The Associative Field Of The Lexemes "Work" In Russian And Tatar Language Consciousness

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ABSTRACT

At present time, one of the most important directions in linguistics is the study of the linguistic consciousness of man, the tradition of research of which goes back to the ideas of W. von Humboldt about the link between the language and the spirit of the people. Among the methods of research of linguistic consciousness, one distinguishes an associative experiment, which is a survey of the informants united by some commonality (language, profession, territory of residence, etc.) for revealing their associations-reactions to a certain stimulus. The following methods of linguistic analysis were used in the paper: generalization and systematization, analytical method, descriptive, comparative methods, and also the method of association experiment, etc. The association experiments with 500 students of the city of Kazan, the native speakers of the Tatar language,were conductedIn the course of the research. The results were compared with the materials of the "The Slavic Associative Dictionary" (2004). This paper analyzes and identifies the general and specific features of the associative fields of the lexemes "эш"in the Tatar language and "работа"/"work" in the Russian language. An analysis of the responses received by the respondents showed that the associative fields of the lexemes "эш" in Tatar and"работа"/"work" in Russian coincided in general. However, Tatar native speakers have more associations with the

components of the meaning *"тяжелый"/ "heavy"*, *"трудность"/*"difficulty", etc., often characterizing physical labour. Russian-speaking young people more often associate their future with comfortable mental work indoors.

The associations of Russian speakers are distinguished by a wide variety of associates with negative connotations, reduced stylistic characteristics, and the use of answers of paremiological origin.

Thus, the association experiment allows of revealing the content systemacyof thetypeofconsciousness behind the word in different languages, and confirms the uniqueness, the inimitability of the image of the world of each culture. The research to have been carried out has practical significance, since the obtained results are a valuable and sufficiently reliable material for studying certain fragments of linguistic consciousness, national-specific phenomena, knowledge, value orientations, and so on.

Keywords: linguistic consciousness, free association experiment, stimulus, associate, reaction, associative field, associative dictionary.

1. INTRODUCTION

A characteristic feature of modern linguistics is the switch to the anthropocentric paradigm. In the center of linguistic researchthere is a person as a subject and object of speech activity. The study of languages is conducted in close relationship with the consciousness, the picture of the world and the national culture of the people.

At one time, L. Weissgerber, who believed that each language represented a special point of view of the world of the native speaker, proposed the term "linguisticimage of the world" (Weissgerber,1993). In modern science, this term is understood as the concepts of the world, society and man historically formed in the ordinary consciousness of the people and embodied in its language (Sibgaeva,2015 ; Zamaletdinov,2014).

In recent decades, the research on psycholinguistics and cognitive linguistics has widely used the term "linguistic consciousness". This concept was introduced into science by Wilhelm von Humboldt: "Language in its interdependent relationships is the creation of national language consciousness" (Humboldt,1985).

The works by domestic linguists Y.N. Karaulova, A.A. Zalevskaya, E.S. Cubryakova, E.F. Tarasov, N.V. Ufimtseva and others consider linguistic consciousness as a set of images of consciousness, formed and expressed by external, linguistic means.

In Tatar linguistics, one has begun to study the problem of linguistic consciousness relatively recently.

The task of our research is to reveal and interpret differences in the use and perception of the lexemes "эш"and"работа"/ "work"by Tatar-speaking and Russian-speaking students by means of association experiment. The experiment consists of interviewing the informants, united by age, profession, language, etc. with the aim of eliciting their associations for the proposed stimulus words.

2. METHODS

The following methods of linguistic analysis were used in the work: generalization and systematization, analytical method, descriptive, comparative methods, etc.

The method of generalization and systematization was used to study different researchers'views and language materials. The analytical method was usedto analyze scientific and scientific-methodological literature on the topic of research, scientific concepts in modern domestic and foreign studies. The descriptive method is a system of research techniques applied to characterize the phenomena of language at this stage of its development; this is the method of synchronous analysis.

The comparative method is used to determine general and specific features of the Russian and the Tatar languages.

The statistical method helped to comprehend the phenomenon under study in details, to reveal the most frequent associates that occupy a certain place in the linguistic consciousness of the Russians and the Tatars.

An effective method to study linguistic consciousness is experimental methods, in particular, the method of free association experiment, since we can study consciousness only via the products of its activity (Fanuza et al, 2016 ; Mubarakshina et al, 2016). In the association experiment, the stimulus word calls up a number of associations of the language speaker, among which there are both individual, subjective, those that are connected with personal experience, and inherent in a group of people united by common existence conditions (Mukhametzyanova ,2014; Gulgena et al, 2016 ; Albina et al, 2016).

The reactions of native speakers to the stimulus word (or a group of semantically related stimuli) form associative fields, on the basis of which modelling certain fragments of linguistic consciousness is possible. The materials of association experiments become the basis for compilation of association dictionaries that help to penetrate into the consciousness of native speakers, for example, "The Slavic Associative Dictionary"(Ufimtseva,2004).

