

PERCEPTUAL SIGNS IN THE STRUCTURE OF DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS OF BEVERAGES (BASED ON THE MATERIAL OF UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES)

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Particular attention in linguistics is given to ways of expressing a person's sensory perception of the world and studying the means of linguistic actualization of this process by identifying the most typical linguistic structures and models. The perceptive sign is an important component of the interpretation, because a person gains knowledge about the world through his perception with the help of the senses. The article compares the verbal description of drinks in dictionaries of different languages, which includes the inserting of perceptual characteristics in the definition and the ratio of perceptual characteristics in the structure of definitions. We have investigated that a perceptual sign helps to identify more precisely the object being described and how it is presented in the dictionaries. The words from the thematic group "drinks" explode the sensory perceptions which are received through the perceptual channels of sensation (sight, taste, smell and hearing).

In our opinion, the study of the means of verbalization of perceptual features, as well as their status in the definitions of lexeme, is important because of the anthropocentric orientation of modern linguistics.

Key words: perceptual sign, explication, thematic group "drinks", domain, verbalization.

Жуйкова М.В., Йодловська А.І.

Перцептивна ознака в структурі словникових дефініцій напоїв (на матеріалі української, російської та англійської мов)

Особлива увага у лінгвістиці приділяється способам вираження в мові чуттєвого сприйняття людиною навколишнього світу і вивченню засобів мовної актуалізації цього процесу шляхом виявлення найбільш типових мовних структур і моделей. Перцептивна ознака виступає важливою складовою тлумачення, оскільки людина отримує знання про світ шляхом його сприйняття за допомогою органів чуття. У статті здійснено порівняння тлумачення одиниць тематичної групи «напої» у словниках різних мов. Зазначено, що практично всі розглянуті дефініції містять кілька перцептивних ознак, що відносяться до доменів «смак», «запах», «колір», а також їх комбінацій.

Ключові слова: перцептивна ознака, експлікація, тематична група «напої», домен, вербалізація.

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Перцептивный признак в структуре словарных дефиниций напитков (на материале украинского, русского и английского языков)

Особое внимание в лингвистике уделяется способам выражения в языке чувственного восприятия человеком окружающего мира и изучению средств языковой актуализации этого процесса путем выявления наиболее типичных языковых структур и моделей. Перцептивный признак выступает важной составляющей толкования, поскольку человек получает знания о мире путем его восприятия с помощью органов чувств. В статье проведено сравнение толкований единиц тематической группы «напитки» в словарях разных языков. Отмечено, что практически все рассмотренные дефиниции содержат несколько перцептивных признаков, относящихся к доменам «вкус», «запах», «цвет», а также их комбинациям.

Ключевые слова: перцептивный признак, экспликация, тематическая группа «напитки», домен, вербализация.

Introduction

The dictionary definition serves for the explication of the lexical meaning, that is, the information that the native speakers associate with a particular sign. Definition, or explication

of lexical meaning, is a 100% product of human activity in all its manifestations [3, 2]. It is obvious that in the identification and classification of many natural phenomena and artifacts, the sensory perception plays a decisive role. Since a significant

part of the knowledge about the world a person receives through his senses, it is natural to expect that the lexical meaning of the words will include components that reflect the sensory perception of various phenomena of reality and their fragments, such as form, color, size, etc., as well as the smell, taste, tactile sensation. The component of the lexical meaning, which provides information perceived by the senses, is called empirical [7, 129], and the corresponding sign of reality is perceptive. Lexicographers may face significant difficulties in the description of the empirical component, because its verbalization often encounters the absence of appropriate linguistic means, such as words which designate sounds or odors. Drink nominations refer to the vocabulary with a pronounced perceptive sign and they are created by man not only for the satisfying thirst, but also for the satisfaction of taste qualities.

The perceptual sign was not the subject of research in the structure of vocabulary definitions of drinks in linguistics. As a result, a number of questions arise, in particular, whether the empirical component is always reflected in the definitions, which place it occupies, whether it is possible to construct a definition without the introduction of a perceptual sign, etc.

