

Artículo de investigación

Prototypical layer of a concept: The english culture type "private detective"

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Camada prototípica de um conceito: O tipo de cultura inglesa "detetive particular"

Recibido: 20 de abril de 2018. Aceptado: 10 de mayo de 2018

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Abstract

The theory of culture types has been developing within the cultural studies for the past decade. Considerable scholarship has been developed regarding the concept of "culture type" which is understood as a generalized recognizable representative of society, whose behavior reflects his attitudes and values of a particular group of people or society. Culture types emerge on the basis of real or fictional individuals. In English language consciousness the analyzed type PRIVATE DETECTIVE is represented by masculine and feminine characters. The given research explores the prototypical layer of the masculine culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE on the material of the English detective novels by Conan Doyle.

Materials and Methods: methodological base of the research comprises theory of prototype according to which the prototype is considered as the best representative of the category corresponds to the model personality which possesses a set of unique characteristics inherent in this culture. Applying such investigation methods as contextual, conceptual and cognitive analysis we have determined the professionally

Resumen

La teoría de los tipos de cultura se ha estado desarrollando dentro de los estudios culturales durante la última década. Se ha desarrollado una beca considerable sobre el concepto de "tipo de cultura" que se entiende como un representante reconocible generalizado de la sociedad, cuyo comportamiento refleja sus actitudes y valores de un grupo particular de personas o sociedad. Los tipos de cultura surgen a partir de individuos reales o ficticios. En la conciencia de la lengua inglesa, el tipo analizado DETECTIVE PRIVADO está representado por caracteres masculinos y femeninos. La investigación dada explora la capa prototípica del tipo de cultura masculina DETECTIVE PRIVADO en el material de las novelas de detectives inglesas de Conan Doyle. **Materiales y Métodos:** la base metodológica de la investigación comprende la teoría del prototipo según la cual el prototipo considerado como el mejor representante de la categoría corresponde a la personalidad modelo que posee un conjunto de características únicas inherentes a esta cultura. Aplicando tales métodos de investigación como análisis contextual, conceptual y cognitivo, hemos determinado las

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marked cognitive features of masculine prototypes of the mentioned culture type represented by the fictional character of Sherlock Holmes and its real models – Joseph Bell and Conan Doyle.

Results: considering the culture type as a field-effect structured concept the research resulted in description of the nuclear and perinuclear zone. The nuclear contains prototypical features of the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE that are typical to its real models. Perinuclear covers fictional characteristics related to Sherlock Holmes as the basic model.

Conclusions: the analyses of 98 fragments from English detective novels and social essays has revealed that the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE is mainly formed on the basis of Sherlock Holmes (80 - 82%), Joseph Bell (8 - 8%) and Conan Doyle (10 - 10%). The area of convergence of prototypical and fictional characters amounted up to 66% considered as prototypical cognitive framework reflecting the embodiment of cognitive features of counterparts in the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE. The results of the done investigation can be included to the course on cultural studies, conceptology, personology.

Key words: culture type, concept, detective story, fictional character, prototype, cognitive feature, nuclear zone.

características cognitivas marcadas profesionalmente de los prototipos masculinos del tipo de cultura mencionado representado por el personaje ficticio de Sherlock Holmes y sus modelos reales: Joseph Bell y Conan Doyle.

Resultados: considerando el tipo de cultivo como un concepto estructurado de efecto de campo, la investigación resultó en la descripción de la zona nuclear y perinuclear. La nuclear contiene características prototípicas del tipo de cultivo DETECTIVE PRIVADO que son típicas de sus modelos reales. Perinuclear cubre características ficticias relacionadas con Sherlock Holmes como el modelo básico.

