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ЛИНГВОКОГНИТИВНЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ КАТЕГОРИИ ЮМОРА LINGUOCOGNITIVE ASPECTS OF HUMOUR CATEGORY

Аннотация

*Объект исследования представлен универсальной категорией юмора, предмет – оязыковлением ее глобальной структуры в английском дискурсе. Категория юмора анализируется в режиме словоцентричного и текстоцентричного подходов к эмпирическому материалу в модусах языка и речи. Словоцентричный анализ верифицируется посредством лексеко-семантического поля юмора, семантизирующего лексикон в аутентичных лексикографических источниках. Текстоцентрический подход материализуется в малых юмористических текстах - пословицах, загадках и авторских афоризмах. Выбор методов детерминирован онтологией референтов. Актуализируются и общефилософские принципы. Номинативные и коммуникативные единицы юмора рассматриваются как идентичные маркеры оязыковления. Юмористический лексикон, как подсистема языка, постоянно эволюционирует, изменяется в режиме действия принципа *pars pro toto* (частное как целое), срывает также *tertium comparationis*. Цели исследования объективируют задачи: смоделировать глобальную структуру юмористического кластера; паспортизировать релевантный лексикон, исследовать онтологию малых текстов юмористического наполнения, их жанровую организацию. Актуальность темы резонирует в ее топикальности, инновации идеи о дистантности жанров юмористических текстов, моделировании малых текстов, значимости атрибутов лексикона, а также – об авторских интенциях. Валидность работы объективируется научным представлением в теориях фактум и диктум, в углублении знаний о номинативных и коммуникативных единицах, их девиации, а также об использовании результатов исследования в дидактических целях учебного процесса.*

Ключевые слова: *категория юмора, словоцентрический и текстоцентрический подходы, малые юмористические тексты, антропоцентризм, жанр, аттрактор, репеллер.*

Abstract

The subject matter of the article is the humour category, its representation in the modi of language and speech of the English discourse. The basic tenets are humorous backgrounded by relevant situations, words, genres and discourses. The humour effect is analyzed in the vein of syncretic interaction - mentalese, including objective and subjection perceptions of the world. Empiric matter is extracted from the lexicographic and literary discourses. Word centric approach is involved in the lexicographic experiment due to which lexicon is modelled in three active, quasi-active and marginal groups. Text centric dimension outlines genre distinctions of small humour texts. Deviations of the latter are emphasized by intended functions - didactic of proverbs, quizzing of riddles and linguocreative by authorized stories. The specific methods are determined by the nature of referents. Assignments of the article are multilateral: to parameterize the humour clusters, to stereotype the relevant lexicon, to analyze the genre nature of humour small text. Valid results of research are applicable due to the theory

of dictum factum, in the regime of language and speech modi, in the relevant scientific discussions and educationese endozone. Innovation of the research consists in its topicality, modelling of dichotomy proverbs vs sayings, distinctions of humour genres.

Keywords: *category of humour, word centric and text centric approaches, small humour texts, anthropocentrism, genre, attractor and repeller.*

Introduction

Humour is a universal phenomenon touching upon heterogeneity of language modi. Humour subsystem is on the constant move and development. Basic tenets of humour are backgrounded by relevant situations, words, texts, genres and discourses. Aspects of language and speech are in the close integrity of the objective and subjective perceptions of the world. Assignments of this paper are objectivized by intended **aims**: to parameterize the humour taxonomy by the word centric and text centric criteria; to define the humour category due to the mentalese tenets; to analyze the instruments of humour attractors and repellers; to model the paradigm of humour lexicon; to use the update, compressed methods determined by the nature of referents. Ontognoseological approach makes the major principles work - *tertium comparationis* and *pars ad pro toto* (part for whole). Emphasized are dimensions of lexico-semantic field of humour (LSFH), the study of word centric trend. Concept of humour is being dealt with in terms of polyaspectedness, polyfunctionality and polymodelity. Divergence and convergence processes are focused upon in the linguistic experiment. Humour factum and dictum are analyzed in the regime of global structures [13, c. 47]. Anthropocentric phenomenon is made by, for and about people.

