

ISCKMC 2020**International Scientific Congress «KNOWLEDGE, MAN AND CIVILIZATION»****EXPRESSING THE CONCEPT WEALTH AT THE LEXICAL
LEVEL IN A LITERARY WORK**

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Abstract

The article deals with lexical means of expressing the concept WEALTH in the novel by the English writer Jane Austen “Pride and prejudice”, semantic layers of the concept have been determined. The theme of wealth, enrichment, prosperity is one of the main in the book. All linguistic means, verbalizing the analyzed concept are introduced in the research at the material and moral levels. Material wealth in the novel is expressed by such lexemes as: *fortune, thousand, money, pound, estate, rich, possession, poor, property, wealth, prosperity, prosperous, expenses, poverty, sixpence, inherit*. At the cultural level this concept is expressed by *happiness, wisdom, wise, faithful, clever, sensible, knowledge, kindness, compassion, confidence, hospitality, politeness*. The whole entirety of lexical units actualizing the analyzed concept in the novel “Pride and Prejudice” makes four thematic groups or conceptual layers: *material wealth, the amount of wealth, the wealth effect, spiritual values*. Dominance of lexical units expressing material values over the lexical units expressing moral values allows making conclusion that the concept WEALTH in the English mentality mostly understood as its material value. Often use of linguistic means referring to moral values allows speaking about rich spiritual world of the author Jane Austin. Linguistic world image of Jane Austin and representatives of the English speaking linguistic culture described in the novel “Pride and Prejudice” is characterized by prudence on one hand, rationality and pragmatism, and, on the other hand, by such moral characteristics as kindness, happiness, knowledge, and sympathy.



1. Introduction

Studying a concept as an element of the artistic world view has recently become more popular in the linguistic science. The artistic world view arises in the reader's mind while reading the literary text and becomes a variant of the linguistic world image. The best access to the concept, its understanding, perception and transmission are possible via verbalization, or via language (Pesina & Solonchak, 2015).

The writer using the vocabulary and introducing own means of expression, creates author's world image. Author's world image is a subjective world image created via prism of memories, thinking, perception and language and talent of the author. This image carries the features of author's personality and is manifested via a bulk of texts (Putilina & Nesterov, 2015).

The fact is clear that a text and a concept are complex phenomenon as they combine on one hand linguistic data, meaning and on the other hand express the culture of the linguistic society, its historical experience, peculiarities of thinking and other extra linguistic categories (Khalitova, 2011).

The structure of the concept was studied by Popova and Sternin (2001). The structural model of the concept suggested by Popova and Sternin (2001), is analogous to the metaphor of a cloud without boundaries. Many scientists describe the structure of the concept as a field in terms of the core and periphery. This research determines the set of lexemes, verbalizing the concept WEALTH in the analyzed novel and its conceptual layers.

2. Problem Statement

In the modern linguistics there are two main approaches to understanding the "concept": linguo-cognitive and linguo-cultural. The representatives of the linguo-cognitive approach (I. A. Sternin, E. S. Kubriakova, D. S. Likhachev, A. P. Babushkin, S. A. Askoldov and others.) determine it as a mental formation helping to find a linguistic world image.

The scientists of the linguo-cultural trend (A. Wierzbicka, V. I. Karasik, U. S. Stepanov, S. G. Vorkachev, N. D. Arutyunova, U. S. Stepanov, S. K. H. Liapin and others) view the concept as a basic cultural unit, its concentrate.

Dealing with the problem of concept actualization, linguists determine such complementing approaches as system-linguistic, associative-verbal and cultural-semiotic (Gladkikh, 2012). Verbalization is one of the most important form of the concept actualization, way of linguistic expression for feelings, thoughts, behaviour. This research deals with the peculiarities of expressing the concept via language.

3. Research Questions

The subject of the research is lexical means of the verbalization the concept WEALTH in the novel Jane Austin "Pride and Prejudice" (Austen, 2019).

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the research is to determine the whole range of lexical units of the English language verbalizing the concept WEALTH in the work by Jane Austin "Pride and Prejudice" (Austen,

2019). The purpose determined the tasks of the research as determining the spectrum of the lexical units, expressing the studied concept at the material and spiritual levels, studying the conceptual layers of the analyzed concept.

5. Research Methods

The main methods of the research are the methods of the conceptual analysis, method of the linguistic description, contextual-interpretational method of the linguistic analysis, functional-semantic and structural-semantic methods, continuous sampling method, and quantitative estimation method.

6. Findings

The concept WEALTH is one of the especially important concepts in the culture of the language society of the people. This concept is a key concept of the cognitive mentality of the people as any sphere of human activity is connected with this concept. The concept WEALTH has many ways of expression in the language semantics and communicative activity of any ethnos (Zubarev, 2007).

