

The comprehensive analysis of the semantics of the lexeme “defense”

В статье приводится описание лексикографического и коммуникативного значений лексемы “defense”, а также их сопоставление с целью выявления реального функционирования данной лексической единицы в речи.

Ключевые слова: лексикографическое значение, коммуникативное значение, индекс яркости, метод словарных дефиниций, коммуникативно-семантический анализ

The article deals with the description of the lexicographic and communicative meanings of the lexeme “defense”, their comparison with the aim to identify real functioning of this lexical unit.

Key words: lexicographic meaning, communicative meaning, the index of vividness, method of dictionary definition generalization, communicative-semantic analysis

To study the meaning of any lexeme, the researcher can turn to, firstly, lexicographic sources in order to analyze dictionary definitions, secondly, to the contexts where this lexical unit is actualized. Each of these approaches to the study of the semantics of a word will provide a different description of the meaning of the lexical unit. So, contextual analysis of a word, as a rule, allows to identify the sememes that are not identified in the dictionary definition. Such discrepancies prove the necessity to apply different research methods to describe the semantics of a lexical unit as fully as possible.

Traditionally lexicologists distinguish lexicographic, communicative, and psycholinguistic meanings of a lexeme. The purpose of this research is to compare and contrast the lexicographic and communicative meanings of the lexeme “defense”.

The lexicographic meaning is formulated by lexicographers and fixed in dictionaries [2, p. 37]. To describe this type of meaning, the data of several dictionaries must be analyzed. The method of dictionary definition generalization allows to get the most complete semantic description [1, p. 152].

To study the lexicographic meaning of the lexeme “defense”, five reliable lexicographic sources have been used: Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, Macmillan Dictionary, Cambridge dictionary, Collins dictionary.

The integrated lexicographic meaning includes the following components:

1. Protecting someone / something from attacks, criticism, enemies, etc. (1);
2. A group of people or systems used by the government to protect the country and its interests from threats (1);

3. Human or animal defense mechanisms (1);
4. Attorney (s) providing defense to defendants (1);
5. Players or team that prevent the team from losing; the position of these players on the field (1);
6. Something said, written, or done in support of something (0.8);
7. Something said or presented in defense of the defendant (0.8);
8. Competition, a game in which the winners of the previous games try to win again (0,4);
9. All armies, weapons, structures, people that are available to protect a certain place (defense capability) (0,4);

To determine the hierarchy of the sememes in the semanteme of the lexeme “defense”, the index of vividness has been used. This index is defined as the ratio of the number of actualization of a particular seme in definitions to the total number of analyzed dictionaries [1, p. 156].

The meaning that is gained as a result of the fixed contexts generalization of the use of the word is called communicative [2, p. 38]. This meaning reflects “semantic components that are communicatively relevant at this stage of the development of the language consciousness of the people” [2, p. 38]. The communicative meaning is revealed by means of the communicative-semantic analysis, that is, by generalizing the word uses and highlighting the sememes that are actualized in the contexts. This analysis allows to identify new and outdated meanings.

To identify the communicative meaning, the data from the British National Corpus and the ReversoContext website has been used. In general, 225 examples of the use of the lexeme “defense” have been analyzed and eight semantic components have been identified. The sememes are listed according to the frequency of text actualization, that is, the index of vividness:

1. Protecting someone / something from attacks, criticism, enemies, etc. (66 examples) 0.29:

When people have hope, they are their own best defense.

2. A group of people or systems used by the government to protect the country and its interests from threats (58 examples) 0.26:

Space will also become the battlefield for national missile defense.

3. All armies, weapons, structures, people that are available to defend a certain place (defense capability) (47 examples) 0.21:

Australia urges all NPT parties to join this important additional defense against nuclear terrorism.

4. Something said or presented in defense of the defendant (34 examples) 0.15:

The attorney filed his defense within days of receiving the claim.

5. Lawyer (s) providing defense to defendants (11 examples) 0.05:

The defense wishes to recall former Detective Sergeant Ellie Miller as a witness for the defense.

6. Players or team that prevent the team from losing; the position of these players on the field (4 examples) is 0.02:

In football you have the offense and the defense.

7. Something said, written, or done in support of something (3 examples) 0.01:

These must cease to be used as a defense and justification of gender-based violence.

8. Human or animal defense mechanisms (2 examples) 0.01:

My defense systems operate automatically and not always in accordance with my wishes.

The research has allowed to draw the following conclusions:

1. The integrated lexicographic meaning of the lexeme “defense” includes nine sememes. At the same time, five of them are found in all the analyzed dictionaries, two sememes are found in four dictionaries, and the sememes “competition, a game in which the winners of previous meetings try to win again” and “all the armies, weapons, structures, people that are available to protect a certain place” are found only in two dictionaries. This conclusion confirms the thesis that the method of dictionary definitions generalization must be applied for the fullest meaning identification.

2. The integrated lexicographic meaning includes 9 sememes, and the communicative one 8 sememes, since the sememe “competition, a game in which the winners of previous games try to win again” is not actualized by the contexts. Presumably, this meaning occurs only in specialized contexts, thus it has a low degree of communicative relevance.

3. The hierarchy of lexicographic meanings does not coincide with the hierarchy of communicative meanings according to the index of vividness. So, only the first two sememes with the highest index of vividness coincide: “protecting someone/something from attacks, criticism, enemies, etc.” and “a group of people or systems used by the government to protect the country and its interests from threats”. This indicates that the frequency of meaning actualization in contexts and the sequence of the meaning components in dictionaries are different.

4. Semantic components that are actualized by contexts, but are not fixed in dictionaries, are not identified.

To sum up, it should be noted that the lexicographic meaning does not reflect the actual functioning of the word in speech, on the other hand, the communicative meaning can be situation dependent. Therefore, a comprehensive description of the lexical unit, integrating the communicative and lexicographic meaning, allows to fully represent the semantics of this word.

References

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УДК 821.111

*М. С. Горун (Севастополь, Россия)
Севастопольский государственный университет*

Особенности воссоздания в переводе идиостиля автора

В статье рассматривается понятие идиостиля, который является неотъемлемой частью творчества писателя, отражающей его картину мира. Исследуются различные проблемы сохранения идиостиля писателя при переводе, такие как эквивалентность и адекватность, историческая стилизация. В результате исследования установлено, что для идиостиля А. С. Байетт характерно обилие развернутых метафор, аллюзий, архаизмов, использование внесюжетных элементов и вставных фрагментов.

Ключевые слова: идиостиль, перевод, историческая стилизация, метафора, аллюзия, архаизмы, внесюжетные элементы, вставные фрагменты

Перевод художественного произведения является непростым испытанием для переводчика, требующим глубоких знаний не только в родном языке, но и в языке перевода, а также полного осмысления и погружения в задуманную автором идею. Одной из трудностей является передача идиостиля автора, так как в нем отражаются культурные и языковые особенности как отдельно взятого писателя, так и всего народа в целом. Примером для исследования могут послужить произведения английской писательницы А. С. Байетт. Активный интерес критиков и исследователей к выявлению особенностей стиля, а также определению жанра произведений данной писательницы связан прежде всего с тем, что её творчество находится на стыке нескольких жанров, таких как реализм, постмодернизм, модернизм и романтизм. Необходимо отметить, что становление А. С. Байетт как писательницы происходило под влиянием многочисленных литературных, лингвистических, политических и общественных течений. Таким образом, индивидуальный стиль А. С. Байетт, несомненно, привлекает внимание исследователей и требует особого подхода при переводе, чем и обусловлена актуальность данной работы.