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ДЕЙСТВИЕ ПРИНЦИПА СИНОНИМИЧЕСКОЙ АТТРАКЦИИ В АВСТРАЛИЙСКОМ СЛЕНГЕ

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Аннотация. Представлен семантический анализ основных групп синонимов австралийского сленга: «Человек», «Алкоголь», «Флора и фауна». Современный австралийский сленг рассматривается как сфера, где закон синонимической аттракции проявляется наиболее полно и последовательно. Избыточная номинация в подсистемах сленга отражает не только семантическую многогранность обозначаемых понятий, но и социальные процессы, связанные с идентичностью, сопротивлением нормам, культурной рефлексией и динамикой ценностей. Австралийскому сленгу свойственны фокус на коллективной идентичности, сниженный уровень социальной дистанции и ироническое переосмысление социальных ролей и поведенческих норм. Синонимические ряды формируются вокруг доминант, отражающих повседневный опыт, групповую принадлежность и ценность неформального общения, в то время как периферийные элементы ряда обеспечивают экспрессивную и оценочную вариативность значений.

Ключевые слова: австралийский сленг, синонимическая аттракция, синонимы.
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Original article

Synonymic attraction in modern Australian slang

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Abstract. The semantic analysis of the main groups of synonyms of Australian slang is presented: “Man”, “Alcohol”, “Flora and fauna”. Modern Australian slang is considered as a sphere where the law of synonymous interpretation manifests itself most fully and consistently. Excessive nomination in slang subsystems reflects not only the semantic versatility of the designated concepts, but also social processes related to identity, resistance to norms, cultural reflection and value dynamics. Australian slang is characterized by a focus on collective identity, a reduced level of social distance, and an ironic reinterpretation of social roles and behavioral norms. Synonymous series are formed around dominants reflecting everyday experience, group affiliation, and the value of informal communication, while peripheral elements of the series provide expressive and evaluative variability of meanings.

Key words: Australian slang, synonymous attraction, synonyms.
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Introduction

The phenomenon of synonymic attraction occupies a central place in modern research of lexical semantics, since it allows us to describe not only the structural patterns of vocabulary development, but also those cognitive, cultural and pragmatic mechanisms that determine the formation of the linguistic picture of the world. Originally identified within the framework of classical semasiology, it received theoretical development in the works of S. Ullmann [2]. Modern linguists underline that the

number of synonyms centered around a particular concept is directly related to its cultural and communicative significance: the more important a phenomenon is to a community, the more differentiated its lexical expression becomes [1].

The shift to the cognitive paradigm made it possible to interpret synonymic attraction as the result of conceptual complexity, the internal structure of which assumes multilayeredness, variability and the presence of many axiological and pragmatic components. Cognitive research (E. Zhdanova) shows that concepts with a high degree of mental saturation, including emotional, evaluative, perceptual, and socio-role elements, require an expanded set of linguistic tools that enable nuance of meanings [3]. Consequently, synonymic attraction acts as an indicator of not only communicative, but also cognitive relevance, fixing the areas of conceptual activity of members of the linguistic community.

The anthropocentric approach deepens this understanding, demonstrating that the choice between synonymous units is an element of individual and group linguistic identity. In this context, synonymic attraction is not only a property of the system, but also a product of the language nature, in which the native speaker inevitably makes an evaluative and strategic choice.

Modern Australian slang is viewed as a sphere where the law of synonymic attraction manifests itself most fully and consistently. Excessive nomination in slang subsystems reflects not only the semantic versatility of the designated concepts, but also social processes related to identity, resistance to norms, cultural reflection and value dynamics.

Discussion

In the present article the following thematic groups of Australian slang synonyms will be considered: Man; Alcohol; Flora and Fauna.

Man

As in British slang, Australian slangisms have wide nominative possibilities when characterizing negative human traits. In quantitative terms, the most widely represented synonymous set of nouns with the reference meaning "stupid", which includes 15 units: alf, blind Freddie, boof-head, boxhead, dag, donk, dubbo, fuckwitted, galah, nibg-nong, plat, tonk, fruit loop, yarra, drongo. For example:

Blind Freddie – a stupid person. «Even Blind Freddie knows that» (Dictionary of Contemporary Slang, 2005). Drongo – a stupid person. «You've really mucked that up, ya drongo!» (Dictionary of Contemporary Slang, 2005).

