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On some peculiarities of forms and means of expressing aberration in W. Gibson's science-fiction

This article deals with the forms and means of expressing the semantic field of aberration in the novel «Neuromancer» by W. Gibson in English. The core and near periphery of mental and physiological components of this semantic space were revealed. The interpretative field was also considered as the distant periphery of this mental unit. The author used semantic and contextual analyses, distinguishing the main components.

Key words: semantic field; aberration; lexeme; collocation; phrase.

Semantic fields reflect the data of thesauri but they can also function as cognitive phenomena because of social experience. Their content is characterized in accordance with linguistic means of their expression. There is a great range of linguistic means that take part in the formation of the mental unit, for instance, collocations, phrases, lexemes. Moreover, the semantic space of the categories can be reflected by means of the whole context.

The analysis of the semantic field *aberration* in English in the boundaries of the novel «Neuromancer» by William Gibson aims at revealing personal social experience of the author, his thoughts and ideas of the mental unit under study.

Being among the most abstract categories, *aberration* characterizes a lot of phenomena in culture. It helps to understand the structure of thinking in different social groups.

Semantic fields intersect due to the meanings that can be actualized in a given context. The semantic fields can include lexical units that might belong to different styles, for instance, neutral and colloquial at the same time; these peculiarities of lexical units are registered in dictionaries. Thus, some of the elements of the semantic space can express different meanings. Such means of expressing the semantic fields can occupy various positions within a given semantic space: central or peripheral ones.

The analysis of the semantic field *aberration* within the narration of W. Gibson's «Neuromancer» reveals the structural characteristics of this mental unit, its forms of expression. Thus, the semantic fields include their peculiar elements. These semantic fields are given in the light of Gibson's personal experience influenced by his culture, social surroundings and personal experience as a specialist in the sphere of science-fiction.

All that mental units are meant to be presented here as the complex of semantic fields. Moreover, we think that some of the parts of the semantic

fields are interconnected with each other finding common features with the core of the semantic category. For instance, all the semantic fields of *aberration* in the framework of the literary work «The Neuromancer» are characterized similarly in the light of the lexical structure of the semantic field *aberration*; lexical units, which were included into these semantic fields, are semantically marked «anomaly».

The semantic field *aberration* is observed here in the sense of semantic fields in original by William Gibson in English. Traditionally, the semantic fields are reflected as the complex of linguistic units that are also divided into various peripheries of this semantic space: near and distant ones.

The structural polycentric features of both mental and physiological components of the semantic field under study in the text «The Neuromancer» by William Gibson are distinguished due to the linguistic units of the core, peripheries, interpretative field that are revealed in the process of contextual analysis.

One of the goals of the semantic analysis consists of defining key mental units within the structure of the semantic field under study.

Special interest of semantic analysis implies the meanings of linguistic units within lexical entries and contextual environment either. The meanings of linguistic units of lexical entries are advised to be added to special thesauri of slang origin due to the style of the author under study. They are very important from the point of view of distinguishing structural components of the interpretative field of the mental unit *aberration*. The following stages are considered as the most important ones in the sense of considering the structure of the mental unit in language, taking into account the purpose of the study: a) defining the primary lexeme that characterizes any part of the semantic space of the category. The lexical unit «aberration» is the most abstract component with its own set of derivatives; b) revealing the complex of linguistic units that form the semantic fields of the category under study in the literary work «The Neuromancer»: the core, near and distant peripheries of the semantic field *aberration*. These are lexemes, collocations, phraseological units of neutral-bookish style, informal style, euphemisms, related linguistic units that bring semantic characteristics of the semantic field *aberration*, sentences, even passages, the whole chapters dedicated to the description of aberrations. In case of sentences, passages and chapters we mean an interpretative field, which includes means of expressing the category in indirect way. Distant periphery is formed by means of paroemiological units, euphemisms. Thus, the subject of semantic analysis here is the means of all styles and forms, defining the core, near and distant peripheries of the semantic space; c) forming the structure of the mental unit in «The Neuromancer», which is based on the meanings revealed in certain contextual environment of the work under study. The number

of stages of semantic analysis depends on the varying goals of the scholar; it can even include the interview with the author or people, who got certain impression about the book. This work was limited by three phases that do not contradict each other in terms of semantic and contextual analyses. The revealed meanings of the lexical units indicate only the borders of the semantic field *aberration* in this work. In order to consider new meanings of linguistic means of expressing the semantic field *aberration*, lexical entries were not considered. The author also avoided taking into account the range of synonyms to the primary word of the category; they are revealed only in the context of the work «Neuromancer», mentioning the actualized meanings.

Mental and physiological components of the semantic field *aberration* were revealed in the context of the text under study. The following semantic fields of the mental component are distinguished in accordance with the contextual analysis: 1. medical terms, denoting mental aberrations; 2. lexical units: a. of neutral-bookish style, denoting mental illness; b. of informal style, denoting mental illness; 3. an interpretative field. The physiological component includes: 1. medical terms, actualizing physiological aberrations; 2. lexical units of neutral-bookish style, expressing inborn or acquired diseases; 3. an interpretative field.

The meanings of the lexical units belonging to the semantic fields of the above-mentioned components of *aberration* let us define the structure of this mental unit in the work «The Neuromancer» by W. Gibson [1] taking into account the data of the contextual analysis.

