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## LINGUISTIC VERBALISATION OF THE CONCEPT WORK IN THE MULTILINGUAL PHRASEOLOGICAL WORLDVIEW

### МОВНА ВЕРБАЛІЗАЦІЯ КОНЦЕПТУ WORK В МУЛЬТИЛІНГВАЛЬНІЙ ФРАЗЕОЛОГІЧНІЙ КАРТИНІ СВІТУ

### ЯЗЫКОВАЯ ВЕРБАЛИЗАЦИЯ КОНЦЕПТА WORK В МУЛЬТИЛИНГВАЛЬНОЙ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ КАРТИНЕ МИРА

Contemporary linguistics shows great interest to interrelations between the process of thinking and actual communication. The present article deals with cognitive linguistics through the prism of which linguistic representation of the concept WORK in the British English and German phraseological worldviews is revealed. The topicality of the research is conditioned by many factors, such as the insufficient number of works on this narrow topic in both foreign and national scientific literature, high interest towards interrelations between cognitive processes and the language, and cultural proximity of the two languages the phraseological worldviews of which are studied. During the research, various scientific methods have been used. The most essential are sociolinguistic, quantitative, descriptive and comparative ones. Practical material searched out from a number of lexicographical sources was distributed and described according to the frame method suggested by M. Alefirenko. The results of the research demonstrate both common features and differences of the concept WORK perception by British and German people. The article may be of particular interest for those studying cognitive linguistics, the British English and/or German languages, British and/or German verbalization of the units through, as well as for teachers and students of tertiary education institutions.

*Keywords:* cognitive linguistics, concept, frame structure, work, English language, German language, mentality, verbalisation, phraseological worldview.

Сучасне мовознавство демонструє підвищений інтерес до взаємозв'язку між процесами мислення та безпосереднім процесом спілкування. Дана стаття пов'язана із когнітивною лінгвістикою, крізь призму якої розкривається лінгвістична репрезентація концепту WORK у британській англійській та німецькій фразеологічних картинах світу. Актуальність даного дослідження зумовлена багатьма факторами, наприклад, недостатньою кількістю робіт з цієї вузької теми у вітчизняному та закордонному науковому процесі, високим інтересом до взаємозв'язку між когнітивними процесами та мовою, а також культурною близькістю двох мов, чії фразеологічні картини світу вивчаються. Протягом дослідження було використано різноманітні наукові методи. Найбільш вагомими з них є соціолінгвістичний, кількісний, описовий та компаративний. Практичний матеріал, зібраний за допомогою лексикографічних джерел, був розподілений та описаний за методом фреймового аналізу, запропонованим М. Алефіренко. Результати даного дослідження демонструють спільні та відмінні риси сприйняття концепту WORK британським та німецьким народами. Стаття може представляти інтерес для тих, хто вивчає когнітивну лінгвістику, британську англійську та/або німецьку мови, особливості вербалізації концептів у британському та/або німецькому менталітеті, а також для викладачів та студентів вищих навчальних закладів.

*Ключові слова:* когнітивна лінгвістика, концепт, фреймова структура, робота, англійська мова, німецька мова, менталітет, вербалізація, фразеологічна картина світу.

Современное языкознание демонстрирует повышенный интерес ко взаимосвязи между процессом мышления и непосредственным процессом общения. Данная статья связана с когнитивной лингвистикой, сквозь призму которой раскрывается лингвистическая репрезентация концепта WORK в британской английской и немецкой фразеологической картинах мира. Актуальность данного исследования обусловлена многими факторами, такими как недостаточное количество работ, посвящённых этой узкой теме в отечественном и зарубежном научном процессе, высокий интерес ко взаимосвязи между когнитивными процессами и языком, а также культурной близостью двух языков, чьи фразеологические картины мира изучаются. Во время исследования были использованы разнообразные научные методы. Наиболее весомыми из них являются социолингвистический, количественный, дескриптивный и компаративный. Практический материал, отобранный с помощью лексикографических источников, был распределён и описан по методу фреймового анализа, разработанному М. Алефиренко. Результаты данного исследования демонстрируют общие и различные черты восприятия концепта WORK британским и немецким народами. Статья может представлять интерес для изучающих когнитивную лингвистику, британский английский и/или немецкий языки, особенности вербализации концептов в британском и/или немецком менталитете, а также для преподавателей и студентов высших учебных заведений.

