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Stating Values through Denial of Substance: Implementation of One Cognitive Mechanism in the Russian Substandard

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of objectification in the substandard forms of Russian language concerning the conceptual norm of possession, which represents the axiological aspect of the world picture by sociolect holders. The relevance of the work is determined by the belonging of the indicated problem to the field of the interest intersection from the theory of nomination, cognitive linguistics and social linguistics, and at the same time, by an insufficient knowledge of the implementation means in the mechanism language of value marking concerning socially separate groups of Russian mentality bearers. In Russian language, the cognitive mechanism of value assertion through the negation of a substance is realized through the word-formation category "an attribute for the lack of substance", which belongs to the number of productive nominative categories. Our task was a complex structural and functional description of sub-standard derivatives of this category with the aim to their further comprehension from onomasiologic and cognitive positions. This conditioned the use of word-formation and component analysis methods. Basing on the works by E.S. Kubryakova and N.D. Arutunova, we determined the essence of the Russian mental norm of possession. The model of field organization proposed by us concerning the mental norm of possession made it possible to draw the conclusion about the complexity of the value basis organization concerning the Russian national worldview, determining the role in which the spiritual and moral guidelines play an important role, and the material values located on the periphery are less significant. The results of the research can be applied in the field of linguistic didactics, especially in the practice of teaching Russian as a foreign language, as well as in the organization of associative and social linguistic experiments.

Keywords: Russian language, Substandard, Semantics, Word formation, Cognitive mechanism, Value, Language picture of the world.

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Introduction

The establishment of the anthropocentric approach to the study of language opened new horizons for scientific research to linguists. These horizons allow to look at the language as a source of knowledge about the mental and spiritual reality of a person and those collectives into which he is involved. No one doubts that a language is not only a means of reality nomination, but also the means of a person socializing. The orienting function of a language contributes to its effective implementation (Kubryakova, 2009a), the leading role in the implementation of which belongs to word formation (Kubryakova, 2009b, p. 16). This is conditioned to the fact that the birth of a new language unit occurs in discourse and meets its needs. Accordingly, from the moment of occurrence each sign begins to serve the purposes of a person orientation in this or that conceptual space. The relations significant for a particular discourse due to the propositional organization of a word-formation act are reflected in the structure of a derived word and thus are objectified in speech. For this reason, many linguists are unanimous in the opinion that word formation plays an invaluable role in the processes of the world conceptualization and categorization (Kosova, 2014; Abrosimova, 2015). Moreover, it allows us to discover the ways to assess the extralinguistic reality and to find out what is most important in a people's language consciousness (Miftakhova et al., 2016; Galeev, 2016).

The subject of our attention is the mechanism of marking by the means of value word formation that constitute the norm of social possession for Russian mentality bearers. The theoretical basis for the determination of this norm essence was the thesis by N.D. Arutyunova that most of language nominations are based on anomalous phenomena, that is, on such realities that are perceived by mind as abnormalities (Arutyunova, 1988, p. 304). The effect of this cognitive mechanism is directly related to the orienting function of the language and is manifested in the fixation by the nominative means of differentiating characteristics with the purpose of their further use for the recognition of realities.

At the level of word formation, the marking of value-significant realities in Russian language is accomplished by confixal word-formation types that make the part of the word-formative category of a feature by the absence of a substance (homeless, unscrupulous, etc.). They are specialized on the identification of a socially significant trait from the same composition of the motivating basis as a normative stereotype relevant to the Russian mentality.

Earlier we showed how the described cognitive mechanism is realized in literary language (Ukhanova & Kosova, 2016a, 2016b). Now our goal will be to find out how its effect is manifested in a sub-standard. We will try to answer the question, what is the value for the substandard carriers on the cognitive level. And since it is known that the nominative tendencies of sub-standard subsystems are more clearly manifested against the background of general language regularities, the analyzed material will be presented in comparison with the standard literary one.

The relevance of the study is determined by the lack of adjectival derivative study in the Russian sub-standard from onomasiological and cognitive positions. It is also enhanced by a high interest of linguists in sociolect due to their growing influence on a standard area. The expansion of jargonisms into literary language usually occurs through oral colloquial speech (Habibulina, 2015), and they quickly become common ones in casual communication of people outside professional and social communities (Makleeva et al., 2016), which can contribute to the distortion of national values.