The purpose of our article is to identify a set of perceptual features, as well as their place and status as part of the vocabulary definitions of the thematic group “Drinks”.

Relevance of the goal is determined by the need to find out the role of perceptual features in the semantic structure of definitions of lexemes, which denote specific objects and substances. The source of the study was three dictionaries of the Russian language, an academic dictionary of the Ukrainian language and three dictionaries of the English language.

Theoretical Background

The problem of the explication of perceptual features in vocabulary definitions is not yet sufficiently developed in linguistics.

The structure of vocabulary definitions was the subject of research by Yu. Apresian, D. Arbatsky, A. Wierzbicka, M. Zhuikova, J. Sternin.

Many years of practice of dictionary making allowed linguists to develop a certain typology of ways to interpret the meaning of words. The main ones are described in detail and systematized by D. Arbatsky. The researcher identified synonymous, generic-species, descriptive methods, a method of denial and enumeration, etc. [1]. M. Nikitin described the difficulties of the explication of lexical meaning in the work “Foundations of the linguistic theory of meaning” and emphasized the “inequality” of the types of conceptual information that is reflected there [4]. J. Sternin notes that each of the definitions in various dictionaries expresses some essential features of meaning, but only

consideration to the set of definitions of various dictionaries that complement each other gives the most complete description. They reveal the main content of the definition in their integrity. That is why we will analyze the perceptive sign of drinks which were taken from the dictionaries of Ukrainian, Russian and English languages. The name of the taste, as well as hearing, smell, touch, and vision, belong to the perceptual vocabulary that was studied in various aspects of the linguists N. Artiunova, O. Urison, I. Rusin, N. Riabtseva, G. Rakhimova, A. Zhitkov. Perception was in the field of scientific interest of many scholars, in particular psychologists E. Titchener, K. Koffka, M. Wertheimer, J. Piazhe, B. Velichkovsky; physiologists H. Helmholtz, A. Yarbus, I. Sechenov, philosopher D. Hume, I. Kant, D. Berkley.

Methods

A method of analysis of vocabulary definitions and component analysis of lexical meaning were used in the study. These methods contributed to the expression of a component of a given meaning in the interpretations of lexical units. The method of component analysis allowed to define the semantic unity of definitions, by expanding the meaning of the word into differential semantic features. We correlated the meaning of certain lexical units, using dictionary interpretations with the help of definitions analysis. The study of the lexical meaning of vocabulary definitions and its lexicographic presentation made it possible to distinguish between different perceptual sensations: sight, taste, smell, hearing, temperature.

Results and Discussion

We chose the names of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in order to investigate the perceptive feature: *горілка* (водка, *vodka*), *вино* (вино, *wine*), *віскі* (виски, *whisky*), *коньяк* (коньяк, *cognac*), *лікер* (ликер, *liqueur*), *арак* (арак, *arak*), *вермут* (вермут, *vermouth*), *абсент* (абсент, *absinthe*), *глінтвейн* (глінтвейн, *tulled wine*), *кава* (кофе, *coffee*), *лимонад* (лимонад, *lemonade*), *кисіль* (кисель, *kissel*), *сік* (сок, *juice*), *чай* (чай, *tea*), *узвар* (взвар, *stewed fruit and berries*), *компот* (компот, *compote*), *кефір* (кефир, *kefir*), *молоко* (молоко, *milk*), *вода* (вода, *water*) and some others.

Analysis of the selected lexicographic material shows that the perceptual feature is an important element of the definition and is expressed in the domains of “taste”, “vision”, “smell” and occasionally “hearing” in the vocabulary articles which describe the thematic group “drinks”.

Vision is not only the main channel of information, but also the most reliable way to verify the object.

