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EPIDIGMATIC NATURE OF QUANTITATIVE WORDS

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The article in question deals with the evolution of quantitative words (numerals, words of weight and measure), their emergence and epidigmatic status (formal and semantic deviations). The working hypothesis is being verified: the language units with common semes undergo similar tendencies. The category Quantity is considered to be loaded with the common seme "quantity" and subsemes "number and measure". The article focuses upon the epidigmatic power of the quantitative units in the modi of language, speech, and social behavior. Quantitative units are being dealt with on formal and semantic deviations in frames of paradigmatic and syntagmatic parametres. The empiric facts have been extracted from the authentic English dictionaries and English literary texts. The touched upon problem has been analyzed by adequate methods to identify the semantic volume, etymological sources, historic deviation, polyfunctionality and systematic arrangement of researched units.

Key words: *quantitative words, numerals, words of weight and measure, language and speech aspects, epidigmatic nature, formal and semantic deviations.*

The category Quantity refers to units charged with the common seme "quantity" and subsemes "number" and "measure".

Topicality of the research is determined by the modern trend in linguistics to identify the functions of investigated phenomenon at language and speech levels. The objectives of the paper concern the English quantitative words in their etymological background, diasynchronic modifications and polyfunctionality. The attempt has been made to clarify the status of the investigated units in the lexico-semantic field of quantity, its linguocognitive nature. The empiric facts have been extracted from the authentic English dictionaries and English literary texts. The touched upon problem has been analyzed by adequate methods to identify the semantic volume, etymological sources, historic deviation, polyfunctionality and systematic arrangement of researched units. The relevant methods are at work here to consider the nature of investigated units (in our case – numerals, words of weight and measure): etymological, definitional, componential, distributional, contextual, and cognitive. The investigated units are diasyncronically studied at language and speech levels. Quantitative units have their history [1; 3; 6; 7], the inherent semantic deviations and functions. The semantic evolution of these words reflects main stages of cognition.

Words as polyfunctional units nominate things, concepts, make sentences go, keep memory of the bygone days alive. People use words not only in communication but also in investigation [2]. Numerals referred to as counting units indicate numeration. In remote times these words behaved otherwise, which is indicated by the linguistic investigation, by reconstruction of old forms in different languages. The etymological analysis of number and measure words brings fruitful results. The analysis brings closer the past times, the mode of life of generations to have gone, their way of thinking [5].

Numeric words are traced in old linguistic forms; nowadays units fulfill nominative, cognitive and epidigmatic (word creating) functions. The English numerals and words of weigh and measure make the subject of this paper. In our investigation attention is being focused upon the common and distinctive properties of the mentioned units in the basic sectors of the semantic field of quantity. The latter includes the language units with integrating seme *quantity* or its subsemes *number*, *dimension*. The basic sectors are made of numerals (counting function) and words of measure and weigh (measuring function). The semantics of these words are formalized in dictionaries by the patterns: five – the number 5, V; six – being one more than five, twice three; acre – a measure of land, 48,40 square yards

or about 4 000 square meters; ton – a unit of volume for measuring, the displacement of a ship equal to 35 cu. ft; a European measure of capacity for lumber, usually equal to 40 cu. ft.

Reconstruction of numeric words claims that binary oppositions were the first to usher in the succession of cognizing stages of number. This is illustrated by diverse data from mythology, legends, folklore, ethnography, archaeology and anthropology, by the semantic modification of the investigated units, their collocations, universal laws working with different language systems. Binary opposition goes back to the notion of entity on the vector entire → binary (dismembered in two) → singling out ″one″: *man and woman, sky and earth, light and darkness* [7, p. 17].

The names of numbers 1–10 go back to concrete semantic referents: *five* from "finger", *ten* from "toe". Their phenomenal nature is working in successions ten → a tenner, million → a millionaire. Gradually succeeding concepts of "three, four…" followed on in their verbalization. Scientists assert that counting started with "two". The study of binary opposition gives ground for the pertinent conclusion: antonyms (binary opposition: *day* :: *night*, *light* :: *darkness*) preceded synonyms which are of later make and outnumber antonyms at present.

