

# LANGUAGE MEANS DENOTING HUMAN BEHAVIOR: A CROSS-LINGUISTIC VIEWPOINT

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**Abstract:** This article presents a survey of studies about the linguistic means of representation of human behaviour in three structurally different (English, Russian and Tatar) languages. The behaviour in different languages is conveyed with the help of means belonging to the lexical, phraseological, syntactical and textual levels. In the article different approaches to the investigation of lexis of behaviour by different authors are given. The special attention is paid to the question of the investigation of lexical-semantic group of behavioural verbs of the languages mentioned above aimed at defining the least studied field in the works by predecessors.

Various means of representing human behavior belonging to different language levels have also been revealed. This article discusses research on the analysis of linguistic units nominating the person's behavior in three different structures languages (English, Russian and Tatar). The analysis of this layer of vocabulary in a comparative aspect, as the key means of representing human actions from the point of view of the anthropocentric approach will help to reveal the national specificity of the studied linguistic phenomenon.

**Key words:** human behaviour, lexis of behaviour, means of different level, behavioural verb, lexical-semantic group, contemporary linguistic studies.

## 1 Introduction

Language is classified as anthropocentric phenomenon reflecting the world image of those who speak it. Studies of the national and cultural specificity of linguistic units of different levels remain relevant in modern linguistics. Human behaviour, means of its representation by speakers of different related and unrelated languages have repeatedly been the object of attention and investigation of scientists, philosophers, psychologists (Forrester, 1996), sociologists, linguists (Aminova et al, 2016), etc. A person capable of observing and analyzing his / her own behavior and the behavior of others transmits his verbal assessment and description of the actions of other people with the help of various language units.

## 2 Materials and methods

As we know behavior is a system of actions and deeds of a person in various spheres of life (material, intellectual and social spheres). These actions are conditioned by the needs, cultural and individual characteristics of the subject and are constantly evaluated by others. A person capable of observing and analyzing his / her own behavior and the behavior of others transmits his verbal assessment and description of the actions of other people with the help of various language units. Researchers of Russian art works reveal a huge arsenal of language tools that can describe human behaviour (Isachenko, 2000). In our material extracted from texts, dictionary articles and corpuses of the Russian, English and Tatar languages, various means of representing human behavior belonging to different language levels have also been revealed.

So, at the lexical level we detected: nouns denoting types of behavior (*Eng.* behavior, flattery; *Rus.* povedenie, lest'; *Tat.* gamäl, jalagajlyk), the names of individuals (*Eng.* loafer; *Rus.* lentjaj; *Tat.* jalkau); adjectives (*Eng.* tactless; *Rus.* bestaknyj; *Tat.* ärsez); verbs including verbs of the behavior and verbs of other interrelated lexico-semantic groups, actualizing in the specific context their behavioral meaning (*Eng.* show off, play up; *Rus.* risovat'sja, kaprizничat'; *Tat.* erelänü, kirelänü); adverbs (*Eng.* boastfully; *Rus.* hvastlivo; *Tat.* shapyrynyp:).

The phraseological level contains idioms and phraseological units: *Eng.* bear a grudge against smb.; *Rus.* derzhat' kamen' za pazuhoj, *Tat.* küneldä ker saklau. The syntactic level includes free word combinations formed by such models as Adjective + Noun, Verb + Adverb, Verb + *Eng.* as / like / *Rus.* kak / *Tat.* kebek + Noun, etc.

The textual level is represented by a combination of correlated and multilevel units that harmoniously join in the texts and make the description of people's actions and behavior more vivid and convincing:

*Eng.* We do not mind people being 'brainy' or clever, as long as they do not make a big song-and-dance about it, do not preach or pontificate at us, do not show off and do not take themselves too seriously (Fox Kat, 2004);

*Rus.* Tut razdalsja obshhij smeh i huligany kak-to stushevalis'. To est' – imela mesto grubost', naglost', no starik okazalsja ostryj na jazyk i chto-to protivopostavil jetoj naglosti (Russian National Corpus, 2017 S. Dovlatov) / 'Here was a general laughter and hooligans kept in the background; that is there was an act of rudeness, arrogance, but the old man turned out to be sharp-tongued, and said something to counter this arrogance';

*Tat.* Egetnen igelekke, avyr çakta häçrak järdämğä tashlanuy, zhebep töshmäve, üz digänenä ireshergä omtylyu belän ul Şäfkätkä bik tä ohshagan ide shul (6: F. Safin) / 'The young man reminded Shafkat and was kind, always ready to help in difficult situations, never abandoned hope and tried to achieve his aims'.

