

ETYMOLOGICAL FEATURES OF THE VERBS OF SPEAKING

CARACTERÍSTICAS ETIMOLÓGICAS DOS VERBOS DA FALA

CARACTERÍSTICAS ETIMOLÓGICAS DE LOS VERBOS DEL HABLAR

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ABSTRACT: The article deals with the etymological analysis of the verbs expressing thoughts (express, flourish, phrase, term, utter, vent, verbalize, vocalize, voice, word) in the perspective of semantics. The changes in the life of society are reflected in the semantic and word-forming structure of verbal formation. Verbs expressing thoughts could be no better able to describe the state of modern society, which in the last decades of the XXI century, the century of communication and information, is impossible to imagine without such concepts as interaction, communication, giving and receiving information, expressing ideas and thoughts. The verb is not enough to consider as a symbol of different processes, actions and states. It has the ability to “convert” the information about time, space, the idea of the subject, the object of the action and its tool. The activation of the situation occurs due to the metonymic and metaphorical transformations that underlie the nomination of the whole situation by the verb.

KEYWORDS: Verbs. Verbs expressing thoughts. Semantics. Seme. Etymological analysis. Diachronic approach.

RESUMO: *O artigo trata da análise etimológica dos verbos que expressam pensamentos (expressar, florescer, frase, termo, proferir, desabafar, verbalizar, vocalizar, voz, palavra) na perspectiva da semântica. As mudanças na vida da sociedade refletem-se na estrutura semântica e formadora de palavras da formação verbal. Os verbos que expressam o pensamento não poderiam ser mais capazes de descrever o estado da sociedade moderna, que nas últimas décadas do século XXI, o século da comunicação e da informação, é impossível de imaginar sem conceitos como interação, comunicação, dar e receber informação, expressar idéias e pensamentos. O verbo não é suficiente para ser considerado como um símbolo de diferentes processos, ações e estados. Tem a capacidade de “converter” as informações sobre o tempo, o*

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espaço, a ideia de sujeito, o objeto da ação e sua ferramenta. A ativação da situação ocorre devido às transformações metonímicas e metafóricas que fundamentam a nomeação de toda a situação pelo verbo.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: *Verbos. Verbos que expressam pensamentos. Semântica. Seme. Análise etimológica. Abordagem diacrônica.*

RESUMEN: *El artículo trata del análisis etimológico de los verbos que expresan pensamientos (expresar, florecer, frase, término, pronunciar, desahogar, verbalizar, vocalizar, voz, palabra) en la perspectiva de la semántica. Los cambios en la vida de la sociedad se reflejan en la estructura semántica y de formación de palabras de la formación verbal. Los verbos que expresan pensamientos no podrían describir mejor el estado de la sociedad moderna, que en las últimas décadas del siglo XXI, el siglo de la comunicación y la información, es imposible de imaginar sin conceptos como interacción, comunicación, dar y recibir información, expresar ideas y pensamientos. El verbo no es suficiente para considerarlo como símbolo de diferentes procesos, acciones y estados. Tiene la capacidad de “convertir” la información sobre el tiempo, el espacio, la idea del sujeto, el objeto de la acción y su herramienta. La activación de la situación se produce debido a las transformaciones metonímicas y metafóricas que subyacen a la nominación de toda la situación por el verbo.*

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Verbos. Verbos que expresan pensamientos. Semántica. Seme. Análisis etimológico. Enfoque diacrónico.*

Introduction

Language, being a unique part of national culture, conceptualizes and reflects all its elements, indirectly representing the national forms of life of the people and their psychology. The problem of forms and methods of linguistic representation of knowledge about reality, reconstruction of the “image of the world” according to language data is relevant in the light of the increased interest of linguists in identifying deeper connections of language, consciousness, thinking and culture.

