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ИЗУЧЕНИЕ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА С ПОМОЩЬЮ АУДИОКНИГ

Цель данной статьи заключается в том, чтобы познакомить читателя с техникой изучения иностранного языка при помощи аудиокниг. Автор обращает внимание на различные способы восприятия информации (слуховой, зрительный и кинестетический), чтобы увидеть, насколько этот метод обучения может быть эффективным. Большое внимание уделяется алгоритму изучения английского языка с помощью аудиокниги. В качестве примера приводится знаменитая книга Марка Твена «Приключения Тома Сойера». В заключении автор указывает на преимущества и недостатки данного метода.

Ключевые слова: аудиокниги, метод обучения, иностранный язык, слуховое, визуальное, кинестетическое восприятие, обучающиеся.

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SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN: A LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL ANALYSIS

This corpus-based study examines the description and analysis of linguistic and cultural diversity in the conceptualization of the notions «sympathy» and «empathy». On the basis of the contrastive semantic analysis of «sympathy» and «empathy» in English and their Russian translation equivalents the considerable differences in the conceptualization of these words, explained by the reference to the prevalence of different models of social interaction in Anglo and Russian cultures, as well as different cultural attitudes towards emotional expression are demonstrated.

Keywords: culture, emotions, sympathy, empathy, English, Natural Semantic Metalanguage, Russian.

The Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) as a Method of Semantic Analysis

NSM is a methodology of linguistic and conceptual analysis which was developed by Anna Wierzbicka, Cliff Goddard, and her colleagues. It consists of sixty-three empirically established lexical and grammatical universals. These universals form a minilanguage, which is used to represent the meaning of linguistic units. Within the NSM approach, emotion terms are explained by reference to a prototypical cognitive scenario, which gives rise to a certain way of feeling. This approach is consistent with the view held in cultural psychology that emotion concepts can be decomposed into 'narrative' terms [1].

The purpose of the NSM-based conceptual analysis of the emotion term is to create a semantic explication of the term representing a proto-typical way of thinking and feeling associated with this emotion. This explication is expected to be broad enough to account for a variety of uses of the term within its single meaning. The advantage of using the NSM in conceptual analysis lies in the fact that it makes it possible to capture the meaning of the emotion term of any language by using words that are adequate in that language.

The use of the NSM enables to study human emotions from a genuinely cross-linguistic and cross-cultural, as well as a psychological perspective, and, thus, provides new possibilities for the scientific understanding of subjectivity and psychological experience.

Semantic analysis

English «Sympathy» and «Empathy»

The term «sympathy» is polysemous. In this article one meaning of «sympathy» as it is used in the combinations 'to feel sympathy for/with someone else' and 'to have sympathy for/with someone else' is considered.

Sympathy is an emotion caused by the awareness of the fact that something bad has happened to another person. The range of conditions invoking sympathy is relatively broad and extends from the discomfort of everyday life (for example, working long hours) to serious misfortunes (such as the death of a loved one, or living through a war).

In summary, sympathy is invoked by the awareness of a negative emotional state of another person. It can cause some emotional response in a person, yet there is little evidence to suggest that it is associated with a bodily sensation. Sympathy can be expressed to another person, but it is restricted to situations when people are in contact with each other. Since sympathy can be experienced in the situations when one person does not know another one, or has no contact with that person; this feature cannot be regarded as an invariant of the meaning.

In the paper the following formula to capture the meaning of «sympathy» is given:

[A] sympathy

- a. person X thinks about person Y that way:
- b. something bad has happened to this person
- c. this person feels something bad because of this
- d. it is not good
- e. I don't want people to feel bad things like this
- f. when X thinks that way, X feels something
- g. how people feel when they think that way about someone.

The structure of the suggested explication expresses the opinion, that the meaning of the emotion term has a component (components f–g) indicating a feeling caused by a particular way of thinking (components a–e). The element 'like' in components (f–g) signals that the explication refers to a prototype of the feeling. A similar structure of explications refers to other terms discussed in this paper. Explication [A] shows that sympathy is caused by thinking that something bad has happened to someone else and this event has led to the person's negative feelings (components b and c). This situation receives a negative evaluation (d) because the person does not want people to experience such bad feelings (e).

«Empathy» refers to a conscious attention to the feelings of another person. As the data suggest, in English folk psychology (as reflected in conventional English) «empathy» is most commonly conceptualized as a state rather than a feeling. In accordance with this finding, the expression 'to have empathy' is studied in this paper. The essence of «empathy» means knowing and understanding the emotional state of another person. Importantly, the other person does not have to have experienced something bad.