## 3 Results

The most studied means of representation of human behavior in scientific research on individual languages, conducted at the end of the 20th century and in the first decade of the 21st century, are the following: nouns, verbs and phraseological units (including verbal idioms). In the course of comparative linguistics, the work of L.A. Bushueva (2008) was performed, in which the author studies nouns of the Russian and English languages, denoting acts, their vocabulary interpretations and speech use. The subject matter was the essence, paradigmatic and syntagmatic properties of the names of actions and their functioning. A.M. Yakhina (2008) (Yakhina, 2008) considered the verbal idioms, denoting human behavior, from the point of view of their linguistic evaluation, which is an integral component of these phraseological units. Monographic study by S. M. Kravtsov (2008) is devoted to the study of idioms of structurally different languages (Russian and French) as the explicators of the concept "Human behavior", the analysis of which allows us to submit "a behavioral world image". Phraseological units with the verbal component of the modern Russian language with the meaning "Man, his / her qualities and behaviour" from the position of the native speaker of the Turkish language were considered in the dissertation research by Gunesh Bahar (2008).

Undoubtedly, the core of behavioral vocabulary is presented by verbs, because, as it was already mentioned above, behavior is a system of actions, which in turn are concrete actions. Therefore, of all the aforementioned linguistic means, it is the verb that is most specialized for describing human actions.

The lexical semantic group verbs of behavior was first outlined in the Russian language by R.M. Gaisina (1973). Subsequent studies of behavioural verbs were multifaceted. From the semantic point of view these verbs in were studied in the works by L.M. Vasilyev (1981), E.V. Kuznetsova (1988), L.G. Babenko (2008). The researchers proposed various classification of this lexical semantic group. One should bear in mind that this problem is very problematic, since the considered subclasses are in very complex semantic connections with each other, thus reflecting complex relations between different types of behavior. Scientists rightly noted that verbs of this lexical semantic group to a certain extent overreact with other groups (with verbs of speech, intellectual activity, feelings, state, attitude, etc.).

From the functional side behavioural verbs were considered in the works of O. P. Zhdanova (1987), I. I. Sandomirskaya (1991), etc. It is noted that the functional-semantic features of

behavioural verbs are manifested in the qualitatively-characterizing nature of their semantics, negative evaluative component (Aydarova, 2016 ), pragmatism . Connections of intralinguistic and extralinguistic types characteristic of behavioural verbs were disclosed. O. M. Isachenko points to the pragmatic potential of verbs of behavior; their wide functional range and frequent use in the sphere of interpersonal discourse are emphasized.

In the mainstream of cognitive linguistics, verbs of behavior were analyzed in the works of O.M. Isachenko (2000), E.V. Starostina (2004), A.M. Plotnikova (2009) . So, verbs of behavior were considered as representatives of behavioral concepts, behind each of which there is a certain cognitive scenario (the scenario of deception, the scenario of laziness, the scenario of pampering, etc.) . E.V. Starostina studied the features of perception of verbal behavioral vocabulary by participants in associative experiments and constructed frames describing various types of behavior. O.M. Isachenko identified the concept "behaviour" on the basis of linguistic material and revealed the participation of behavioural verbs in the construction of a fragment of the linguistic world view.

Lexical semantic group of behavioural verbs were also considered in the linguocultural aspect. Verbs of behavior, according to O. P. Zhdanova, reflect the collective experience of the Russian people in the knowledge of interpersonal relationships and indicate how one should not behave, indirectly orient people to observe the rules of social cohabitation. A.M. Plotnikova (M. Plotnikova ,2009) identified such behavioral models important for the Russian linguistic culture community as deception, pampering, boasting, recklessness, sin, etc., which were verbalized in an ordered system of verbs of behavior. Verbs of behavior reflect the normative canon of the language personality , and is also representative of certain stereotyped ideas about behavior , which are nationally and culturally conditioned . Thus, it can be concluded that the group of Russian verbs is studied rather well in some aspects, which forms a fairly solid basis for the formulation and solution of other tasks related to the further study of this lexical semantic group with the inclusion of new languages.