*Ключевые слова:* когнитивная лингвистика, концепт, фреймовая структура, работа, английский язык, немецкий язык, менталитет, вербализация, фразеологическая картина мира.

Cognitive linguistics, a branch of general linguistics that currently is being actively developed by both domestic and foreign scholars, is considered to be one of the most relevant fields of study due to its extreme broadness and diversity. Its main and the most aggregate purpose is to construct general holistic worldview with the help of exploring the very nature of cognitive processes, speech and intellectual activity of the speaker in the process of communication. The notion of concept, despite its relative vagueness and absence of unified definition, is cognitive linguistics' main tool [2, p. 41].

The main aim of the article is to reveal verbalisation peculiarities of the concept WORK/ARBEIT in the contemporary English and German languages. In this way, the overall knowledge about linguistic and cultural aspects of the concept verbalisation conditioned by the mentalities can be deepened, as well as their both common features and differences can be traced. The topicality of the article is predominantly conditioned by the insufficient number of works on this narrow topic in national scientific literature.

Theoretical background of cognitive linguistics predominantly lies in the notion of concept which, being an interdisciplinary phenomenon, still has not received a commonly accepted definition among scientists. When speaking about linguistic concepts, there is one more or less precise interpretation given by the scholar S. Askoldov who claims a concept to be mental structures which are able to substitute the undefined number of interrelated objects, notions and phenomena in the process of human thinking and communication [2, p. 42]. At the same time, V. Maslova believes that concept is a part of mental world of people and constitutes nation's collective heritage, its culture and spiritual life [6, p. 25].

Due to their elaborate structure, versatility and subconscious nature, concepts can be of high complexity for those studying them. There is a great deal of different methods of concept investigation developed by different linguists: the analysis of lexical paradigms which contain this or that concept [6, p. 102], the method of free associative experiment [6, p. 102], the analysis of concept's synonyms [6, p. 103], etc. In our opinion, the method of frame analysis, suggested by M. Alefirenko and further developed by T. Nikulshina, is the most convenient and accurate of those existing. The method presupposes distributing the factual material into slots – obligatory elements which are logical

categories that unite information with same denotational element and form a frame. Thus, slots are used to structure and depict the subliminal information transmitted in the process of thinking and speaking by this or that concept [7].

In our research we investigate the concept WORK/ARBEIT on the basis of phraseological units. There are several points that confirm the practicability of using idioms for studying concepts:

First and foremost, phraseological worldview, which is being investigated in the article, presents a national heritage, nation's subconscious which is revealed to the greatest extent in phraseological units due to their omnipresent nature: they are used in different situations, both formal and informal, by different speakers from various social layers;

Another strong argument in favour of idioms is their emotionality and expressiveness. Many events and phenomena that are vividly expressed in one language can be absolutely abandoned by the others. In this way, the main concepts and attitudes of a particular nation can be easily traced through phraseological units [6, p. 48].

Thus, as we have already mentioned, every nation has its own key words through which basic national values can be revealed. The linguist A. Wierzbicka defined such key words for the English language. She claims such lexemes as "house/home", "privacy", "moderation", "humour", "understatement" etc. to be the most essential for the British nation [10, p. 265]. Yu. Tochilina, who studies linguistic and cultural peculiarities of the German language, named such notions as "Disziplin", "Fleiß", "Mobilität", "Ordnung", "Sauberkeit" to be the most important for the German mentality [9, p. 127].

The attitudes towards WORK as a phenomenon in both British and German nations somehow differ, which is revealed in the study's results. For instance, according to the poll conducted by Marktforschungsinstitut YouGov in 2016, 47 % of Germans who were asked "What is work for you?" claimed their work to be the sense of their lives. At the same time, 56 % of the respondents said that they worked only to earn their living [9, p. 5].