Conclusiones: el análisis de 98 fragmentos de novelas de detectives inglesas y ensayos sociales ha revelado que el tipo de cultura DETECTIVE PRIVADO se forma principalmente sobre la base de Sherlock Holmes (80 - 82%), Joseph Bell (8 - 8%) y Conan Doyle (10 - 10%). El área de convergencia de personajes prototípicos y de ficción ascendió hasta un 66% considerado como un marco cognitivo prototípico que refleja la incorporación de las características cognitivas de las contrapartes en el tipo de cultura DETECTIVE PRIVADO. Los resultados de la investigación realizada pueden incluirse en el curso de estudios culturales, conceptología, personología.

Palabras clave: tipo de cultura, concepto, historia de detectives, personaje ficticio, prototipo, característica cognitiva, zona nuclear.

Resumo

A teoria dos tipos de cultura foi desenvolvida nos estudos culturais durante a última década. Uma bolsa de estudos considerável foi desenvolvida sobre o conceito de "tipo de cultura" que é entendido como um representante reconhecível generalizado da sociedade, cujo comportamento reflete as atitudes e valores de um determinado grupo de pessoas ou da sociedade. Os tipos de cultura surgem de indivíduos reais ou fictícios. Na consciência da língua inglesa, o tipo analisado DETETIVE PRIVADO é representado por personagens masculinos e femininos. Esta pesquisa explora a camada prototípica da cultura masculina DETETIVE PRIVADO no material dos romances policiais ingleses de Conan Doyle.

Materiais e Métodos: A base metodológica da pesquisa inclui a teoria protótipo segundo a qual o protótipo considerado o melhor representante da categoria corresponde à personalidade modelo que tem um conjunto de inerente a esta cultura características únicas. Aplicação de métodos de pesquisa, como contextual, análise conceitual e cognitiva, nós determinamos profissionalmente características cognitivas marcadas de protótipos masculinos tipo de cultura representado pelo personagem fictício Sherlock Holmes e modelos reais mencionados: Joseph Bell e Conan Doyle.

Resultados: considerando o tipo de cultura como um conceito estruturado de efeito de campo, a investigação resultou na descrição da zona nuclear e perinuclear. Nuclear contém características prototípicas do tipo de cultura PRIVATE DETECTIVE que são típicas de seus modelos reais. Perinuclear aborda características fictícias relacionadas a Sherlock Holmes como modelo básico.

Conclusões: análise de 98 fragmentos de romances de detetives britânicos e estudos sociais revelou que o tipo de DETETIVE cultura privado é formado principalmente com base em Sherlock Holmes (80-82%), Joseph Bell (8-8%) e Conan Doyle (10 - 10%). A área de convergência de personagens fictícios protótipos e atingiu 66% consideraram a estrutura cognitiva prototípica que reflete a incorporação de características

cognitivas do tipo de contrapartes cultura DETETIVE PARTICULAR. Os resultados da pesquisa realizada podem ser incluídos no curso de estudos culturais, conceptologia, personologia.

Palavras-chave: tipo de cultura, conceito, história de detetive, personagem fictícia, protótipo, característica cognitiva, zona nuclear.

Introduction

During the past decade considerable scholarship has been developed regarding the culture type (CT) study within cognitive linguistics described by L.K. Zhanalina, A.B. Ordahanova (Zhanalina, Ordahanova, 2015), which is considered as a generalized recognizable image whose behavior reflects values of a particular group of people or society (Alikae, Zhurtova, 2012a; Alikae, Zhurtova, 2012b; Karasik, 2005). Some scholars consider a culture type as a variety of concept having notional, figurative and evaluative components (Vorkachev, 2002). Some linguists differentiate characteristics of precedent and symbolic layers of its structure (Kachmazova, 2016; Tameryan, 2010; Kusaeva, 2016). Others keep to the description of the field structure of the concept distinguishing its core and periphery zones. Generally the core area includes all the basic features of the concept, while periphery covers features referred to value and association (Tameryan, 2010), national and cultural background (Pesina, 2015). However, a typified person stands for the content of the concept (Dmitrieva, 2007; Dubrovskaya, 2015). In our investigation we will keep to the definition offered by V.I. Karasik who says that culture type - recognizable images of the representatives of a certain culture, the totality of which constitutes the culture of a society. Being an abstract mental formation culture type is a variety of the concept with a typified personality as its content. (Karasik, 2007).

