

Semantic Sphere of “Identity” in Modern English

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Abstract—The article defines the criteria to identify the semantics “identity”, describes the semantic sphere of “identity”, including the semantic blocks “equality”, “similarity” and “likeness”. The model of the semantic sphere of “identity” is constructed.

Keywords—*conceptual category, semantic category, semantic field, semantic blocks, seme, differential signs, integral signs, the semantics “identity”, the semantics “equality”, the semantics “likeness”, the semantics “similarity”*

I. INTRODUCTION

One of the categories studied by philosophy, logic and linguistics in one sense or another is identity. Identity as a reflection of reality, the way to its knowledge is a philosophical approach. Identification as a logical technique, mental operation is a logical understanding of the category. Identity as a semantic category is the subject of study of the sub disciplines of linguistic science.

The problem of identity was developed in the writings of Aristotle. To identify the identity of the two units after Aristotle is to identify their basic, essential features, in other words, the identity is established by the main characteristics of objects in the presence of secondary [1]. In modern philosophy and logic identity is unthinkable without distinction, as there is no difference outside of identity. This thesis is confirmed by philosophers such as Hume, Hegel, Kant and Engels. Depending on the selected features, between the same objects both an identity and a difference can take place.

According to the concept of ancient philosophers Plato and Aristotle, the object can be identical to itself when changing the spatial trajectory. Following the philosophers Plato, Aristotle, D. Hume, “identity” means the relationship between different temporal or spatial hypostases of the same object [2, 3]. When we say that two objects are identical to each other, we mean that an object that exists at one time in one spatial slice is identical to itself as existing at another time in another spatial slice [1].

Theoretical premises of V. Bondarko that conceptual categories are realized in semantic functions which are connected with formal language means is the basis for making the semantic sphere “identity” [4]. The term “semantic sphere” is understood as a set of multilevel linguistic units united by a common meaning.

The term “semantic sphere” is used in the study ambiguously, in the explanatory dictionary by Ephremova, a “sphere”, in one of the meanings, is a closed surface, all the

points of which are equidistant from the center, in the other – is the area, the limits of the spread of something [5]. Therefore, the semantic sphere “identity” is a generalized meaning of identity, including the meanings “equality”, “likeness”, “similarity”. These meanings often interchange each other in communication, and only the study of the semantic sphere of identity using the component analysis of lexical units allows establishing differential features and highlighting the semantic sphere “identity” as a kind of macro system.

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Using a systematic approach appears to be optimal for the description of generalized semantic values, since this approach allows us to classify the means of their expression. One of the forms of partial solution of this problem is the presentation of individual semantic fields. In this study, there is a need to compare the concept “semantic field” and “semantic sphere”, highlighting the factors of similarity and differences, since the concept “field” is widely covered in the linguistic literature, moreover, a semantic field and a sphere have a large number of common properties.

The concept of field, as you know, goes back to the definition of language as a system which is a complex mechanism that is theoretically proved by I. A. Baudouin de Courtenay and F. de Saussure.

The use of semantic fields is one of the methods of describing language units, which is associated with the idea of dividing the vocabulary into different semantic groups, which are independent subsystems. M. Krongauz believes that not only- a set of words should be called a semantic field, but also their semantic description made by a special scheme, and the key concepts in the description of the semantic field are considered to be integral and differential features [6]. In fact, all researchers associate the theory of semantic fields with the method of component analysis. “The method of component analysis involves taking as a theoretical starting point the idea of the field structure of the lexical-semantic system of the language” [7].

The concept of semantic sphere is considered in the works of the famous Austrian scientist Karl Buhler. He believes that the theory of a semantic sphere goes back to the research of psychology of thinking and consists in the differentiation of implication and (visual) representation of things [8].

When combining a group of words into the semantic sphere “identity”, all vocabulary words are matched with the field

dominant, 'the same' lexeme, to detect associations between them. During the second cycle (component), common semantic components are established between the field name and specific lexemes. When describing tokens included in the semantic sphere of "identity", an analysis of the semantic structure of language units is used by identifying common and differential semes.

Words from the dictionary description of the corresponding lexeme are considered to be components of meaning. Dictionary description is based on texts, and in some cases Macmillan English Dictionary is used.