Visual perception in the definitions is represented by the color of drinks. Alcoholic drinks and drinking dairy products are mostly determined by the differential sign «color»: *vermouth* — white for-

tified wine (WD), made from red or white wine (CD), *absinthe* — a drink that is green (CD, MWD, LD), напиток зеленого цвета (БАС), напиток зеленого кольору (СУМ), *milk* — the white liquid (LD), whitish nutritious fluid (CD), a white or yellowish emulsion (MWD), *молоко* — белая питательная жидкость (БАС, МАС, ОШ), біла рідина (СУМ), *port* — a type of red wine (CD), *champagne* — a white wine (CD, LD), *tea* — a brown drink (LD), *глінтвейн* — красное вино (БАС), напиток из красного вина (МАС), *yoghurt* — a white food (LD).

The intensity of the color of the drink (*dark-brown, dark-red, brownish red*) is indicated in the structure of the definitions of the English language, for example, *coffee* — a dark-brown drink (MWD, LD), *port* — usually dark-red, fortified wine (MWD), *rum* — either coloured brownish-red or left white (CD). The lack of color was frequently indicated among the differential signs (*прозорий, прозрачный, colourless*): *water* — a clear colourless liquid (MWD), liquid without colour (LD), прозрачная бесцветная жидкость (БАС, МАС, ОШ), прозора, безбарвна рідина (СУМ), *vodka* — a colorless alcoholic liquor (MWD), *lemonade* — a colourless drink (CD), *tonic or tonic water* — a colourless drink (CD). Some beverages may be of different colors: *wine* — vary in color (red, white, rosé, etc.) (MWD).

Thus, the perceptual sign of color is represented by a group of basic colors (basic color terms).

The domain “**taste**” is the main part in the structure of the definitions of beverages. The study of the specificity of the representation of the concept of taste makes it possible to understand how the drink is perceived. In the definitions of the beverages under consideration, the main taste sensations (except salty) are revealed: *гирке* (*горькое, bitter*), *солодке* (*сладкое, sweet*), *кисле* (*кислое, sour*), *кисло-солодке* (*sour-sweet*), *vermouth* — a sweet or dry wine (MWD), *вермут* — солодке виноградне вино (СУМ), *wines* — vary in sugar content (sweet, dry, etc.) (MWD), *absinthe* — tastes bitter (CD), a bitter toxic liqueur (MWD), a bitter alcoholic drink (LD), *a liqueur* — a drink with a sweet taste (CD), sweet (MWD), a very sweet strong alcoholic drink (LD), *ликёр* — сладкий спиртной напиток (БАС), сладкий пряный напиток (ОШ), *лікер* — солодкий спиртний напій (СУМ), *lemonade* — a sweet drink (CD, LD), *лимонад* — сладкий напиток (БАС, МАС, ОШ), *лимонад* — кисло-солодкий напій (СУМ), *port* — a sweet wine (CD, MWD, LD), сладкое вино (СО), *beer* — a bitter drink (CD), *punch* — a sweetened drink (MWD), *coffee* — a drink that has a slightly bitter taste (LD), *kefir* — a sour beverage (MWD), *tonic or tonic water* — a drink that has a slightly bitter flavour (CD), a clear bitter-tasting drink (LD), a food that tastes slightly sour (LD), *квас* — кисловатый напиток (БАС, МАС, ОШ), кислуватий напій, *кефир* — кисловатый напиток (БАС), *компот* — сладкое кушанье из плодов и ягод (БАС, МАС, ОШ), *морс* — сладкий

напиток (БАС, ОШ), *морс* — солодкий напій з води (СУМ), *узвар* — солодка рідка страва із сушених фруктів і ягід (СУМ).

Lack of taste as a sign of a drink is presented in dictionaries only in the definition of water: *water* — a non-liquid liquid (CD), liquid without taste (LD).

Some definitions indicate the presence of sugar: *wine* — an alcoholic drink produced by the fermenting of grapes with water and sugar (CD), *rum* — an alcoholic drink made from sugar (CD, LD, made from sugar cane (CD, MWD), *compote* — fruit stewed with sugar (CD, MWD), *yogurt* — a thick food, often sweetened (CD).

