imagined networks based on obligations and affections of an interpersonal nature rather than being structurally determined" (Parveen, Sadiq & Suleman, 2016).

Romney et al. highlight the importance of kinship terminology study. Formal descriptions of kinship terms allow uncovering the psychological reality for the native speakers of the studied languages (Robbins, Lauver, Le, Davis, Langley, Carlstrom, 2004).

Parveen et al. note that the family is a vital institution and the main social unit in a community. Robbins et al. refer to the family as the guardian of tradition, performing a prominent function of transmitting the memories, values, and folklores of the earlier generations to the younger ones. Avise writes that family forms a link between the past, the present and the future of the community (Gataullina, Salieva, & Aslanova, 2017; Tarasova, Tarasov, 2018).

L. Gataullina, R.N. Salieva, U.V. Aslanova note the differences between the English and Russian languages on the basis of their research of English and Russian phraseological units containing the component denoting family relations. F.K. Tarasova and A.M. Tarasov name phrase semantic group "family" as one of the most significant ones (Amineva, 2015).

Furthermore, recent literature studies report on the importance of comparative analysis of fiction works written in different languages, V. R. Amineva calls this process 'interliterature dialogues'. F. G. Sabirova et al. express a similar opinion: "People have the need to analyze the phenomena, to describe the concepts, being not peculiar to their national culture" (Sabirova, Zakirova, Shangaraeva, Acar, 2018).

The purpose of the article is to study the means verbalization of "family" as a sociocultural notion in the second volume of the novel "War and Peace" by L. N. Tolstoy and the novel "In Chancery" by J. Galsworthy. The subject of study is the above-mentioned language means.

METHODS

In order to achieve the goal of our research, we conducted a thorough comparative analysis of the texts of the works under study. The comparative analysis is performed on various levels; consequently we applied the following methods:

1. Method of discourse analysis, which allows us to identify the stylistic devices used in the studied context.
2. Method of semantic analysis, which enables us to determine the exact meaning of a linguistic unit realized in each discourse under study.
3. Method of componential analysis, which helps us to single out different components of meaning that a linguistic unit has within a context under analysis.
4. The statistic method provides the possibility to judge the frequency of some linguistic unit's occurrence in the texts under analysis.
5. The descriptive method is applied to describe the procedure and outcomes of our research on the given level.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The second volume of the novel by L. N. Tolstoy "War and Peace" reflects the life of the characters between 1806 and 1812. Against the background of the post-war situation in the country and the truce with France, the author pays great attention to the description of the lives of noble families.

Parents show constant concern for their children, including their future family life. Parents prioritize the financial position of the potential fiancé, as they are confident that in this way, they will ensure the prosperous future of their child. However, disagreements arise between parents and children, the reason for which is the children's desire to enter into a marriage that is disadvantageous from the point of view of the parents. The Rostovs do not approve of the affection between their daughter Natasha and her cousin Boris. The author uses lexical repetition in Countess Rostova's speech, who cites many reasons why their marriage is impossible: "Оттого, что он молод, оттого, что он беден, оттого, что он родня" (Because he is young because he is poor because he is a relative). With the help of this stylistic device, Tolstoy shows that Natasha's mother was opposed to this union.

However, many marriages of convenience do not bring happiness. The most striking evidence of this is the relationship between Pierre Bezukhov and Helene. Pierre is disappointed in his marriage, which is expressed with the help of oxymoron "неискренняя любовь" (insincere love). Pierre suspects Helene of adultery, calling her "a depraved woman". Helene, in turn, despises Pierre, the author puts sarcasm in her words: "Вот храбрец отыскался!" (What a brave man!).

It should be noted that verbalizing the concept of marriage in the second volume of the novel "War and Peace", the author uses the words "брак, муж, жена" (marriage, husband, wife) 111 times. In 39 cases, these words have pejorative connotations; in 57 cases, they have neutral connotation, and only in 15 cases ameliorative connotation. Expressing the negative connotation of the notion "marriage", the author combines the word "marriage" with such expressions as "что-то неестественное и страшное есть в этом предстоящем браке" (there is something unnatural and terrible in this forthcoming marriage); "тяжело было начать говорить об этом браке" (it was hard to start talking about this marriage), etc. The word "муж" (husband) is combined with expressions "чужак" (eccentric), "покинутая (мужем)" (abandoned (by her husband)), etc. The word "жена" (wife) is combined with expressions "неверная" (adulterous); "оскорбление, нанесенное ему женой" (the insult inflicted on him by his wife), etc. (Villalobos Antúnez, 2013; Mulyono, Asmawi, & Nuriah, 2018; Bin Madasa, Darmi, & Baharun, 2016; Ajallooeian, Gorji, & Niknejadi, 2015; Marques, Villate, & Carvalho, 2018).

