



LEXICO-SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES IN MODERN ENGLISH (ANALYZING ITS BOTH LANGUAGE VARIANTS: BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH ONES)

Z.O. Djalilova

PhD., interim associate professor at the Clinical sciences department
Asia International University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

N.Z. Tasheva

English teacher at the Asia International University,
History and Philology department

Z.T. Nematova

ESP teacher at the Bukhara state medical institute, English department

G.Z. Nasrieva

ESP teacher at the Bukhara state medical institute, English department

Article History

Received: 12 July 2023

Revised: 10 September 2023

Accepted: 10 Nov 2023

Abstract: This scientific study is designed to identify and study all the most urgent lexical and semantic features of the English language through the prism of its communicative, lexical level in the modern extralinguistic paradigm. The main types of differences between the variants of Anglo-American English at the lexical-semantic level, namely the lexical-semantic divergence and lexical-semantic similarity, are revealed. These contradictions are analyzed, the relationships between characteristic and common elements are determined, the reasons for the existing differences are identified, the place of the characteristic moment is determined both in the system of this variant and in the system of the sentence language as a whole. Within the framework of lexico-semantic similarity and dissimilarity, the opposition of one-sided and two-sided

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p>CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0</p> | <p>positional indicators is revealed. The article emphasizes and proves that a comparative analysis of the American and British variants of the English language should be included in the general system of teaching English at specialized institutes and universities.</p> <p>Key words: Lexico-semantic, level, vocabulary, denotations, connotations, language variants, British English, American English, denotative components, divergents</p> |
|---------------------------------------|---|

.INTRODUCTION

The difference between a word and a set of sounds consists of having a meaning. The meaning of the word reflects the objectively existing reality. In addition, the meaning is also determined by the place of the word in the language system.

The meaning of a word can be defined as "the mental content assigned to a given sound form, conditioned by the system of a given language, common to a given language community." Words not only name objects, but also fix their essential features in their meaning, express a socially conscious emotional attitude.

It's also essential to allocate practical interconnection between two main linguistic variants of modern English language: British English (BE) and American English (AE). No linguistic research can be fulfilled without considering both these fundamental lingual variants of English as a worldwide, international means of verbal communication of 21st century. It should be noted that American English differs significantly from the national standard. At the same time, the differences relate to all its aspects: spelling, grammar, vocabulary and phonetics. Coming into contact with American English in practice, students are faced with the problem of misunderstanding the information due to existing differences from the language they study in the classroom. That is why linguists are increasingly raising the issue of introducing compulsory teaching of American English in universities at the

departments of foreign languages [1]. And since more differences between the two main varieties of English are found at the lexical level, when teaching American English, the main emphasis should be on the formation of a lexical skill.

However, let us first master the theoretical basis of the given research, basing on the very term “lexicosemantic structure of the word as a linguistic object altogether with its characteristic peculiarities

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

There are certain patterns in the semantic organization of speech as well as language itself, the study of which has become the task of lexico-semantic discourse, represented by several directions. The concepts, methods and principles of studying the semantic side of the sentence are diverse (T.B. Alisova, N.D. Arutyunova, V.V. Babaitseva, V.G. Gak, F. Danesh, G.A. Zolotova, T.P. Lomtev, O. I. Moskalskaya, E. V. Paducheva, N. Yu. Shvedova, T. V. Shmeleva, etc.). The lexico-syntactic direction of the semantic field is based on the principle of a logical approach to the study of lexical units, in which the problem of the relationship between language and thinking is considered. The logical aspect of the study of the sentence, as you know, is associated with the best traditions of foreign linguistics (F.I. Buslaev, A.A. Potebnya, A.A. Shakhmatov).

During last decades works have appeared that examine the features of the functioning of the English language (O.I. Brodovich, J. Brook, N.N. Bykhovets, Yu.A. Zhluktenko, M.M. Makovsky, X.JI. Menken, V. V. Oshchepkova, L. G. Popova, O. E. Semenets, D. A. Shakhbagova, A. D. Schweitzer, G. Spitsbardt, V. N. Yartseva and others), discusses particular and general issues of linguistic variability (O. S. Akhmanova, J. Bagana, K. S. Gorbachevich, JI.K. Graudina, A. I. Domashnev, V. T. Klovov, R. P. Rogozhnikova, V. M. Solntsev, G. V. Stepanov, F.P. Filin and others). However, much of this topic remains controversial and unresolved.

