

Artículo de investigación

THE CONCEPT "INDEPENDENCE" IN THE IRISH HISTORICAL POLITICAL DISCOURSE OF THE XIXTH CENTURY

EL CONCEPTO DE "INDEPENDENCIA" EN EL DISCURSO POLÍTICO HISTÓRICO IRLANDÉS
DEL SIGLO XIX

ПОНЯТИЕ «НЕЗАВИСИМОСТЬ» В ИРЛАНДСКОМ ИСТОРИЧЕСКОМ ПОЛИТИЧЕСКОМ
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Abstract

The article focuses on the XIXth century Irish historical political discourse, which presents the question of constructing an independent Irish state. Historical political discourse is a description of the Irish political history of 1843–1849. It is noted that organizations that emerged in the mid–XIXth century interpreted the issue of creating an Irish state in political doctrines ambiguously. The study of extra-linguistic data revealed the variability of the concept "independence", which was the key to constructing the semantic field "Irish independence".

Keywords: Irish historical political discourse of the XIXth century; the concept of "independence"; lexico-semantic version "cancellation of the union"; lexico-semantic version "autonomous parliament"; lexico-semantic version "political rights of Catholics"; lexico-semantic version "methods of non-violent resistance"; lexico-semantic version "revolutionary methods of struggle".

Resumen

El artículo se centra en el discurso político histórico irlandés del siglo XIX, que presenta la cuestión de construir un estado irlandés independiente. El discurso político histórico es una descripción de la historia política irlandesa de 1843-1849. Se observa que las organizaciones que surgieron a mediados del siglo XIX interpretaron el tema de la creación de un estado irlandés en las doctrinas políticas de manera ambigua. El estudio de datos extra-lingüísticos reveló la variabilidad del concepto "independencia", que fue la clave para construir el campo semántico "independencia irlandesa".

Palabras claves: El discurso político histórico irlandés del siglo XIX; el concepto de "independencia"; versión lexico-semántica "cancelación de la unión"; versión lexico-semántica "parlamento autónomo"; versión lexico-semántica "derechos políticos de los católicos"; versión léxico-semántica "métodos de resistencia no violenta"; Versión léxico-semántica "métodos revolucionarios de lucha".

Аннотация

Статья посвящена историческому политическому дискурсу XIX века, в котором представлен вопрос формирования независимого ирландского государства. Исторический политический дискурс интерпретируется в виде ирландской политической истории 1843–1849 годов. Отмечается, что организации, появившиеся в середине XIX века, в политических доктринах трактовали проблему создания ирландского государства неоднозначно. Изучение экстралингвистических данных

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выявило сложную природу понятия «независимость», что стало ключом к построению семантического поля «ирландская независимость».

Ключевые слова: ирландский исторический политический дискурс XIX века; понятие «независимость»; лексико-семантический вариант «отмена унии»; лексико-семантический вариант «автономный парламент»; лексико-семантический вариант «политические права католиков»; лексико-семантический вариант «методы ненасильственного сопротивления»; лексико-семантический вариант «революционные методы борьбы».

1. Introduction

One of the types of political discourse is historical political discourse. The specificity of historical political discourse takes it beyond the framework of traditional analysis of political discourses. The inability to observe the subjects and objects of political activity creates a certain complexity for the researcher. When addressing the historical political discourse, the verbal thinking activity of the political communication participants is reconstructed thanks to written material sources, including autobiographies, memoirs, diaries, letters. Analyzing the historical political discourse, it is necessary to observe the principle of historicism, which consists in the most accurate description of the politically speaking activity of politicians, which reflects the most important socio-political events of a certain historical era.

The purpose of the article is to consider the peculiarities of the formation of the concept “independence” in the historical political discourse of the XIXth century.

2. Materials and methods

In the study, a discourse-cognitive technique was applied, which includes the method of definitional analysis, the method of constructing semantic fields, content analysis method, narrative, retrospective, historical-genetic, historical-biographical, chronological research methods.