As psychologists point out, taste as one of the types of prototype sensations has a more affective color than all other senses, with the exception of pain. At the same time, the intense feeling of bitter is unpleasant, and sweet is pleasant [2, 228].

The subjective component prevails over the objective in the perception of taste and smell, that is, people are interested in smells and tastes not by themselves, but only because they are a source of satisfaction or dissatisfaction.

The domain «**smell**» is represented in definitions by odorous adjectives that undifferentiatedly designate a pleasant smell: *ароматний, ароматический, душистый, aromatic, flavored*. For example, *vermouth* — a wine flavored with aromatic herbs (MWD), flavoured with herbs (CD), an alcoholic drink made from wine with herbs and spices (LD), *вермут* — род ликера или виноградного вина, настоящего на полыни и других растениях, содержащих ароматические и тонические вещества (БАС), *вермут* — солодке виноградне вино, настояне на ароматичних травах (СУМ), *kvass* — a drink made from rye, barley, rye bread, etc. and often flavored (MWD), *liqueur* — any of several highly flavoured sweetened spirits (CD), liqueur any of certain strong alcoholic liquors, variously flavored (MWD), *ликёр* — ароматический спиртной напиток (БАС), *лікер* — солодкий, ароматний міцний спиртний напій (СУМ), *gin* — a strong, aromatic alcoholic liquor, flavored with juniper berries (MWD, CD), *вино* — напій з виноградного або з деяких інших ягідних та плодових соків, що перебродили, набувши певної алкогольної міцності й аромату (СУМ), *абсент* — крепкий алкогольный напиток зеленого цвета, содержащий полынное, анисовое и др. ароматические масла (БАС), *бальзам* — спиртная настойка на душистых травах (БАС), *чай* — ароматный напиток (БАС), ароматный напій (СУМ). In the structure of the definition of cognac lexeme, the combination of thin aromas is used: *коньяк* — продукт перегонки различных виноградных вин и долгого выдерживания в дубовых бочках (для приобретения золотисто-желтого цвета и тонкого аромата) (БАС).

We notice that there is no direct indication of the smell of the alcoholic beverage itself in some

definitions; instead, there is a reference to the smells of those plants used in its manufacture (*balsam, gin, vermouth*); however, it could be assumed that the perceptual sign of the drink is indirectly marked in such definitions.

Thus, the mode of smell is represented primarily in the definitions of alcoholic beverages, although native speakers recognize many other beverages on this basis, including coffee. The smell and taste are considered to be the prototype of hedonism, since they are parameterized on the basis of a «pleasant / unpleasant evaluation».

In addition to indicating a pleasant smell, there is a mention of a special, specific smell, which is not verbalized. This description of the lexical meaning implies knowledge of the speakers about the relevant referent: *beer* — flavored with hops (MWD), *пиво* — напиток с характерным хмелевым запахом (БАС). Only the water definition is indicated for lack of odor: *water* — an odorless liquid (MWD). It is to be expected that none of the definitions contains lexical item that would indicate an unpleasant smell. Taste and smell oppose the sound, sight, touch as hedonistic modes to not hedonistic.

The perception of the temperature of the drinks is provided not by the touch, as in other situations, but through the receptors of the taste, located in the mouth (lip, tongue). Lexicographers use parametric adjectives to express the temperature parameter: *холодный* — *прохладный* — *теплый* — *горячий*; *cold* — *cool* — *warm* — *hot*. For example, *punch* — any mixed drink, generally hot and spiced (CD), *пунш* — крепкий спиртной напиток, употребляемый обычно в горячем виде (БАС), горячий или холодный спиртной напиток (МАС), напиток, вскипяченный с сахаром, водой (ОШ), міцний спиртний напій з рому, коньяку, вина, який подають до столу підігрітим (СУМ), *compote* — a dish of fruit stewed with sugar or in a syrup and served hot or cold (CD), fruit that has been cooked in sugar and water and is eaten cold (LD), *tea* — such a beverage, served hot or iced (CD), the beverage made by soaking such leaves in boiling water (MWD), a hot brown drink made by pouring boiling water onto the dried leaves (LD), *чай* — ароматний напій (перев. горячий) (СУМ), *coffee* — a hot drink (CD, LD), *лимонад* — сладкий прохладительный напиток (БАС, МАС), прохладный кисло-сладкий напій (СУМ), *морс* — прохладительный сладкий напиток (БАС, МАС, ОШ). The adjectives *warm* (теплый), *cold* (холодный), *cool* (прохладный), *hot* (горячий) actualize the potential seme for a positive evaluation, for example, cold kvass, cool lemonade, hot tea.