The solution to the named objects and contain an indication fixed in the language of the connection of a given class of denotations (united by a commonality of essential features) with denotations of another class (associations). In the meaning of the word, volume and content can be distinguished (Arbekova T.I.).

The selected object of the study is the distinctive elements of American and British English at the lexical-semantic level. The scientific material of the study comprised the following vocabulary layers as listed below:

- 1) vocabulary included in the literary language, but having territorial restrictions within one of the variants of the English language;
- 2) vocabulary limited by the framework of one of the variants of literary English and not having territorial restrictions within it;
- 3) vocabulary that is part of the literary language and does not have territorial restrictions, i.e. general English vocabulary.

The lexical units included in the first and second groups are called Americanisms and Briticisms, respectively.

The lexical units BE included in the literary language do not show noticeable territorial variations. With the vocabulary of American English, the situation is somewhat different. Part of the AE vocabulary is represented by localized variants, i.e. lexical units, the use of which is limited territorially. However, data obtained as a result of studies conducted by the American linguist Atwood showed that localized variants predominate in the speech of older and less educated informants and represent a recessive phenomenon [2]. Competing with synonymous common American and common English units, they are clearly inferior to the latter in terms of frequency of use in the speech of educated people and are gradually being forced out of the literary language. Americanisms, which are ubiquitous throughout the United States, cover, in turn, a broad conceptual sphere and are many times more numerous than territorially limited variants. As a result, for comparison with Briticisms and common English lexical units, we will use only those words and set phrases that do not have territorial restrictions in AE. Thus, it is possible to represent the lexico-semantic system of the American variant as a single microsystem that opposes the microsystem of the British variant within the framework of the macrosystem of literary English.

Descriptive-analytical and comparative methods, as well as the method of bilingual dictionaries were used for reaching the main aim of the study.

DISCUSSION

It is quite logical to begin discussing the objects and objectives of the considered research with defining the concepts named denotations and connotations. The scope of meaning is a set of denotations (objects) of the same class to which the given word is applicable as a name. The content of meaning is knowledge about a given subject and its characteristics (a set of essential features, an emotional-evaluative attitude, an indication of a connection with objects of another class (associations). Significant features form the basis of the meaning content. Objects (denotations) to which the meaning of a word is applicable may differ in secondary properties with the identity of the main ones. For example, consider the word "pin":

The dressmaker's pin, safety pin, and hat pin, drawing pin, hair pin, and piston pin all share the same meaning - a needle with a blunt end for pinning or fastening.

As far as the volume of the meaning of the word is not one object, but a whole class of homogeneous objects (with the exception of proper names), and the content of the meaning contains signs of a whole class of objects, the word can be used as a name for the whole class, and for any member of this class subject. The meaning of a word is a unity of scope and content. Let's compare the meanings of different words in terms of their scope and content:

- 1) Words having different volume and different content (house, tree, cat, animal, a pen, a cloud, sunrise, astonishment);
- 2) Words having the same volume and the same content (helper, assistant; linguistics, linguistics, a telegram, a wire; a sedative, a tranquilizer);
- 3) Words having the same volume and different content (wife, spouse; head, head; money, dough; food, grub).

The meaning of a word in communication is a single and indivisible whole, but it can be artificially divided into its constituent elements. First of all, a distinction is made between lexical and grammatical meaning.

The grammatical meaning in a word is defined as a common meaning component, repeated in the same sets of word forms of different words, or paradigmatic meaning. This includes the meanings of the part of speech, tense forms

of the verb, person, number, case of a noun, degree of comparison of an adjective and an adverb, etc. We defined lexical meaning as a general, objective meaning that a word retains within its paradigm.