The term "semantics of identity" in this context means a generalized meaning of identity, including the meanings of "equality", "similarity", "similarity". The system of means of semantics expression "identity" consists of multilevel units of language (lexical, grammatical), which interact on the basis of their common semantic functions. Semantic function means the ability of a linguistic unit to deliver a certain meaning. The term "functional-semantic field" is associated with the idea of grouping (ordered set) of interacting linguistic means and their system-structural organization. This concept is included in the system of concepts and terms of grammar, exploring linguistic units not only in the direction from form to meaning, but also from meaning to form.

Functional grammar provides grouping interacting on the semantic-functional basis of language tools and their system-structural organization, in other words, the identification of functional-semantic fields. This grouping involves the definition of:

- a) composition of the components of the functional-semantic field in the language on the basis of their common invariant semantic feature;
- b) composition of central and peripheral components of the field (based on certain criteria);
- c) relations between the components of the functional-semantic field;
- d) structural type of the field;
- e) relations between this field and other structural and semantic fields [3].

According to Guliga E. V. and E. M. Shandels there are the following features of FSP, many of which are relevant to the semantic sphere "identity":

1. Availability of inventory (set) of means of different levels connected among themselves by system relations. As for the semantic sphere "identity", it is lexical, grammatical and word-formation means.
2. The existence of a general meaning that is more or less inherent in its constituents. In this case, it is the presence of a common feature in the semantic structure of the units under consideration.
3. The total value of the field is not uniform; it splits into at least two values, which can be opposite or polar. Each of these values forms a microfield. In the semantic sphere "identity" in contrast to the field, the opposite factor (identity - difference) is

not represented. "Identity" is not opposed to "difference" because there is only one distinctive component in the semantic structure when comparing two objects.

4. The field has a non-uniform and, as a rule, complex structure, which can be represented in the form of horizontal and vertical sections. Across there are semantic areas-micro fields [9]. The analysis of semantic connections within the semantic sphere "identity" demonstrates the heterogeneity of the sphere in which the semantic blocks "equality", "likeness" and "similarity" are located.

In the analysis of the FSF, as well as the semantic sphere of "identity", it is necessary to project to speech: "it is important to show how the elements of this field are represented in the statement, how they are implemented, interacting with each other and with elements of other fields in the statement" [4]. C. Fillmore points to the fact, referring to the words of J. Trier that to understand the values of the individual means of expression of a content, it is necessary to realize the position of the words in the field (together with other units of the category) [10]. The status of the units that make up the core and periphery of any linguistic field is different. "The most important thing that characterizes a field structure is the completeness and maximum intensity of features in the center of the structure and their sparsity and weakening on the periphery" [11]. The more semantic features are held in the meaning of the word, the further it is removed from the kernel. The core concentrates the basic information about the field as a whole. The semantic sphere "identity" as well as a field is characterized by the presence of the nucleus and periphery. It should also be noted that in the analysis of a particular FSF, as well as the semantic sphere of "identity", it is necessary to identify a dominant in the core that expresses the total value of the field; the core is the carrier of a semantic feature that forms the entire field. The meaning of all other elements containing differentiating semantic features is revealed through the dominant [4]. In the opinion of A.V. Bondarko, as a rule, the morphological category becomes the core of the FSF, as it concentrates in itself special means of expression that are peculiar to the given FSF [4]. E. V. Guliga E. I. Shandals propose to consider the dominant of a field a constituent the most specialized for the expression of this meaning, delivering it the most clearly, the most systematically used [12]. Most often, the core of the lexical system of the language is revealed on the basis of the frequency criterion. The difference in the position of the constituents of the semantic sphere is based on the frequency of use and the degree of expression of meaning.

The most important properties of the field are openness, lack of clear boundaries, a hierarchical principle of construction, interaction with other fields, ability of field members to attract other elements or be attracted by elements of other groups [9]. In contrast to the field "sphere" is a closed limited space which is focused not on the opposition sub-categories, but on their own kind, which are considered in the work as meanings: "equality", "similarity", and "likeness".