Despite the fact that the analyzed thematic group appears to be gender-labeled, the center of the synonymic attractionis the concept of "woman". The synonymous series of nouns united by the meaning "woman" includes 6 units: quandong, Sheila, potato, tom, tab, sort. Along with the general seme "woman", lexical units also contain the differential seme "age". For example:

Sheila – a woman. «Cripes! I was nearly up shit creek that time. Now I’m stuck with this po-faced Sheila!» (Dictionary of Contemporary Slang, 2005). Potato – a woman. «Terms... often extended to the female herself. Who likes to be called... a potato?» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Tab – applied to a young woman. «We don't need to go mackin' round with Chinks and wimmen's earnings. We pay our tabs... when we want 'em, and tell 'em to get to hell out of it when we don't» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Sort – applied to a young woman. «They'd told me, 'Don't worry about bringing anything except a bottle. The sorts are laid on.' Even after only ten months I understood this to mean that there would be feminine company» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

Australia is a multinational and multicultural country in which indigenous peoples live side by side with migrants from more than 200 countries, so one of the centers of synonymic attraction in Australian slang is the national issue.

The synonymous series of nouns with the integral meaning "Australian" consists of 7 units: digger, cornstalk, gumsucker, tothersider, bananalander, sand-groper, ocker, aussie. For example:

Cornstalk – applied originally to a native-born, non-aboriginal Australian. «Never say that to anyone in New South Wales, or you'll be laid out flat as a pancake!' he warned me… Couldn't the Cornstalks take a joke?» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Gumsucker – applied to any native-born, non-aboriginal Australian. «Some men ... called them 'gumsuckers', and a few other things»

(Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Aussie – an Australian man. "Most Aussies, contrary to popular belief, are town-dwellers" (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

The synonymous series of nouns with the integral meaning "Oriental (Chinese)" consists of 6 units: choong, dingbat, pigtail, chow, plate-face, pong. Along with the general seme, lexical units also contain the differential seme "insult". For example:

Choong – a Chinese person. A derogatory racist term which may be an imitation of Oriental speech or a deformation of chink or jungle bunny. (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Pong – an Oriental. A racist epithet, either based on Pongo, or imitating the sound of Oriental speech. (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

The synonymous series of nouns with the integral meaning "Aboriginal" consists of 4 units: abo, jacky, binghi, boong. Along with the general seme, lexical units also contain the differential seme "insult". For example:

Jacky – an aboriginal, derogatory. «As the blacks are quick to point out, you don't get to be a councillor unless you are a good jacky who is totally under the manager's thumb» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). Binghi – an aboriginal, derogatory. "Before long every white family in Broome had acquired a mission educated 'binghi' couple" (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

The synonymous series of nouns with the integral meaning "English" consists of 3 units: choom, pom, kipper. Along with the general seme, lexical units also contain the differential seme "immigrant". For example:

Kipper – applied especially to English immigrants. "You kippers – no guts and two faces – are only strong under the armpits What about the east of Suez caper, eh?" (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

The synonymous series of nouns with the integral meaning "Italian" consists of 2 units: ding, spag. Along with the general seme, lexical units also contain the differential semes "immigrant", "insult". For example:

Spag – derogatory; applied to an Italian immigrant. "But the migration level had fallen under Labor. 'No, y'know, those coons and spags» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000). An analysis of this category has shown that most slang items denoting nationality have a negative connotation.

Currently, immigration to Australia tends to increase, as the country is recognized as one of the most democratic and secure countries in the world. Immigration to Australia is the main source of population growth in the country. This fact determines the formation of a synonymous series of nouns with the general meaning of "immigrant", which includes 6 units: jimmy grant, ethno, quinea, kipper, pummy. For example: Jimmy Grant – an immigrant. «More and more Crown land was taken up by the ever-arriving 'jimmygrants' who had government help and favour» (Oxford Dictionary of Slang, 2000).

Alcohol

As in the UK, beer is considered one of the most common alcoholic beverages in Australia. Beer is an extremely popular drink in Australia. Every Australian drinks an average of 125 liters per year. Australia currently holds one of the leading positions not only in the production of foam drinks, but also in its consumption.

This group includes the following synonymous series: synonymous series of nouns with the reference meaning "a portion of beer", "beer"; synonymous series of adjectives combined with the meaning "drunk".

In quantitative terms, the most widely represented synonymous set of nouns with the reference meaning "portion of beer", which includes 11 units: tinnie, tube, middy, stubby, tallie, throw-down, pint, slab, butcher, longneck, pot. For example:

Tube – a can of beer. «Alex Buzo, who is minder of the Australian language among his other activities, records that it is 20 years since he last heard beers referred to as tubes» (Dictionary of Contemporary Slang, 2005). Tinny – a can of beer. Butcher – a small glass of beer.

The synonymous series of nouns united by the meaning "beer" is represented by 6 units: amber fluid, coldie, grog, chilled article, piss, roady. For example: Amber fluid – beer. «A second bottle, with an inch of the amber fluid in it, stood just beyond his clenched fist» (Dictionary of Contemporary

Slang, 2005). Chilled article – beer. «Sometimes the coffee would come to the table a thin, amber fluid that tasted like particularly bad consommé» (Dictionary of Contemporary Slang, 2005).

The synonymous series of adjectives united by the meaning "drunk" consists of 4 units: full, maggoted, Mozart, untidy.