Methods

The paper used the functional approach to the interpretation of nominative derivation facts, which makes it possible to reveal the essence of word-formation phenomena in the aspect of the linguistic picture of

the world. The derivatives belonging to the word-formative category of a trait on the absence of a substance in the substandard forms of Russian language were extracted by the method of continuous sampling from four dictionaries of Russian jargon and slang (Mokienko, 2000; Nikitina, 2003; Elistratov, 2000; Open Network Dictionary). Then they underwent a structural and functional study using the method of word-formation analysis. In order to establish the specificity of the derivational and lexical semantics of the studied derivatives, the method of vocabulary definition analysis and the method of component analysis was used. The results of observations were cognized on an onomasiological basis and generalized from the standpoint of the cognitive approach.

Results

The word-formation category "the sign on lack of substance" is one of the main mutational categories of adjective and is extremely productive in Russian literary language (Ukhanova & Kosova, 2016a, 2016b). This nominative category expresses the attribute semantics by the indication of a substance essence called a motivating word. At that the motivation base is mostly nouns of both concrete and abstract semantics: *беспаспортный*, *бесчестный*, etc. Adjective motivation is less common and almost always represented as an alternative to the substantive one, forming the phenomena of polymotivation: *бессильный* <1) the one who does not have strength; 2) the one who is not strong = weak. The examples of pure verbal motivation within a given category are rare.

A striking feature of the considered word-formation category structure is the predominance of confixal derivation types. Thus, the word-formation type with a phonetically variant confix *без-...-н-* / *бес-...-н* (about 300 derivatives) should be recognized as the most productive and regular category in the nuclear sphere. Besides, it includes prefix word-formation types with the prefixes *без-*, *бес-* и *не-*, as well as regular, but less productive conflictive verbal types *не-...-н-* – *неутешный*, *не-...-им-* – *непобедимый*. The category periphery is formed by non-productive and irregular word-formation types. From the stylistic point of view, the considered word-formative category is a neutral one in the literary language. An expressive potential of derivatives is formed by a producing basis, and not by word-building affixes.

If we look at the word-formative category of the trait by the absence of the substantive from cognitive positions, we will see that it serves the goal of Russian people value objectifying in the codified Russian language. The assertion of a certain reality as a value occurs through the demonstration of the antinorm with derived adjectives that reveal the proposition "a subject does not have an object / an attribute / an action", that is, indicating the absence of a substantive that is significant for a subject: *бессемейный*, *бездетный*, *бездомный* – a person who has no family, children, home; *безглазый*, *беззубый*, *безволосый* – a person who does not have an attribute of appearance that is characteristic of other members of a social group, etc. At that, a value asserted through a denial is represented by the motivating basis of an adjective, and the paradox of objectification is in the language of this cognitive mechanism.

In the article (Ukhanova & Kosova, 2016b), we showed that the cognitive model of the Russian mental norm of possession has a field structure. However, even its core does not show structural homogeneity, which indicates the complexity and inconsistency of world perception, characteristic of Russian people. The realities of the spiritual and moral aspect are the most widely and variously represented in the model core, for example: God, spirit, sin, vice, guilt, responsibility, punishment, mercy, idea, principle, initiative, hope, passion, conscience, shame, power, glory, death, order, benefit, tact, honor etc. Besides, the realities of the spiritual and material nature are also represented: business, action, work, help, care, harm, protection, control, supervision, etc. The material values are represented by such realities as house, family, name, marriage, husband, children, economy, bread, money, letter, diploma, law, weapons, passport, etc. In the direction from the center to the periphery, the number of concrete material realities

in the near-nuclear region of the model increases, and their highest concentration is reached in the peripheral zone. In general, such an organization of the social norm of possession cognitive model reflects the specifics of the Russian mentality, which sets the spiritual above the material one.

In Russian jargon, the word-formation category of the sign on the lack of substance is less productive than in literary language. This is evidenced by a smaller number of derivatives (20) and a smaller variety of word-formation types (only 2 productive and regular ones). As in literary language, the word-formative type here on без-/бес-...-н- and the less regular без-...-енн-/янн- adjoining it, motivated by nouns (6 derivatives) demonstrates the greatest productivity: 1) безбашный / безбашенный. iron or disapproval. "Behaving like a madman". < башня - youth slang 'a head'; 2) безвымянная (a cow) common jarg. "About a fat woman with a small breast" < вымя argo 'a woman's or a man's breast of large sizes'; 3) бесконвойный arrest. "A prisoner with a pass" < a convoy "a group of people, an armed detachment accompanying smb. for protection or escape prevention"; 4) бескрышный - youth slang "Unreasonable, without a forethought, risky". < крыша - 'a head'; 5) безмазый - disapproving. "Unsuccessful, unpromising" < маза - "A good thought, intention, plan"; 6) беспалевный - 1. 'a place where it is impossible or difficult to reveal oneself', 2. 'a man who is never or very rarely seen in something unseemly, although he commits such acts often < палево - a situation in which there is a sufficiently high the threat of revealing (to be exposed)'.

