

SEMANTICS OF THE WORD «SLAVE» IN THE PRESENT-DAY CONTEXT

The given article studies the meaning of the word «slave» in the modern context. It touches the etymology of the word, turns to the history and up-to-date statistics on the problem of slavery. Investigation is carried out on the lyrics by modern authors in order to estimate the influence of music on the youth's understanding of what slavery is. To promote the popularization of the problem given and spread the information about it some materials were developed and certain activities were organized.

«Everything flows, nothing stands still», – Greek philosopher Heraclitus said. If Heraclitus could materialize nowadays, he would be very confused by the things which seem normal to us. But the one thing which definitely could not surprise him is the existence of slavery. Of course forms of the servitude have changed and today it is not the same thing as two thousand years ago, but the fact of the existence of this humiliating form of compulsion in the modern world which is based on the principles of humanism and equality of all people is horrific.

That is why studying the problem of slavery in the movement of formation of modern human's personality has become the aim of the research.

The research was done step-by-step beginning with the theoretical basis of the given problem. The analysis of the literature, materials of the global computer network to determine the origin of the word "slave" and its original meaning was carried out. It was determined that the origin of the word slave, which first appears in English around 1290, spelled 'sclave', encapsulates a bit of European history and explains why the two words 'slaves' and 'Slavs' are so similar; they are, in fact, historically identical.

Further study of the data found in various kinds of literature was made in order to identify the possible historical prerequisites for the problem of slavery in the modern society. The earliest records refer to slavery as to an established institution. It was known to occur in civilizations as old as Sumer, as well as almost every other ancient civilization. Developing with the lapse of time slavery was officially recognised until the beginning of the XIXth century when the official abolition of slavery started with the Slave Trade Act which was passed by the British Parliament in 1807 and made the slave trade illegal throughout the British Empire.

Even though on December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declared freedom from slavery as an internationally recognized human right, it continues to exist in many countries.

In 2010, Trafficking in Persons Report provided an estimate of 12.3 million adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution around the world. [4, p. 7]. The UN experts claim that annual turnover in the sphere of human trafficking is about 7–13 billion dollars, what puts it on the third place among the most profitable businesses after arms traffic and drug traffic.

According to the tier rankings Belarus is put into tier 2, what means that it is among the countries whose governments do not fully comply with the Trafficking

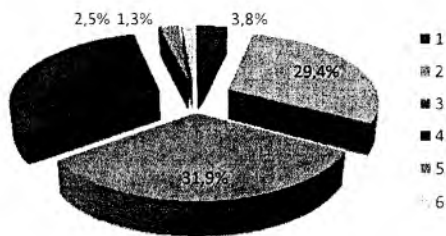
Victims Protection Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards [4, p. 79].

On March, 5 2005 Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus № 3 was brought out. The document aims at prevention, elimination of human traffic, including sexual exploitation, and setting strict responsibility under administrative and criminal law for promotion of transgressions in the given sphere [1].

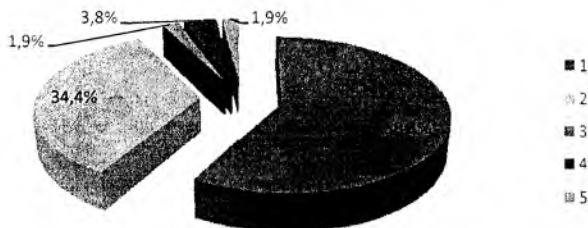
Coming into effect of the given act makes it possible to dispose of different loopholes which favour human traffic. Also, it is a legal foundation for the systematic work of state structures against spread of such a dangerous phenomenon in our country.

We wondered if there is enough information on the given problem in the mass media and if young people are well informed about the problem under discussion. To determine this we carried out a survey among 160 students aged from 15 to 20, which showed that modern youth spend a considerable amount of time listening the music, much more than reflecting on such global problems as slavery.

The variation in the degree of interest is indicated by a considerable rise of the number of "often" and "very often" answers and reduction of "seldom" and "sometimes" answers to the second question (diagram 2) in comparison with the first (diagram 1).



1 – very often; 2 – often; 3 – sometimes; 4 – seldom; 5 – never; 6 – depends on the mood
 Diagram 1. How often do you think about the global problems of the present time?



1 – very often; 2 – often; 3 – sometimes; 4 – seldom; 5 – very seldom.
 Diagram 2. How often do you listen to music?

For reasons given it was decided to find out if the songs of the modern authors can give complete and trustworthy information about slavery. The analysis of the lyrics of the songs by modern authors in which the word «slave» is mentioned made it possible to determine the modern meaning of the word. In order to carry out the detailed comparison card index on the given songs was created.

Comparing the original and modern meanings of the word «slave» it was found out that on the whole, the meaning of the word «slave» has not changed cardinally, today it still means the person who is compelled to work for another. But though slavery has existed to the present day, today the word «slave» is more frequently used in its figurative sense.

It was also ascertained that the context in which the word «slave» is used in the songs is mostly connected with love, or it can be even rather vulgar.

The given work is a multivector research which is aimed both at the investigation of the problem of slavery and searching for the possible escapes from the emerged situation, as well as spreading the information about the problem of modern slavery among the youth.

In order to popularize the information on the problem and the results of the research the materials (brochures, information stands etc.) were developed and activities aimed at spreading the information about the problem of slavery among the youth were organized. Organization of the activities of that kind promoted the development of high moral qualities and humanistic views of young people.

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ОСОБЕННОСТИ ОСУЩЕСТВЛЕНИЯ ПРЕДПРИНИМАТЕЛЬСКОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ ОБЩЕСТВЕННЫМИ ОБЪЕДИНЕНИЯМИ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ БЕЛАРУСЬ

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