УДК УДК 811.111'373
DOI: 10.15421/382003

M. Dobrushyna
М. Ю. Добрушина
М. Ю. Добрушина

Oles Honchar Dnipro National University
Дніпровський національний університет імені Олеся Гончара
Днепропетровский национальный университет имени Олеся Гончара

THE SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF THE NOMINATIVE FIELD OF THE CONCEPT LANGUAGE POLICY

СЕМАНТИЧНА СТРУКТУРА НОМІНАТИВНОГО ПОЛЯ КОНЦЕПТУ LANGUAGE POLICY

СЕМАНТИЧЕСКАЯ СТРУКТУРА НОМИНАТИВНОГО ПОЛЯ КОНЦЕПТА LANGUAGE POLICY

The peculiarities of the semantic structure of the lexical unit *language policy* in the framework of the nominative field of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY have been considered. The definition of the term «nominative field» has been given, the types of nominations have been specified, the stages of constructing the nominative field of the concept have been determined. It is stated that the nominative field of the concept contains both direct nominations of the concept and nominations of cognitive signs. It is established that one of the key stages of constructing a nominative field is conducting a component analysis of the concept. During the analysis of definitions their variety has been obtained from linguistic and non-linguistic Ukrainian, Russian and English sources. It is determined that, defining the phenomenon under study, researchers describe one and the same notion with the help of different definitions. Eight lexical-and-semantic variants have been identified that make up the semantic structure of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY. The semantic structure of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY has been found to be polysemantic, and all lexical-and-semantic variants complement each other. Within each lexical-and-semantic variant, its hierarchical structure has been established: the archiseme, the differential semes and the potential semes have been identified. The semantic structure of the lexical unit *language policy* has been presented in the form of ordered sets of semes – sememes.

Keywords: concept, nominative field of the concept, component analysis, semantic structure, lexical-and-semantic variant, seme, sememe.

Розглянуто особливості семантичної структури лексичної одиниці *language policy* в рамках дослідження номінативного поля концепту LANGUAGE POLICY. Надано дефініції поняттю «номінативне поле», зазначено типи номінацій, визначено етапи побудови номінативного поля концепту. Зазначено, що номінативне поле концепту містить як прямі номінації концепту, так і номінації окремих когнітивних ознак. Встановлено, що одним з ключових етапів конструювання номінативного поля є проведення компонентного аналізу концепту. Під час проведення дефініційного аналізу було отримано визначення з лінгвістичних та нелінгвістичних україномовних, російськомовних та англійськомовних джерел. Визначено, що дослідники описують одне й те саме явище за допомогою різних дефініцій. Було виявлено вісім лексико-семантичних варіантів, які складають семантичну структуру концепту LANGUAGE POLICY. Встановлено, що семантична структура концепту LANGUAGE POLICY є полісемантичною, всі лексико-семантичні варіанти взаємодоповнюють один одного. У складовій кожного лексико-семантичного варіанта було встановлено його ієрархічну структуру: було визначено архісему, диферен-

пійну сему та потенційну сему там, де вона присутня. Семантичну структуру лексичної одиниці *language policy* було представлено у вигляді впорядкованих наборів сем – семем.

Ключові слова: концепт, номінативне поле концепту, компонентний аналіз, семантична структура, лексико-семантичний варіант, сема, семема.

Рассмотрены особенности семантической структуры лексической единицы *language policy* в рамках исследования номинативного поля концепта LANGUAGE POLICY. Предоставлены дефиниции понятия «номинативное поле», указаны типы номинаций, определены этапы построения номинативного поля концепта. Отмечено, что номинативное поле концепта содержит как прямые номинации концепта, так и номинации отдельных когнитивных признаков. Установлено, что одним из ключевых этапов конструирования номинативного поля является проведение компонентного анализа концепта. При проведении анализа дефиниций были отобраны определения с лингвистических и нелингвистических украиноязычных, русскоязычных и англоязычных источников. Определено, что исследователи используют различные дефиниции при описании одного и того же явления. Было выявлено восемь лексико-семантических вариантов, которые составляют семантическую структуру концепта LANGUAGE POLICY. Установлено, что семантическая структура концепта LANGUAGE POLICY является полисемантической, все лексико-семантические варианты взаимодополняют друг друга. В составляющей каждого лексико-семантического варианта было выделено его иерархическую структуру: была определена архисема, дифференциальная сема и потенциальная сема там, где она присутствует. Семантическая структура лексической единицы *language policy* была представлена в виде упорядоченных наборов сем – семем.