It has already been noted above that the word not only names objects and fixes their essential features in its meaning, it also expresses an emotional-evaluative attitude towards the named objects and phenomena and contains an indication of their connection with other objects and phenomena (denotations). Therefore, in the meaning of the word, several components can be distinguished:

- 1) subject (nominative) meaning;
- 2) defining (conceptual) meaning;
- 3) emotional and evaluative value;
- 4) associative meaning (systemically determined).a

The main characteristic lexico-semantic feature of the English language is the division of the word meaning components into denotative and connotative ones. The denotative component of the meaning in a word is that component of the lexical meaning that correlates the word (names) with specific objects or phenomena (denotations) of the surrounding reality. It is the most important component that makes it possible for people to communicate through language. It will correspond to the subject (nominative meaning) and defining components of the meaning from the classification given above.

The connotative meaning is defined as an emotive-evaluative and stylistic component of the meaning of a word. It will correspond to the emotional and associative components of the lexical meaning of the word from the previous classification. For example, the words hovel and house differ in terms of conveyed evaluation and emotiveness, hovel is not only “a small house or cottage”, but also “a miserable dwelling place”. The words like, love and worship have different emotive meanings. There are words, such as interjections, in the meaning of which the emotive-evaluative component prevails, in others it is completely absent (prepositions, conjunctions). Words may differ in stylistic usage. There are literary and non-literary layers of vocabulary. The literary layer includes stylistically neutral

common words (for example, father), as well as standard colloquial words (dad) and a literary (or bookish) vocabulary layer (parent).

The leading meaning component in the semantic structure of a word is usually the denotative component. However, as already pointed out, he is not able to adequately describe all shades of meaning. Here are a few English adjectives and verbs for which only the denotative component of the meaning is singled out (it is obvious that such a component can be singled out for each nominatively active word).

Structure 1.

Denotative components:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| alone adj. | - "without company" |
| lonely adj. | - "alone, without company" |
| notorious adj. | - "widely known" |
| celebrated adj. | - "widely known" |
| to glare v. | - "to look" |
| to glance v. | - "to look" |
| to shiver v. | - "to tremble" |
| to shudder v. | - "to tremble" |

Results

The obtained scientific data of our scientific linguistic research indicate the following data. It is easy to see that many of the synonyms given in this list will turn out to be identical in meaning, although they are not. Let's supplement the semantic structure of the indicated words with connotative components of meaning. Then our scheme will take the following form:

Structure 2.

Denotative components

Connotative components

alone adj. - "without company"

lonely adj. - "alone, without company"

+

"melancholy, sad" (emotive con.)

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| notorious adj. - “widely known” | + | “for criminal acts or bad traits of character” | (evaluative connotation, negative) |
| celebrated adj. - “widely known” | + | “for special achievement in science, art, etc.” | (evaluative connotation, positive) |
| to glare v. - “to look” | + | 1. “steadily, lastingly” (connot. of duration) 2. “in anger, rage, etc.” (emotive connot.) | |
| to glance v. - “to look” | + | “briefly, passingly” (connot. of duration) | |
| to shiver v. - “to tremble” | + | 1. “lastingly” (connotation of duration) 2. “(usu)with the cold” (connot. of cause) | |
| to shudder v. - “to tremble” | + | 1. “briefly” (connotation of duration) 2. “with horror, disgust, etc.” (connot. of cause, emotive connotation) | |

The given examples demonstrate by highlighting the denotative and connotative components of the meaning in a word, so that it could be simple to get quite a complete perception of the semantic structure of the word.

When determining the main types of differences revealed at the lexico-semantic level, it is necessary to take into account the presence of the dual nature of lexical units - their correlation both with the plane of expression and with the plane of content [3].

In this regard, it is necessary to take into account in what plane certain units show discrepancies and in what plane lies the commonality on the basis of which their comparison is carried out. Based on these circumstances, two main types of lexico-semantic differences are distinguished: differences in the external, material side of lexical units with a common meaning (differences in the plan of expression) and differences in the meaning of lexical units with a commonality of their external side (differences in the plan of content). Members of oppositions of the first type are called lexico-semantic analogues, and members of oppositions of the second type are called lexico-semantic divergents.