The **subject matter** of the research is humour category, its linguocognitive nature in the scientific picture of the world. Humour problems raise a lot of questions to clarify their phenomenon. This category of mentalese entity (mind and language) renders the anthropocentric coding.

Methods

The lexicographic experiment runs for the word centric trend. Scientific approach to the humour category has gained prominence of cross-cultural and cross-linguistic considerations. Cicero advised against bad taste and excess of comic insertions. Comic effect works as novelty of expression and deceptive alterations which a hearer anticipates one way and hears another. Language of humour is closely examined in the 20th century. Scientific studies consider the scholarly inputs in the humour concept. Philosophers Kant Imm., Schopenhauer Ar. and Bergson H. focused upon comic incongruity. Brown W., Fry E., Hockett Ch. and Kelly Eug. contributed to the groundbreaking semantic script of humour theory – “general theory of verbal humour” [2, c. 293]. Giora's model marked informativeness of jokes including lexical puns, all of which take semantic opposition, contrastive meanings as a definition property of comic language [4, c. 466].

The paper postulates humour language as a useful tool of a speaker. Research methods are available instruments of descriptive, quantitative, qualitative and of phenomenological analyses. Parameteric criteria are employed alongside with discussion of the empirical range. The involved methods are complex, dialectical and updated. The main one is ontognoseological.

Topicality of paper is determined by the novelty of theme, idea and the choice of ontognoseological analysis, including two major trends – word centric and text centric

Word centric humour: words and word-expression

Metametasigns and metasigns of the lexico-semantic field of humour (LSFH) register the humour lexicon of lemmas (headwords) and allonyms – synonymic sets (the working term *synsets*). Humorous effect is being created by active allonyms (*amusing, funny, ridiculous, queer, strange, laughable, cheerful, difficult, absurd*), passive allonyms (*unreasonable*) and marginal allonyms (*puzzling, doubtful, unwell, troublesome, odd*). Word centric lexicon is available in the cluster of words and set-expressions.

Unexpected, queer lexical pattern, grammatical curiosities and gender exteriorizes are working here. Cf. *give – me – my – money – back – or – I'll – kill – you expression; gentlemostest, orangemostest, Mrs Chairman*. Stylistic devices are not excluded either. Cf. epithorts - *a dog of a friend, a devil of a woman, a picture of a girl*; zeugmas and oxymorons are nonstandard instances to *drink tea with lemon and a wife, to take a brush and a ship, to lose one's heart and necklace, a bushel of girls, an ounce of love, a pound of pardons, a ton of pirates*.

Text centric humour. Proverbs. Riddles. Aphorisms

Text centric humour is illustrated with proverbs - predicative small texts with inherent themas and rhemas. Proverbs as communicative units of didactic functions are on the stable dynamic move. Proverbs are under the spell of folklore endozone and social pragmatic values, let alone aesthetic charm.

Sayings stand apart, they are nominative units, blocks of proverbial and nonproverbial statements. Both units (proverbs and sayings) belong to language modus, implying decorative and figurative power. Sayings are not sentences, proverbs are. The types of modification are made by appeal to proper names, temporal shifts, grammar idiomacy and novel installments. A small portion of proverbs refers to humorous domain, e.g., *California is a nice place to live in, if you happen to be an orange. In Rome do as Romans do*; sayings are not excluded either (*a Dutch treat, a Dutch woman, Double Dutch, Dutch Humour, be Greek to someone, as American apple pie*). Ethnic proper names enter humour cluster: *Bring coals to Newcastle, California is a nice place to live, if you happen to be an orange*. Names are caricatured in humorous art pieces [9, c. 340].