Materials and Methods.

The theory of prototype which has been developing since 70-ies of the XX century (Rosch, 1983; Taylor, 2015; Yongchuan, 2009; Karasik 2007; Dem'yanko, Tameryan, 2010) also provides a methodological base of the present research. Theory of prototype in cognitive linguistics is the concept of categorization, which determines the prototype as the dominant component of categories. The existence of several prototypical approaches in cognitive linguistics is due to the variety of the term determinations (Kertesz, 2015). J. Lakoff, considering the prototypes in the aspect of cognitive linguistics, notes that these are the most clear and vivid images that can represent a class of concepts for the whole. On the basis of the most important features of the prototype a person produces classified (taxonomic) activity and categorizes knowledge (Lakoff, 1972).

E. Roche defines prototypes as a member of the category that mostly embodies the features relevant (common) to the given category, and all other members of the category are placed in the periphery, closer or further from the core, depending on their similarity with the prototype. Thus, the center includes the typical representatives of the category, and the periphery – the less typical (Rosch, 1983).

The above said allows us to consider on two approaches to the phenomenon of prototype in cognitive linguistics. The first approach is related to the definition of the prototype in cognitive science as the best representative ("best example") of the cognitive or linguistic category. The second one is based on the judgment that it is a typical element that captures a set of characteristics that are not relevant to most members of the group, but only of a certain one, which we think to be typical⁵⁸.

In our opinion, the prototype considered as the best representative of the category corresponds to the model personality which possesses a set of unique characteristics inherent in this culture, i.e. it is a symbol of culture within culture. Thus, the model personality and the prototype are the concepts of culture. Their main difference is that the model personality assumes the idealization of qualities and way of acting, while the prototype is based on generalization of them.

⁵⁸ Andreeva G.M. 2009. Psychology of social cognition. Moscow: Aspect Press. P.239. ISBN 978-5-7567-0340-5 (Online).

Considering the prototype as a typical representative of the category, in this article we reveal the prototypical features of the cultural type PRIVATE DETECTIVE represented by fictional character Sherlock Holmes, projecting it onto a conceptual structure that includes a core with prototypical features and periphery. The core features of the type under analysis correlate with the features of the real prototypes of Sherlock Holmes – Joseph Bell, Conan Doyle.

However, despite the fact that the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE, represented by Sherlock Holmes, has real prototypes, it is not a description of these prototypes, but it accumulates all the characteristics that are inherent in the class to which the prototypes belong. Some of the basic features that the prototypes possess form the core of the analyzed cultural concept, which is subsequently expanded by individual and typed characteristics.

Culture types emerge on the basis of real or fictional individuals. Studies of cultural types in English language and culture are reflected in the works of: "English snob" (A.Y. Korovin), "English eccentric" (E.A. Yarmahova), "English butler" (T.V. Bondarenko), "Detective" (A.V. Gvozdeva).

The authors have investigated for the first time in the focus of the prototypical layer of the masculine culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE the parallels between cognitive features and professionally oriented competencies of its real prototypes revealed on the background of the epoch on the one side, and the fictional prototype by Sherlock Holmes on the material of the classic British detective novels by Conan Doyle on the other.

The Victorian Age raised and developed a new class of professionals endowed with considerable social standing: doctors, lawyers, police officers had the greatest status weight. Social changes were certainly reflected in literature (Borisenko, 2008).

Improvement of police institute took place due to an appearance of the new field of science – criminology. That period witnessed considerable scientific development in chemistry: chemists learned to find traces of arsenic in a body; distinguish blood spots from another substance, human blood from animal's; identification systems were introduced on anthropometric data, the police portraying and fingerprinting; first lie detectors and ballistic examination appeared (Lightman, 2014). And what is the most interesting, as Ronald Thomas mentioned, criminology often followed the writer's imagination, not vice versa⁵⁹.

