

THE SEMANTIC CATEGORY OF ANOMALY IN THE NOVEL “THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT” BY OLIVER SACKS

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: This research was conducted with the aim of considering the linguistic means of expressing the core of the semantic field (SF) of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in the literary work “The man who mistook his wife for a hat” by Oliver Sacks in the English language.

Methodology: The method of conceptual analysis of the means of expressing the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of the anomaly was used. Lexical units were also analyzed from the point of view of a method of analysis of vocabulary definitions and a contextual method.

Main Findings: The category of an anomaly in the novel under study includes mental and physiological components. This mental unit is a semantic field with a core, near and distant peripheries. The core of the SF of the mental component within the novel under study includes lexical units representing neutral bookish style and medical terms in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases.

Applications of this study: The results of this paper will be helpful for lecturers of cognitive linguistics, lexicology, lexicography, stylistics, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, country study. The information given in this article can be useful for the preparation and correction of the information about lexical units in the dictionaries or it can function as a basis for further analysis and creation of special corpora.

Novelty/Originality of this study: The linguistic means of expressing the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in this novel were analyzed in terms of cognitive linguistics and lexicography. Lexemes and collocations in a special context reflecting different sides of the mental anomaly from the point of medicine in English were considered.

Keywords: *Semantic, Category, Anomaly, Lexical Unit, Medical Terms, Collocation.*

INTRODUCTION

Categories from the standpoint of philosophy are the most common concepts and principles describing the structural organization of nature, society and rational activity (Kuznecov, 2005; Cruse, 1992). The category in modern linguistics is a semantic component that is expressed by various means in the language (Coulson, 2000). Categories are called semantic or cognitive in linguistics and they are considered to be mentioned as notional ones in philosophy (Aarts, 2006). It is logical to define these mental units as “semantic components that belong to vast frames of linguistic means that are given in natural language by various ways of expression” (Bondarko, 2013).

The analysis of categorization implies different approaches to the consideration of perception of the thoughts and acts of a person. Categorization is defined as an automatic method of everyday activity of the human being. A person categorizes objects and people from the point of view of his specific experience. Things are classified in accordance with their position in the world image. The categories of thinking are the mental units that belong to the class of abstract words (Lakoff, 2005). All abstract phenomena are characterized in the natural language (Lakoff, 1990). Categorization is a mental activity which gives the opportunity to classify different data in various spheres of knowledge (Cohen, 2005).

The semantic categories imply the definition of this or that phenomena from the position of the perception of reality, but from the point of view of the linguistic theory mental units are revealed in speech activities (Bondarko, 2013). A category is a mental formation that is culturally and linguistically marked. Thus, categorization implies cultural differences (Kövecses, 2006). A category is characterized by a set of some features that are common to all members of the mental unit (Corrigan, 1989; Holyoak, 1997). Every category implies its key members (Rosch, 1975). In linguistics, it points to a group of lexical units possessing common features (Matveeva, 2010). It means that the categories form a certain system of links and relations with other mental units. Moreover, the categories have their own complex semantic structure. Any category doesn't have a stable structure in terms of personal experience. It can be formed according to data received during life. Thus, the fixed levels in the boundaries of a certain category are debatable. The elements of the category have similarities and differences, they are not equal to each other. Some concepts are more distinguished psychologically than the others. For instance, the category of anomaly can be represented as a mental unit, which includes different levels of abstraction. The nature of any mental unit in the language can be defined by considering the lexical units that are classified and included in the semantic category in accordance with the initial data received from dictionaries. They are the linguistic means that define the hierarchy of the mental unit. Such linguistic units can be included in the semantic space of other categories. Thus, the categories can have relations with different mental units depending on the experience of a person and his linguistic world image. The categories are also characterized by their specific inner formations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Categories have specific features in their structure which can be represented differently ([Rosch, 2013](#)). For instance, L. E. Crawford and W. G. Hayward consider the structures of linguistic and non-linguistic spatial categories ([Crawford, 2000](#); [Hayward, 1995](#)). They can be organized within certain levels of abstraction: the highest, basic and low levels ([Tversky, 2013](#)). The perception features and functional properties of one of the categories were demonstrated in the work “Objects, parts and categories” by N. Tversky ([Tversky, 1984](#)). Those ideas were developed by other scientists, for instance, the category of the body was considered by N. J. Enfield ([Enfield, 2006](#)). The basic level is usually considered as the primary one because it includes the most commonly used lexical units ([Premack, 1985](#)). “We ‘automatically’ classify things around us as books, pencils”, etc. ([Taylor, 2003](#)). The basic level of the category means prototypes. The psychological interpretation of the prototype is evident when a “central or typical element of a category” is revealed in the course of an experiment to determine the components of a mental unit ([Rosch, 1975](#)). The prototype in the light of cognitive linguistics should be considered as a mental representation of the category, different types of concepts. E. Rosch called the prototypes categorical centers; all the other objects that are included in this or that mental unit are grouped around these centers in the mind of the individual. The category centers have the most complete set of features characteristic of all their members ([Rosch, 1978](#)). Peripheral members of categories can be defined as secondary prototypes, which are the basis for the formation of secondary categories ([Cruse, 1995](#)). An appeal is made to the prototype, and then, one or another member of the category is foregrounded, taking into account the communicative situation (context) ([Geeraerts, 1993](#)). The levels above this one mean less perception in terms of sensory input ([Wierzbicka, 1984](#)). All these levels include central and peripheral members ([Taylor, 2008](#)).