In our study, a free association experiment was used in the form of carrying out a survey, during which the subject responds to stimulus words with a word or a phrase that has occurred first. For the questionnaires, the most frequent lexemesto which the respondents had to respond with appropriate verbal reactions were selected. The informants were about 500 students from various higher and secondary special

educational institutions of the city of Kazan –the native speakers of the Tatar language at the age of 18-25. The experiment covered the students of various specialties (future philologists, veterinarians, power engineering specialists, economists, teachers), the gender sign is in equal proportions.

3. RESULTS

As the results of association experiments have shown, the stimulus word "эш" has induced a wide range of associations of the respondents. Of 364 reactions to this stimulus, different reactions account for 82, single reactions - 44.

The important components of the collective associative field are the lexemes*авыр* "тяжелый" / "heavy" (46 reactions), *акча* "деньги" / "money" (44 responses), *күп* "много" / "a lot" (42), *хезмәт* "труд" /"labour" (30). Young respondents perceive work as hard work, and the primary and majortarget of any work of modern man is wages, money earned for work. The fact that the majority of respondents were from rural areas of the Republic of Tatarstan had an effect on the results of the experiment.Work in the village since olden dayshas beenthe sustinance for the family.It wasoften heavy, related to the cultivation of the land. The Tatar people have long been renowned for their diligence. Therefore, in the minds of Tatar native speakers, work is also associated with the lexemes and word combinations*эшләргә* "работать" / "to work" (10); *кирәк* "надо"/ "I must" (9); *эшләү* "работать" / "to work"8; *көч* "сила" / "power"(7); *ару* "уставать, устать" / "to get tired"(6); *авырлык* "тяжесть, тягота, трудность" / "difficulty, burden, hardness" (3); *тырыш* "старательный, упорный" / "assiduous, painstaking" (3); *бетми* "не кончается" / "not to see the end of smth"(2); *куәт* "сила" / "power" (2); *бакчада эшләү* "работать в саду" / "to do gardening" (1); *кайный* "кипит" / "boiling" (1); *өстәлде* "добавилась" / "was added"(1); *ташырга* "возить, носить, таскать" / "to drive, to carry, to drag" (1); *утын ташу* "возить, носить, таскать дрова" / "to cart, to carry, to pull along firewood"(1) and so on.

A number of respondents gave the following actions associations *эшләргә* "работать" / "to work" (10); *эшләү* "работать" / "to work" 8; *ару* "уставать, устать" /"to get tired"(6); *эзләргә* "искать" / "to seek" (3); *бетми* "не кончается" / "to see no end of smth" (2); *бару* "идет" / "is going on" (2); *табу* "найти" / "to find" (2); *эшли*

"работает" / "it is wporking"(2); *бакчада эшләү* "работать в саду" / "to work in the garden"(1); *булышырга* "помогать" / "to help" (1); *бетә* "заканчивается" / "it comes to end"(1); *кайный* "кипит" / "it is boiling"(1); *өстәлде* "добавилась" / "it has been added"(1); *ташырга* "носить, таскать" / "to carry, to pull' (1); *тора* "стоит" / "to be at a standstill"(1); *утын ташу* "носить, таскать дрова" / "to carry, to pull along firewood" (1); *югалту* "терять, потерять" / "to lose"(1). Thus, the respondents in many cases perceive work as an activity, and often give a certain characteristic of this process (fast, slow, positive or negative quality). In most cases, a positive attitude towardslabour, work as a necessary and important component of life is expressed: *кирәк* "надо" / "one must"(9); *сөю* "любить" / "to like" (6); *яраткан* "любимая (работа)" / "favourite (work)"(3); *яратам* "люблю" / "I am fond of"(1); *яшәү* "жить" / "to live" (1).

A number of associations are of a qualitative nature. Thus, the associative field of the lexeme"эш" extends to such adjectives as (in descending order) *тяжелая, легкая,хорошая, старательный, любимая, кипучая/ heavy, easy, good, diligent, favourite, feverish*. These lexemes are largely related to personal characteristics, the individual's ideas about work. Our respondents dream of their favourite work, which will bring satisfaction and a decent salary.

Many students associate the lexeme"эш" with a number of other nouns, including: *сила, время, лопата, отдых, сад, топор, день, обед, место, дерево, поле, Казань, день, понедельник, грязные руки, пила, редакция, трактор, лень/ strength, time, shovel, rest, garden, ax, day, dinner, place, tree, field, Kazan, day, Monday, dirty hands, saw, the editors, tractor, laziness,* etc. These associations are brought up as a result of convergence of these objects, phenomena with the work process in the minds: some objects are necessary to perform a particular activity (the majority is connected with agriculture), some associations point to a place and time of work (*редакция, Казань, сад, поле, понедельник / editorial board, Kazan, garden, field, Monday*), and other associations are directly qualitative characteristics of the worker (*сила, грязные руки /strength, dirty hands,* etc.).