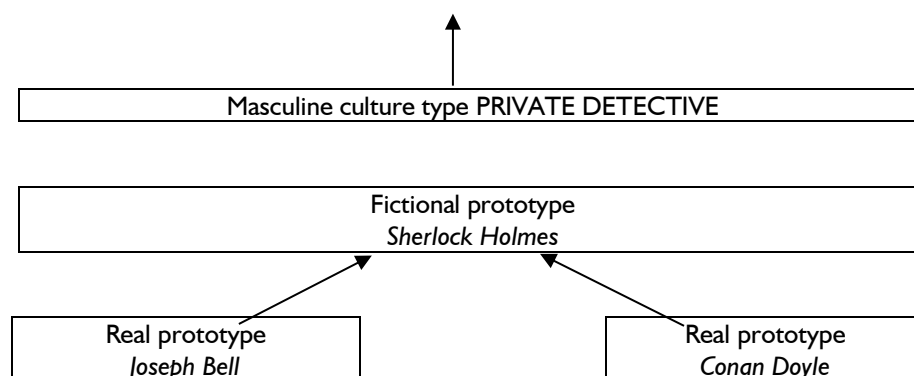
Discussion.

It is agreed that English detective fiction first appeared in the middle of XIX century to reflect political, industrial and social changes which took place in the Victorian Age. The everyday life of police detectives inspired English authors to create a new fictional character – a private detective: Inspector Bucket by Charles Dickens (1850), Sergeant Cuff of Willkie Collins (1868), Sherlock Holmes by Conan Doyle (1886). Though each of these literary characters serves a model for the cultural type PRIVATE DETECTIVE in our research we analyze Sherlock Holmes as one who mostly influenced the formation of the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE in the English mentality. According to "Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms" the word combination private detective is known since 1861⁶⁰.

Having analyzed 30 detective stories and social essays describing life and creative work of Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell we have detached 98 text fragments related to the cognitive features of fictional character and of its both real prototypes – Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell. The most of examples (80) concern Sherlock Holmes' professional features, while the rest part is divided between two prototypes, 10 and 8 respectively. Consequently, we can judge that the masculine culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE was formed mostly with regard to the fictional character of Sherlock Holmes who, in its turn, had been based on the real models. The structure of prototypical relations between the fictional character and the real prototypes can be presented as follows:

⁵⁹ Thomas Ronald R 1999. Detective Fiction and the Rise of Forensic Science. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. P. 364. ISBN13: 978-0-5215 -2762-0.

⁶⁰ Merriam Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms. Oxford:Merriam Webster's edd.P. 448. ISBN13 978-0-87779-906-1 (Online).



Fictional masculine prototype, presented by Sherlock Holmes, had real prototypes: Joseph Bell, a professor of Edinburgh Medical School, who was known for his incredible ability of diagnosing diseases, determining the professional nature of the patient (Lightman, 2014; Fariña-Pérez, 2012) and, according to some other sources, Conan Doyle himself “had all skills to become an outstanding detective. His brain was like a huge storehouse of knowledge and facts that did not respond to the damaging effects of time. He was an absolute concentration of mind; he weighed and compared, reflected, analyzed and searched for the key to some secrets, which were brought to him, as to the last decisive court”⁶¹

By the use of cognitive analysis we have defined the correlated features of the real and fictional prototypes representing the core of the masculine subtype PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

The identified features of the real and fictional prototypes were classified in accordance with the field of training, professional specialization, professional activity, type of activity.

So, we have found out that both Sherlock Holmes’ real prototypes graduated from the Medical school of University of Edinburgh, having specialized in different fields of medicine: Conan Doyle – in ophthalmology and Joseph Bell – in surgery.

