

PHILOLOGY

Karina Y. Eremitova

(Military Academy of communications of Marshal of the Soviet Union S. M. Budyonny of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation. St. Petersburg, Russian Federation)

Semantic-etymological specifics of some names of atmospheric phenomena in Old English

It is considered the words denoting atmospheric phenomena. A thorough analysis of definitions presented in dictionaries, glossaries and thesauruses of different historical periods allows to see etymological parallels, contexts, types of compatibility, etc. In addition, the etymological method is widely used, which makes it possible to obtain data on the origin of words, their evolution and their relation to words from other languages, and identify their semantic potential. The contextual analysis includes the study of several context levels (phrases, sentences, extralinguistic historical and cultural context). The analysis is based on the data obtained from the Oxford English Dictionary, the dictionary of J. Bosworth and T. Toller and many others: these sources are used as corpus dictionaries, which include both definitions of names of natural phenomena and examples of their usage. In order to determine the paradigmatic relationship between words and their semantic peculiarities, it is necessary to use a component analysis (the decomposition of words into minimal semantic components). Thus, the use of the complex methodology provides a multidimensional control over the results of the research. The author states that the multiplicity of words denoting atmospheric phenomena indicates their exceptional influence and importance for human beings. The Old English lexicon mainly consisted of the words of Common Germanic, Indo-European origin and English words proper.

Key words: names of atmospheric phenomena, linguistic factors, extralinguistic factors, semantic evolution, etymology, Old English.

January 22, 2020