The materials of the conducted association experiments were compared with the data of "The Slavic Associative Dictionary" (2004), compiled on the results of a mass experiment conducted in 1998-1999. using a written survey with the native speakers of Belarusian, Bulgarian, Russian and Ukrainian. According to "The Slavic Associative Dictionary", high-frequency responses of Russian speakers to the stimulus lexeme "работа" /"work" are *деньги / money* 38; *труд / labour* 37; *неволк/ not a wolf* 32; *дело / business* 28; *любимая / favourite* 21; *хорошая/ good* 19; *трудная/ difficult* 17; *отдых/ rest* 16; *тяжелая/ heavy* 14; *забота/ care* 13; *интересная, учеба/ interesting, studies* 11; *усталость/ tiredness* 8; *волк, дом/ wolf, home* 7; *зарплата, надоела / salary, was tired of it* 6; *безделье, лень /idleness, laziness* 5; *большая, жизнь, занятие, занятость, радость, учитель/ great, life, occupation, being busy, pleasure, teacher* 4; *выполнена/ fulfilled, долг/duty, дома/at home, домашняя/home, есть/ there is, ждет/ it is waiting, завод/plant, интересно/it is interesting, каторга/ hard labour, надсобой / at oneself, нужна/ needed, офис/office, плохая/ bad, плохо / it is bad, профессия/ profession, скучная/ bored, ужас/horror, успех/success, хорошо/ it is good* 3" (10).Thereactionsof Tatarand Russianspeakerscoincideinmanyrespects, especiallythemostfrequentonesare:*деньги/ money* 38; *труд/ labour* 37; *дело/ business* 28. Young people hope to find a good, interesting and highly paid job. However, Russian speakers often associate work with the office (*офис / office* 3, *адвокат / attorney at law, бизнес/ business, карандаш/pencil, клавиша/ button, компьютер/ computer, пишущаямашинка/typewriter, программирование/ programming, солидныйкостюм/ black tie* 1), though there are single reactions like *вполе, лопата, молоток / in the field, shovel, hammer*.

The Russian-speaking students have more diverse and numerous associates with negative connotations and reduced stylistic characteristics: *надоела/ I was tired of it* 6; *безделье/ idleness, лень/ laziness* 5; *каторга / hard labour, плохая/bad, плохо/ it is bad, скучная/ bored, ужас/ horror* 3; *ишак/ donkey, мрак/ darkness, муторная / dreary, надоело/ I am tired of it, невкайф / not to feel pleasure , ненавижу / I hate, неприятность/ trouble, нехочу/ I don't want, обуза/ burden, рабство/ slavery, ругня/ bad language, рутина/routine, скука/boredom, терпеть/ to bear* 2; *утруждает / it is*

*bothered*1, etc.Ofspecialinterestaretheassociationsofparemoiologicalorigin *неволк/ no wolf*(32), *волк/ a wolf*(7); compare: Работаневолк – влеснеубежит / Work is no wolf, it won't go nowhere (the proverb).

For example: It should be noted that proverbs, sayings, and phraseological units of the Tatar language reflect the important place that is occupied bywork, labour in the life of the Tatar people (Sibgaeva ,2016; Yuisufuva et al, 2016 ; Gulshat ,2016; Kayumova ,2016). For example:

Карама түшенә, кара эшенә / Не смотри на человека, смотри на его работу (thetranslationby – D.I., E.I., R.B., M.Zh.);

Хезмәтнең тире ачы, җимеше татлы / Горек пот, сладок плод труда /A bitter sweat, the fruit of labour is sweet;

Эшләгәнгә көн җитми / Работающему и дня не хватает /lit.The worker lacksthe day (Исәнбәт,2010, 174).

However, similar reactions are not presented among the results of our experiments.

4. CONCLUSION

It is known that as a result of a mass asocioaction experiment, the concepts that are the most important for the world's image of the bearers of different cultures have been revealed, as well as the knowledge determined by ethnic stereotypes of the behaviour of the bearers of a particular culture.

The study has shown that in many respects the associative fields of the lexemes"эш"*in the Tatar language and* "работа" / "work"in the Russian language coincide.In the languages being compared, the most frequent reactions are*тяжелый, деньги,труд,дело / heavy, money, work, business.*

Differences are manifested in the following. The Tatar language speakers have more associations with the components of the meaning *"тяжелый", "трудность" / "heavy", "difficulty"*, etc., often characterizing physical labour. The Russian-speaking young people more often imagine a comfortable inside mental work.

Theassociations of the Russian speakers are distinguished by a wide variety of the associates with negative connotations, reduced stylistic characteristics, and the use of the answers of paremiological origin.

Thus, the association experiment as one of the methods for revealing the national specifics of a particular linguistic world-image makes it possible to analyze the structure of the lexicon of man, his linguistic and ideological priorities, value orientations.

5. ACKNOLEDGEMENTS

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