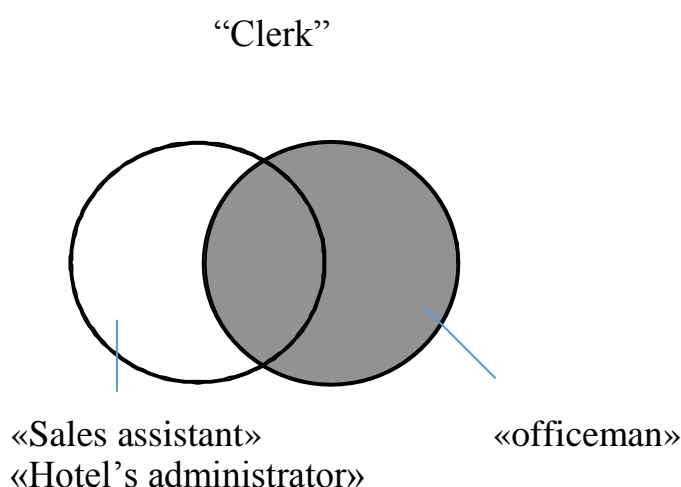
The discrepancies revealed by these words are partial. Some of their meanings are specific to AE or BE, other meanings of these words are the same in both

variants. For example, the noun anchor has common English meanings "anchor; a symbol of hope; closing in the tug-of-war team" are combined with the American "regular radio or television correspondent", the verb to revise has common English "correct; check; change" with the British "to repeat the material before the exam" [4]. However, it is clear that Americanisms and Britishisms in these examples are not words in their entirety of their semantic scope, but only words in separate meanings, i.e. lexico-semantic variants of words. Consequently, these discrepancies concern only lexico-semantic variants. It should be noted that their discrepancy is a much more frequent and typical case of lexico-semantic differences than discrepancies in the inventory of words.

The above differences can be divided into several main categories. The first category includes divergents that intersect with a certain part of their semantic scope and do not coincide in the part that refers to only one of the options. Take words like condominium, crew, deck, and to major as examples. All of them are a combination of American and common English lexico-semantic variants, while they do not have the meanings characteristic of British English. On the other hand, words like stone, redundant, and to read do not have meanings specific to the American variant.

From the point of view of graphics, the relationship between the semantic volumes of these words in AE and BE can be represented as two intersecting circles, in which the shaded part corresponds to common English lexico-semantic variants

Figure 1.



According to the described above example we see that the word “clerk” has the common meaning of “clerk” between the two variants of the language, which corresponds to the shaded segment, and the additional meanings “salesman”, “receptionist in the hotel”, which are found only in the American version. The oppositions of divergents falling under this category belong to the category of oppositions with one-sided local marking.

Lexico-semantic analogues. Comparison of lexical units combined on the basis of semantic commonality in the presence of discrepancies in terms of content requires taking into account the fact that the compared units are elements of a single macrosystem, and not different language systems. The use of the method of bilingual dictionaries, which draw parallels between the lexical units AE and BE by translating them into units of another system when revealing their meanings, is unacceptable. These parallels, based on the semantic equivalence of units of different systems, are inappropriate, because not only constitutive units of systems are contrasted in their entirety of semantic scope, but also lexico-semantic variants of words. In this regard, it seems necessary to distinguish, on the one hand, the oppositions of variants of the constitutive units of the lexico-semantic system, on the other hand, the oppositions of the units themselves.

Turning to the characterization of oppositions, whose members are different lexical units, we should dwell on those locally marked units that do not have correspondences in the microsystem of another variant.

There is a great plenty of words and set phrases denoting various objects and phenomena that are characteristic of the AE or BE areas in the lexicon of standard English language. This includes designations of a number of realities. “Realities are the names of objects of material culture inherent only to certain nations and peoples, historical facts, state institutions, names of national and folk heroes, mythological creatures, etc.” [5]. The realities are connected with the state and political system of the USA and Great Britain [6], with their public life and social structure, with national sports, life, geographical features, with various spheres of industrial and cultural life of the people [7]. In this case, two cases are distinguished: 1) a lexical

unit denotes an object or phenomenon, the distribution area of which is incomparably wider than the area of a microsystem, where there is a special lexical unit for its designation, and 2) a realia and a lexical unit denoting it are characteristic of only one language community and they are absent in the other.