The novel “Pride and Prejudice”, written at the end of the eighteenth century is a classic of the English literature, the history is based on the concept of morality (Austen, 2019). The novel tells about a family of one not very rich landowner who has five marriageable daughters, and a fuss around two young men who have arrived in the country and are viewed as potential husbands. The novel reflects visits, balls and mother’s tricks.

The theme of wealth, enrichment, and prosperity is a key theme of the novel. It is what the landowner’s family lacks and the mother of the family Bennet strives for.

The key representative of the concept WEALTH in the novel by Jane Austen is a lexeme “*fortune*” – “wealth, heritage” (58 examples), as a source of the material prosperity passing after the death from its owner to a new person. For example:

A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"

To denote a large property or fortune in the novel a numeral “*thousand*” is used (35 cases), often without such a marker as *pounds*. For example:

Dear, dear Lizzy. A house in town! Every thing that is charming! Three daughters married! Ten thousand a year! "

The concept “WEALTH” is verbalized in the novel via the lexeme “*money*” – 30 examples. Having money for some characters is a trump card, an advantage over other people, which protects them from problems and sometimes allows being generous, merciful as in case of Mr. Darcy. For example:

*"Yes. It has often led him to be liberal and generous, to give his **money** freely, and to display hospitality, to assist his tenants, and relieve the poor.*

In fulfilling the concept in the novel the following adjectives are used: “*rich*”, “*prosperous*”. For example:

*"If I were as **rich** as Mr. Darcy," cried a young Lucas, who came with his sisters, "I should not care how proud I was.*

The novel often uses the notion of the English coin “pound” (28 examples) together with quantitative numerals. In such a case a notion of a certain sum of money is given. For example:

Her father had been an attorney in Meryton, and had left her four thousand pounds.

It should be noted that the lexical unit “wealth” to express the analyzed concept is rarely used in the novel. This fact can be explained by that Jane Austin uses other key words-representatives of the concept WEALTH in the meaning “having material wealth” mentioned above. The word “wealth” is used in the following sentence:

*They may wish many things besides his happiness; they may wish his increase of **wealth** and consequence.*

Another linguistic means of expressing the concept in the novel is the lexeme “prosperity”. It is used in the following combinations: “unexpected prosperity”, “immediate prosperity”.

Considering the specifics of objectification the concept WEALTH it is important to pay attention to the lexemes expressing the notion opposite to the concept “wealth” – “poverty”. The antonym to wealth – poverty expresses absence of the material wealth and in some contexts is a vivid representative of the analyzed concept. For example:

"And of your infliction," cried Elizabeth with energy. "You have reduced him to his present state of poverty – comparative poverty".

However, it should be noted that in the given novel the adjective *poor* is used figuratively in all the contexts (not in the meaning “poor”, “low income, having insufficient means”), but in the meaning “lacking something”. For example:

My poor mother is really ill and keeps her room.

In the text of the analyzed work the concept WEALTH is verbalized via the concept *finances*. Longman in the “*Dictionary of contemporary English*” gives the following definition to this lexical unit: *the money that a person, company, organization etc. has available* (Longman, 2001). For example:

And in the wretched state of his own finances, there was a very powerful motive for secrecy, in addition to his fear of discovery by Lydia's relations.

To the far periphery of the linguistic means, representing the concept we can refer the lexeme “inherit”. Longman «*Dictionary of contemporary English*» gives the definition: *inherit* 1) *to receive money, property etc. from someone after they have died; 2) to have a problem caused by mistakes that other people have made in the past* (Longman, 2001). In the novel the Bennets’ estate was to be inherited by the twenty-five year old priest Mister William Collins, as according to the law of heritage only men could inherit the fortune and the Bennets had only daughters. For example:

This was his plan of amends – of atonement – for inheriting their father's estate.

The analyzed work contains lexemes, expressing material wealth as “sixpence” and “expences”. For example:

*I know it all; that the young man's marrying her was a patched-up business, at the **expence** of your father and uncles.*

The concept WEALTH is expressed in the novel by Jane Austin with the help of lexemes expressing moral values (Gladkikh, 2012).

The inner world of a man covers such moral values as faith, virtue, sympathy, love to the beautiful, mercy, intellect, wisdom, patience, hospitality.

The following lexemes expressing spiritual wealth are used: *happiness, wise, wisdom, faithful, knowledge, sensible, kindness, compassion, confidence, hospitality, clever, politeness*. Let's pay attention to the use of some of them.

The phenomenon *happiness* is related to psychology, philosophy and physiology of a man. The state of happiness corresponds to greater inner satisfaction of a man with household, meaningfulness, abundant life, finding own human vocation. In the novel "Pride and Prejudice" the lexeme *happiness* expresses the feeling of joy and deep satisfaction expressed by main characters of the novel. For example:

"You excel so much in the dance, Miss Eliza, that it is cruel to deny me the happiness of seeing you..."