The late Paleolithic period finds show that people used to count and depict the results of their efforts in drawings. The remnants of the object standards are being kept in the treasury of language forms. Some words go back to medieval times and work until now: *brace, yoke, fathom, pair, couple*.

In the late Stone Age (35 thousand years ago) people marked the results of counting by lines, dots, cycles. It was called Paleolithic Ornament. People were afraid of nature and scared off by its discretion. They could hardly overcome the diversity and power of nature while cognizing it. Hunting, cattle breeding and agriculture made people attentive to the phenomena of time and space. The survivals of distant cultures show the difficulties which people overcame considering duality: *burial of two twins, the unsplit figures, two goddesses*.

Numeric words belong to counting names of discrete things. But in remote times these words were of another nature. This is proved by linguistic investigation, by reconstruction of old forms in different languages. The etymological analysis of number and measure linguistic signs brings fruitful results in identification the mode of life of generations to have gone, their ways of thinking.

Numeric words go back to nominal units. Counting as a process embraces both those who count and the things counted. These units fulfill nominative and cognitive functions. By the cognitive function we understand the ability of units to reflect the major stages in the evolution of cognition. The close study of quantitative units reveals their anthropomorphic nature. These words go back to the names of parts of body, of tools used, of things they counted and measured. The common tendencies work both with numeric words and measure units. Cf.: numeric words: *dozen, couple, pair, brace, score, one, five, ten thousand, hundred, million, milliard*; measure words: *ell, span, foot, fathom, yoke, brace, acre, pint, stone, pound, bushel, ton*.

The etymological background of words denoting measure and weight is contrasted to numerals, which have their early history hidden. For example *ell, span, foot, brace* etymologically go back to the parts of body and their position. Another group (*pint, bushel, ton, chaldron*) go back to the names of containers in which things were kept. Other measure units (*yard, rod, pole, par, stone*) go back to the instruments for measuring. The semantic deviation of quantitative words is stable in metonymic shift: object $name_1$ → quantity → → object $name_2$. With proper numeric words (numerals) the first link (object $name_1$) is lost with times. Reconstruction of old numeric forms illustrates the derivative nature of first ten numerals which go back to their unquantitative predecessors. The analysis of empiric material proves that polyfunctionality of the subject is at work with nominative and communicative functions. By dictionary definitions the quantitative words carry out the exact number/measure. At the speech level quantitative assessment radically changes: there

come exact, approximate and zero markers of quantifications. This scientific novelty is unfortunately not included into the academic syllabus. The words do not only nominate things and let communication go, but they are also involved into the investigation process and enable solving the mysteries of language and its inherent properties of systematic arrangement. The latter is implied by comparison, the comparison – by convergence and divergence, convergence and divergence make systems; the ways of their reconstructions are eternal in cognition. It is common knowledge that quantity does not exist independently, singly. It is inherent property of real and imaginative worlds. The cognition of quantity results in some gains of the scientific picture of the world. Counting as a means of cognition works with linguocreative thinking. The denominal tendency is traced in the constant modifications and semantic deviations. This is verified by the cycles of their evolution: (N_1 → Num → N_2): *five* → *fiver* ($5), *six* → *sixer* (a team), *million* → → *millionaire, millionairedom*.

The process of lexicalization is objectivized by emergence of set-expressions with numerals. Numeric components yield to nominal ones, quality comes forward: *forty winks, as thick as two thieves, seven wonders, two dogs over one bone*. Numerals may be omitted or substituted, the quantitative zero constituents do not influence the general message: *to make two (both) ends meet, saying and doing are two (different) ways, as drunk as (seven) lords; as cross as (two) dogs over a (one) bone; as like as (two) peas*. The numeric words are bifunctional as they are used in above examples, and in abstract counting of the type *two times two is four, four divided by two is two*. The numeric features are verbalized by monolexical and polylexical units. Phraseological ones do not stand apart, they express quantity (in our case: number) – explicitly and implicitly.

Empiric material objectivizes the existence of paradigmatic cluster – language quantity field. Numeric words (numerals) major in it, for they are used with discrete things directly and with indiscrete ones as a team with measure units: *two apples, three trees; two pounds of sugar, three bushels of coal*.