Categorization is connected with all cognitive processes of the human being and it is processed by the natural language. The research in this field is connected with the development of functional theories of grammar by A. V. Bondarko ([Bondarko, 2013](#)). The category tends to be given as the semantic field (SF) with its core, near and distant peripheries. The core of any semantic category means the lexical units which belong to the neutral bookish style. Scientific terms are also included in this part of the SF. The near periphery of the SF of the category is formed by means of informal lexis – slang, vulgarisms, etc. The distant periphery is fulfilled with euphemisms. The category of anomaly is considered in terms of SFs here. Every element of the SF of the category of anomaly has further specification ([Ptashkin, 2015](#); [Ptashkin, 2018](#)). It is expedient to study the category of an anomaly as a sufficiently independent and hierarchically complex mental unit, which includes numerous components of a more particular character. This category is represented as a mental unit, the inner structure of which is vertical: the lowest level, basic level, the highest level. In this case, the lowest level means the detailed representatives which are in close semantic relations, for instance, disease – mental disease. The basic level is characterized by the mental units that are of frequent usage, for instance, disease, disorder, illness, etc. The highest level of abstraction is the primary word *anomaly* and all its derivatives. Moreover, the structure of the category of anomaly can be demonstrated following the theories of functional grammar ([Bondarko, 2013](#)). In this case, the contents of the category of the anomaly are analyzed using the key term “semantic field”. Any category includes the above-mentioned components – the core, near and distant peripheries.

The author of this work follows the idea of a structure of the SF of the components of the category of an anomaly, which combines both theories, i.e. the mental unit understudy is given as the combination of SFs with vertical levels in some of the parts of this semantic space. For instance, the SF of the category of anomaly includes the component *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders*. This element of the SF is formed by the terms that have a further specification in the boundaries of this category in general: schizophrenia (F20.9) – schizoaffective disorder (F20.9, F25.0, F25.1), schizophreniform disorder (F20.81), etc. Thus, it has a detailed division and connection with other types of mental disorders. The levels of categorization are observed: basic and the lowest levels. The structure of the SFs of the category of an anomaly within the text “The man who mistook his wife for a hat” by Oliver Sacks is different from the standard classification of the diseases ([World Health Organization, 2020](#)).

The core of the SF of the category of an anomaly in the novel “The man who mistook his wife for a hat” by Oliver Sacks in English is polycentric one because it includes mental and physiological components ([Ptashkin, 2015](#); [Palmer, 2000](#)). Polycentric fields imply the existence of various parts of the semantic space. These components can be considered as independent mental units with their semantic structure of the core and peripheries ([Bloh, 2011](#)). The mental and physiological components of the category of the anomaly are represented in this study from the position of cognitive linguistics. The mental component of the semantic category under study reveals the mental and psychic types of the anomaly ([Nikoshkova, 2006](#)).

The central feature of considering the mental unit of anomaly is the analysis of the deviations of various degrees. It is necessary to mention that the category of anomaly is ambivalent. It can be considered as pathology or it can be considered as partly approved by society. The term “mental anomaly” covers a huge range of states – from mildly eccentric behavior to psychological problems, when a person can completely lose touch with reality. The states associated with the insufficient development of the mental (cognitive) abilities of man belong to the same sphere. The task of this work is to consider serious diseases that belong to the sphere of psychiatry.

