

The Concept of "Age" In English

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Abstract

The purpose of the article is to reveal the pattern of naming people by the age group to which they belong in the English language. The research material is data from etymological and explanatory dictionaries, as well as corpora of the English language. The author uses etymological analysis, the method of semantic oppositions and considers age nominations in English and Russian languages within the framework of a cognitive context.

Keywords: age, ageism, cognitive context, synchronic-diachronic approach, semantic universal.

They unite the interests of the most diverse disciplines and problems of the social conditioning of language today unite the interests of the most diverse disciplinary knowledge - psycholinguistics, communicative linguistics, cognitive linguistics, gender linguistics, text linguistics, sociolinguistics, linguistic grammar, anthropology, cultural studies, etc.

The purpose of this study is to identify social characteristics of the nominations "person's age" (hereinafter NA) in English. As our research shows, NA is most directly related with various social factors in a person's life and society. There is a directly proportional relationship between age and social characteristics. Analysis of the linguistic material revealed that in the English language the role of the social factor increases in the group "infancy", "childhood", "adolescence"; the role of the social factor sharply decreases and is not always clearly visible. This feature is explained, first of all, by the biological nature of these age groups, which are characterized by a lack of life experience and certain knowledge. As for youth and adulthood, these groups, on the contrary, are characterized by accumulated experience, certain skills and vitality. In old age, it turns out that the social factor also plays a significant role, which, apparently, is explained by the greater acquired life experience, wisdom and knowledge.

Analysis of dictionary definitions carried out in English dictionaries allowed us to highlight the explicit characteristics of NA and identify markers of social characteristics in NA: **Debutante** - a young upper-class woman who appears for the first time at a Ball and officially becomes part of fashionable society (MED): **Fellow** — 4 a: a man or boy of one of the lower social classes (MWCD). As a result of the definition and cultural analysis, we also identified NAs in which social characteristics are implicit. The implicit meaning of the social conditioning of NAs can be revealed using component analysis, in particular multi-stage definitional analysis and the associative field method.

Thus, for example, a multi-stage definitional analysis of the NA "Old timer" according to the RED dictionary showed that the implicit seme (a man of **rank** or **authority**) is revealed in the meaning of a given lexical unit only at the fourth stage of dictionary definitions: old timer old man father **sire** a man of **rank** or **authority**. Thus, the definitional analysis of this lexeme "Old-timer" made it possible to identify implicit semes that characterize a person socially (a man of **rank** or **authority**).

Having considered the social characteristics of both an implicit and explicit nature in the language system, our analysis showed that at the level of speech usage lexico-semantic and semantic and semantic-stylistic transformations are possible, which can actualize and enhance the social significance of HB: *though in his sixties, his fresh complexion made his age impossible to guess. He was supremely intelligent and ruthless, brilliant military commander and a born leader of men, as beftted a grandson of Genghis Khan* (K. Miles. "Marco Polo" 1992:214) In this example, the social conditioning of forest units commander, leader, is emphasized and is enhanced in context through the use of the epithets supremely, intelligent, ruthless, brilliant born, which act in this text as intensifiers of the social characteristics of the character being described.

Further analysis is aimed at studying the semantic and stylistic properties that are socially determined by NB in the language system and the features of their functioning in a literary text. One of the conclusions of our study of the language material obtained as a result of the analysis is that socially determined HBs are mostly stylistically marked. This conclusion has a theoretical basis and confirms the thesis put forward in many works about the interaction of sociolinguistics and stylistics.

