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THE LEXICAL CATEGORY OF QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION IN THE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract. Words and phrases of evaluation take an important part in any languages, and they are characterized by frequency of usage. The prospect of studying such words and phrases in English and Russian is determined by the theoretical and practical needs related to the language learning. The subjects of the comparative studies are semantics and structural features of the emotive lexicon of the English and Russian languages taken from the works of Russian and English writers. In this article a set of linguistic methods was used such as componential analysis, the analysis of the dictionary entries and contextual analysis. The results can be used in the sphere of contrastive linguistics and lexicology.

Key words: words of evaluation, contrastive linguistics, lexicology, foreign language, English language, teaching a foreign language.

Introduction. The category of evaluation is a universal category because evaluation is an integral part of communication. It can be either positive or negative. The category of evaluation in Russian covers nouns, adjectives and even adverbs. As to its linguistic expression, this category is mainly expressed by means of various suffixes. [1]

Methodology. In English there are few suffixes of evaluation. They are: *-ie, -ing, -let, -ette (-let (chicklet, starlet), -ling (weakling), -y (daddy), -ie (lassie, oldie)*. [2]

Most often emotive component is expressed in English by adjectives such as little, poor, dear, nice, and some others which have in their semantics, in addition to the basic meaning, the sense of emotional evaluation.

The comparative analysis is carried out on the basis of Russian texts as well as English texts and their translations into English and Russian languages: *Fyodor Dostoevsky The Idiot, Crime and Punishment; Ivan Turgenev Fathers and Children, Lewis Carroll Alice in Wonderland; Hodgson Burnett Little Lord Fauntleroy, The Secret garden*. The main text is the Russian text out of the two.

Thus the category of evaluation is expressed by means of word combinations adjective + noun that means in an analytical way.

Results. *LITTLE* is the most frequent adjective in the English language that expresses qualitative and quantitative evaluation. We find *little* in combination with nouns denoting various objects:

Accommodation

• “By this time she had found her way into a tidy little room.” [17] – «К этому времени она пробралась в маленькую комнатку, сверкающую чистотой». [16] (Alice in Wonderland)

• “By the way, too – my father's little place is not far from there.” [15] – «Кстати и моего отца усадьбишка оттуда не далеко». [14] (Fathers and Children)

Articles of clothing

• “A little kerchief was flung about her bare throat, but lay slanting on one side.” [13] – «Маленькая косыночка была накинута на обнаженную шею». [12] (Crime and punishment)

Furniture

• «Барин вздохнул и присел на скамеечку». [14] – “His master sighed, and sat down on a little bench.” [15] (Fathers and Children)

Parts of the human body

• “Then he jumped up and flew in a frenzy with his little fists out at Mikolka.” [13] – «Потом вдруг вскакивает и в иступлении бросается с своими кулачками на Миколку». [12] (Crime and punishment)

Food

• “Mary drank some tea and ate a little toast and some marmalade.” [21] – «Мэри выпила чаю и, лениво куснула несколько раз поджаренный хлебец». [20] (The Secret Garden)

• “They sat down and he took a clumsy little brown paper package out of his coat pocket.” [21] – «Он извлек из кармана коричневый сверток и развернул». [20] (The Secret Garden)

Little can convey not only quantitative characteristics but qualitative evaluation, as well with a positive or negative connotation.

• “When you read, the end of your little nose moves so nicely.” [15] – «У вас, когда вы читаете, кончик носика очень мило двигается». [14] (Fathers and Children)

• “Fenitchka stretched her little neck forward, and put her face close to the flower.” [15] – «Фенечка вытянула шейку и приблизила лицо к цветку». [14] (Fathers and Children)

• “...She is a gentle creature with a soft little voice...” [13] – «...Безответная она, и голосок у ней такой кроткий...» [12] (Crime and punishment)

Negative connotation can be seen in the following cases:

• “...And nothing could be seen but her little eyes, glittering in the darkness.” [13] – «...И только виднелись ее сверкавшие из темноты глазки». [12] (Crime and punishment)

• “Oh, my!” he thought, looking about him, “the little place isn’t much to boast of!” [15] «Эге! – подумал он, посмотрев кругом, – местечко-то неказисто!» [14] (Fathers and Children)

Now among the Russian suffixes there are not only diminutive but augmentative suffixes as well, such as *-ейш*, *-ущ*.

In English there are no such augmentative suffixes and the idea can be rendered by special adjectives:

• «Разумихин шагал своими огромнейшими шажищами по тротуару». [12] – “Razumihin strolled along the pavement with huge steps.” [13] (Crime and punishment)

One more feature that is worth mentioning. In Russian diminutive meaning can be expressed twice, both by means of the modified noun and modifying adjective.

• «Они присылали мне свои маленькие записочки...» [10] – “They used to write me sweet little notes...” [11] (The Idiot)

So both formal and semantic agreement can be observed between the attribute and the modified noun.

The specific feature of the Russian diminutive suffixes is that they may convey both diminutive and positive characteristics. As to the English equivalents the diminutive meaning is concentrated in the adjective *little*, while positive characteristics is rendered by other emotive adjectives such as *nice*, *pretty*, *old*, *dear*, *pleasant*, *charming*, and so on. [8]

• “Upon my word, what a fright you are in of Alyona Ivanovna, gabbled the huckster's wife, a lively little woman.” [13] – «Эк ведь вам Алена-то Ивановна страху задала!» – затараторила жена торговца, бойкая бабенка. [12] (Crime and punishment)

As far as the English language is concerned one can't but mention one more way (mode, manner) of expressing (denoting) small size that is by using special lexical units which are used to differentiate and denote the size of the objects.