Over the past decades, there has been an increasing desire in linguistics to expand the areas of linguistic research using the anthropocentric paradigm. Consideration of the patterns and peculiarities of the interaction of language, consciousness and culture forms the basis of the anthropocentric approach, the purpose of which is “to find access to a person through language”. Both the synchronic and diachronic aspects of the language description are used to achieve this goal.

Verbs of speech are an important link in the general lexical-semantic system of the language, they are widely used lexical units. The great number of context with these units is explained by the fact that they designate the most important area of human activity – speech.

Included in the general system of person's activity, speech is its component and is considered "taking into account all objective and subjective factors that determine the behavior of native speakers, in all their fullness determining its connections and relations of the subject of activity to reality" (LEONTIEV, 1969).

The process of speech activity is a social process, since it takes place in society and pursues a socially significant goal – the organization of social interaction between people. Each act of verbal communication needs control, since it establishes consistency between primary and secondary communicative activities and performs general functions associated with the deployment of the act of communication.

Informativeness, intentionality and evaluation form the basis of verbal communication both in Russian and English. These aspects are manifested in speech verbs, predetermining the volume of their content.

Verbs of speech (*verba dicendi*) are a traditional object of linguistic analysis since this includes, in particular, the entire problematics of performativity. 'To speak' is a semantic primitive, i.e. an indecomposable or primitive element which, on the contrary, is included in the interpretation of a huge number of words. Its peculiarity consists only in the special complexity of the basic or "prototypical" meaning, as well as the structure of its polysemy. According to D.N. Shmelev, "the action expressed by the verb *to speak* is multidimensional <...>, that is, presented as a complex or "complex" action. To speak is "to pronounce", "to use oral speech", "to verbally express something", "to communicate with someone", "to communicate something to someone" – all these aspects of action are essentially not separated from each other; in different contexts any of the corresponding features can come to the fore (sometimes becoming the only essential)" (SHMELYOV, 1974).

The number and variety of verbal meanings corresponds to the place that speech occupies in the "naive world picture of the human": it is a complex human subsystem which has the richest connections with other subsystems (always and first of all – connections with intellect, desires, physical actions), located at the top of the hierarchy of subsystems that make up ... a person (APRESYAN, 1995).

The importance of the role that the verb with the meaning 'speak' plays in the language is confirmed, on the one hand, by the abundance of words in the interpretation of which there is an element 'speak', and, on the other hand, by the productivity of word formation of the stems with this meaning.

Data and Research Methods

The leading method of studying verbal lexemes with the meaning of expressing thoughts was the descriptive method understood as a set of research techniques that allow us to move step by step from observations of particular facts to generalizations and conclusions.

Due to the nature of the object under study and in accordance with the dominant cross-disciplinary approach in the linguistic research semantics of the given words are also analyzed in correlation with the methods of cognitive and etymological analysis. The combination of conceptual and diachronic etymological methods allows to trace important mechanisms in the structure of the meaning of lexical units.

Result and Discussion

Semantic features of the Verbs of Speaking. This article is devoted to describing the etymological features of verbs of speaking, in general, and verbs expressing thoughts in particular. In modern linguistics the semantics of verbs of speaking is considered as a complex, multicomponent structure that requires the development of special methods for its description. The group of verbs containing the seme "to speak", "to use oral speech" in their meaning is numerous. Verbs of speaking of different modes of action have not been a subject of detailed analysis.

The analyzed group of verbs *to express* (to express directly, clearly), *to flourish* (to express fluently), *to phrase* (to express in words), *to term* (to express, to name), *to utter* (to express in words), *to vent* (to express, tell), *to verbalize* (to express in words, to be verbose), *to vocalize* (to express), *to voice* (to express in words), *to word* (to express in words) is united by the main meaning of "speaking" which is modified by differentiating semes that distinguish the meaning of a certain word from semantically close words.