METHODOLOGY

The conceptual analysis was taken as the main method of describing the structure and means of expressing the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in the mentioned text. The data about the conceptual analysis is reflected in the theories of conceptual and semantic fields, in cognitive science and cognitive linguistics ([Radden, 2009](#); [Damon, 2006](#); [Taylor, 2003](#)).

One of the objects of conceptual analysis is the meanings of lexemes, collocations, phraseological units, texts as well as the whole novels ([Allwood, 1999](#)). The following stages of analysis are given: 1) revealing the complex of means of expressing the category in the given literary work: a) determining the keyword (the name of the category) that represents the mental unit in English; b) constructing the lexical field of the lexemes of the category; 2) describing the semantics of the means of expressing the category: a) analyzing the literary text to reveal some extra meanings of the lexical units under study and cognitive characteristics that form this concept as a mental unit; 3) describing the macrostructure of the category: components. This type of analysis implies consideration of the meanings of the lexical units that are included in the SF of the category under study ([Evans, 2009](#)). The core part of the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly is the subject for consideration; it is necessary to differentiate the core and peripheries of the SF in the analysis of the semantics because they are used in different spheres of thinking.

The goal of such a method is to describe the semantics of the means of expressing the mental unit and consider the structure of the category. The data is also carried out with the help of a method of analysis of vocabulary definitions and a contextual method.

It is necessary to define a cognitive context or the field of knowledge that is associated with the meaning of a certain word to analyze this lexical unit in the light of cognitive linguistics. The basic task in the boundaries of this work is to reveal the means of expression of the mental unit under study and define the elements of the SFs of the category of an anomaly. This work deals with the conceptual method which includes the analysis of the lexis of the text to summarize the contexts in which the keywords are used, define the characteristic features of the category and structure the semantic space of the category-defining the core of the SF using the analysis of special literature: a. dictionaries and b. the contextual method. Analysis of vocabulary definitions, that is, the interpretation of the meanings of words that are given in dictionaries is often used in the study of lexical units of a particular language. These definitions contain the data about the semantics of a given word and its contextual peculiarities.

The stages of the conceptual analysis vary depending on the goal of the research. This paper offers these main techniques of considering the means and structure of the category of an anomaly: 1. definition of the keyword representing the concept in the English language; this stage also includes the analysis of the derivatives of the main word; 2. analysis of the related words that form the SF of a given category; 3. the analysis of the inner structure; it is based on the definitions received from dictionaries; 4. analysis of literary texts. The fifth stage includes the final formation of the SF of the category under study.

RESULTS / FINDINGS

The SFs of mental and physiological components of the category of anomaly can intersect in the evaluation of certain actions that differ from the norm.

The core of the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly implies two elements. The first element of the core of the SF of the category of an anomaly in this novel is *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders*. This part of the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly reflects the International Classification of Diseases ([World Health Organization, 2020](#)). The second element of the core of this SF is *lexical units that belong to neutral bookish style, denoting mental deficiency, psychological and physiological traumas*. The main focus of this work is the means of expressing the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in English from the medical point of view.

The core part *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders* of the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly is represented by such lexemes and collocations as *epilepsy, violent seizure, moronic, autism, idiot savant, brain-damaged, retarded, acute stage, encephalitis, psychomotor, temporal lobe disorder, verbal auditory agnosia, dreamy states, loss of speech*, etc. The revealed meanings allow us to formulate the ideas and patterns of structuring knowledge about this phenomenon in the text under analysis ([Sacks, 2011](#)). For example:

“He was about 21, said to be hopelessly *retarded*, and had earlier had one of the *violent seizures* from which he suffers” ([Sacks, 2011](#)).

This example considers the medical case of a patient who suffered from a mental disability. The lexical unit “retarded” is given in its direct meaning “a slower mental development”, representing the corresponding part of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly – medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders. The collocation “violent seizure” is represented by the meaning “a very sudden attack of an illness in which one develops violent movements” and refers to the core of the SFs of mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly ([Collins, 2014](#)).

The character of this example is an attendant in a psychiatric hospital, who offends a patient suffering from autism. The lexical unit “idiot” belongs to the sphere of medicine meaning diagnosis and it is also used in informal speech. Thus, this lexeme can be included in two parts of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly: the core and the near periphery. The lexical unit “autistic” actualizes the meaning “a mental condition characterized by great difficulty in communicating with others” and refers to the first element of the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly.