The means expressing the semantics "identity" should be considered within a semantic sphere, not a field. A semantic field is based on a category with two opposite pre-categories forming micro fields. In the category "identity" there is no

actual counter-term, as in contrast to "equality", "identity" implies one distinctive feature, with other integral ones in the semantic volume of the compared objects. The semantic sphere differs from the semantic category in that its components are not opposites, in this case "identity - difference". A semantic category is a semantic invariant (a semantic dominant of a functionally semantic field) that unites multilevel linguistic means and determines their interaction. A semantic sphere, unlike a field, does not have a programmed structure, where proofs of the positions of each constituent are needed.

Identity as a semantic sphere includes semantic blocks: "equivalence", "similarity", "likeness". The term "semantic block" means a relatively independent part of a semantic sphere containing linguistic items united by semantic commonness. Such semantic blocks are represented in the semantic sphere "identity" according to the semantic relatedness of their constituent items having a common characteristic/characteristics in the objects. In case of the semantics "likeness" and "similarity" comparable objects demonstrate the presence of a common feature/features, in the case of semantics "identity" an object, being in different temporal spaces, is compared with itself; when expressing the semantics "equivalence" an object, being in the same temporal space, when compared with itself does not show any distinctive properties.

III. RESULTS

Semantics "identity" is characterized by the presence in its structure the seme "equality", but the leading indicator is a relevant differential feature when the other means are common. When comparing such semantic features as "identity", "equality", "likeness" and "similarity", it is necessary to clarify the factors of their commonness and differences.

Here was 'Smith' in mortal terror lest his pals should be able to hear of his identity with the aristocratic 'Smythe', and discard him [13].

In this text the nominal substantive lexical item 'identity' contains in its semantic structure an indication that the object of the Smith nomination has the properties of the Smythe object by the parameter "the same object" (the same person). And the distinctive feature is actualized through the difference in the names of the person and is considered as a differential sign "naming the object". Explicit actualization of the common features of two objects and a single distinctive feature allows distinguishing the lexical item identity as an explicit means of actualization of semantics "identity".

The Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet can all be identified in history... The Dragon, it has been reasonably established, is pagan Rome.... The Beast, alternatively symbolized as a Woman, is undoubtedly the Papal power.... There is only one power which answers to the description of the False Prophet... and that power is the so-called 'Society of Jesus' [14].

The verb 'identify' contains in its semantic structure an indication to two manifestations of the same object: the object and its symbol. Thus, the semantics "identity" is actualized explicitly by the parameter "the same object", the differential

sign is presented implicitly and diagnosed by the context by the parameter "actual/conditional objects".

The semantics "identity" in this study refers to a set of semantic components, including in its composition the semes "plurality", "equivalence" and some differential characteristic, which suggests the presence of the same object, located in a different temporal space or object demonstrates the differentiation of the parameter "distant/contact" or some other distinctive parameter. Under the "distant / contact" property of an object / objects location is considered: different or the same. Semantics 'identity' is expressed by the formula: $a+b+c \equiv a1+b1+c1 + x$, where x is a differential seme. The term "seme" is used in the article to denote the minimum unit of the language content plan.

She thought Aunt Polly the silliest of old ladies and the very idea of living under the same roof with Ashley's wife was abhorrent [15].

'The same' manifests the fact that an object is not different from the given one, in other words, equal to itself. To analyze the semantics of 'the same', we can imagine the following transformation: O1 lives under this roof and O2 lives under this roof. Therefore, 'the same' explicitly expresses the semantics "equivalence" by the parameter localization.

One of our great-great-great-great grandfathers was the same under Anne [15].

'The same' contains an indication in its semantic structure that an object is a relative of different individuals. Imagine the following transformation: X is a great-great-great-great grandfather of O1 and X is a great-great-great-great grandfather of O2. Consequently, the same is an explicit means of actualizing the semantics "equivalence" by the parameter "blood relationship".

On the walls were the effigies of Victorian statesmen, and she roamed from one to the other; but they might all have been the same statesman, with his whiskers at different stages of development [15].

The lexical unite 'the same' actualizes the fact that the objects are not different, but represent the same object, therefore, 'the same' implements this "singularity" and represents the object as equal to itself, explicitly expressing the semantics of "equivalence".

The semantic feature "equality" is actualized when comparing two or more objects with the same objective parameters, which is more typical for artifacts.

