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THE FEATURES OF THE CONCEPT “FAITHFULNESS”

The article deals with the associative potential of linguistic signs representing the concept "faithfulness", reveals the features of the concept, which expands the mental structure of the concept under study and increases the volume of its culturally marked content.

Keywords: *concept, faithfulness, conceptual features, associates.*

The problem of representation of cultural concepts in language, their structure, and national specifics is becoming increasingly relevant in the framework of modern cognitive research.

Concepts that are formed as a result of the cognitive process are defined in linguistic studies in different ways. For cognitive scientists, the concept is interesting as a unit of human thinking, while for linguoculturologists, cultural information in the content of the concept is of particular value.

Having studied the main definitions of the concept in linguistics, following V.I.Karasik, we understand this term as a multidimensional semantic formation, in which the figurative, conceptual and value sides are distinguished. The figurative component of the concept represents the characteristics of objects, phenomena and events reflected in human memory, obtained as a result of sensory perception: visual, tactile, auditory, etc. The conceptual side consists of language fixations of the concept, its characteristic structure and definition. The value side of the concept is determined by its importance both for the individual and for the team [1].

According to the data of English-language explanatory dictionaries, in the English language consciousness, the concept "faithfulness" is verbalized with the help of various lexemes and phrases, the dominant of which are the language signs: faithfulness, devotion, fidelity, loyalty.

According to the analysis of the materials of lexicographic sources, the following conceptual signs of devotion that make up the basic layer of the concept were represented: “constancy in following a religious faith, in supporting an idea, belief, principle, group or party”; “constant attachment, feelings”; “constant

fulfillment of duties, promises”; “dedication to a cause”, “close relationship with only one partner / spouse”.

The analysis of the selected conceptual signs of faithfulness allows us to conclude that the content of this concept includes a variety of conceptual characteristics that are refracted to different situations of real reality. Native speakers of English-speaking culture associate the phenomenon of faithfulness with sincerity, friendship, love and honesty.

The meaning of lexemes-names of the corresponding concepts, in addition to the content minimum of meaning objectified in lexicographic interpretation, includes an extensive information potential or a field of associative features [3]. In order to identify associative features, we addressed to native speakers of modern English, who were asked to write down the first reactions - associates that came to their mind (words, phrases, sentences) on words with the meaning of faithfulness. The free association experiment involved 18 representatives of British culture aged 20 to 56 years, for whom English is the native language. As a stimulus word, we chose “faithfulness”, to which 132 responses were received. We have divided the obtained data into the following semantic groups:

1. Associates connected with feelings, emotions, and evaluation (love - 9, honesty - 9, friendship - 8, loyalty - 8, trust - 8, true - 7, fidelity - 7, dedication - 4, honor - 3, respect - 2, kindness - 2, commitment - 2, giving up things for others - 1, obedient - 1, reliability - 1, a result of true love - 1, sincerity - 1, uncommon - 1 (73);

2. Associates connected with marriage, family (marriage - 5, family - 4, a wedding ring - 2, my Mom - 1, my husband Darren - 1, something which is necessary for successful relations - 1, Nadya - name of my wife - 1, sexual fidelity - 1, faithfulness to your partner - 1 (17);

3. Religious associates (religion - 5, church - 4, God - 3, Jesus Christ - 3, belief - 2, Christianity - 2, icon - 1, Abraham in the Bible - 1, a martyr - 1, a saint - 1 (23);

4. Literary associates (Romeo and Juliet - 1, Penelope and Odysseus - 1, Ruslan and Lyudmila - 1, dwarfs in «Snowwhite» - 1 (4);

5. Associated symbols (chastity belt - 1, anchor - 1 (2);

6. Associates related to nature and the animal world (dogs as they always love you - 3, dove - 1, pets - 1, nature - 1 (6);

7. Individual associates (who is always thinking about you - 1, always ready to help - 1, servant - 1, vow - 1, not a politician - 1, myself - 1, not betrayal - 1 (7).

We conducted a cognitive interpretation of the associated responses obtained in order to formulate cognitive features. Cognitive interpretation implies their “mental generalization at a higher level of abstraction” [2].

As a result, it was found that faithfulness in the minds of Britons includes honesty (honesty - 9, true - 7), love (love - 9, true love - 1), friendship (8), trust (8), reliability (1), faith (belief - 2), a sense of duty (commitment - 2), unselfishness (giving up things for others - 1), chastity (chastity belt - 1), kindness (2), respect (2). Devotion is closely related to religion in the minds of English

speakers (religion - 5, church - 4, God - 3, Jesus Christ - 3, belief - 2, Christianity - 2, icon - 1, Abraham in the Bible - 1, a martyr - 1, a saint - 1). For British people, the relationship is very important for family and intimate relationships (marriage - 5, family - 4, a wedding ring - 2, my Mom - 1, my husband Darren - 1, something which is necessary for successful relationships - 1, Nadya - name of my wife - 1, sexual fidelity - 1, faithfulness to your partner - 1). For some correspondents, devotion is a certain sample (Romeo and Juliet - 1, Penelope and Odysseus - 1, Ruslan and Lyudmila - 1, dwarfs in "Snowwhite" - 1). Displays of devotion are inherent not only in humans, but also in animals (dogs as they always love you - 3, dove - 1, pets - 1, nature - 1).

In general, faithfulness gets a positive evaluation. Only in one respondent's answer faithfulness gets a negative connotation (faithful people can be stupid if they support extreme groups or they're extremely loyal).

It can be concluded that the associative potential of language signs representing lexemes is wider than their semantic potential. According to the associative survey, the most numerous group of associative reactions to the word faithfulness consists of reactions related to emotions and evaluations. They are undoubtedly axiologically significant components of the hierarchy of human values. The following are cognitive associates that are acquired by a person as a result of cognition, in the process of cultural development. These are reactions related to relationships between people, with family members, and religious associations. Literary associations, reactions related to the animal and natural world, related to the political sphere, are mainly expressed by individual responses, which is natural, since the ideas of faithfulness differ from one person to another and are explained by individual experience.

References

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