«Empathy» can be explicated as follows:

[B] empathy

- a. person X thinks about someone else that way:
- b. something happens to this person
- c. this person feels something because of this
- d. I know what a person can feel when something like this happens
- e. because of this, I know what this person can be feeling

Russian «sochuvstvie» and «soperezhivanie»

To begin with, it necessary to mention the similarity of the morphological structures of «sochuvstvie» and «soperezhivanie». Both words contain the prefix so- (comparable to the English prefix co-), which roughly means 'a joint activity'. In Russian the prefix so- is regarded as 'alive', that is, its meaning differs from the meaning of the word taken as a whole. For Russian speakers the emotion terms in question have a transparent morphological structure and refer to a 'joint' or 'shared' emotional experience: sochuvstvie – roughly 'co-feeling', and soperezhivanie – roughly, 'co-living through' or 'co-intense feeling'.

Sochuvstvie is a feeling caused by awareness of someone else's bad situation and his or her consequent negative emotional state. The range of potential situations invoking sochuvstvie is relatively broad; examples from the Corpus include someone being cheated by a salesperson in a grocery store, having to go far away from home, being criticized in a newspaper, being lonely, being unemployed, and being old.

Typically, sochuvstvie is experienced towards someone who a person knows and is in contact. An important constituent of sochuvstvie is that the experiencer feels some kind of a 'bond' between him- or her and the target person. An illustration for this quality of sochuvstvie is found in its tendency to collocate with the name of a social category, «blizhnij» (literally 'the one next to you'), hence the collocation «sochuvstvie k blizhnemu» (literally, 'sympathy for the one next to you'). «Blizhnij» is a Russian culture- and language-specific social category which refers to people with whom one shares one's life on an everyday basis, and with whom one feels a bond.

The meaning of the word «sochuvstvie» can be represented as follows:

[C] Sochuvstvie

- a. person X knows that something bad has happened to person Y
- b. X knows that Y feels something bad because of this
- c. when X thinks about it, X feels something bad
- d. at the same time X thinks about Y that way:
- e. I don't want this person to feel bad things like this
- f. because of this, I want to do something good for this person
- g. when X thinks that way about Y, X feels something good towards Y
- h. X wants Y to know this.

Components a and b in the explication show that sochuvstvie develops from the awareness of the bad condition and emotional state of another person. The choice of the prime KNOW rather than THINK (as used for English sympathy) is due to the greater degree of 'closeness' between the experiencer and the object: the experiencer

KNOWS through his or her contact with the person that something bad has happened to him or her. Component c captures the 'painful' sensations associated with *sochuvstvie*. Component d indicates that a parallel mental activity develops in the experiencer's mind – the experiencer wants the person to stop experiencing the negative emotional state (component e) by doing something good for that person (component f). This way of thinking is associated with a positive attitude towards the other person (component g). The desire to express this attitude to the one in trouble is captured in component h.

Derivationally, the word «*soperezhivanie*» (traditionally translated in English as «*empathy*») is related to «*perezhivanie*», which roughly means 'intense feeling'. Therefore, *soperezhivanie* describes an 'intense feeling' caused by the 'intense feeling' of another person. Typical situations when *soperezhivanie* can be experienced are watching a movie or a play, reading a book, or following a sports competition. In such cases a person becomes aware of the emotional state of other people and in the process experiences the similar emotional state.

In order to feel *soperezhivanie*, it is essential for the experiencer to feel some bond between himself and another person. In the case of fans and sports teams, this bond is usually developed due to a common town or country of origin. In the case of fictional characters, this bond can be formed by belonging to the same gender or age group, or having similar experiences. *Soperezhivanie* can also be felt by someone who is away from home and becomes aware of some misfortune happening to the people in their native country (e.g., a terrorist attack, flood, earthquake, etc.).

[D] *Soperezhivanie*

- a. person X knows that something bad is happening to person Y
- b. X knows that Y feels something bad because of this
- c. when X thinks about it, X feels something bad,
- d. at the same time X thinks about Y that way:
- e. this person is someone like me
- f. I don't want this person to experience bad things
- g. I want good things to happen to this person
- h. when X thinks that way about Y, X feels something good towards Y

This study contributes to the analysis of linguistic and cultural variation in the conceptualization of «*sympathy*» and «*empathy*» type emotions, an area which has been largely overlooked in the psychological literature. The use of universal semantic concepts allows to identify the precise semantic and conceptual differences between the English words «*sympathy*» and «*empathy*» and the Russian words «*sochuvstvie*» и «*soperezhivanie*», which are regarded as their translation counterparts. These differences are mainly related to the degree of familiarity between the experiencer and the target person and the complexity and expression of the feelings. These differences can be attributed to the different models of social interaction prevalent in English and Russian cultures and different attitudes towards the expression of emotions.

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СОЧУВСТВИЕ И СОПЕРЕЖИВАНИЕ В РУССКОМ И АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКАХ: ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЙ И КУЛЬТУРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ

Данное исследование посвящено описанию и анализу языкового и культурного различия понятий «*сочувствие*» и «*сопереживание*». На основе сравнительного семантического анализа данных понятий в английском и русском языках продемонстрированы их концептуальные различия, обоснованные распространением различных моделей социального взаимодействия в английской и русской культурах, а также отношении этих культур к эмоциональной экспрессии.

Ключевые слова: культура, эмоции, сочувствие, сопереживание, метод семантического анализа, русский язык.

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