“I was puzzled by this, haunted by it as I drove home. An ‘*idiot*’? *Autism*? No. Something else was going on here” (Sacks, 2011).

The lexemes “idiot” and “autism” in the boundaries of this example mean “a mentally ill person” and “a mental disorder that makes people unable to communicate properly to form relationships” (Mayor, 2009).

“So I arranged a further visit, and to see his entire *chart*” (Sacks, 2011).

The meaning of the lexeme “chart” within this context corresponds to the meaning presented in a dictionary: “a record of medical information for a patient” (Merriam-Webster, 2016).

Some of the examples deal with the first attack of the disease of the character – *chart*, a *very high fever, onset of incessant, and subsequently continuing seizures, a brain-damaged or autistic condition*. The lexeme “chart” actualizes the meaning of “medical history”. The collocation “description of one’s original illness” points to the cores of the SFs of both mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly. The collocation “high fever” refers to the SF of the physiological component. The meaning of the lexeme “onset” coincides with the meaning revealed in the previous example. The collocation *incessant, and subsequently continuing seizure* means “spasms that never stop”. The collocation *brain-damaged or autistic condition* actualizes the meaning “an injury to the brain that was caused by temporary or permanent conditions”. The lexemes “illness” and “state” are given in their direct meanings. All these lexical units are included in the cores of both mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly.

“His spinal fluid had been *abnormal* during the *acute stage of the illness*. The consensus was that he had probably suffered *encephalitis* of sorts. His *seizures* were of many different types – *petit mal, grand mal, ‘akinetic’, and ‘psychomotor’*” (Sacks, 2011).

The lexeme “abnormal” and the collocation “acute stage of the illness” refers to both cores of the SFs of the mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly. The meaning of the lexeme “encephalitis” in the boundaries of the phrase “to suffer encephalitis” is “swelling of the brain”. The meaning of the lexeme “seizure” coincides with the meaning revealed in the previous examples. The collocation “petit mal seizures” actualize the meaning of “momentary spells of unconsciousness”. The collocation “grand mal seizures” represents the meaning of “muscle spasms and prolonged loss of consciousness”. The collocation “akinetic seizures” indicates the meaning of “a very sudden attack of illness, characterized or affected by akinesia”. The collocation “psychomotor seizures” is represented by the meaning of “anomaly of consciousness that involves purposeful movements of the arms and legs, amnesia or hallucinations”.

The author of this text considers the convulsions and other symptoms that characterize epilepsy that accompanies the main disease – autism. The lexeme “illness” can be referred to any part of the SFs of the mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly. The collocation “intractable seizures” is represented by the meaning “major spasms”. The collocation “major convulsions” refer to the medical terms that belong to the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly. The collocations “little seizures”, “dreamy states” and lexemes “falls”, “blanks” characterize the diseases of epilepsy, retardation, autism, aphasia. Thus, they define the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly. They can stand as the further specification of the term “intractable seizures”. The collocation “loss of speech” also functions as the means of expressing the SF of the mental component of this category. The lexeme “regression” in the boundaries of the collocations “general intellectual and emotional regression” actualizes the meaning “progress of a disease”.

“He was returned permanently to his family, as a ‘*fulltime*’ *epileptic, autistic, perhaps aphasic, retarded child*” (Sacks, 2011).

The terms “epileptic”, “autistic”, “aphasic”, “retarded” are considered in this example. They are the means of expressing definite spheres of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly. The lexeme “retarded” in the boundaries of the collocation “retarded child” is also included in the SF that is formed employing a neutral bookish style.

Some of the means of expressing the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly can only be observed in a certain context: “he is passive, he is played upon, he cannot be himself” (Sacks, 2011).

“In ‘*secondary*’ *autism*, like Jose’s, caused by *brain disease* at a later stage in life, there is some memory, perhaps some nostalgia, for the main” (Sacks, 2011).

The collocation “secondary autism” defines the core part of the SF of the mental component – *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders*. The collocation “brain disease” can characterize all types of mental disorders.

“The twins, who were then twenty-six years old, had been in institutions since the age of seven, variously diagnosed as *autistic, psychotic or severely retarded*” (Sacks, 2011).