As for the main character, he was suffering from the injuries that occurred in the nervous system caused by a toxic metabolite: «*damaged his nervous system, hallucinated, the damage was minute*» [1]. The collocation *nervous system* in the boundaries of the phraseological unit *damage one's nervous system* actualizes its direct meaning of the core of the semantic field 'medical terms, actualizing physiological aberrations'. The verb and the noun *damage* can function as lexical units that express the meanings of mental and physiological aberrations. Thus, they can be included into the semantic fields of both components. The verb *hallucinate* is represented by the meaning «perceive what is not in reality». It is in the sphere of the semantic field «lexical units of neutral-bookish style, expressing acquired diseases» of the mental component.

The interpretative field of the mental component is also observed. W. Gibson mentions drug addiction of the main character: *the gestalt of drug, the reflexive need, the wavelength of the amphetamine*, narrating about the condition of Case. Considering Linda, Case's girl, Gibson notes that she took drugs either: *personality fragment, calving, the raw need, signs of derms or the needle*. Here the author also uses the direct collocation, actualizing the meaning «acute need for pills»: *hungry armature of addiction*. It refers to the core of the

semantic field «medical terms, denoting mental aberrations» of the mental component of the semantic field *aberration*. The collocation *mutant carp* indicates physiological aberration among animals. The author compares the heroine Linda with mantises that were sold near carps with specific physiological features. The collocation *mutant carp* expresses the meaning «undergone mutation among animals». It belongs to neutral-bookish style and represents the core of the semantic field «lexical units of neutral-bookish style, expressing inborn or acquired diseases» of the physiological component. The phraseological unit *take pills* is given with its general meaning and is included into the sphere of the core of the semantic field “lexical units of neutral-bookish style, denoting mental illness” of the mental component.

The character Wage, who Case dealt with, had an illegal business of selling medicines: *proscribed biologicals*. This collocation is also included into the sphere of the semantic fields of the mental component, it expresses the meaning «drugs». Moreover, the author uses a wide range of names of narcotics, for instance, *synthetic glandular extract*. This mean is also a collocation related to the lexeme *drug*. It stands as further specification of the term *drug*.

Sometimes the lexical units of the semantic fields of both components do not necessarily mean real aberration. For instance, the lexeme *crazy* is used to express personal attitude of Case towards Wage. Case defines him as an abnormal person because he was a drug dealer. Then Case found out that Wage intended to kill him. Wage calls him *a wig*. In the boundaries of this text, this lexeme implies the meaning ‘to lose one’s reason’. But Wage mentioned the face of a drug-addicted person, saying *you look bad*. This phraseological unit indicates various problems with health that Case struggled with. His appearance was not so good. This phraseological unit actualizes the meanings of both mental and physiological components of the category under study.

Case was suffering from paranoia: *a certain tame paranoia*. The lexeme *paranoia* is included into the core of the semantic field «medical terms, denoting mental aberration» of the mental component. It is represented by the meaning «psychological disorder implying delusions of persecutions». He controlled his paranoia by special medicines: *a stack of octagons*. W. Gibson adds a new meaning to the lexeme *octagon* in the boundaries of this work. This collocation actualizes the meaning «amphetamine». Thus, it refers to the terms, leading to the development of further mental aberrations. Then he coped with his paranoia: *fought the adrenaline surge*. The collocation *fight the adrenaline surge* actualizes the meaning «control inner emotions connected with paranoia». This collocation refers to neutral-bookish style.

Case created a wrong habit of constant use of drugs. He consumed medicines on his way to work: «the pill lit his circuits... rode the rush down...» [1].

The lexeme *pill* in the boundaries of this phrase actualizes its direct meaning, referring to the semantic field of the mental component.

One of the peculiar features of the story by W. Gibson is that he describes the future where everything in the human body can be transplanted, changed or improved. For instance, Zone, discussing with Case in a bar, mentions people with artificial muscles: «Big boys, Graftees» [1]. In order to express this meaning, W. Gibson introduces it into the speech of Zone. The lexeme *graftee* belongs to informal style, indicating physiological aberrations.

Peter Riviera, a thief and a sadist, is characterized by Molly as a mentally ill person: *a certified psychopath*. This lexical unit denotes «an unstable person suffering from psychological problems», it is means of expressing two semantic fields «medical terms, denoting mental aberrations», «lexical units of neutral-bookish style, denoting mental illness».

Thus, the semantic space of both mental and physiological components of the semantic field *aberration*, revealed in the previous works of the author and shown at the beginning of this paragraph, was reflected in the narration of the text under study, including distant periphery and interpretative field.

The method of semantic analysis was used to define the boundaries of the semantic field *aberration* in the novel «The Neuromancer» in English. It was done with the support of the contextual analysis to reveal means of expressing the category.

Literature

1. Gibson, W. The Neuromancer / W. Gibson. – London : Gollancz, 2017. – 306 p.

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Специфика инновационной лексики Дж. Джойса в романе «Ulysses»: авторские неологизмы

Статья рассматривает специфичность новообразований Дж. Джойса в романе «Улисс», неразрывно связанную с особенностями произведения в целом: сам формат создает аналогию с энциклопедией, на основании которой проводится параллель с Оксфордским словарем английского языка. Затрагивается терминологический вопрос.

Ключевые слова: инновационная лексика; авторские неологизмы; словарь; Джеймс Джойс; «Улисс»