Ключевые слова: концепт, номинативное поле концепта, компонентный анализ, семантическая структура, лексико-семантический вариант, сема, семема.

Nowadays the researches based on the study of the linguistic picture of the world (worldview) are aimed at determining the role of the interaction of the people's mentality, ethnicity and language are relevant in the field of linguistics.

The worldview can be created by nominative, functional, imaginative and phonosemantic means of the language. The nominative means include such lexical units as lexemes, phraseologisms that fix a particular division and classification of the objects of national reality or the significant absence of nominative units (lacunarity of different types). Functional means of the language include the selection of vocabulary and phraseology for communication; the structure of the most frequently, communicatively relevant means of people's language among the entire body of linguistic units of the language system. The imaginative means of the language include: national-specific imagery, metaphors, the development of figurative meanings, and the internal form of linguistic units [8; p. 45].

As a mental unit the concept can be described by linguistic means that objectify it. The nominative field of the concept is defined as the set of linguistic means that verbalize, represent the concept in a certain period of the development of the society [8; p. 47].

Depending on the nominative means, there are three different types of nomination. The first is the nomination through word and word combination – it is a lexical type of nomination, which in turn is aimed at creating a certain element of reality: a quality, a process, relationships, a thing, any real or possible object. Unlike a simple word, a word combination conveys meaning separately, while maintaining a certain type of connection between its components, meaning that words in a phrase are characterized by syntactic compatibility. There is a prepositional nomination, which contains micro-situations that unites a number of elements. A discursive type of nomination is a text-based nomination [3; p. 256].

The main aim of the research is to conduct the component analysis as one of the key steps in constructing the nominative field of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY. In order

to fulfill the given aim, it is necessary to define the following objectives: 1) to select the definitions given by different linguistic and non-linguistic sources; 2) to identify sememes and their components (archisemes, differential semes and potential semes); 3) to arrange semes according to their semantic potential.

The nominative function of linguistic units indicates a certain onomasiological basis, which is related to the specific perception of the objects of reality, as well as the way they are categorically defined. The linguists differentiate a nominative act. The words in the nomination act are different nominative classes of words that correlate with the linguistic system of classification of natural categories, which is expressed in different parts of the language [3, p. 256].

The key difference between the nominative field and traditionally distinguished structural groups of lexis (the lexical and semantic group, lexical and semantic field, lexical and phraseological field, synonymy and associative field) is to be noted. The nominative field has a complex character: it unites all the above mentioned groups. I. Sternin and Z. Popova note that the nominative field does not act as a structural grouping in the language system, but includes units of all parts of the language [8; p. 47].

I. Kolehaeva notes that constructing the nominative field of any verbalized concept consists of the following steps: first, it is necessary to extract nominative units from lexicographic sources which are semantically related to the key lexical unit (usually noun) – the name of the concept; second, it is necessary to carry out an analysis of dictionary definitions of the nominative units in order to identify the key semes, which in different dictionaries can be expressed by different definitive features; third, key semes should be arranged according to their semantic potential; forth, while analyzing the concept, it is necessary to structure the field into the nucleus, medial zone and periphery, and fifth, the etymological exploration of nuclear semes should be conducted on a separate stage [2; p. 125–126].

The initial step in analyzing the concept's nominative field is to describe the semantics of its principal representative, namely, the lexical unit *language policy*. At this stage, the definitions of this lexical unit were provided by foreign (British, American, Russian) and Ukrainian researchers engaged in the study of *language policy*.

All the definitions have been selected from the linguistic and non-linguistic sources. We have found that researchers provide definitions to the lexical unit *language policy* which are similar in meaning, but different in verbalization. That is why the interpretation of English, Ukrainian and Russian sources has been taken into account in the selection of lexical-and-semantic variants that form the semantic structure of the lexical unit *language policy*.