It should be noted that many linguists note a certain relationship and interrelation between sociolinguistics and stylistics (Shveyper A.D., Vinogradov V.V., Desherpiev Yu.D., Belikov V.I., Krysin L.P., Luzuna L.G., Bolotov V.I., etc.) Let us turn to V language analysis material : *Blue eyed boy - BrE informal a young man who is liked and approved of someone in authority because he is very successful, attractive etc (MED)*. Analysis vocabulary definitions this linguistic unit reveals age young man , social belonging (*in authority*) and positive characteristics (*successful attractive*); *Chinless wonder — a young man from an upper class who is weak and stupid (LDCE)*. The definition of this NA reveals the following pragmatic stylistic information: A person's age (*a young man*), social status (*an upper class*) and negative evaluative characteristics (*weak and stupid*)

In the above examples, along with social characteristics, a positive or negative emotional assessment in NA is noted, due to the position of the close relationship and social conditionality of the assessment in NA. Analysis of the linguistic material showed that NAs with a negative emotional-evaluative component significantly prevail over NAs of a positive orientation, which is due to the predominant orientation of a person's emotive speech and mental activity towards negative phenomena of reality. Let's consider vocabulary definitions lexemes "*Yuppie*" - *a trendy and relatively affluent young person living in a city and engaged in professional career (PED)*; — *a young college-educated adult who is employed in a well-playing profession and who lives and work in or near a large city (MWCD)* . In accordance with dictionary definitions, this lexeme is marked by a positive emotional-evaluative orientation, as evidenced by positive evaluative vocabulary (*Trendy, affluent, college-educated, well-playing*). However, as noted above, the use of NA in the text is accompanied by various kinds of semantic-stylistic transformations, which can not only enhance the stylistic significance of NA, but in certain contexts of use change the stylistic orientation of the lexical unit: *In the 1980's, markets set their sights on a new breed of super consumers: The Young Urban Professionals, labeled "Yuppies" Yuppies had good jobs with high incomes but few responsibilities because they had put off having children. They sunk their spare cash-plus the credit that banks were eager to give them... into status symbol like expensive stereos foreign cars, particularly sporty Saabs and BMWs. They dressed in designer clothes, wore Rolex watches and vacationed on exotic islands. Because they didn't have to worry about school systems and were to busy for long commutes they bought lofts in the cities and installed elaborate kitchens that they rarely got around to using.* (Newspaper "English" No. 41, 1-7 nov 2004;27) The explicitly expressed emotional-evaluative characteristic of the NA "*Yuppie*" takes on a negative emotional-evaluative meaning in this context.

The ironic meaning of this statement is created by constructing the text according to the principle of antithesis, creating a contrast between the positive characteristics of a given social group,

explicit expressions (super, good, high, expensive, elaborate) and implicit expressions of the characteristics of a given social group (designer, Rolex, exotic, foreign, sporty, BMWs) and the actions they perform (few responsibilities, put off having children, didn't have to worry about the school system. Rarely got around to using) Linguists involved in the study of linguistic units of color designation have come to the conclusion that walking color perception has the same nature for all people (since the concepts of color are associated with certain "universal elements of human experience"), the linguistic conceptualization of the perceived sensations is different in different cultures. These inconsistencies are especially evident when considering the color component in human nominations (the unit of nomination (nominee) in this article will be understood as "connotatively complicated lexical units that name a person by some characteristics, qualities, properties" [Katermina 2004, p. 4]). The name of a person, as evidenced by the analysis of its semantics and functioning, occupies a special position in the language system, since it nominates the subject of linguistic communication [Catermina, 2011, p. 3].

Color is one of the main categories of culture, "recording unique information about the color of the surrounding nature, the uniqueness of the historical path of the people, the interaction of various ethnic traditions, the features of the artistic vision of the world" [Zharkynbekova, 1999, p. 109].

Since color is a component of culture, it is surrounded by a system of associations, semantic meanings, interpretations; color becomes the embodiment of various moral and aesthetic values. In addition, color can serve as "a kind of development model, reflecting the ways of formation, mastery, consolidation in cultural memory of not only general, but also nationally colored culturally significant concepts" [ibid., p. 109]. Color can express a person's attitude towards natural phenomena. Color acts as a meaningful element of culture, with the help of which one can characterize and systematize objects, social attitudes and moral and aesthetic concepts. With all the variety of ways and forms of change in the vocabulary of a language, linguists call the process of neologization as the main process in the development of vocabulary as reflecting the general forward movement of the language.