The two persons compared are approximately equal in height [16].

'Equal' implicates the presence of two or more objects that are equal in the parameter pointed to by the text (height). The differential feature is not represented in the semantic structure of this adjectival lexical item; therefore, the lexical item 'equal' contains the seme "equality". Thus, the subjective lexical unite 'equal' explicitly actualizes the semantics "equivalence", as it points to the equality of specific parameters of objects on a quantitative basis.

In case of the semantics "equivalence" language means implement the semes "plurality", "equality" and the absence of any differential properties, as well as semantics "equivalence" is expressed when the object is compared with itself under the unchanged properties, in the latter case, the seme "plurality" is not represented, but only the seme "singularity" and the seme "equality". Semantics "equivalence" is represented by the formula: $a+b+c = a1+b1+c1$.

...the place instantly reminded her of the house Eileen and Jack lived in Boston. It had the same fetid smell, worn-out furniture, and a battered look [17].

'The same' contains in its semantic structure an indication of the existence of objects O1, O2, O3 very similar to objects O4, O5, O6. It is impossible to put an equal sign between them as these factors (fetid smell, worn-out furniture, a battered look), make an intensional meaning of various objects (houses), and have differentiation by the parameter "remote/contact" as belong to various objects. Some differentiation by the parameter "external properties" is presented implicitly: fetid smell in different rooms can be stronger or weaker, worn-out furniture differs in size, color, shape. Common features by the parameter "external properties" and "status of objects" and the differential ones: 'remote/contact' and 'external properties' allow considering 'the same' as the explicit means of actualization of the semantics "likeness".

Melany was like her aunt in many ways. She had her shyness, her sudden blushes, her modesty, but she did have common sense [18].

'Like' contains in its semantic structure an indication of objects that have common properties by the parameter "behavior", the text diagnoses these properties: 'shyness', 'sudden blushes', 'modesty'; common properties are the belonging of objects 'Melany' and 'aunt' to the same semantic group "people" and the female sex. The term "semantic group" means a set of words belonging to the same part of speech and united on the basis of interdependent and interrelated elements of meaning. The semantic structure of 'like' implicitly contains an indication of the differential features that the text illustrates: 'but she did have common sense'. In addition to the differential properties by the parameter "behavior", the compared objects demonstrate other distinctive features: age, appearance. The presence of objects having three common semes in the parameters "behaviour", "status of objects" and "feminine" and several differential ones expressed implicitly testifies the explicit actualization of the semantics "likeness" by the conjunction 'like'. In case of semantics "likeness", objects demonstrate at least two common semes and several differential ones.

Everyone knows that a woman of Belle's type couldn't have made enough money by herself to set up such a luxurious establishment [18].

This prepositional phrase 'of Belle's type' implies a certain undefined object (a woman), a common feature of the undefined object (a woman) and the concrete object (Belle) is "social status", integral features are realized by the parameter "physiological status" and "feminine gender", as lexemes 'a woman' and 'Belle' have common semes "man", "feminine

gender". The common feature "public status" is basic for the objects to be compared, since an undefined object (a woman) is introduced for a specific characteristic (Belle). Differential features are realized implicitly: age, appearance.

With him and with people of his kind – and they made up most of her world – she felt outside of something she could not understand [18].

The prepositional phrase 'of his kind' is a means of comparing the multiple object (people) and the single object (he) on the basis of a common feature "social status". This feature is leading in the comparison of objects, since the object (he) defines the object (people) by the parameter "social status", another common feature is implemented by the parameter "physiological status", since the lexical item (people) and (he) have a common feature. Differential features are realized implicitly: quality (age, external data), quantity (singularity/multiplicity). The presence of common features in both texts, which are the main characteristic of the compared objects, with the implicit implementation of two distinctive ones, allows us to conclude that these prepositional phrase belongs to the semantic block "likeness" in the semantic sphere "identity".

Semantics "likeness" is actualized in the presence of a seme "multiplicity", common features of objects that are their main properties and several differential properties. Semantics "likeness" is expressed by the formula: $a+b+c \approx a1+b1+y+x$.