While conducting the component analysis, we pay attention to the term lexical-and-semantic variant (LSV), which was introduced by A. Smirnitsky. LSV implies the presence in the word of several (at least two) signs that differ from each other in the logical and substantive terms, which without destroying the unity of the word are its different variants [13; p. 158].

The analysis has found that the lexical unit *language policy* is polysemantic and that all LSV contained in its semantic structure are interrelated and complementary. The analysis of the selected definitions of the lexical unit *language policy* has allowed us to distinguish eight LSV in its semantic structure:

LSV 1 – the policy pursued by the state regarding the language regime in societies with a multi-ethnic population. This policy depends on the nature of political power,

the form of government, historical traditions, the presence of territories with compact residence of ethnic minorities, etc. [7; p. 493].

LSV 2 – a concentrated expression of the ideological and social principles that determine the political and practical attitude of a state system (authorities) to functioning, development, and the interaction of languages, to their role in the life of people or peoples, which is implemented in a combination of ideological, political, legal, administrative deeds aimed at the development, functioning, balance of languages, change or preservation of the linguistic situation in the state, regions, society [9; p. 445–446].

LSV 3 – all the different levels of decisions and their implementation, aimed at regulating various aspects of language use, especially with regard to spelling, inflection, pronunciation and the formal recognition of words [11; p. 233].

LSV 4 – the methods employed in society for supporting, planning and managing the status of languages. Language policy can be divided into four components: 1) planning the status of languages; 2) developing languages; 3) planning language teaching; 4) language technology [4].

LSV 5 – a body of ideas, laws, regulations, rules and practices intended to achieve the planned language change in the society, group or system [1, p. xi].

LSV 6 – the combination of official decisions and prevailing public practices related to language education and use [6; p. 67]

LSV 7 – policy measures aimed at introducing, enforcing and determining the range of language.

LSV 8 – is a part of the general policy of the state, aimed at adopting the basic principles of the policy in relation to languages in circulation on its territory [12; p. 163].

So, the nominative field of the concept contains direct concept nominations (the core (nucleus) of the nominative field) and nominations of individual cognitive attributes (the periphery of the nominative field), which reveal the meaning of the concept depending on the communicative situation [8; p. 47–48].

The next stage of the study involves establishing the structure of each LSV of the polysemantic lexical unit *language policy*. During the analysis, it has been found that the lexical unit *language policy* contains eight different sememes that make up a certain hierarchy. The main types of semes are nuclear and peripheral. Nuclear semes are the basis of various lexical groups in the language system; they denote the permanent features of the subject [5; p. 108]. Peripheral semes denote less important, probable signs, they create imagery and expressiveness of word usage and extend the word's nominative capacity [5; p. 108–110]. Nuclear semes include archisemes and differential semes. The archiseme denotes the most general seme of the individual lexical meaning, and belongs to the subject in a particular class, and the differential seme specifies the archiseme within the sememe [10; p. 46].

At the last stage of the study, the semantic structure of each LSV of the lexical unit *language policy* in modern English has been analyzed, that is, the archisemes, differential semes and potential semes were sorted and arranged into sets of semes – sememes.

Sememe 1: [policy pursued by the state] (*archiseme*): [regarding the language regime in societies with a multi-ethnic population] (*differential seme*): [depends on the nature of political power, the form of government and government, historical traditions, the presence of territories with compact residence of ethnic minorities] (*potential seme*).

Sememe 2: [concentrated expression of the ideological and social principles] (*archiseme*): [that determine the political and practical attitude of a state system (authorities) to functioning, development, and the interaction of languages, to their role in the life of

people or peoples], [which is implemented in a combination of ideological, political, legal, administrative deeds], [aimed at the development, functioning, balance of languages, change or preservation of the linguistic situation in the state, regions, society] (*differential seme*).

Sememe 3: [different levels of decisions and their implementation] (*archiseme*): [aimed at regulating various aspects of language use] (*differential seme*): [especially with regard to spelling, inflection, pronunciation and the formal recognition of words] (*potential seme*).