The central place in this group is occupied by the verb *to express* "to express directly, clearly", verbs *to term* "to express, to name" and *to vent* "to express" are adjacent to it, and verbs *to phrase* "to express in words", *to utter* "to express in words", *to word* "to express in words", *to verbalize* "to express in words, to be verbose", *to vocalize* "to express", *to voice* "to express in words" have in their lexical meaning a reference to the concept of a word.

Etymological Aspect of the Verbs of Speaking. The group of verbs under consideration is characterized by the following historical and etymological indicators:

to express – "put (thought) into words, say what one means" (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). It refers to XIV century. Through OF. *expresser* it has been referred to L. *exprimere* "to pronounce clearly" (*Latinsko-russkiy slovar* (okolo 20000 slov.)), formed

by the prefix *ex-* and the stem *pressāre* (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). A similar origin of the verb with the meaning “expressively, clearly” is presented in the dictionary by W. Pfeiffer (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*).

to phrase – “express in words” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). The transponent noun is thought to date from the XVI century. Through interlingual parallels in Fr. *phrase*, Sp., It. *frase*, Du., G. *phrase*, it is referred to L. *phrasis* and Gr. *phrasis* “speech, manner of speaking” (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). The lexical nest refers to the Greek verb *phrazein* “to let know, show, inform” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*).

to term – “denominate, call” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). The stem of the verb is a noun dated XIII century in the meaning of “limited period of time”, it got the meaning “the form in which the object is expressed, expression” in XIV century. Lexicographic sources indicate a relationship with OF. *terme*, Sp. *termino*, It. *termine*. These forms refer to L. *terminus* (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). The Latin etymone originally meant “border stone, border, end”. The meanings “area, measure, fixed date”, as well as “utterance, expression, word” appeared in medL (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). The latter meaning is used as the main and shows the development of this verb.

to utter – “emit audibly (cry, groan, sigh, etc.); express in spoken or written words (one’s sentiments, a lie, the truth, etc.); put (notes, base coin, etc.) into circulation ” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). It is thought to date from the XIV century. Linguistic parallels are found in MDu. *ūteren* (Du. *uiteren*) “to speak, to show, to make known”, OFris. *ūtia*, *ūtria*, and MLG. *ūtern* (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*).

The development of G. *atmen* “to breathe” is a possible parallel of the development of this English verb (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). Reconstruction of this verb reveals IE. root **uegh-* “to move, pull, carry” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). The etymological cognate of this verb can be G. *äußern* “to express in words, to express” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). The development of Germanic verbs is based on the common Germanic adverb *ūt*, which is referred to IE. root **ūd-* “upward, outward” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*), the transformation of which can be found in the model “to breathe out the words outward”.

to vent – the verb is a transponder of a noun fixed in XIV century. It gets the meaning “to pronounce” in XVI century. Through OF. *aventer*, Cat. *esventar*, It. *sventare*, Rom. *zvînta* is referred to L. *exventum*, formed by the prefix *ex-* and the stem *ventum* “wind” (*The Oxford*

Dictionary of English Etymology). Through the Latin archetype *ventus*, the affinity of the English verb with G. *winden* (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*), *wenden* (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*) is revealed. It allows us to reconstruct the original IE. root **ue-* “to blow, blow, breathe” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). It is obvious that the development of the semantics of the English verb was based on the metonymic transfer of the designation by the contiguity of the process: “breathe” → “express”.

to verbalize – “make (noun etc.) into a verb” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). The transponder noun *verb* is thought to date from the XIV century. Through OF. *verbe* it refers to L. *verbum* “word”. The verb *verbalize* is derived from this noun (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). Without any doubt, F. *verbaliser* “to agree orally, draw up a protocol, speak many words” had a special influence on the formation of the English verb (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*).

to vocal (ize) – “form (sound), utter (word), with the voice, esp. make sonant; (joc.) speak, sing, hum, shout, etc ” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). It is registered in English in XIV century. It refers to L. *vocalis* “speaking, making a sound” (*Latinskoruskiy slovar* (okolo 20000 slov.)). A similar etymology is presented by W. Pfeifer’s dictionary (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*).