1137 nominations in English, representing the notion of “independence” in historical political discourse, served as the research material. The historical political discourse was considered by us as a written historical source representing the diaries of John Mitchel (1814-1875), an Irish politician of the nineteenth century and a member of the national liberation movement in Ireland (Mitchel, 1873).

3. Results

An analysis of the historical political discourse of the XIXth century showed that the semantic field “Irish independence” is filled with seven lexical-semantic variants, united by a common semantic component, “the abolition of union”, “autonomous parliament”, “political rights of Catholics”, “Irish culture”, “methods of non-violent resistance”, “revolutionary methods of struggle”, “democratic republic”. The frequency of using nominations included in the listed lexico-semantic variants was distributed as follows: the lexico-semantic variant with the general seme “methods of non-violent resistance” – 77.6%, the lexico-semantic variant with the general seme “revolutionary methods of struggle” – 9.6%, lexico-semantic variant with a common seme “cancellation of the union” – 7.6%, lexico-semantic variant with a common seme “Irish culture” – 2.6%, lexico-semantic variant with a common seme “political rights of Catholics” – 1.7%, lexico-semantic option with a common seme “autonomous parliament” – 0.9%.

4. Discussion

We tend to adhere to the cognitive paradigm in the matter of defining the notion of discourse (Krasnykh, 2002; Karasik, 2004; Arutyunova, 1990; Kubryakova, 2012; Mishlanova, 2009). As V. Krasnykh rightly emphasizes, discourse is “verbalized verbal and cognitive activity, appearing as a combination of process and result and possessing two plans: proper linguistic and linguistic-cognitive” (Krasnykh, 2002). As we can see, the discourse from the standpoint of cognitive science is a verbal and meaningful activity, the result of which is the text. This thought is shared by N. D. Arutyunova, who says that discourse is “speech immersed in life” (Arutyunova, 1990). So, based on the above, we propose to consider the discourse as verbalized verbal and cognitive activity in a special field.

In science, it is customary to divide discourse on individual social institutions. L. M. Alekseeva, S. L. Mishlanova argue that

the institutional types of discourse include pedagogical, medical, legal, historical, military, political (Alekseeva, Mishlanova, 2002). As part of our study, we turn to political discourse, that is, the discourse of the political sphere of society. A characteristic feature of political discourse is its anthropocentricity. The policy that we understand as “an aggregate of social relations connected with the notions of power and state structure” puts human activity at the center of attention (Oracheva, Podvintsev, 1998). The anthropocentrism of political discourse is associated with the political actions of people, as a result of which socially important decisions are implemented that affect the nature of the exercise of state power.

Historical political discourse is understood by us as past verbal thinking activity, the result of which becomes a political text as a written historical source. In the historical political discourse is considered an important social and political issue. The specificity of historical political discourse is such that the political activities of participants in political discourse can be judged only from written material sources. Written material sources, in which an important social and political problem is raised, may be diaries, memoirs, letters of politicians of a certain historical era. The inability to observe the political activities of participants in historical political discourse creates difficulties in analyzing their verbal and cogitative activities. The historical approach to political discourse allows you to reconstruct those fragments of special knowledge that were recorded in the speech and thinking activities of politicians who lived in the past.

The historical approach to the analysis of political discourse involves the study of political relations, phenomena that manifest themselves at a particular stage in the life of society. The study of political discourse through the prism of history requires the use of narrative, retrospective, historical-genetic, historical-biographical, chronological research methods, as well as the method of content analysis.

The narrative, or ideographic method, is used to describe historical events, that is, real facts that influenced the nature of political discourse. We are inclined to understand objective historical knowledge about a historical event or a phenomenon as a historical fact. The narrative method makes it possible to consider the speech-thinking activity of the participants in political discourse in close connection with the historical events of a particular historical era.

The retrospective method of scientific research is aimed at studying the chronology of a political event, a phenomenon. The retrospective method used in the study of political discourse, therefore, reconstructs political events or phenomena from preserved material written sources that have reached the modern researcher of the era. The basis of the retrospective method is the idea of the evolutionary development of society, implying a complication of political science knowledge.