Sememe 4: [methods employed in society] (*archiseme*): [for supporting, planning and managing the status of languages] (*differential seme*).

Sememe 5: [body of ideas, laws, regulations, rules and practices] (*archiseme*): [intended to achieve the planned language change in the society, group or system] (*differential seme*).

Sememe 6: [combination of official decisions and prevailing public practices] (*archiseme*): [related to language education and use] (*differential seme*).

Sememe 7: [policy measures] (*archiseme*): [aimed at introducing, enforcing and determining the range of language] (*differential seme*).

Sememe 8: [part of the general policy of the state] (*archiseme*): [aimed at adopting the basic principles of the policy in relation to languages in circulation on its territory] (*differential seme*).

Thus, the semantic structure of the polysemantic lexical unit *language policy* in modern English can be represented in the form of 8 sememes.

To sum up, we have conducted a partial constructing of the nominative field of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY, namely, 8 key definitions have been extracted from both lexicographic (linguistic) and non-linguistic sources on the basis of the component analysis of the lexical unit *language policy*. We have investigated the semantic structure of the concept, analysed the definitions each of which has been ordered hierarchically and contains an archiseme, differential and, in some cases, potential semes. We have distinguished 8 archisemes, 10 differential semes and 2 potential semes. These semes represent the cognitive peculiarities of the nominative field of the concept LANGUAGE POLICY. Therefore, it can be argued that the lexical unit *language policy* is defined as polysemantic.

Further research will be directed at ordering the semes according to their semantic potential, where the nominative field of the concept will be structured into the nucleus, medial zone and periphery.

References

1. Kaplan, R.B., & Baldauf, R.B. (1997). Language Planning from Practice to Theory. Multilingual Matters.
2. Kolehаieva, а I.M. (2018). Konstruiuvannia nominatyvnoho polia kontseptu: etapy ta odynytsi. *Zapysky z romano-hermanskoi filolohii*, 1, 121–127.
3. Kravets, Ya. Yu. (2011). Obschie voprosyi i vidyi nominatsii. *III Selischevskie chteniya: materialyi mezhdunar. nauch.-prakt. konf., posvyasch. 125-letiyu so dnya rozhd. Afanasiya Matveevicha Selischeva, Elets, 22–23 sent. 2011 g.*, 253–258.
4. Language Policy. URL: https://www.kotus.fi/en/on_language/language_policy
5. Maklakova, E.A., Sternin I.A. (2015). *Teoreticheskie problemyi semnoy semasiologii*. M.-Berlin: Direkt-Media.
6. McGroarty, M. (1997) Language policy in the USA. In W. Eggington and H. Wren (eds.) *Language Policy* (pp. 1–29). Amsterdam: Benjamins.
7. *Politolohichniy slovnyk* (2005). Navch. Posib. Dlia stud. Vyshch. Navch. Zakl. K.: MAUP.

8. **Popova, Z.D., Sternin, I.A.** (2007). *Kognitivnaya lingvistika*. Moskva: AST: Vostok – Zapad.
9. **Selivanova, O.O.** (2011). *Linhvistychna entsyklopediia*. P.: Dovkillia-K.
10. **Sternin, I.A.** (1985). *Leksicheskoe znachenie slova v rechi*. Voronezh. Izdatelstvo Voronezhskogo universiteta.
11. **Tarp, S., Gouws, R.H.** (2008). A Lexicographic Approach to Language Policy and Recommendations for Future Dictionaries. *Lexicos*, 18, 232–255. URL: <https://doi.org/10.5788/18-0-486>
12. **Vahtin, N.B.** (2004). *Sotsiolingvistika i sotsiologiya yazyika*. SPb.: ITs «Gumanitarnaya Akademiya»; Izd-vo Evropeyskogo universiteta v Sankt-Peterburge.
13. **Yakovlyuk A.N.** (2009). *Leksiko-semanticheskiy variant kak svyazuyuschee zveno mezhdru mnogoznachnyim slovom v yazyike i ego realizatsiey v rechi*. *Vestnik ChelGU*, 34, 156–162.

Надійшла до редакції 10.11.2019