How testifies studied material, color combination adjective With objects clothes mainly _ calls person By his **professional affiliation** : black hat - someone who engages in criminal activity on the Internet, such as an illegal hacker;

white hat — a former computer hacker now working legally, who is employed by companies to test their computer security systems by trying to hack into them;

scarlet-collar worker — a woman who owns or operates an Internet pornographic site;

dirty-white-collar — Relating to a corrupt, seedy, or criminal businessperson data examples Can trace symbolism black And white flowers _

Yes, black color is **personification evil** (cf. use _ V definitions neologism black hat evaluative pejorative lexeme : criminal - relating to illegal acts; illegal - not allowed by the law).

White color is a symbol **of nobility** and **decency**. It is not for nothing that the neologism white hat denotes a "former" computer hacker who is currently working legally.

Them Not less, connotation given colors Maybe change And receive negative meaning V force additions negative component dirty (cf. dirty - using dishonest or unfair methods), which being implemented V definitions of new words dirty-white collar help lexemes corrupt and seedy (corrupt - doing dishonest, illegal, or immoral things in order to gain money or power; seedy - connected with activities that are illegal or morally wrong, and often looking dirty or unpleasant), and Also examples from journalistic discourse :

Now in dirty-white-collar cases like these, two charges naturally arise: misuse of public funds and grand theft. They're the two sides of the same stolen coin. — Logan Jenkins, "Slap on wrist

seems par for the course in the Longanbach saga," The San Diego Union-Tribune, March 2, 2002.

Interesting, in our opinion, is the use of scarlet color, the semantics of which carries a negative connotation (scarlet - Immoral, especially promiscuous or unchaste). It is not surprising, therefore, that in the definition of the neologism scarlet-collar worker one can distinguish a gender seme - it is the woman who is the employee in question.

We believe that given unit was educated by analogies. With name famous works Nathaniel Hawthorne's " Scarlet " letter "(Nathaniel Hawthorne "The Scarlet Letter"): 'Scarlet collar' workers are the feminists of the modern age, say psychologists, free from coercion and the dangers of the traditional, male-dominated business. In the past two years they have moved away from traditional activities such as prostitution and lap dancing to become the majority of cyberporn owners" - Cherry Norton, "Women Take Control of CyberPorn," The Independent, August 6, 2000.

Among English neologisms that nominate a person, the color gray has gained quite a wide meaning. In this context, it denotes **a person's age** :

gray surfer — an older person who possibly grew up without computers but has embraced the technology and now happily surfs the internet;

gray matter - older, experienced executives hired by start-up firms in an effort to make the firms appear more established;

Thus, the study of linguistic phenomena in connection with consciousness, thinking, spiritual life of a person, national psychology, history and culture allows us to re-present the most significant fragments of the linguistic picture of the world. One of these fragments is the consideration of the image of a person in the system of color nominations of the 21st century. The implementation of this task is a practical contribution to the development of an anthropocentric approach to language learning.

NAs are closely interrelated and interdependent. NAs are socially marked linguistic units 2) The social characteristics of NAs receive both explicit and implicit expression in the English language. Explicit social characteristics in NA definitions. The implicit meaning of the social conditioning of NA was revealed using a multi-stage definitional analysis, as well as the associative field method;

3) Semantic-stylistic analysis of socially determined units showed that NA is of a negative orientation. The negative assessment in socially conditioned NAs of various kinds of transformations by contextual and situational conditions that take place in the stylistic actualization of NAs is due to transformations such as: strengthening the stylistic meaning of NAs; change in the stylistic meaning of NA according to the principle of opposition, positive evaluative meaning, negative evaluative meaning. The semantic-stylistic modification of NA is due to the semantic-stylistic rethinking of NA due to the increment induction of additional stylistic and socially determined families.

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