In order to investigate the concept WORK/ARBEIT in the English and German languages, we searched out for 78 English [5] and 69 German [3] phraseological units united by the concept under study. Using the previously described method of frame analysis and having distributed the practical material into 8 English and 6 German slots, we received the following results.

The English frame consisting of 78 phraseological units is formed by 8 slots of different recurrence: WORK-HARDWORK – 22 phraseological units (PhU), WORK-JOB (also WORK-PROFESSION) – 21 PhU, WORK-PHYSICAL LABOUR – 12 PhU, WORK-IDLENESS – 8 PhU, WORK-CRIMINALITY – 7 PhU, WORK-MACHINE – 5 PhU, WORK-TEAM – 5 PhU and WORK-MONEY – 3 PhU. The most abundant slots are WORK-HARDWORK – and WORK-JOB (WORK-PROFESSION) – 17,16 % and 16,38 % respectively. The least abundant slot is WORK-MONEY – it compiles only 2,34 %.

The German frame, which in the framework of the present research comprises 69 phraseological units, was formed by 6 slots that somehow differ from those distinguished in the English language. They are ARBEIT-MÜHE – 33 PhU, ARBEIT-KARRIERE – 13 PhU, ARBEIT-PFLICHT – 7 PhU, ARBEIT-FAULHEIT – 6 PhU, ARBEIT-GESCHICKLICHKEIT – 4 PhU and ARBEIT-GELD – 3 PhU. The most recurrent slot turned out to be ARBEIT-MÜHE (22,06 %), while the least numerous is ARBEIT-GELD (only 2,76 %).

Having distributed phraseological units into slots, we can't state paying attention to those common features traced in both frames. Thus, their most numerous and frequently used slots (WORK–HARDWORK and ARBEIT–MÜHE) are connected with hard, persistent work aimed at task completion, reaching goals as well as putting efforts into this process, for instance, such English expressions as to work at the coalface; to burn the midnight oil; to work flat out; to work one's socks/tail off; through blood, sweat and tears, etc [3] and German auf Diebel komm raus arbeiten; Arbeit schlägt Feuer aus dem Stein; Erster die Arbeit, dann das Spiel, nach der Reise kommt das Ziel; Fleiß bricht Eis; Frisch begonnen – halb gewonnen etc [5].

Another common feature that attracted our attention is the number of idioms based on animalistic metaphors (e.g. English to work like a horse and German wie ein Pferd arbeiten; English an eager beaver, to work like a dog; German Frische Fische – gute Fische; Wer sich zum Esel macht, muss Säcke tragen etc.). Such a type of phraseological units (zoosemy) is also presented in the Eastern Slavic languages (such as Ukrainian and Russian). That eases its perception and endows them with international nature [3; 5].

The second most abundant slots in both frames are WORK–JOB (or WORK–PROFESSION) and ARBEIT–KARRIERE. Despite common cognitive sign – workplace – these slots view it from different perspectives. In the framework of this slot English views work as a repetitive, routine tasks which one fulfils as their job. Taking as the examples such expressions as all in a day's work; Busman's holiday; bread and butter; a job of work; to be in harness [3; 5].

Unlike English, the German language pays much attention to posts and promotion at work (e.g. ein Amt bekleiden; einen großen Sprung machen; nach einem Amt laufen; in Amt und Würden stehen; die Treppe hinaufsteigen). Besides, the number of euphemistic expressions connected with dismissal is rather noticeable (e.g. einen blauen Brief bekommen; den Sack bekommen; auf der Straße liegen; jemandem den Stuhl vor die Tür setzen; in die Luft fliegen etc.). Thus, we can see that losing a job in Germany is considered to be a real challenge [3; 5].

The slots WORK–IDLENESS and ARBEIT–FAULHEIT have much in common. Firstly, they both view laziness as a human vice and possess exclusively negative connotation (e.g. English to watch the clock; to eat the bread of idleness; to dodge the column, etc. and German blauen Montag machen (or blaumachen); einen faulen Schelm im Rücken haben; faules Fleisch tragen etc.). Apart from this, the attitude towards laziness expressed in these slots proves that hard, persistent work is highly appreciated in both British and German mentalities, which is shown in the slots WORK–HARDWORK and ARBEIT–MÜHE [3; 5].