Another productive confixing word-formative type in Russian jargon was the type of без-...-ов- (4 derivatives): 1) безворковый - youth slang "unemployed". ворк from English 'work'; 2) безмазовый < маза (see above "безмазый"); 3) тсгjnjdсq 1. 'a poor quality, unprofitable, unsuccessful, the one which not justified hopes'; 2. 'dejected, depressed' < понты - "boasting, arrogance"; 4) беспрайсовый - youth slang 'without money' < 'прайс' - money. In connection with the first and the fourth derivatives, the use of transliterated foreign language motivating words, not characteristic of this word-formative category in the literary language should be noted.

The remaining word-formation types of the category are represented in the dictionaries of jargon by single derivatives. Adjective based derivatives have the prefix type on не-: небедовый - "not bad one, good (about a person)" < бедовый youth slang "not good, bad"; невменёхонький - "a person in an inadequate state" < вменёхонький < sane "capable of acting consciously, responsible for his actions in terms of law (jur.)". The verbal forms are two word-formation types with a poly-motivation: не-...-абельн- - невыкладывабельный youth slang. 'an object that cannot be presented for general review for objective reasons' Невыкладывабельная фотография. < (выкладывабельный) < выкладывать - to publish on the Internet'; не- ...-ем- – неубиваемый, youth slang - 'solid, quality made, durable and reliable'. Durable army backpack < убивать < 'to destroy'.

In contrast to the literary language in jargon, the processes of semantic derivation on the basis of the adjective derivatives of a studied word formation category are more active. This can be explained by the fact that the rethinking of nominative units of the literary language as a whole is a productive way of vocabulary increase for the Russian sub-standard. The result of adjective substantivization is the following slang nominations: 1) without ... - ъ - безглазый - iron. argo "A person who does not have a passport, a residence permit"; безглавый - argo "Passportless"; безголовый - 'a computer running without a display (usually a server)'; 2) без-...-н- – безлошадный - auto. "without a car"; бесконвойный - argo 'uncontrollable, unable to control himself, with unpredictable behavior'; 3) не-... – неаккуратный - 'homeless'; 4) не-...-н- – неразумный - joke. 'homosexual; unreasonable, because "homo" without "sapiens"; 5) не-...-ённ- – нераздуплённый - mil. "A serviceman who is not acquainted with the order and specifics of the service in a particular military unit".

Conclusions

The work with the materials of the Russian sub-standard showed that the word-formation category is "the sign for the lack of substance" and it is a nominative derivational category primarily of the literary language. In jargon, implementing the basic categorical semantics, it retains an anthropocentric orientation and reproduces the scheme of its field device in general outline, but this part of its periphery is represented by a smaller variety of word-forming types, while it has a greater stylistic expressiveness and realizes the category potential in the sphere of semantic derivation more actively than its nuclear zone.

The noted features of substandard adjectival derivatives of the category under study, namely their bright stylistic marking and high productivity in the field of non-morphemic derivation, are caused by a functional factor. Their own categorizing capabilities are extremely limited, since in the cognitive-logical plan they are secondary nominations that have a neutral correlate in the codified language (безворковый - unemployed, беспрайсовый - cash-strapped, безмазный - unpromising, беспалевный - safe, безглавый, безглазый - without a passport). Such derivatives translate the cognitive-axiological interpretation of reality fragments by the carriers of the sub-standard and, thus, reflect the realities realized by them as values. Most of them correspond to the realities that make up the mental norm of material possession (work, money, housing, passport, car), spiritual-rational (reason, adequacy, control) and spiritual-emotional one (luck, happiness). However, the listed values are presented in the substandard language sphere in a modified vulgarized form, which demonstrates the negligent attitude of the jargon to certain national values.

It is significant that such a modification does not yet affect the values of spiritually-moral character, occupying a central position in the core of the Russian mental norm of possession. It should also be noted that in the sphere of substandard derivation, the opportunity of value marking related to the sexual sphere of a person's life is realized. Such values are usually tabooed in the codified language and are expressed through euphemisms. In general, the value modifications revealed in the substandard, belonging to the peripheral zone of the Russian mental norm of possession cognitive model, do not exert a significant influence on the axiological aspect of the Russian language picture of the world at the present stage of national development.

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