Sayings and proverbs go together in dictionaries. Their common features are traced in the access to figurative and imaginative power. Sayings are devoid of rhematic blocks (predicative ones). They are link units without rhythmic charm, e.g., *id est, NB, e.g., cf., well-well, you don't say so, for a while*. These structures have no pragmatic value. Sayings refer to small talks – rapport, fatic functions, they are more of decorative power than informative. Proverbs represent complete didactic utterances. Sayings are noncompleted semantic signs Cf. *Care killed a cat; Take care of pence and pounds will take care of themselves; As you sow you shall mow, when the pigs fly, a fly on somebody*.

Some proverbs go along with scientific terms and they sound literary.

There is no proverb which is not true;

There is something wise in every proverb;

The genius, wit, and spirit of a nation are discovered in its proverbs;

And what are proverbs but the public voice [3, c. 32].

Proverbs nominate humour in a distant, riddles – in a hidden way. Riddles are more various in the scope of humour – quizzzy, entertaining, puzzling, funny, and relaxing. Riddles regulate, control, remedy people's social experience, install queer structures, entertain audience and make dialogues go. Their distinctive properties permeate the outer structures. In their dialogue composition the first part is a rhematic block, the next part is being sought after, a thematic one.

Proverbs and riddles are of folklore nature, didactic, edifying functions. Riddles are singled out by dialogue representation: the first part is rhematic and second is hidden sought after in thematic block.

Humour correlates selectively with texts. Text types are recognized by intentions of addressants. The text identification works as syncretic integrity of authors' aim, information / content factor and pragmatic evaluation. Discursive approach goes along with mentalese idea (thought and language) in linguocognitive entity, topicality, interlocutors' regime and language encoding.

Authors' humour utterances (AHUs) make the third group of small humour texts (SHTs). AHUs are highly anthropocentric by its nature: it's made of people, for people and by people. Their literary embodiment needs much energy, material and pragmatic information. The rich jokes of AHUs may become proverbial and unauthorized. Cf. *Will you walk into my parlour, said a spider to a fly* (Th. Dreiser). This utterance is rendered single worded “*gap*”, “*pitfall*”; or “*What will Mrs. Grundy say?*” (W. Shakespeare). This utterance became proverbial with implication “*What will neighbours*

say?” Amid SHU proverbs are the most serious and logic, they dislike humour effect, it is used on rare occasions with word centric humour and stylistic devices.

Genres

AHUs decode humour effect in various ways – timidly, ironically and satirically. Proverbs do it gentlemanly, kindly, in carefully chosen words. Rhematic endozone with proverbs work explicitly and implicitly. Ironic warning in the AHUs may make mixed type of humour and satire Cf. *Speak of the devil and he is sure to come*. A tip is negative, but it looks positive. AHUs may be loaded with unprecedented definition, incomparable referents and paradoxical ideas of social *horrorhows*. *The triad of genres* (humor, irony, and sarcasm) arranges combinations like humour :: irony, humour :: satire, irony :: satire. Poem by Ch. Mackay “You Have No Enemies” is a vivid example of pattern irony :: satire.

You Have No Enemies

*You have no enemies, you say?
Alas! My friend, the boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes! If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done.
You've hit no traitor on the hip,
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,
You've never turned the wrong to right,
You've been a coward in the fight [6].*

The word centric and text centric analyses verify humour processes of convergence and divergence, phenomena of attractors and repellers make strong tendency of the English humour. The word and text centric analyses work with different units: aphorisms (a), limericks (b), riddles (c), plays on words (d).