An equally important scientific method, revealing the features of historical political discourse, is the historical-genetic method. Being one of the main methods of historical research, the historical-genetic method focuses on “the origin of specific historical phenomena, as well as the analysis of the causality of changes” (Mazur, 1990). I.D. Kovalchenko defined the historical-genetic method as a “consistent disclosure of properties, functions and changes of the studied reality in the course of its historical movement ...” (Kovalchenko, 1987). If we apply the historical-genetic method to the study of historical political discourse, we will be able to discover cause-effect relationships, as well as the main stages in the development of an event of political importance.

The historical-biographical method used in historical research allows reconstructing, describing and analyzing “the circumstances of life, the results of activities, the psychological portrait of a historical person thanks to personal documents (autobiographies, letters, diaries, memoirs)” (Mazur, 1990). In the historical political discourse, the historical-biographical method clearly outlines the author’s position on issues of political structure, mechanisms for exercising state power, factors of strengthening or weakening political institutions, which acts as the most important historical figure.

The chronological method, understood in historical science as a method of consistently describing historical events, helps to restore a complete picture of social and political life in a historical period of time.

Finally, the method of content analysis makes it possible to uncover the most important qualitative signs of social events and phenomena of a political nature. According to I. D. Kovalchenko, the method of content analysis should be applied “when processing large in volume and content of various kinds or complexes of narrative historical sources ...”

(Kovalchenko, 1987). The method of content analysis in historical political discourse is that with the help of qualitative and quantitative processing of the selected units of analysis in historical narrative sources it was possible to judge the psychology of a politician and the main political events he describes.

In the historical political discourse presented in the diaries of J. Mitchel (1814-1875), seven political groupings carry out verbal and cogitative thinking: the Repeal Association, the Catholic Association, Young Ireland, the Irish Confederation, the Irish Confederation (right wing), the Irish Confederation (left wing), Protestant Repeal Association (Mitchel, 1873). Each of them represents its own political doctrine, through which the Irish struggle for independence was to be carried out.

The political doctrine of the Repeal Association was based on the idea of abolishing the 1801 alliance concluded between Ireland and Great Britain. From the perspective of John Mitchel, "the abolition of the union was the political measure that would save Ireland from further ruin, poverty and hunger" (Mitchel, 1873). The movement for the abolition of the union was a major political event, through which the idea of building an independent Irish state is being spread. As noted by T. A. Jackson, the movement for the abolition of the union, "which began in 1829, was completed only in 1843" (Jackson, 1949). The movement for the abolition of the union was accompanied by a political demand for the restoration of an autonomous Irish parliament. According to G. Afanasyev, "the London parliament prevented the equal rights of Catholics and Protestants, the reform of public administrations, the abolition of tithing, the revival of the right to hold public" (Afanasyev, 1907). Political tactics of the repeal struggle for independence included methods of non-violent resistance, as well as revolutionary methods of struggle.

The political program of the Catholic Association was based on the struggle for the political rights of Catholics. The method of political struggle has been chosen tactics of non-violent resistance.

Young Ireland acted within the framework of the movement for the abolition of the Union of 1801, the restoration of the autonomous Irish culture. Irish politicians in this organization used both methods of non-violent resistance and revolutionary methods of struggle.

The Irish Confederation was also involved in the socio-political movement for the abolition of the 1801 union and the restoration of the autonomous Irish parliament. The methods of political struggle chosen by the members of the Irish Confederation were the method of non-violent resistance, as well as revolutionary methods of struggle.

The political doctrine of the Irish Confederation of the right wing and the Irish Confederation coincided in their goals and methods of political struggle. If we talk about the Irish Confederation of the left wing, then it can be found that it adhered to extremely leftist positions. Representatives of the Irish Confederation of the left wing advocated a revolutionary coup and the creation of a democratic republic. The political program was based on the use of revolutionary as well as non-violent methods of political resistance.