Among the realities in linguistic and regional studies include, firstly, onomastic realities:

- 1) geographical names (toponyms), especially those with cultural and historical associations;
- 2) anthroponyms - the names of historical figures, public figures, scientists, writers, artists, popular athletes, characters of fiction and folklore;
- 3) titles of works of literature and art; historical facts and events in the life of the country; names of state and public institutions.

Secondly, the realities denoted by appellative vocabulary:

- 1) geographical terms denoting features of the natural and geographical environment, flora and fauna;
- 2) some words related to the state structure, the socio-political life of the country, jurisprudence, military affairs, art, the education system, production and industrial relations, everyday life, customs and traditions, and others.

A distinctive feature of reality is the nature of its subject content, i.e. close connection of the object, concept, phenomenon designated by the reality with the people (country), on the one hand, and with the historical period of time, on the other. It follows from this that the realities are inherent in the national (local) or historical flavor.

Here are some examples of complete Americanisms and Britishisms.

Americanisms: tuxedo; hallway; mailbox; sidewalk; band-aid; beltway; five-and-ten cent store.

Britishisms: pillar box; ring road; pram; tram; block flats.

The studied material shows that full Americanisms and Britishisms are most often single-valued lexical units.

The full Americanisms and Britishisms cited above are included in the following analogue oppositions: AE tuxedo: Common English. dinner jacket; AE hallway : Common English vestibule; corridor; AE mailbox : Common English letterbox; AE five-and-ten cent store : General English bazaar; AE sidewalk : BE pavement; BE pillar box : AE mailbox; BE pram : AE baby carriage; BE tram : AE street car; BE block of flats : AE apartment house; BE dust-bin : AE garbage can.

Most of the full Americanisms and Britishisms, due to their unambiguity, have only one common English or locally marked analogue. Less common are full Americanisms like hallway, which have two meanings, i.e. two locally marked lexico-semantic variants (corridor - corridor and vestibule - front). Due to this, they are included in various analogue oppositions (hallway : corridor, hallway : vestibule).

At the same time, sometimes there are full Americanisms or Britishisms, one of the locally marked variants of which has a corresponding analogue, and the other is opposed to linguistic zero. An example of this is the full Americanism of tenderloin, one of the lexical-semantic variants of which (sirloin, tenderloin) is included in the opposition AE tender-loin: BE undercut, common English. filet, and the other one (an evil district of the city) is non-equivalent.

CONCLUSION

Lexico-semantic structure of English language is extremely sophisticated due to the great richness of its lexicon and binary lingual division into British English (BE) and American English (AE). Nevertheless we were able to conduct a number of practical studies on empirical examples and achieve the fundamental aim of the given investigation.

To conclude with we would like to add, that two key types of differences can be distinguished at the lexico-semantic level: lexico-semantic analogues and lexico-semantic divergents. In most cases, there is a certain semantic similarity between locally marked lexico-semantic variants and their general English meanings. Just like in divergents, bilateral local marking is relatively rare in analogues. Even rarer are the cases when full Americanism is opposed to full Britishism. A significant predominance of oppositions, whose members are partial Americanisms or

Briticisms, over oppositions, which include full Americanisms or Briticisms, allows us to conclude that the share of inventory differences at the lexical-semantic level is relatively small.

REFERENCES:

1. Amosova, N.N. English contextology / N.N. Amosov. - L.: LGU, 1968. - 208 p.
2. Arnold, I.V. The English Word / I.V. Arnold. Moscow: Vishaja Shkola, 1973. - 383 p.
3. Bagana, J. Linguistic variability of the English language of Great Britain, the USA and Canada: monograph / J. Bagana, A.N. Bezrukaya, E.N. Taranova. – M.: NITs INFRA-M, 2014. – 124 p.
4. Katermina, V.V. Lexicology of the English language: workshop / V.V. Catherine. – M.: Flinta: Nauka, 2010. – 120 p.
5. Pelevin, N.F. Stylistic analysis of literary text / N.F. Pelevin. - L .: Education, 1980. - 270 p.
6. Pelevin, N.F. Semantic structure of the text and reading without translation / N.F. Pelevin. - Kaliningrad: KGU, 1985. - 64 p.
7. Smirnitsky, A.I. Lexicology of the English language / A.I. Smirnitsky. - M.: Publishing house of Moscow State University Omen, 1998. - 260 p.