The integrity of the subject image of the perceived object is closely related to its polymodality. In such cases, individual domains can not be clearly defined, since there are attributes that characterize several moduses simultaneously.

To the complex designations of the domains “**taste**”, “**vision**” and partly “**hearing**” refer definitions with such components: *пенистый, пенящийся, шипучий, изристый, изристый, with bubbles in, fizzy, effervescent, sparkling*. The dictionary «Multitrans» states that English *fizzy* means «газированный, шипучий, пенящийся, игристый»; *effervescent* — шипучий, газированный, искристый, вскипающий; *sparkling* — пенящийся, шипучий (о напитке). The Russian adjective «шипучий» indicates both hearing and vision perception: шипучий — пенящийся и слегка шипящий от обилия газов (ОШ). Definitions that characterize carbon-rich drinks contains such characteristics (champagne, lemonade, beer, kvass, as well as some dairy products). For example, *champagne* — a white sparkling wine (CD), a white wine with a lot of bubbles (LD), *шампанское* — высокосортное игристое виноградное вино (БАС), *шампанське* — ігристе виноградне вино (СУМ), *kefir* — an effervescent drink (CD), *lemonade* — colourless sweet fizzy drink (CD, LD); *tonic or tonic water* — a fizzy drink (CD), *пиво* — слабоалкогольный пенящийся напиток (БАС), пенистый напиток (ОШ), *сидр* — слабоалкогольный, насыщенный углекислотой напиток (СУМ).

The consistency of drinks, which is polymodal (since human receptors react to several types of stimulus simultaneously), we attributed to the domain of “**vision**” and “**taste**”. The consistency of drinks is expressed in the dictionaries by lexemes: *thick, густой, студенистый, драглистый, рідкий*. For example, *kefir* — a thick, sour beverage (MWD), *кефир* — густой (МАС, ОШ), кефір — густий, поживний (СУМ), *yogurt* — a thick custard-like food (CD), a thick, semisolid food (MWD), thick liquid (LD), *кисель* — студенистое кушанье (БАС, МАС), *кисіль* — драглиста страва (СУМ), *компот* — солодка рідка страва (СУМ). It should be noted that the consistency parameter is perceived primarily through sight, cf. definition of the Russian adjective *густой* and English *thick*: с ослабленной текучестью, насыщенный чем-н. (ОШ); liquids are fairly stiff and solid and do not flow easily (CD). However, when it comes to drink, this parameter may be perceived by the taste receptors contained on the tongue, as well as the muscles of the mouth.

Finally, the speakers perceive a sign that is specific to the beverage, as the amount of alcohol through the perceptual channel «**taste**». Alcoholic beverages with a relatively high content of ethyl alcohol (not less than 35 percent by volume) are considered strong alcoholic beverages, which are obtained by distilling liquids from fermented cereals, fruits, vegetables.