The Irish, who joined Protestant Repeal Association, participated in the movement to abolish the 1801 union and restore the autonomous Irish parliament and used both non-violent resistance methods and revolutionary methods of struggle.

An analysis of historical political discourse showed that Irish political organizations that emerged in the middle of the XIX century, interpreted the idea of freedom and independence of Ireland differently. Based on the idea of Irish independence that has emerged in the Irish historical political discourse, we can single out seven definitions that will represent the concept of "independence".

1. Independence is a social and political movement for the abolition of the union concluded between Ireland and Great Britain in 1801;
2. Independence is a social and political movement for the restoration of the Irish Autonomous Parliament;
3. Independence is a socio-political movement for the rights of Catholics;
4. Independence is a social and political movement for the restoration of Irish culture.
5. Independence is a political doctrine involving the use of non-violent resistance methods.
6. Independence is a political doctrine involving the use of revolutionary methods of struggle.

7. Independence is a socio-political movement for the establishment of a democratic republic in Ireland.

Our content analysis of the historical political discourse allows us to build the semantic field "Irish independence". By semantic field, we mean a collection of

nominations that represent the concept of "independence". The semantic field "Irish independence" will consist of lexical semantic variants, united by separate semantic

components. The semantic field "Irish independence" is filled with seven lexical-semantic variants. Each lexico-semantic version is represented by nominations united

by a common semantic component. We have identified the following different semantic components: "the abolition of union", "autonomous parliament", "political rights of Catholics", "Irish culture", "methods of non-violent resistance", "revolutionary methods of struggle", "democratic republic".

This study showed a multicomponent semantic field filled with 1,137

nominations. Identified nominations illustrate the major goals, methods of popular

resistance against British power. Classification of nomination

representing analyzing notion, makes it possible to reveal dominant Ireland organizations. Learning political communication revealed the key

Repeal movement, which confirms nominations verbalizing the notion of "independence" (56%), the Young Ireland's movement (16% of uses), the Irish Confederation's movement (left wing) (15.6% of uses), the Irish Confederation's movement (7.1% of uses), the Catholic Association's movement (5.6% of uses), the Irish Confederation's movement (right wing) (3.9% of uses), Protestant Repeal Association's movement (1.2% of uses). As we can see, various political parties interpreted the idea of creating an Irish independent state in different ways.

Analized discourse shows the purpose of abolition on the union created in 1801

between Ireland and Great Britain. The Repeal Association as well as the Young Ireland have organized the struggle to annul Ireland's and Great Britain's political integration. The goal of canceling integration was mapped by J. Mitchel through

lexical semantic variants, united by common semantic component "canceling the union". The highest index of nominations related to the lexical semantic variant

"cancellation of the union" was identified in the Repeal Association's description (92% of usage)

. The share of nominations that reveal the Young Ireland's political doctrines (the question of abolition of the Union), is 5%. The volume of nominations to be

verbalized in Irish Confederation's political goals of canceling the union are 3%.

No less significant political goal, which focused on John Mitchel, was the restoration of the autonomous Irish parliament. This political goal is verbalized using a lexico-

semantic variant with the common semantic component "autonomous parliament". The analysis

of the language material showed that the political goal of restoring the

autonomous Irish parliament was actualized by the Repeal Association (96% of uses), and also by the Irish Confederation (4.1% of using).

The historical political discourse also highlights the socio-political movement for the

emancipation of the Catholic population of Ireland. The emancipation of Catholics was the

dominant political goal of the Catholic Association. The idea of Catholics struggle for

political rights in the diaries of J. Mitchel was verbalized by means of a lexico-semantic version with a common semantic component "political rights of Catholics".

The lexico-semantic version with the unifying semantic component "political rights of Catholics" was found only in the analysis of the verbal and intellectual activities of the Catholic Association (100% of uses).