Fauna and Flora

Australian slang is especially rich in animal names, as the continent's fauna is unique and culturally significant, and animal names often serve as the basis for language play.

The fauna of Australia includes more than 200 thousand species of animals and among them a huge number of unique animals. 81% of mammals, 87% of reptiles, 91% of fish and insects, and 92% of amphibians are indigenous to Australia and completely unique to the rest of the planet.

The Australian coast is washed by seas and ocean waters. The mere presence of the Great Barrier Reef off the eastern shores of the continent provides an impressive number and species diversity of predators. Here, the species and quantitative composition of sharks is even richer than that of the North American continent. The synonymous series of nouns combined with the term "shark" consists of 3 units: Joan of Arc, Jonah, Noah.

The kangaroo, perhaps, can rightfully be considered a symbol of Australia. In Australia, the number of kangaroos is 2.5 times the number of people. The synonymous series of nouns combined with the kangaroo scheme consists of 3 units: boomer, Joey, roo. Along with the general seme, lexical units also contain the differential seme "age": boomer (particularly large kangaroo), Joey (a young kangaroo).

Synonymous series associated with the animal world are formed around dominant units representing the most recognizable species. Let us consider such series by isolating the dominants and their differential families. Several kangaroo designations include slang variants such as Roo, Boomer, Old Man, Blue Flyer. Roo becomes the dominant of the series as the most frequent, neutral and universal abbreviation, devoid of pronounced evaluability. His semes are "locality", "typicality", "ubiquity". Other elements of the series add semantic nuances: Boomer characterizes a large adult male and carries the seme of "strength" and "energy"; Old Man also refers to an adult male, but contains the semes of "seniority" and "experience", shifting the meaning from physical strength to social marking; Blue Flyer designates the eastern gray kangaroo and carries the semes of "speed" and "coat shade", introducing a differential family of physical properties. In this series, the dominant Roo neutralizes individual characteristics, while the other variants show concretization: age, behavioral, or visual.

Another series is related to koala: Koala, Native Bear, Drop Bear. Koala is the dominant name, as it is a basic neutral name with no gaming load. The semes are "species nomination" and "positive cultural connotation." Native Bear carries this "analogy with a bear" by introducing a false classification characteristic of the vernacular. Drop Bear is a playful and mythologized name containing the semes of "danger" and "aggressiveness", which creates a comic effect based on a contradiction with the real properties of the animal. Thus, the series moves from neutrality to metaphorization and cultural joke. The wombat-related series includes Wombat, Womby, and Tank on Legs. Dominant – Wombat as the main nomination. Womby contains the semes of "diminutive" and "affectionate", giving the name an emotional connotation. Tank on Legs, on the contrary, reinforces the semes of "heaviness" and "squatness", creating an ironic image based on the visual properties of the animal. Thus, within the series, there is a fluctuation between diminutive expression and hyperbolization of a physical feature. The semes are distributed similarly in a number of dingo names: Dingo, Dog, Wild Dog. The dominant feature is Dingo as a local specific nomination. Dog serves as a more general form and carries the seme of "domestication", introducing a differential seme of non-conformity to a wild species. Wild Dog reinforces the semes of "wildness" and "free behavior" by emphasizing a behavioral trait. The dominant Dingo captures the uniqueness of the species, and the variants either expand or narrow the semantic field.

An important series is formed by the slang names of birds: Magpie, Maggie, Chook, Cocky. The dominant is Magpie as the main name of the species. Maggie is a colloquial abbreviation that carries the semes of "diminution" and "emotional intimacy." Cocky stands for cockatoo and contains

the semes of "noisiness", "sociability" and "brightness", actualizing behavioral and visual properties. Chook is a chicken, but in slang it carries the semes of "ordinariness" and "provinciality", introducing a cultural connotation. The differences within the series are determined by which properties of birds come to the fore – behavioral, visual or emotional.

A separate group belongs to the names of snakes: Snake, Taipan, Brown, Joe Blake. The dominant is Snake as a hyperonym. Taipan and Brown specify a biological species and carry the semes of "danger" and "toxicity". Joe Blake is a rhyming slang containing the semes of "gaming convention" and "reduction". Thus, the series demonstrates the transition from a neutral nomination to emotional and cultural reinterpretations. In general, the animal kingdom series are built around dominants representing the species core, while the remaining elements perform the functions of concretization, emotional displacement, and regional variability. Dominants reinforce a neutral meaning, and derived slang forms develop visual, behavioral, and evaluative semes, forming a multi-layered system of Australian slang names for animals.

Conclusion

Thus, the analysis of synonymic attraction centers in Australian slang shows that this subsystem is characterized by a focus on collective identity, a reduced level of social distance, and an ironic rethinking of social roles and behavioral norms. Synonymous series are formed around dominants reflecting everyday experience, group affiliation, and the value of informal interaction, while the peripheral elements of the series provide expressive and evaluative variation of meanings.

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