The part that is played by money in the context of work in British and German consciousness is vividly illustrated by the slots WORK–MONEY and ARBEIT–GELD. Being the least abundant slots of their frames (3 and 4 phraseological units respectively), and thus, used least frequently, they demonstrate reserved attitude towards discussing financial reward. The PhU do not focus on large sums of money (e.g. English to work for peanuts; pin money, etc. and German Wie die Arbeit, so der Lohn; Wo Arbeit das Haus bewacht, kann Armut nicht hinein, etc.). At the same time, there is a clear correlation between the amount of work done and financial reward in the German phraseological worldview (e.g. Klein Geld, kleine Arbeit; Vom Tellerwäscher zum Millionär etc.). Thus, we can see that the equation “work = money” can be considered relevant for the German society [3; 5].

The dissimilarities between British and German perceptions of the concept WORK can be also highlighted with the help of slots that are only presented in one of the languages. Speaking about the English frame, there are four slots which do not have their equivalents in the German one – WORK–PHYSICAL LABOUR, WORK–CRIMINALITY, WORK–MACHINE and WORK–TEAM. There are several main points that are to be distinguished:

The slot WORK–PHYSICAL LABOUR demonstrates that intellectual work is considered to be more prestigious in British consciousness (e.g. elbow grease; to do one's dirty work; toil and moil; to slave over something; to work one's soul case out; backbreaking work, etc.) [5];

The formation of the slots WORK–CRIMINALITY and WORK–MACHINE are predominantly connected with extralinguistic factors. Thus, most of the expressions of the slot WORK–CRIMINALITY, according to the dictionaries, originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the times of criminality efflorescence in Great Britain (e.g. dirty work at the crossroads; to be on the take; inside job; to give someone the works, etc.). The correlation between the concept WORK and various mechanisms dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well – the beginning of the Industrial Revolution the birthplace of which is Great Britain (e.g. up the spout; out of whack; to give up the ghost, etc.) [8; 416];

WORK–TEAM, which is far from being the most numerous slot of the frame (5 PhU), nevertheless views teamwork as a positive and desirable phenomenon (e.g. to put one's heads together; to work hand in hand; to pull one's weight, etc). Thus, cooperation can be called typical of British society.

The German frame has such unique slots as well; they are ARBEIT–PFLICHT and ARBEIT–GESCHICKLICHKEIT which view work as a duty and skilfulness respectively. Having analysed connotations of these phraseological units as well as their comparatively high recurrence, we can claim such national features as liability and mastery to be not only respected but integral in the German mentality verbalised through the language. These statements can be illustrated with such expressions as ein Amt versehen; seine Pflicht und Schuldigkeit tun; nach Pflicht und Gewissen; ein alter Hase sein; ein (Arzt), wie er im Buch steht; den Handel verstehen; Am Werke erkennt man den Meister, etc.

Considering all the abovementioned, we can make a number of conclusions:

The English slot WORK–HARDWORK and the German slot ARBEIT–MÜHE are the most numerous slots of their frames and view work as a dignified activity. Thus, hardwork is respected in both British and German societies;

The slots WORK–JOB (or PROFESSION) and ARBEIT–KARRIERE are the second most numerous slots in their frames, though they see a workplace from different perspectives (as routine in British society; as dismissal and career perspectives in German society);

Slots which are unique for the English language include WORK–PHYSICAL LABOUR (which views work as a negative phenomenon), WORK–CRIMINALITY (where work is associated with law violation, and WORK–MACHINE (which associates work with various mechanisms).

The unique slots, which are presented only in German, are ARBEIT–PFLICHT, which views work as a duty or responsibility and ARBEIT–GESCHICKLICHKEIT, that describes work as a knack and craftsmanship. It makes such national features as liability and skilfulness those typical of German mentality;

Such slots as WORK–MONEY and ARBEIT–GELD are the least numerous in their frames. Thus, we can claim that financial constituent is rarely discussed and is not commonly accepted. Nonetheless, the English PhU do not focus on great amounts of money, while in the German slot there is a correlation between financial reward and the amount of work done. These and other matters should be considered in our further investigations.

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