The characters of this example are twins with some problems in the sphere of mental activity. The lexemes “autistic”, “psychotic”, “severely retarded” imply the meanings of “suffering from autism”, “suffering from psychosis”, “very slow or limited in intellectual development”. All of them belong to the sphere of medicine. Thus, they characterize the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly – *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders*.

Several examples deal with the appearance of characters suffering from mental retardation in chapter IV. The lexeme “undersized” characterizes the core of the SF of the mental component of this category in general. Moreover, it belongs to *lexical units that belong to neutral bookish style, denoting mental deficiency, psychological and physiological traumas*, which is included in the core of the SF of the mental component. The collocation “with disturbing disproportions in head and hands” refers to formal style, it is widely used in medical texts like this. It actualizes the meaning “absence of symmetry of a head and hands” and is included in the core of the SF of a physiological anomaly. The collocation “high-arched palates” and “arched feet” also define the core of the SF of the physiological component of the category of an anomaly. The collocation “monotonous squeaky voices” also characterize the condition of the characters but it is not included in medical lexis. It belongs to the neutral bookish style. The lexemes “tics” and “mannerism” are the means of expressing the core of the SF of the mental component; they actualize the meaning “doing something repeatedly with face, hands, etc. without realizing it”. The collocation “degenerative myopia” implies physiological anomaly from the norm. The collocation “distorted eyes” define the physiological component of the category of an anomaly and has the meaning “changed the position of the eyes”. The collocations “misplaced, obsessed, and absurd concentration” characterize the strange behavior of these idiots savants and actualize the meanings of the SF of the mental component. Thus, the lexemes and collocations that are means of expressing mental and physiological components of the category of anomaly can be observed in the same context. It proves the fact that these components are inseparable in natural language.

The twins Liosha and Yura suffering from autism are in the focus of the last chapter. They are speech-damaged. The lexemes “brain-damaged”, “speech-damaged” actualize their direct meanings in the boundaries of the core part of the SF of the mental component, but they are also included in another part of this SF because they can be general terms. The part of the sentence “prattle with each other, in a primitive, babble-like language of their own” defines the type of brain damage – speech (Sacks, 2011). Lexical units in this part of the sentence belong to neutral bookish style and are the means of expressing the second element of the SF under study.

Another cause of an autistic child in this book is Nadia. The phraseological unit “to met sth out” actualizes its direct meaning “to make someone receive unfair treatment”. The lexeme “treatment” characterizes the SFs of the category of an anomaly in general because it refers to all the types of anomalies. The collocation “autistic child” is a medical term denoting the SF of the mental component. The term “defectiveness” is a synonym of the term “retardation” in this example. In general, it can refer to all the types of an anomaly. Thus, it can be included in the SFs of mental and physiological anomalies.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS

This work follows the traditional analysis of the lexis representing any category with a specific inner hierarchy (Rosch, 2015). The structure of the semantic category can be demonstrated using the conceptual analysis distinguishing different levels of abstraction within a mental unit (Pansky, 2004). The theory of fields developed by A. V. Bondarenko was used in this work as the basis for creating the semantic space of the mental unit under study (Bondarko, 2013). The author of this article considers the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in terms of the scientific works in psychology, psychiatry, cognitive linguistics, lexicography (Barlett, 2011). It takes into account the data of cognitive linguistics to depict the specific features that characterize the linguistic data about the phenomena described. The structure of the semantic structure of the category of the anomaly was shown in the form of SFs. Moreover, it can be given in the hierarchical levels: low, basic, the highest levels of abstraction (Rosch, 1975). Thus, the goal of this research was to demonstrate the variety of approaches to the nature of the semantic categories. The absence or presence of certain elements within the structure of the semantic category depends on personal experience which is based on social conditions, culture, upbringing.

It is necessary to mention that literary works help to reconstruct the semantic structure of the semantic categories in natural languages from the point of cognitive analysis. English literature reflects the existence of the above-mentioned mental units that can function in the boundaries of the semantic category of anomaly or as the independent elements in the worldview of a certain author.

The medical terms of expressing the core of the SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly in the novel “The man who mistook his wife for a hat” by Oliver Sacks in English are the corresponding lexemes and collocations. Each representative of this semantic space of the category of anomaly implies culturally significant information. These lexical units are represented in the core of this SF of the mental component of the category of an anomaly; some of them are also included in the near periphery of this SF. The means of expressing the near and distant peripheries of the SF of

the mental component weren't the object of this work. They are mentioned in this work as the material for further reconstruction of the semantic category under study.