A separate place in the list of political goals put forward by the political organizations of Ireland

in the XIX century is occupied by the question of the reconstruction of Irish culture. The struggle for the restoration of Irish culture was carried out

within the framework of the liberation movement and implemented by the political organization

Young Ireland. Representatives of Young Ireland based the political doctrine of the idea of

restoring the original Irish culture. The linguistic way of representing a political goal involving

the reconstruction of the culture of Ireland is carried out through nominations relating to the lexical-semantic variant "Irish culture".

Lexico-semantic variants grouped around the integral semantic component "Irish culture" were found

in the analysis of the political activity of Young Ireland (100%).

In addition to the political objectives of the Irish Liberation Movement described above, another significant issue was highlighted in the historical political discourse. It was designated by the Irish Confederation of the left wing and consisted in the creation of a democratic republic in Ireland. The political goal - the creation of a democratic republic is verbalized with the help of a lexical-semantic variant with the common semantic component "democratic republic". Nominations relating to the lexical-semantic variant with the common semantic component "democratic republic" were not found in the Irish historical political discourse.

The main methods of political struggle for independence, used by the Repeal Association, the Catholic Association, Young Ireland, the Irish Confederation, the Irish Confederation (right wing), the Irish Confederation (left wing), Protestant Repeal Association were the method of non-violent resistance, as well as revolutionary methods of struggle. The political methods of the struggle for independence were verbalized in a lexico-semantic version with a common semantic component "methods of non-violent resistance", as well as a lexical-semantic variant "revolutionary methods of struggle". The construction of the semantic field "Irish independence" showed that the main method of the liberation movement of the Repeal Association, the Catholic Association, Young Ireland, the Irish Confederation of the right wing was the method of non-violent resistance. The method of non-violent resistance was an additional means of political struggle of the Irish Confederation, the Irish Confederation of the left wing, as well as Protestant Repeal Association. Shares of use of nominations relating to the lexico-semantic variant with a common semantic component "methods of non-violent resistance", highlighting the verbal and cogitative activities of the Repeal Association, the Catholic Association, Young Ireland, the Irish Confederation, the Irish Confederation of the right wing, the Irish Confederation of the left wing, Protestant Repeal Association, was distributed as follows: the Repeal Association - 52%, Young Ireland - 16.8%, the Irish Confederation - 13.6%, the Irish Confederation - 6.6%, the Catholic Association - 5.1%, the Irish Confederation of the right wing - 5%, Protestant Repeal Association - 1%. During the study of the political doctrines of various Irish organizations, we found that the nominations adjacent to the lexical-semantic variant with the common semantic component "revolutionary methods of struggle" were used to describe the political activities of the Irish Confederation, the Irish

Confederation of the left wing, Protestant Repeal Association. The frequency of using the nomination pertaining to the lexico-semantic variant with the common semantic component "revolutionary methods of struggle" was distributed as follows: the Irish Confederation of the left wing - (53.2% of uses), the Repeal Association - (26.6% of uses), the Irish Confederation - (16% of uses), Protestant Repeal Association - (4.6% of uses). The numerical data demonstrate that the revolutionary method of struggle was dominant in the Irish Confederation of the left wing, the Irish Confederation, Protestant Repeal Association and the subsidiary of the Repeal Association.

Conclusions

As we see, the historical epoch of the New time shaped the political views of the Irish politicians who lived in the XIX century. By building the semantic field "Irish independence" we discovered the dominant political doctrines of nineteenth-century Irish politicians, consisting of political goals and methods of political struggle. The linguistic material, as well as the content analysis of the historical political discourse, showed that the Repeal Association, the Catholic Association, Young Ireland, the Irish Confederation, the Irish Confederation of the right wing, and Protestant Repeal Association put a political goal of abolishing the union of 1801. In addition, the important political goals of the Irish political organizations were the restoration of an autonomous Irish parliament, the reconstruction of Irish culture, and the creation of a democratic Republic. We have found that the methods of political struggle employed by Irish politicians included tactics of non-violent resistance, as well as revolutionary methods of struggle.

Resources

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