The category of quantity refers to different endozones: it has logical, linguistic and mathematic characteristics. Until now the dual number is implied by *two eyes, two legs, left-right side of body, two hands, two arms, moon and sun, sunrise and sunset, day and night.* Thus entity and duality have gone their way together but apart from times immemorial. "Duality" as the prominent Ukrainian scholar noted is associated with matriarchy yielding to patriarchy [7, p. 17]. The notion of three is closely correlated with mythology. Slavonic people symbolized by three cycles: the god of the Sun implying morning, afternoon and night. In folk-tales there existed *three-headed snakes, three kingdoms, three urgent problems, three sons, three efforts* and the like. Cognizing is slow in its progress. The number of ″four″ repeated the evolution of 1, 2, 3 numbers. The Tripol agriculture was four-measure oriented due to the pressing urgency of land measuring. Four components are anthropologically oriented: *ahead, behind, left, right; cross image; four-faced god ruling the Universe*. Each succeeding number was firstly perceived in terms of ″many″: *two heads are better than one; four eyes see better than two; two is company, three is none*.

Thus, the words keep history of civilization fresh and open to those who are not reluctant to get to know it. The explicit markers of the standard units have been lost with numerals. Contemporary numerals present names of abstract quantitative meaning, the proof of their old background is verified by the study of primeval language numerals (1), quantity units of later emergence (2), reconstruction of old forms (3), semantic tendencies of relative words (4), their combinability and collocation (5), word-building potentiality (6) and anthropomorphic factors (7).

The liguocognitive story of numerals should not be closed until it is continued by the succeeding moments in their diachronic evolution. Cf.: Seven Wonders Saga:

i) they go back to concrete referents;

ii) with times they come to function as absolute terms;

iii) determinologized quantitative words lose their meaning and become aligned with synonyms, antonyms and stylistic devices;

iv) they are working components of phraseological units;

v) polyfunctionality (nominative, cognizing, word-building power) are at work with them;

vi) they are flexible in their semantic deviation (substance → quantity → quality → zero charge);

vii) they master the epidigmatic function.

Epidigmatic function is objectivized in particular with emergence of denumerals. Both numerals and denumerals (words made of numeral morphemes) are contextually determined; cognizing is being reflected by exact definite and indefinite marking. The derivative units of secondary nature join different parts of speech. The denumeral nouns, adjectives, adverbs come to the forefront. Syntactical denumeral units yield to them. Denumerals keep on the life of their "parents" alive. Moreover, they serve the ground for further evolution: they stimulate the life of notional, lexically charged words and syntactical formants. Thus, this factor makes vivid the cyclic way of quantitative units. Among the denumeral units each fifth belongs to the syntactic functional words. The "lust for life" of denumerals like *once, twins, teeners, millionaire, fortnight* is obvious. The lexeme "one" has great history for it belongs not only to the "family of numeral" but it also "eyewitnessed" the many stages of the English word building. One has etymological parallels in the domains of articles, pronouns, nouns and syntactical forms: *once, only, alone, none, anyone, someone, oner (to be the first/a oner at smth), oneness, only if, when only*. The above derivative words look homonymous but they are functionally identified at the syntagmatic level. Cf.: *Abby hoped this line would make her plan seem the only sensible option. Only if you help me it will be easier to settle. Because only he can move Jess from the grief toward happiness. She wrote not only the text but also selected illustrations. Only then did she realize that her father loved her with all his heart.*

The linguistic analysis proves that the words with common semes undergo common modifications. The quantitative words undergo the process of evolution and involution. The denumerals mirror syncretism of their predecessors (numerals), initial bisemy.

The secondary constructions keep memories of "parents", developing their modifications. At the syntagmatic level the numerals verbalize exact, approximate, and indefinite quantity: *by two, in two ways; for about two hours, a bird or two; nine (twenty winks); as cross as (two) dogs over one bone*. The denumerals work likewise in nominative units: *once, alone, fourfold, someone, fortnight, oncer* (brother), *oncer* (church visitor).