Metaphorical comparison should be also considered as linguistic means of actualization of the semantics "likeness". Since the metaphor, according to linguists is based on the similarity of two objects: the real object of speech and the one used to refer to the first. At the same time, the similarity on which the metaphor is based can concern any property of a thing [19].

The poor brutes are thin as rails, and haven't half their strength [15].

'As' contains in its semantic structure a reference to objects that have a common feature. The text illustrates a common feature of objects (brutes) and (rails) by the parameter 'associating' (thin); as the lexical unite 'as' expresses similarity when comparing objects, it implicitly includes differential characteristics, due to the fact that the similarity involves differentiation. Lexical units (brutes) and (rails) belong to different semantic groups (live/inanimate), therefore, have only one common seme (thin) and a large number of differential features. On the basis of the presence of one common feature and other differential semes 'as' is an explicit means of semantics "similarity".

Semantics "similarity" is represented by the formula $a+b+c \approx a1+x+y+z$, where x in z are differential features. In metaphorical comparison, the comparison takes place by any parameter: behavior, appearance; while in the case of semantics, "similarity" lexical units often belong to one semantic group and show common features by two parameters, one of which is the "status of objects".

In fact, semantics "likeness" and semantics "similarity" differ not so much in the number of general and differential semes, but in the object factor. Some features can be similar, i.e.

"something" is like "something", while objects with such features can belong to different species categories, while "similarity" can characterize different objects of the same species category, for example, when it comes to the external similarity of individuals.

Awfully like Jean, isn't she? [15].

The lexical item 'like' contains in its semantic structure an indication of objects that have external similarity. Similarity assumes the presence of both general properties and differential ones by the parameter "appearance", common semes by the parameters "physiological status" and "sex" are diagnosed by the text. The presence of three common semes: "physiological status", "genus", "external similarity" and two differential ones: "appearance", "character" allows us to describe 'like' as a constituent of the semantic sphere "identity", which expresses the semantics "similarity" explicitly.

Semantics "similarity" implies the presence of two or more objects that demonstrate any common feature/features by any parameter. The semantics "similarity" in this study refers to a set of semantic components, which include in its composition the semes of plurality, equality, in other words represent a common feature/signs and several differential features presented implicitly, in contrast to the semantics "identity", where the distinguishing feature is assumed to be the only one. Another important factor in the differences of the semantics "similarity" and the semantics "identity" is the subjectivity of "similarity", in other words, this semantics is realized subjectively, based on personal perception of the individual.

IV. CONCLUSION

The semantic sphere "identity" is actualized through the unity of interconnected multi-level items that have a common integral feature (common objects) in their semantic structure, which reflects conceptual and functional similarity of the designated phenomena. The semantic sphere of linguistic means actualizing the semantics "identity" in the modern English language is heterogeneous in its semantic structure, which includes semantic blocks: "equivalence", "likeness" and "similarity".

Semantics "equivalence" – $a+b+c = a1+b1+c1$, semantics "identity" – $a+b+c \equiv a1+b1+y$, semantics "likeness" – $a+b+c \approx a1+b1+y+x$. Semantics "similarity" can be represented by the formula: $a+b+c \approx a1+x+y+z$. Each of the semantics is included in the semantic sphere "identity" on the basis of the presence of n-number of common semes in the nominations of compared objects.

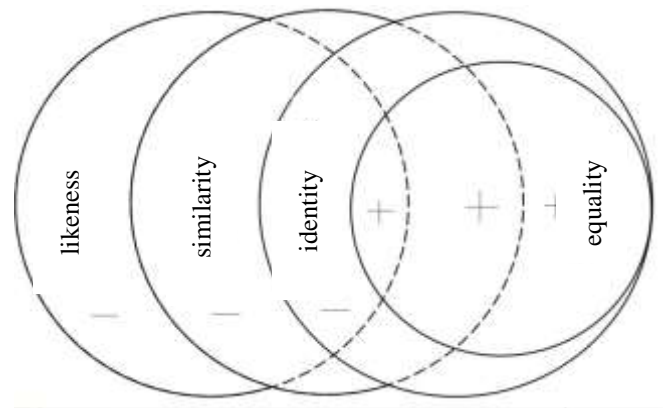


Fig. 1. Semantic sphere "identity".

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