In Russian it is words of the same root while in English different lexical units are used.

<u>Русский язык</u>	<u>Английский язык</u>
башня – башенка	tower – turret
пятно – пятнышко	stain – speck
роща – рошица	grove – coppice
кусок – кусочек	piece – bit
угол – уголок	corner – nook
дом – домик	house – cottage
холм – холмик	hill – mound
песня – песенка	song – ditty
мотив – мотивчик	melody – tune
ветер – ветерок	wind – breeze
ковер – коврик	carpet – rug
камень – камешек	stone – pebble
дорога – дорожка	road – path

But cases of this kind are not numeral. Sometimes in English texts emotional connotations of positive characteristics can be expressed by the nouns *lady*, *gentleman* with emotional adjectives preceding them.

• “I must tell you, Rodya, I dine like this here every day now,” he mumbled with his mouth full of beef, “and it's all Pashenka, your dear little landlady, who sees to that; she loves to do anything for me.” [13] – «Я, брат Родя, у вас тут теперь каждый день так обедаю, – пробормотал он, насколько позволял набитый полный рот говядиной, – и это всё Пашенька, твоя хозяйюшка, хозяйничает, от всей души меня чествует». [12] (Crime and punishment)

As to the emotional connotations of negative characteristics they can be expressed by the nouns *old man*, *old lady* preceded by a pejorative adjective, expressing disapproval or criticism.

• “...A dissolute old man, the hero of some ancient scandal, and a retired sub-lieutenant...” [11] – «Компания Рогожина была почти в том же самом составе, прибавился только какой-то беспутный старичишка, в свое время бывший редактором какой-то забулдыжной обличительной газетки...» [10] (The Idiot)

Emotional connotations expressed by Russian suffixes may also be conveyed in English by the possessive pronoun *my* plus attributive combinations.

• “My dear sir”, said the old lady through her tears, “your name and your father's I haven't the honor of knowing...” [15] – “Батюшка, – сквозь слезы проговорила старушка, – имени и отчества не имею чести знать...» [14] (Fathers and children)

One should also mention the metonymic usage of abstract-qualitative nouns or substantivized emotive adjectives as a modifying name:

• “Sleep well, dear heart, and God bless you!” [15] – «Засни, душа моя, и дай Бог тебе здоровья!» [14] (Fathers and children)

• “You can't think how glad I am to see you again, you dear old thing!” [17] – «Ах, милая, ты и представить себе не можешь, как я рада тебя видеть!» [16] (Alice in Wonderland)

• “You were such a poor thing... you were going to die and things like that...” [21] – «Ты ведь такой несчастный был и умирать собирался, и вообще...» [20] (The Secret Garden)

The positive or negative meaning of evaluation of such words as *fellow*, *creature*, *folk*, *people* should be clarified according to the given context.

• “Eh! dear lad!” she broke out tremulously. [21] – «Мальчик! Милый мой мальчик!» – с чувством произнесла она. [20] (The Secret Garden)

• “No, my dear fellow, that's all shallowness, want of backbone!” [15] – «Нет, брат, это все распушенность, пустота!» [14] (Fathers and children)

Conclusion. The comparison of parallel Russian and English texts shows a striking difference in the frequency of using emotional units. In most cases, the emotional and evaluative connotations of Russian words remain unexpressed in English translations. The exceptions we observed are those contexts in which the size of objects or their emotional characteristics become topical. The emotive component is expressed in English most often by adjectives such as *little*, *small*, *poor*, *dear*, *nice*, *huge*, which have in their semantics, in addition to the basic meaning, the seme (сема) of emotional evaluation. As to suffixes only 4 cases were found in the English material: we examined: *ringlet* – *колечко*, *eaglet* – *орленок*, *simpleton* – *дурачок*, *missie* – *юная мисс* (обращение к молодой девушке). By way of conclusion I 'd like to point out that the lexical category of qualitative and quantitative evaluation is not typical of present day English. When necessary it is usually expressed with the help of attributive combinations with the adjective *little* as the adjectival modifier to the next coming noun. While in Russian this category is a regular and universal way of expressing evaluation by synthetical approach that is word formation. It is explained by linguistic peculiarities of each of the languages and by extralinguistic peculiarities of emotional perception of the world. This difference is accounted for by structural peculiarities of each of the two languages: the synthetic system of Russian and analytical structure of English and on the other hand it can also be motivated by the specific features of the national character.

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ЛЕКСИЧЕСКАЯ КАТЕГОРИЯ КАЧЕСТВЕННОЙ И КОЛИЧЕСТВЕННОЙ ОЦЕНКИ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ И РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ

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Аннотация. Оценочные слова и словосочетания играют важную роль в любых языках. Они характеризуются частотой употребления. Перспектива изучения таких слов и выражений в английском и русском языках определяется теоретическими и практическими потребностями, связанными с изучением языка. Предметом сравнительных исследований являются семантика и структурные особенности эмотивной лексики английского и русского языков на основе фактического материала, взятого из произведений русских и английских писателей. В этой работе был использован набор лингвистических методов, таких как компонентный анализ, анализ словарных статей и контекстуальный анализ. Полученные результаты могут быть использованы в области контрастивной лингвистики и лексикологии.

Ключевые слова: оценочные слова, контрастивная лингвистика, лексикология, иностранный язык, английский язык, преподавание иностранного языка.