Lexical semantic group verbs of the behavior of the Tatar language has not been investigated in a special monographic study so far. There are works on studying certain aspects of this group of verbs in other Turkish languages (for example, in the Tuvan language) (A. Ya Salchak, 2005). The work on the semantic features of the Tatar verb begun by F.A. Ganiev was continued by his student R.K. Ishtanova (2002) . In her work, an attempt to sequentially isolate individual subgroups within the semantic groups of verbs based on some unifying seme was made. Verbal lexical units are described in the work not only as nominative, but also as communicative units of language (R.K. Ishtanova ,2002: p. 9). Considering the verbs of behavior, the author classifies them according to the presence of the evaluative component into the verbs of positive behavior and verbs of negative behavior. Much work of semantic classification of Tatar verbs and their annotation for the Tatar corpus was performed by A. Galieva, O. Nevzorova, D. Suleymanov (Galieva et al, 2016 ; Galieva et al, 2015 ).

As for the English language, the verbs of behavior were considered by I. I. Sandomirskaya (1991) in the composition of emotive verbs (in comparison with the Russian language). The author studied in detail ways of expressing emotiveness and creating expressiveness in behavioral verbs (morphological means, onomatopoeia and sound-symbolism, internal form, play of the stylistic register, etc.).

A group of verbs of behavior is not found in the well-known classification by B. Levin (1993), where 49 semantic classes are analyzed on the basis of common components of meanings. However, individual verbs denoting insincere behavior are mentioned among the verbs of masking (masquerade verbs): act, behave, camouflage, masquerade, officiate, pose, qualify, rank,

rate, serve (Levin Berth,1993, p. 183-184). It is noted that these verbs require additional predicative components, which, in particular, are introduced with the adverb as: She masqueraded as a doctor (Levin Berth,1993, p.184).

The mentioning of English verbs expressing behavior is also found in the work by Rochelle Lieber (Lieber Rochelle,2004). The author, considering the word-forming morphemes of verbs and their meanings, allocates a group of verbs ending in -ize, -ify with similitive meaning. These affixes form verbs from the nominative framework, expressed as names of common and proper names: hooliganize, Boswellize, etc. Their meaning is represented by the following model: "do / act / make in the manner of or like X" (Lieber Rochelle,2004, p. 77, 81).

Complex consideration of the given lexical semantic group of the English language from the point of view of structural-semantic and functional features is absent at the moment. There is an experience of describing verbs of behavior in other Germanic languages (in particular, German) (by L.I. Grishaeva in 1999). The author examined the verbs of the behavior of modern German as a semantic class of the anthroposphere verbs, studied in detail the cognitive, semantic-structural and functional aspects of their description. In work the cognitive structure of the concept "human behaviour" is modeled, and verbal mechanisms of cognition stored in the cognitive structure of this concept are verified. It should be noted that L.I. Grishaeva narrowed the volume of verbs of behavior and included only those in the semantic structure of which there is no evaluative seme: for example, German *sich anstellen*, *sich aufführen*, *auftreten*, *sich aufspielen*, *sich benehmen*, *sich halten*, *handeln*, *sich stellen*, *tun*, *sich verhalten*, *sich zeigen*, etc. (Eng. behave, conduct, act, etc.).

#### 4 Conclusion

Thus, the linguistic means of nominating an individual's behavior are universal for the three structurally different languages and reflect a fragment of the world image of their native speakers. The peculiarity of the studied language means found on the lexical, phraseological, syntactic and textual levels, is their high degree of evaluation. Man, observing the actions of others, is inclined to compare them with a certain standard, adopted in this cultural community, and makes his verbal assessment. Our review of modern research indicates that these linguistic units have attracted the attention of linguistic scholars of the English, Russian and Tatar languages. Means belonging to the lexical and phraseological levels, received the greatest illumination in all three languages. Thus, studies on the material of the Russian language are distinguished by a multifaceted character: the structural-semantic, functional, cognitive, linguocultural peculiarities of a given layer of vocabulary were considered. We have to state that the above-mentioned funds are insufficiently studied in the English and Tatar languages. On the material of the English language nouns, verbs and milling units that represent the actions of the individual were studied, on the material of the Tatar language – verbs and verbal phraseologisms which denote human behavior. In both languages, these means were considered only in the semantic and linguocultural aspects; their structural, functional, cognitive features remained unexplored.

#### 5 Discussion

Despite the variability of research approaches the verb is recognized as the central and most specialized term for human behavior among other means in three languages. The analysis of this layer of vocabulary (in particular, the lexical semantic group of behavioral verbs ) in a comparative aspect, as the key means of representing human actions, seems promising, since such an analysis from the point of view of the anthropocentric approach will help to reveal the national specificity of the studied linguistic phenomena, which will provide useful information for intercultural communication in terms of forming the tolerance of the language personality.

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