Lexical items are used to denote the strength of a beverage: *міцний, крепкий, сильно опьяняющий, слабоалкогольный, малоалкогольный, с небольшим содержанием алкоголя, безалкогольный, strong, very strong, fortified*, for example, *vodka* — a strong alcoholic drink (CD, LD), *водка* — раствор спирта с водой

определенной крепости (БАС), *горілка* — міцний алкогольний напій (СУМ), *whisky* — a strong drink (CD, LD), *vermouth* — a strong alcoholic drink (CD), *виски* — сильно опьяняющая водка (БАС), крепкая английская водка (МАС, ОШ), *absinthe* — a very strong drink (CD, LD), a potent green alcoholic drink (CD), *arrack* — a coarse spirit (CD), strong alcoholic liquor (MWD), *kvass* — an alcoholic drink of low strength (CD), *cognac* — a kind of brandy (= strong alcoholic drink) (LD), *коньяк* — крепкий спиртной напиток (БАС, МАС), міцний (СУМ), *port* — a type of strong wine (CD), a sweet fortified dessert wine (CD, MWD), strong wine (LD), *портвейн* — сорт крепкого виноградного вина (БАС, МАС), сорт кріпленого виноградного вина (СУМ), *hooch* — strong alcoholic drink (CD, LD), *пиво* — слабоалкогольный напиток (БАС), напиток из ячменного солода с небольшим содержанием алкоголя (МАС), *пиво* — малоалкогольный напій (СУМ), *пуни* — крепкий спиртной напиток (БАС), *пуни* — міцний спиртний напій (СУМ), *сидр* — слабое вино, получаемое в результате брожения яблочного сока (БАС), слабоалкогольное (МАС), *сидр* — слабоалкогольный (СУМ), *лимонад* — сладкий прохладительный безалкогольный напиток (МАС).

Thus, lexicographers regard spirits as vodka, moonshine, absinthe, whiskey, gin, cognac, liquor, arak, rum. Punch, port wine and vermouth are also considered as strong drinks in dictionaries which actually are medium-sized, since the alcohol content in them is 9-30%. There is no indication of a perceptual sign of strength in the structure of definitions for the designation of wine, mulled wine, champagne, although they are medium hard drinks. Cider, beer, kvass are low alcohol, as was shown in dictionaries.

Conclusions and perspective for further researches

The analysis of lexicographic sources of the three languages showed that the central place is occupied by perceptual signs perceived by the vision (color, consistency) and taste receptors (taste, alcohol level) in the structure of the large majority of the definitions of the thematic group “drinks”. The odor characteristic, which is always pleasant and the temperature are introduced into the definition less often.

These characteristics of denotata have the status of differential semes in definition, and they serve to recognize beverages in reality. Detected perceptual signs are important for speakers in identifying the type of beverage, its evaluation, and for predicting behavioral characteristics of a person and even complex causative relationships in some cases.

Lexicographers are limited in definitions by one sign in most cases (strength, color or smell are used for alcoholic beverages, taste is used for non-alcoholic). There are two signs (strength and color, color and smell, strength and taste, temperature and taste) in the structure of many definitions. Three signs (color, taste, smell; strength, color, taste; taste, color, temperature) are rarely used to describe tokens at the same time; such phenomena were detected only in English dictionaries.

Obviously, perceptual signs were not introduced in their entirety which is inherent to the referents in the definitions of beverages, but only selectively: so, representation of the sign “consistency” is very limited, although it is obvious that this sign can be attributed to all beverages without exception. Similarly, the sign “temperature” (it refers to the typical temperature of drink consumption, and not to the temperature inherent in the technological process of its production) is represented in the definitions of only certain beverages. This parameter appears in those cases where the language and culture group has developed a certain tradition of consuming hot drink (sometimes exceptionally cold). Such selectivity in the description of perceptual signs indicates lexicographers' attempts to confine themselves to only relevant signs of beverages and ignore trivial signs. If the vocabulary description does not include the minimum set of relevant perceptual features, then in our opinion, it creates obstacles for speakers to recognize the word-marked objects. For example, there are definitely deficient definitions such as: *liquor* — a strong alcoholic drink, such as *whisky* (LD).

We believe that the study of the means of verbalization of perceptual features in vocabulary definitions should be continued in view of the anthropocentric orientation of modern linguistics, the research material can be expanded by involving other thematic groups of vocabulary.

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