

LANGUAGE REPRESENTATION OF THE CONCEPT “PAIN” IN BELARUSIAN AND CHINESE LANGUAGES

“Pain” appears to be a complex concept, which affects psycho-physiological, personal, cultural and social potential of a person, therefore it attracts researchers from different disciplines, including linguistics. The object of the research is lexical means employed to verbalize the concept in question. The subject: semantic characteristics of the aforementioned lexical means. The aim of the research is to trace the semantic structure of the concept “pain” and determine universal and national-specific characteristics of this category in both languages, using the methods of component analysis and semantic combinability analysis.

The main conclusions are as follows:

1) The structure of the concept “pain” in Belarusian and Chinese languages contains universal and national-specific features, which is determined by the difference in perception of the phenomenon “pain” in both cultures. For the Chinese “pain” is an integral part of a human’s life, which should be cognized and accepted. This idea is a guideline to traditional Chinese medicine and various sorceries.

In China the basis for a human’s health serves the balance between yin and yang energies that is between mental and physical state, so mental pain is paid as much attention to as the physical one. Being the carriers of Western culture Belarusians set pain in opposition to pleasure. The concept “pain” falls within the scope of negative phenomena of reality, hence the widespread usage of modernized methods of Western medicine, which are directed to soothing pain away as quickly as possible. However, together with anaesthetic means there are traditional medicine and charms, which involves the idea of coexistence with nature instead of its subordination.

2) Selected lexical units, representing the concept “pain” in Chinese and Belarusian languages demonstrate the worldview of the two cultures on linguistic level. In Chinese physical and mental components in some structure of lexical units, which fall within the scope of the concept “pain” find

equal representation (29%). In Belarusian, on the contrary, physical component prevails over mental component. (44% against 6%, respectively).

3) The research helped to establish isomorphic and allomorphic features of the concept in question in Chinese and English.

Isomorphic features:

a) the presence of a common integral seme "to have pain" in all lexical units under consideration; the presence of lexical units containing only physical or only mental component, as well as, units with both components;

b) the employment of common differential semes for each lexical unit in synonymic rows of the two languages;

c) the existence of the two most commonly used lexical units to describe the essence of "pain": *боль* — *накыма* in Belarusian and 痛 (*tong*) — 疼 (*teng*) in Chinese.

Allomorphic features:

a) the frequency of eponymous differential semes in both languages;

b) The existence of unique semes 'succeeding feature', 'contextuality', 'diminutiveness';

c) disbalance in distribution of lexical units with different meanings of the concept "pain". Synonymic row of lexical units with physical component is finds wider representation in Belarusian. On the contrary, lexical units with mental component of meaning are widely used in Chinese.

Aforecited conclusions may be applied in typological research on semantics of the concept "pain" in other languages belonging to Indo-European and Sino-Tibetan language families, in lexicographical practice, for compiling textbooks and guides in comparative linguistics, theory and practice of interpretation and stylistics.