- a) *When women go wrong, men go right after them.*
- b) *There was a young lady of Crewe. Who wanted to catch the 2.2, said a porter, “Don't worry or flurry or scurry. It's a minute or 2 to 2.2*
- c) *What is puppy love? – It is the beginning of the dog's life.*
- d) *A wise man is one who noes a lot; in two words – im, possible [7, c. 128 - 150].*

Humour implies positive treatment of people. Irony irritates addressees. Satire blows them hard onto their weakest points. The divergence of small texts is a relevant argument to verify the validity of attractors and repellers in the scientific view of the world. The marginal group attributes alongside the genres of irony and satire. Repellers of humour become attractors of irony and satire. The genre triad has much in common, but differences work at that. Irony and satire are effective in the literary discourse, with the figurative and tragic loading. Allonyms *odd, strange, queer, trouble, unreasonable, unwell* are at work here objectivizing mixed type of humour :: irony.

Humour presupposes a developed intellect on the part of beholders. Situational humour appears due to the discrepancy of referents. Linguistic humour is realized gradually in broad contexts, in paragraphs, pictures, and short stories. Deviations do not diminish humour appreciation either in verbal jokes [12, c. 409] or cartoons.

Repelles engender lacunar phenomena (omission, empty places, paradox of semas without lexemas). Verified lacunae are: elliptical sentences, situations of hesitation, low cultural speech, horrorhows in translations, deletion, sentence distortions and illogical statements [1, c. 101].

Words aren't weak to cope with strong ideas. They (words) serve adequately both nominative and communicative units, situations and discourses. Omnipotently linguocognitive synthesis work wonders [5, c. 13]. Humorous texts are about sex, gender and age [10, c. 189]. Globally oriented humorous texts deal with social values that are common to societies all over the world.

Conclusion

The humorous effect is being provided by linguistic and situational endozones – by words, play on words, modifications in outer and deep structures. Processes of divergence and convergence, semantic shifts, paradoxes, the intensive power of attractors and repellers are highly beneficial to engender phenomenon of lacuna (omission, gap, dark places, semas without lexemas). Semantic shifts (including humorous effects) work in small and great texts. The research of triad genres (humour, irony, satire) has much in common: anthropocentric facilities, aesthetic expressive and emotional impacts on readers, mentales nature of tendencies, stylistic loading changes, universal laws, polar arrangement under the influx of attractors and repellers. The divergence of texts is verified by the valid immanent laws of macrosystem. AHUs comprise high style witticism; readers are of high intellects to cope with humour troubles. The topics of AHUs imply social values. SHT is on a stable move including formal and semantic modifications. Update proverbs enter the scientific picture of the world including its ideas, terms, and stylistic devices. Aphorisms the late proverbs are loaded with literary words which oust the folklore lexicon.

Humour works in both linguistic and situational endozones. It is of mentales nature, syncretic entity of language and thought. Linguocentric lexicon is divided into active group (amusing, funny, ridiculous, queer, strange, laughable, cheerful, difficult, absurd), passive and marginal attributes (puzzling, doubtful, unwell, troublesome, bright, well-suited, add). Repellers of humour are attractors of irony and satire. Attractors and repellers make types of text genre and discourses, they are movers of humorous effect and advent the convergence and divergence processes. The integrity of the text triad (proverbs, riddles, authors' humorous utterances) is being traced in their small volume, predicativeness, bilateral (outer and deep) structure and antropocentric nature. Their distinctions are focused by the functions: proverbs perform didactic functions, riddles – controlling and quizzing, aphorisms – linguocreative. Novelty of AHUs research consists in the idea of basic functions, integrity of authorized intentions and language exteriorizers. Proverbs mark moral values, riddles seek after thematic blocks and aphorisms compete for linguistic charm. Humour word centered units are noted in the lexicographic interpretation articles. Lexicographic experiment results in modelling active, passive, and marginal subgroups of humour lexicon. Text centric approach objectivizes divergence of humour units. By scientific tradition humour has been defined as an aesthetic thinking category. The linguistic experiment enforces dimensions of the mentales idea with linguocognitive approach. Much scope is left for further investigation of fun, nonsense, irony, sarcasm, absurdity, ridicule and humorous effects.

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List of abbreviations

AHUs – Authors' humour utterances

LSFH – Lexico-semantic field of humour

SHTs – Small humour texts

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