T.Yu. Myronova The author's dimensions and the function of citations in a British text

(John Major: A Personal Biography by Nesta Wyn Ellis)

The present article is one in a series on a broad topic about the author's text semantics and the content of non-author's origin, the other publications being the preliminary search for the approach and specific analysis of several English texts either with voluminous or scarce citing. Citation in English texts is understood as an element of text structure that mainly weakens the individual content invested in the text by its writer. The general text semantics invariably responds to the incoming of any other outside meaning. The paper observes several initial ideas in specific text research as to the way the words that cannot strictly belong to the writer can be integrated within the content of his/her complete text. A chosen English text is analyzed with regard to numerous citations in it (John Major: A personal biography by Nesta Wyn Ellis Chapter 2: A Life of Surprises). The current text sample is also observed with the knowledge of similar features in another example of English writing (Bill Clinton, My Life. Chapter Fifteen). The content of these two pieces is somewhat comparable because the focus there falls on an outstanding statesman's personality taken in approximately the same developmental years. The texts are assessed in a way described in our earlier publications, according to which we have calculated the ratio of the cited material in the complete linguistic amount of the corresponding texts. Thus, this tentative numerical description of the American sample is 23%, and 34% for the British one. Specifically in the current publication, the British writer's semantic parameters are traced and their congruence is considered. The voice, tone, and diction are dealt with greater attention. They reflect the circumstances that the British outstanding person did not write the text about his own life himself, but the other writer did, having received the factual material. Considering the citation, there are five characteristics to the mentioned author's semantic channels. They give the idea that the writer had at her disposal the abridged in the personage's personality traits material. Because of this meaning deficiency, the colorful and vigorous representation of the statesman as well as, whatever is natural in any mature writing, the author's semantic aura were hardly achieved.

Key words: culture-bound textual phenomenon, citation, paraphrasing, cross-textuality, integration into a new text, author's point of view, voice, diction, tone etc.