*He trained as a doctor, gaining his degree from Edinburgh University in 1881*⁶²

*He (Conan Doyle) studied ophthalmology in Vienna and spent time with the best known ophthalmologist in Paris*⁶³

*Bell studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh Medical School*⁶⁴

*Joe Bell was an operator, a great one*⁶⁵.

The prototypes under analysis were employed according to their qualification: Conan Doyle was a doctor on a whaling boat, a country doctor; Joseph Bell was a well-known lecturer and surgeon:

*He worked as a surgeon on a whaling boat, a village doctor*⁶⁶.

*The renowned lecturer of the medical university, <...> master surgeon*⁶⁷.

Their personal and professional interests differed: Conan Doyle devoted his life to literature and public activity, moreover he was attracted by forensic investigation:

⁶¹ Rahn B. J. The Real World of Sherlock.2015. Amberley Publishing; Reprint edition. P.272. ISBN 978-1445650555 (Online).

⁶² Emy M. Leibow. 1982.Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Popular Press 3; 1st Edition. .P.286. ISBN13 978-08797219859 (Online).

⁶³ Rahn B. J. .2015. The Real World of SherlockAmberley Publishing; Reprint edition. P.272. ISBN 13 978-1445650555 (Online).

⁶⁴ Emy M. Leibow. 1982.Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Popular Press 3; 1st Edition. .P.286. ISBN13 978-08797219859 (Online).

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Rahn B. J. 2015. The Real World of Sherlock. Amberley Publishing; Reprint edition. P.272. ISBN13 978-1445650555 (Online)/

⁶⁷ Emy M. Leibow. 1982.Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Popular Press 3; 1st Edition. .P.286. ISBN13 978-08797219859 (Online).

<...> he had a varied career as a writer, journalist and public figure. He made private investigations⁶⁸.

The same happened to Joseph Bell who <...> was involved in a number of criminal investigations⁶⁹.

The analysis of the material has revealed that such cognitive features as professional qualification and occupation of real prototypes have been partially modified while being realized in a fictional character:

A fellow (Sherlock Holmes) who is working at the chemical laboratory up at the hospital⁷⁰.

Professional activity of Sherlock Holmes was pragmatically oriented and aimed only at knowledge needed for his work, disregarding what was not related to his professional interests - he knew the properties of poisons and drugs, he could define different soil samples at first sight, he was well versed in chemistry and anatomy and criminal literature, but had no idea about gardening, his knowledge of Geology was limited by practical needs:

Well up in belladonna, opium, and poisons generally. Knows nothing of practical gardening. Knowledge of Geology — Practical, but limited. Tells at a glance different soils from each other. Knowledge of Chemistry — Profound. Anatomy — Accurate, but unsystematic. Sensational Literature — Immense. He appears to know every detail of every horror perpetrated in the century⁷¹.

The examples have shown that Sherlock Holmes' professional competence proceeded beyond the medical study program of the Victorian age, which included a limited number of short courses. Judging by the archive data of the 1845 Victorian Britain, the 1-st – 4-th year students of Medical College were offered both mandatory and optional courses. Mandatory subjects included: descriptive and surgical anatomy, general anatomy and physiology, dissection (mostly to 2 or 3 courses), chemistry, general medicine, general pathology, comparative anatomy, pharmacology. Extracurricular activities were held in botany, pathological anatomy, forensics, practical chemistry, clinical surgery and obstetrics. Senior students specialized in narrow areas of clinical medicine⁷².

It follows that Sherlock Holmes preferred to be engaged in self-education, and studied those fields of science which had practical significance for his professional work of a detective (Keats, 2013; Kociatkiewicz, 2012).

It is worth noting that fictional private detectives have a wide variety of educational background and occupation: Father Brown – a priest (G. Chesterton), Peter Wimsey – a lord graduated from Oxford University where he had studied history (Dorothy Sayers), Hercule Poirot – a former policeman (Agatha Christie). The list is continued by Sherlock Holmes – a chemist with much practical knowledge from other scientific fields to do his work greatly. He reflected the epoch which required “a perfect machine” having all necessary functions to provide completely his professional activity.

