

PHILOLOGY

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The process of defocusing the lexemes king – queen, baron – baroness

It is presented the analysis of the semantic defocusing of some lexemes denoting social groups pertaining to the upper class in the English language. The study was aimed at identifying semantic processes that lead to the defocusing of a lexical unit in their connection with the phenomena of metaphorisation and word motivation. This goal necessitated solving a number of problems related to the analysis of the functioning of the lexemes *king – queen, baron – baroness* in the historical and modern context, as well as to the identification of the set of semes most susceptible to defocusing and to the study of the typical lexical distribution of the words under discussion. The article considers the semes of the units of the specified lexico-semantic group which can or cannot resist the process of semantic defocusing. The study of the defocusing of the lexemes *king – queen, baron – baroness* required taking into account not only their sememic structure, but also their etymology, phraseology and functional context. One of the main results of the study was the conclusion about the preservation of the gender characteristics by the defocused lexemes.

Key words: semantics, seme, semantic defocusing, metaphorical transfer, semantic structure.

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