to voice – “give utterance to, express; (phonet.) utter with voice, make sonant ” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). The noun correlating with the verb is thought to date from the XVIII century, it develops the meaning “express will, vote” in XIV century and the meaning “vocal abilities for singing” in XVII century. Through kinship with OF. *vois*, *voiz* (modern *voix*), Sp. *voz*, It. *voce*, Rum. *boace* is referred to L. *vōcem*, *vōx*. The meaning of the verb “to speak” was recorded in XV century, the meaning “to pronounce” – in XVII century and the meaning “to have a voice” in XVIII century (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*).

to flourish – “use flourishes in handwriting or literary work or speech” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). It is thought to date from the XIII century. The meaning “bragging, flaunting” appears in XIV century and the meaning “to take importance” – in XVI century. Through OF. *floriss* (modern *fleurir*), It. *fiorire* is referred to Rom. **florīre* and L. *florēre* (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). Through the relationship of the Old French etymon with L. *flos* “flower, inflorescence” and G. *blühen* (XVI century) “blossom”, IE. root **bhle -*, **bhlo-* “flower, blossom, leaf, blossom” is reconstructed (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*). The development of the verb is based on the metaphorical transformation of the original meaning “to blossom” → “to express fluently”. The verbal lexeme *to*

flourish can be attributed to the periphery of the category.

The verbal lexemes *vocal (ize)*, *voice*, *flourish* have a common seme “sound design of the utterance”, which, in turn, is a differentiating seme when comparing the meanings of these lexemes with the above.

One of the uses of the root verb is *vociferate* “utter (words) noisily, shout, bawl” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). This form is a borrowing from Latin, attested in English in XVII century (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). The Latin etymon *vōciferāri* meant “to shout, scream, shout out” (*Latinsko-russkiy slovar (okolo 20000 slov.)*), which was adopted by the English language along with the borrowing. The root verb can be combined with the adverbial prefix to form the verb *outvoice* and develop the meaning “speak louder or more effectively or persuasively than” (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*).

to word – “put into words, phrase, select words or express” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*). A verbal lexeme is a transponent noun fixed in OE. in the form *word*. In the Germanic language, single-root words OFris., OS. *word*, Du. *woord*, (O)HG *wort*, Goth. *waurd* are found, which allows us to refer it to common G. base **wordam*: - **wrđho*- **werđh*-, which is based on **wer*-, there is a linguistic parallel in Skr. *vratam* “order, law, oath” (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*). The common G. word **wurđa* refers through **uerđho*- “word” to IE. root **uer*- “solemnly proclaim, speak” (*Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Deutschen*).

The root verb in a modified form functions in the earliest period of the English language with the prefix *ans* which refers to Gr. *antī*, “in the opposite direction”. This combination gives the verb *answer* (OE. *andswarian*) the meaning of “reply to” (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*), that is “speak back” (*The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology*).

Conclusion

No doubt, a word is interpreted as a unique element behind which there is a whole world with its history. Before any word in our speech receives a modern everyday meaning, it has gone through a complex semantic history. From every word that we use, they look at us not forty centuries, but at least forty millennia.

The results of the study show that a significant filling of the semantic space of the verbs of expressing thoughts is noted in the VII century – 3 verbal lexemes and XIV century – 5, in the XVI century 2 lexemes appear, and the XIII, XV, XVII centuries give one lexeme at a time. Nine lexemes date back to Romance languages, and four have an Indo-European basis.

Adaptation of Roman borrowings is based on metaphorical and metonymic transfers of designation.

The study of verbal semantics in the synchronic and diachronic aspect fits into the general context of modern semantic research and meets the need to create the most complete and accurate description of the content assigned to the verb in the language. It is the complex description that corresponds to the objective nature of the verb and makes it possible to present the semantics of speaking verbs at a qualitatively new level.

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