Thus, in the second volume of "War and Peace", marriage as a relationship between spouses is described from a negative point of view, which is expressed in the use of both lexical and stylistic means with a pejorative connotation.

Another important topic in the work is the relationship between generations. Despite the differences on the issue of marriage between the elder and the younger Rostovs, they are connected by strong and sincere relations. For example, when Nikolai loses a large amount of money, he expects his father, who is in financial difficulties, to refuse to repay his debt. Despite the fact that Nikolai is trying to behave, as if nothing serious happened, he has a deep feeling of guilt before his father, which is expressed in the novel with an antithesis: "Ему хотелось бы целовать руки своего отца, на коленях просить его прощения, а он небрежным и даже грубым тоном говорил, что это со всяким случается" (He wanted to kiss his father's hands, to ask for forgiveness on his knees, but he said in a rude tone that it happened to everybody). But, to Nikolai's surprise, his father agrees to his request and does not even scold him for losing. The father's response touches Nikolai, and he asks his father for forgiveness.

However, not all families have such trusting relationships between parents and children. The old prince Bolkonsky takes out his anger on his daughter Marya, constantly insulting her, which is shown in the text with the help of a metaphor "вся сила его гнева обрушилась на нее" (all the force of his anger fell on her), as well as hyperbole "она была причиной всего" (she was the cause of everything).

The analysis of the lexical-semantic group "family" in the second volume of the novel "War and Peace" speaks of the warm attitude of parents to their children, which is expressed in words with positive connotation: "единственный" (the only), "лучший" (the best), "ненаглядный" (beloved), "нежный" (tender) that the author uses in combination with the word "сын" (son). The word "сын" (son) is used 90 times in the text, while in 25 cases it bears ameliorative connotation, in 9 cases it is a pejorative evaluation and in 56 cases it is neutral evaluation. (Brooks, J., & Brooks, J. (2000).

At the same time, the connotation of the word “дочь” (daughter) is not as unambiguous - it is distinguished by ameliorative connotation in 9 cases, pejorative connotation in 10 cases, and neutral connotation in 32 cases. The negative emotiveness of this lexeme is most often found in scenes where the relations of the old prince Bolkonsky and Marya are described, and is expressed by using such phrases as “закричал он в гневе (на дочь)” (he cried out in anger (at the daughter)), “недовольство к дочери” (discontent with his daughter), “раздражительность... направленная против дочери (irritability ... directed against his daughter), etc.

The word “отец” (father) can also have both positive and negative connotations. In descriptions of count Rostov ameliorative connotation is more common (14 cases), and in descriptions of old prince Bolkonsky pejorative connotation is more common (26 cases). In most cases (125), the word “отец” (father) has a neutral connotation.

The second novel of The Forsyte Saga by J. Galsworthy continues the story of the life of a wealthy British family. The main plotlines of the novel “In Chancery” are Soames Forsyte's divorce proceedings, the relationship of his sister Winifred Dartie with her husband, and the problems of the third generation of Forsytes.

The author pays great attention to the description of unhappy marriages. Soames Forsyte wants to have a child and tries to persuade his wife Irene, who left him many years ago, to return to him. However, Irene refuses to return, as she has never loved him, which the author expresses with the help of a metaphor: “She... had given him, for three long years, all he had wanted—except, indeed, her heart”. Galsworthy describes Soames's predicament with numerous metaphors: “the nightmare of this divorce”, “we go on only half alive”, “in irons”. [Hout, S. \(2011\)](#)

The marriage of Soames's sister Winifred is also unhappy. Describing her married life, the author uses a metaphor “had borne the brunt of him”. When Monty leaves her, Winifred tries to get a divorce, but her husband suddenly returns. Despite her resentment, she takes him back and even in some way welcomes him. Galsworthy explains this by saying that Forsytes consider their spouses their “property”, as shown in the metaphor used by the author in describing the scene after Winifred's husband's departure: “Though he was ‘the limit’ he was yet her property”.

The notion “marriage” is verbalized in the text using the words “marriage”, “divorce”, “husband”, “wife”. In general, the attitude toward marriage in the novel is negative. In 5 uses, the word “marriage” has a pejorative connotation that we can observe in such phrases as “disastrous marriage”, “I found out my mistake ... the first week of our marriage”, “wreck of his first marriage”. The frequent use of the lexeme “divorce” in the text (59 times) and its use with negative connotation (14 times) in combination with the words “beastly”, “ridiculous”, “wretched” also indicates a negative attitude towards marriage. However, in the connotation of the lexemes “husband” (husband) and “wife” we did not find a significant amount of examples with ameliorative or pejorative connotation. Neutral connotation prevailed.