The field on the crossroad of interests of the real and fictional prototypes is criminal investigations. The fictional prototype identified himself as a detective and investigator:

<...> *the only one in the world consulting-detective⁷³.*

⁶⁸ Rahn B. J. 2015. The Real World of Sherlock. Amberley Publishing; Reprint edition. P.272. ISBN13 9781445650555 (Online).

¹² Emy M. Leibow. 1982. Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Popular Press 3; 1st Edition. .P.286. ISBN13 978-08797219859 (Online).

⁷⁰ Conan Doyle. 1998/The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Oxford: Oxford University Press. P. 339. ISBN139780192835086(Online).

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Florent Palluault Medical students in England and France. Trinity 2003. p.385.

⁷³ Conan Doyle. 1998. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Oxford:Oxford University Press. P. 339. ISBN139780192835086(Online).

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Rahn B. J. 2015. The Real World of Sherlock. Amberley Publishing; Reprint edition. P.272. ISBN13 978-1445650555 (Online).

¹⁹ Emy M. Leibow. 1982. Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes. Popular Press 3; 1st Edition. .P.286. ISBN13 978-08797219859 (Online).

²⁰Conan Doyle. 1998. The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Oxford:Oxford University Press. P. 339. ISBN 139780192 83- 5086 (Online).

*Mr. Holmes is an independent investigator <...>. He is his own master, and would act as his own judgment directed*⁷⁴.

The duties of the police in the Victorian Britain included the tedious process of evidence collection, and surveillance, which resulted in endless staff problems. Constables at the age of retirement were fired due to physical and mental exhaustion. Up to 98% of constables left the service during the first five years, unable to withstand the struggle with weather [Lewis C, 2014]. Thus, a good physical training was a prerequisite condition for a professional detective work and a police detective. It is necessary to point out that Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell and Sherlock Holmes took sport as a free-time occupation to support their professional activity:

*Conan Doyle was an avid sportsman and adventurer*⁷⁵

*Was a sportsman, <...> took part in police investigations «был спортсменом»*⁷⁶

*Plays the violin well. Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman*⁷⁷.

The analysis of prototypical layer of the masculine subtype PRIVATE DETECTIVE represented by the literary character of Sherlock Holmes who was modeled for by Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell demonstrates the tendency for coincidence of professionally oriented cognitive features which served as the basis for formation of the analyzed concept in the English language and culture.

Table 1. Coincidence of major features of Sherlock Holmes and his real prototypes

Cognitive feature	Real prototype Conan Doyle	Real prototype Joseph Bell	Cultural type Sherlock Holmes
professional activity	surgeon on a whaling boat, a village doctor	a lecturer, a master, a surgeon	a chemist at the laboratory
field of training	trained as a doctor	studied medicine	studied chemistry
professional specialization	ophthalmology	an operator	enthusiast in some branches of science
type of activity	a writer, a journalist, a criminal investigator	a medical scholar, a surgeon, a criminal investigator	a consulting detective, a criminal investigator

Conclusion

From English detective novels and social essays we have revealed 98 fragments describing the cognitive features of the cultural type PRIVATE DETECTIVE formed on the basis of Sherlock Holmes (80 - 82%), Joseph Bell (8 - 8%) and Conan Doyle (10 - 10%). The prototypical cognitive framework (coincidence) which amounts to 66 % (65 fragments) reflects the actualization of cognitive features of real prototypes in a fictional character.

Since a culture type is considered as a variety of a concept, it allows us to model its field structure (Popova, 2004; Sternin, 2001: 130). The nuclear zone of the concept PRIVATE DETECTIVE is realized by the relevant features of its models - Joseph Bell and Conan Doyle, and the perinuclear is presented by professionally marked cognitive features of Sherlock Holmes. The area of convergence amounted up to 66% is thought as prototypical cognitive framework reflecting the embodiment of cognitive features of counterparts in the culture type PRIVATE DETECTIVE.

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