Analysis of the sentences containing the lexeme *happiness*, shows that every character has own happiness. So, for Jane Bennet happiness is a successful marriage, as it is the only way to take a recognized position in the society. However, in the epoch described in the novel, love was not taken into account in the marriage. In the marriage the law was on the side of a husband he could use the property of his wife. For Elizabeth happiness is in the prosperity of her parents, sisters, for Mister Darcy the source of happiness at the end of the novel is to see Elizabeth.

The examples with the component *happiness*, show how happiness is many-sided. Characters of the novel find happiness in different circumstances which do not depend on the subjective opinion. The happy characters in the novel do only good and are the source of the positive emotions. For example:

At present, indeed, they were well supplied both with news and happiness by the recent arrival of a militia regiment ...

Phenomenon *wisdom* is connected with cognitive ability of a man. A man can become wise only receiving knowledge about the world around.

The concept *wisdom* is closely connected in the novel with the main character Elizabeth Bennet. In any situation the character turns to wisdom and common sense, but in some cases she doubts that her actions are right. For example:

How can I promise to be wiser than so many of my fellow-creatures if I am tempted, or how am I even to know that it would be wisdom to resist?

At the spiritual level the concept WEALTH is verbalized by a lexeme *kindness*. Kindness is a category of ethics, general concept of the moral consciousness, which characterize positive moral values. The example of goodness in the novel is the father of the family Mister Bennet. For example:

"What an excellent father you have, girls!" said she, when the door was shut. "I do not know how you will ever make him amends for his kindness"

Besides him the kindness was expressed by Miss Bingley and her sister, Missis Hurst. Being refined ladies, they were witty when in good moods, if it coincided with their plans, could be liked but at the same time were arrogant and self-conceited. However, both sisters and their brother Mister Bingley were kind to Elisabeth which was a surprise for her. For example:

She was received, however, very politely by them; and in their brother's manners there was something better than politeness; there was good humour and kindness.

Such positive moral qualities of the inner world of a man as faithfulness, trust are expressed via such lexemes as *faithful* and *confidence*. A faithful person is one full of love and faithfulness to somebody or something, devoted to his business. Personal actions in the interpersonal context are determined and assigned by faithfulness. It is necessary to believe, trust to other people; which are the base for many actions of a man (Panchenko, 2008). For example:

Elizabeth listened with delight to the happy, though modest hopes which Jane entertained of Mr. Bingley's regard, and said all in her power to heighten her confidence in it.

"Oh! certainly," cried his faithful assistant, "no one can be really esteemed accomplished who does not greatly surpass what is usually met with".

Positive moral qualities such as politeness and hospitality are expressed in the novel by the lexemes *hospitality* and *politeness*. Politeness is a feature of the character, characterizing good manners, education and good actions. A polite person can respectfully and tactfully communicate with people, is ready to compromise and take into account an opposite opinion. The characters who are polite in the novel are Mister Darcy and the Bennets. For example:

"Mr. Darcy is all politeness," said Elizabeth, smiling.

Hospitality is a quality of a person who is ready and able to accept visitors in his house, showing all honors to the guest. For example:

Mr. Collins was complimenting Mr. Bingley and his sisters on the elegance of their entertainment, and the hospitality and politeness which had marked their behaviour to their guests...

The research shows that the number of the lexemes expressing material values in the novel (16 lexemes), prevails over the lexemes nominating moral values (12 lexemes). For the English culture pursuit of wealth is encouraged, a certain amount of wealth is meaningful, and other material values.

7. Conclusion

The concept of wealth including material and moral wealth in the English mentality results in its material understanding and material value. However, as the research of the author's world view shows in the novel – Jane Austin, the novel has many lexemes expressing spiritual wealth which evidences a rich inner world of the author. The novel "Pride and Prejudice" discloses moral and spiritual sides of the human character and demonstrates the importance of the spiritual wealth in the human life together with the material wealth.

The concept WEALTH, introduced in the novel under study includes 4 thematic groups or conceptual layers. The whole number of lexemes representing the concept can be divided into the following groups:

1. The theme group *material wealth* is expressed via the following lexemes: *wealth, rich, money, possession, expenses, property, fortune, estate, poverty, poor, inherit*. 2. The group the amount of wealth, the amount (volume, quantity) – the quantity of the wealth is represented by the lexemes *thousand, sixpence, pound*.

3. The theme group *the wealth effect (effect of wealth)* is expressed via such lexical units as *prosperity, prosperous*.

4. The group *spiritual values* is expressed via lexemes: *happiness, knowledge, kindness, politeness, wise, sensible, compassion, confidence, faithful, hospitality, clever, wisdom.*

The events in the novel prove that the material wealth is destructive if a man does not have moral wealth. In the novel the writer laconically and composedly discloses the main plot of the novel – manhunt, and in this context the theme of the material wealth becomes predominant. However, as the study has shown, Jane Austin relates wealth in her author’s world view not only with material values but pays a great attention to the spiritual world and moral values.

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