The contextual analysis helped to reveal lexical units of higher abstraction that characterize both the SFs of mental and physiological components of the category of an anomaly, for instance: illness, disease, disorder, onset, abnormal, defectiveness, etc. Other lexemes or collocations indicate a certain diagnosis; they are considered as a further concretization of the SF *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders*: childhood schizophrenia, brain-damaged, speech-damaged, obsessive or schizoid types, high-arched palates, high-arched feet, idiots savants, psychotic or severely retarded, secondary autism, brain disease, organic epilepsy, epileptic, autistic, aphasic, retarded, onset, intractable seizures, major convulsions, little seizures, falls, blanks, dreamy states, loss of speech, general intellectual, emotional regression, incessant, and subsequently continuing seizure, autistic proficiencies, and performances, encephalitis, psychomotor, temporal lobe disorder, verbal auditory agnosia, petit mal, grand mal, akinetic seizures. As a result of such analysis, the examples that show the causes of mental and physiological diseases contextually without using special means of linguistic expression were considered in the novel "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" by Oliver Sacks in the English language. The information about the SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly reflecting a wide range of means of expression which demonstrates various aspects of psychotic disorders was briefly described. Thus, the novel "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" is a bright example for considering the structure of the SF of the category of an anomaly, defining the central and peripheral components of the semantic space under study. Moreover, the novel "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" is characterized by the presence of the terms that belong to the physiological component of the category of an anomaly because many psychological problems are accompanied by physiological ones. As a result, both SFs of the components of the category of the anomaly are interconnected with each other.

The analysis of the above-mentioned text shows that the lexemes and collocations which characterize the SF of the mental component of the category of the anomaly are not polysemantic. Only one meaning of these lexical units can be pointed out: "anomaly from the norm in the sphere of physiology and psyche". Some specific types of meanings of lexemes, collocations were observed in the context.

The structure of the mental component in the novel "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" is presented following the analysis of special literature and dictionaries.

Two components within the core of the SF of mental anomalies in English were defined: *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders, lexical units that belong to neutral bookish style, denoting mental deficiency, psychological and physiological traumas*. Every part of this SF has its further specification: the core, near and distant peripheries. These mental units are realized both in connection with medicine and everyday ideas. The SF of *medical terms denoting various types of mental disorders* is expressed by the lexical units that belong to different levels of categorization within the mental component of the category of an anomaly.

The second component wasn't in the special focus of this work. Moreover, the near periphery of the SF of the mental component wasn't considered either but some lexical units of informal style were analyzed in a complex with the lexemes and collocations that belong to the medical sphere, for instance: idiot, autistic, etc. The presence of lexical units that belong to informal style within the given context proves the fact that the core and the near periphery of the SF of the mental component of the category of the anomaly are interconnected and exist together in the consciousness of the characters of the literary work under study.

CONCLUSION

The category of anomaly is a mental unit with its structure of different SFs. The peculiarities of such structure can be revealed by employing analyzing the meanings of lexical units representing the core, near and distant peripheries of the SFs of the category under study. These meanings revealed within special contexts help to specify the semantics of lexical units that characterize the SFs of the mental component of this category in the novel "The man who mistook his wife for a hat" by Oliver Sacks in the English language.

The SF of the mental component of the category of anomaly needs further reconstruction and revealing other means of its expression. The study of the differences and similarities in the content of the mental component of the category of anomaly presupposes an overview of this phenomenon from a synchronic point of view.

The category in this work is understood as the mental formation in the boundaries of SFs, represented by diverse language means.

The similarities of defining mental and physiological components of this mental unit prove the fact that the category of anomaly exists in the human mind as an inseparable complex of notions about physiological, psychological and social anomalies.

LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD

The status of the category of anomaly is controversial, this mental unit can be considered in connection with more abstract phenomena. Also, it is necessary to study the category of an anomaly as a sufficiently independent and hierarchically complex mental unit, which includes numerous components of a more detailed character.

The category of anomaly is a universal mental unit and it can be viewed in the light of contrastive linguistics to reveal cultural differences in terms of the perception of reality. It looks perspective to compare natural languages in the sense of the category of an anomaly; it allows observing lacunas in both languages.

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