The author emphasizes Soames's strong desire to have a son using an anaphora: “a son—something to look forward to, something to make the rest of life worthwhile, something to leave himself to”. We see that other characters also treat their children with love. For example, the author expresses the warm attitude of Soames's parents to their son using lexical repetition: “Soames had always been their pet, with his tendency to give them pictures, and his almost weekly visits which they missed so much, and his need for their sympathy evoked by the wreck of his first marriage”. [Hout, S. \(2011\)](#)

In the text of the novel “In Chancery”, the word “son” occurs 70 times. In 24 cases, it is distinguished by a positive connotation, which is shown in such phrases as “longing for a son”, “duty to his son”, “to save his son's feelings”. The word “son” is negative in one case and neutral in 45 cases. However, the attitude towards daughters is not always positive. Forsytes only want male children, heirs, which is expressed in the verbalization of the word “daughter”. In 6 cases it has a pejorative connotation. For example, after finding out his daughter's birth, Soames says: “To have taken that risk—to have been through this agony... for a daughter!”. In 3 cases, this word has ameliorative connotation and in 26 cases its connotation is neutral.

Younger Forsytes respect their parents. For instance, Soames and Winifred constantly try to hide bad news from the father, which the author expresses with the help of personification: “father's nerves would never stand the disclosure”.

However, we also find stylistic devices that express a negative attitude towards the father. For example, Val Dartie is ashamed of his father's behavior, which Galsworthy expresses with the help of a hyperbole: “To be ashamed of his own father is perhaps the bitterest experience a young man can go through”. [Hout, S. \(2011\)](#)

The analysis of the lexical-semantic group “family” in the English language shows mixed feelings towards the father. In the text, the word “father” occurs 181 times. In 16 cases, it bears ameliorative connotation, which is expressed with the help such phrases as “affection for his father ... had increased”, “dear father”, “he was ... fond of his father”. In 22 cases, the word father carries pejorative connotation. This happens when the word “father” is combined with such words as “an amateur of a father”, “bounder”, “ashamed of his own father”. At the same time, the word “mother” has a pejorative connotation in only one case, positive connotation in 7 cases and neutral connotation in 107 examples.

SUMMARY

In the second volume of “War and Peace”, marriage is described from a negative perspective, which is achieved using lexical and stylistic means with pejorative emotiveness. The analysis of the lexical-semantic group “family” in the novel

proves a warm attitude of parents to their children, which is shown with the help of words with ameliorative connotation. However, the word “отец” (father) can have both positive and negative emotiveness.

In the novel “In Chancery”, the word “son” is mostly distinguished by positive emotiveness, while the attitude towards daughters is more negative. The analysis of the lexical-semantic group “family” in the novel shows mixed feelings towards fathers.

Verbalizing the concept “family”, the authors combine words from the lexical-semantic group of the same name with words that have a positive or negative connotation. They also use various stylistic devices: metaphor, antithesis, repetition, personification, hyperbole, comparison, oxymoron. [Schreiber, E. J. \(2010\).](#)

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it should also be noted that the word “семья” (family) was used 8 times in the second volume of the novel “War and Peace”. In 3 cases, it had a positive connotation and in 5 cases neutral one. In the novel “In Chancery”, the word “family” was used 66 times. 6 words are distinguished by ameliorative connotation, 4 words are used with pejorative connotation. The remaining 56 words have neutral connotation. The difference in the number of word use, in our opinion, can be explained by the peculiarities of the subjects of the works under study.

The description of several families in the second volume of “War and Peace” allows L.N. Tolstoy to create a holistic picture of “family” in Russian society at the beginning of the 19th century. In some families, the relationships between parents and children are built on love and trust, while in others, parents can be rude to their children. In addition, throughout the entire work, the author expresses a negative attitude towards marriages of convenience and shows that, despite their popularity among noble families, such alliances do not bring happiness.

In the novel “In Chancery”, the author describes the life of only one large British family, which becomes a reflection of the attitude to the notion “family” of the rich British in the late 19th century. The most important value for Forsytes is property and even family relationships are viewed through its prism - Forsytes consider spouses to be their property and have children in order to have an heir. The characters of the novel look at divorce as an event that tarnishes the honor of the family.

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