Numerals and words of weight and measure in language modus make terminological group which verbalize exactly the quantitative properties of countable and uncountable things. Numerals make measure words function. They count measure units and let quantification go. Cf.: (*three tons) of sugar, (two yards) of silk.* The divergence of these groups consist in the choice of determined units – discrete and indiscrete. Numeric words and their secondary denumeral formations are polyaspected, polyfunctional and polymodal units. They are highly prolific, prosperous and perspective considering the further investigation in modus of Language Speech and Speech activities. Both groups are open to shifts: from exact quantity to approximate and zero quantity. The cyclic evolution of investigated units is vivid in the process of lexicalization and grammaticalization on their epidigmatic vectors.

Words in their polyfunctionality nominate things, concepts, make sentences go, keep memory of the bygone days. People use words not only for communication, but also for investigation. Numeric and dimensional words make no exception here. They eyewitness the ways people use to cognize the world. Numeric words belong to counting names of discrete things. But in remote times these words were of nominative nature. This is proved by reconstruction of old forms in diverse languages by the study of semantic laws, tendencies, evolution of paradigmatic groups. The etymological analysis of number and

measure units brings closer remote times, the life of generations to have gone, their ways of thinking, which span efforts of people to cognize Universe.

Many a scientific work has been devoted to the matter of nomination, but until it is still open for the brain trust. The close study of the quantitative words reveals there anthropomorphic nature. Counting as a means of cognition works with linguocreative thinking. The denominal tendency is traced in the constant modifications and semantic deviations. The process of lexicalization is objectivized by emergence of set-expressions with numerals which may be omitted or substituted, but zero quantitative constituents do not influence general message of the type *"to make two (both) ends meet"*.

Numeric words and their secondary denumeral formations are polyaspected, polyfunctional, and polymodal units. They are highly prolific, prosperous, and perspective, considering their further investigation in modi of language, speech, and speech activities. The vistas of this paper consist in identification of conjunction between the obtained results and those to come in future which is indispensable for deepening theory of systematic arrangement of language and its semantic groups on the one hand, for widening scientific world picture on the other hand. Constructive dialogs and brain trusts are badly needed to solve the problems of the lacunar entropic nature. Practical value of gains obtained awaits application in the educational process.

ЕПІДИГМАТИЧНА ПРИРОДА КІЛЬКІСНИХ СЛІВ

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У статті порушуються питання еволюції кількісних слів англійської мови (числівників, слів міри та ваги), фокусується увага на їх становленні, епідигматичній сутності (формальних та семантичних девіаціях). Підтверджено робочу гіпотезу стосовно того, що слова зі спільними семами еволюціонують ідентично. У роботі об'єкт дослідження оновлюється у модусах мови, мовлення та мовленнєвої поведінки. Етимологічний аналіз об'єктивує витоки кількісних слів. Концептуальний аналіз свідчить про ментально-лінгвістичний процес становлення досліджуваних одиниць. Епідигматичний аналіз ілюструє дієвість вічного двигуна самоконтролю та самоорганізації слів єдиної парадигми. Методи та матеріали дослідження корелюють з поставленими завданнями та проспекцією творчого пошуку.

Ключові слова*: квантитативні слова, числівники, слова міри та ваги, епідигматична сутність, формальні та семантичні девіації.*

ЭПИДИГМАТИЧЕСКАЯ ПРИРОДА КОЛИЧЕСТВЕННЫХ СЛОВ

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В статье исследуется проблема эволюции количественных слов английского языка (числительные, слова меры и веса). Фокусируется внимание на эпидигматическом статусе количественных единиц, их формальных и семантических девиациях. Подтверждается гипотеза, что слова с общими семами подвластны идентичным тенденциям. Категория количества представлена единицами, актуализирующими семы "квантитативность", "исчисление", "измерение". Эпидигматический заряд количественных слов исследуется на материале денумеративов в модусах языка, речи и речевого поведения. В статье использованы адекватные современные методы (этимологический, концептуальный, дискурсивный, компонентный, а также эмпирические факты аутентичных словарей и художественных текстов.

Ключевые слова: *квантитативные слова, числительные, слова меры и веса, языковые и речевые аспекты, эпидигматическая сущность, формальные и семантические девиации.*

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