

SIMILAR WORDS AND THEIR EXPLANATION IN DIFFERENT SYSTEMATIC LANGUAGES

Problem formulation. An important area of research in modern comparative linguistics is the comparative analysis of lexical units in unrelated languages, which is explained by a number of objective reasons. Firstly, it is important for theoretical typological linguistics. Recently, scientists from various countries have been actively engaged in clarifying the kinship of languages within a given language family, since this may be important for understanding the processes of interaction and mutual enrichment of the languages of the world. At the same time, comparative lexical-semantic studies, which are of great value for didactic and methodological purposes, can help improve the quality of teaching foreign languages, since they reveal the essence of facilitation processes and facilitate the efficiency of language learning based on the similarity or contrast of lexical units while mastering a foreign language. Researchers working in the framework of the comparative method point to the possibility of practical application of the results of their research in the teaching of relevant languages.

The purpose of the comparative study is to detect similarities and differences in the language subsystems of different languages. Comparative lexicology is a science that studies the lexical systems of two or more languages by comparing them with each other. The concept of interlanguage correspondence is the central concept of contrastive lexicology and contrastive linguistics as a whole. Interlanguage correspondences are units of different languages that have similarities in their composition; these are semantically similar units of two languages that can be matched to each other regardless of whether they are often used for mutual translation or can be used for translation only theoretically, in some special contexts. In other words, the subject of study is the lexical and phraseological similarities and differences of one language relative to another, the types of lexical and phraseological correspondences in languages and the identification of national specifics of semantics in these correspondences.

Recent research and publications analysis. While in the past in a comparative study of languages, emphasis was placed on detecting contrasts, which cause bilingual interference in foreign language to interferential errors under the influence of the native language (B.B. Акуленко, Л.С. Бархударов, А.А. Белецкий, В.В. Виноградов, В.Г. Гак), in recent years they also began to pay attention to moments *similar* to those between languages that have a *positive effect on learning* a second language (Cowie A.P., Mackin R., McCaig I.R., Crystal D.).

Key research findings. Cognates are often presented as a way to learn vocabulary quickly, because the form and meaning are often similar enough to the form and meaning of the English word to make them easy to remember. It is quite natural that in related languages there is a layer of general vocabulary, inherited from the parent language – the ancestor language. Words related to this category do not necessarily coincide in sound, but have a distinct phonetic similarity. At the same time, the sound differences that are observed in them are not at all random, but, on the contrary, have a *systemic* character and are recorded in many other units of these languages.

Comparing the words and forms of related languages with each other, as well as comparing the words and forms of the same language at different stages of its development, the scientists found *regularly repeated correspondences* that required a scientific explanation. Analysis of the words of two or more languages shows that words related to each other, which have similar sounds and meanings, have something in common. But this community is not always easy to detect. To define it, one has to do a lot of work, find out what other words, obviously related to the data, have a meaning in both languages, explore how their understanding has changed in the distant past.

Recent studies have shown that completely different languages use a similar pattern of expression to designate the same plan of content. The classic example is the so-called “kinship terms” (that is, the names of relatives), which, due to the special “intimacy” of their lexical meaning, are almost never borrowed. It is important in this observation that these languages are not only unrelated, but often not in contact. Compare the English word *mother*, the German *mutter*, the Spanish *madre*, the Latvian *māte* and the Russian *mama* [6].

The phonetic similarity of words from different languages, denoting the same phenomena, can be explained by different reasons.

– First, the similarity may be random.

– Secondly, it may be due to the interaction of languages, as a result of which vocabulary is borrowed. The fact is that all more or less large languages of the world are constantly influenced by each other. Most often, words come to other languages along with the objects, events or phenomena that they denote. This influence is most noticeable in modern terms – terms from the field of computers, music, brand names, etc. Therefore, the Germans and Italians work on the computer, we are connected to the Internet, and the Japanese are checking their E-meru (the only way they can pronounce the English word E-mail). The Czech word *robot* also sounds the same in almost all languages, as well as the names of realities in different countries, such as Russian *vodka*, Italian *pizza* (pizza) or Brazilian *piranha* (piranha). So, for example, the computer word that is widely used in Russian is very close to the English computer, because it is the result of borrowing this English-language word and transferring it to Russian.

One should also not forget about international words that are easy to translate from one language to another – they usually differ only in endings and a little in sound [7].

Кофе (рус.)	Kaffee (нім.)	Coffee (англ.)	Cafe (фр.)
лимонад	Limonade	lemonade	limonade

So, the *nation* in English will be *nation*, in German *nation*, in French *nation*, in Spanish *nación*, in Portuguese *nação*. Such words, which fell into several different languages as a result of borrowing, are also known in linguistics under the name of cognates (from the Latin cognati “related”) [3].

– Thirdly, the reason for this similarity may be linguistic affinity. That is, the common origin of languages, which include the words being compared. Scientific researches have shown that in the Indo-European languages common roots of many words can be traced. Scientists believe that knowing one of the Indo-European languages makes it possible, thanks to lexical similarity, to master several other languages of this group successfully. It is quite remarkable that the vast majority of languages spoken in Europe, including German, French, English, Spanish, Swedish, Italian, and even Icelandic, derive from a common language of ancestors, called Proto-Indo-European. Cognates come from hundreds of generations of language changes, and linguists can use them to restore common ancestors of seemingly unrelated languages [1; 2].

Cognates often vary wildly in form (like four, quatre, and pedwar) and in meaning (like yoke, jugular, zeugma, and yoga). And many of the words presented as cognates are in fact not cognates but merely borrowings. Strictly speaking, cognates are words that have a common origin – that is, they were inherited from an ancestral language, just as the cognates above all descend from Proto-Indo-European. Cognates are like cousins – they may belong to different families, but they all trace back to a common ancestor. And not all cognates share meaning. The English yoke, for instance, is related to the Latin jugular, the Greek zeugma, and the Hindi yoga, along with join, joust, conjugate, and many others. These words all trace back to the PIE ‘yeug ‘join’, and that sense can still be seen in some of its modern descendants, but if you’re learning Hindi, you can’t rely on the word yoketo tell you what yoga means [4].

– There is another reason for the similarity of words with a similar meaning in different languages. These are universal properties of human physiology and consciousness. Thus, in many (including unrelated) languages of the world, words corresponding to the Russian word *mama* contain a repetition of labial consonants. The phenomenon occurs because the first sounds that the baby “utters” are generated as a result of a sucking movement, in which the lips close and open. And it does not depend on nationality or culture.

– Universal is and the desire of people to onomatopoeia. In all languages of the world there are words, the phonetic composition of which, as it were, repeats the sound of the objects designated by it. You can compare how the meowing of a cat is denoted in different languages: *meow-meow* in Russian, *meow-meow* in English, *miau-miau* in Spanish, *mjäu-mjäu* in Estonian, *mīāo-mīāo* in Chinese. And it is no longer a relationship, but in a common for all nature of the designated phenomenon (cats in all countries meow the same way) and in general unconscious desire of different nations to designate this phenomenon through sound imitation [3].

Specialists from the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands have found the similarity of some words, that surprised them. Thus people from different parts of the world, when they do not understand what the interlocutor is saying, ask again the same way: “Eh?” Or “Huh?” [Ha?] In Mexico, which sounds like “a”, in Iceland – “hu” [ha], in Spain – “e”, in the language of the peoples of the Congo and Nigeria “a”, Dutch “hɜ” [heh], Italian “e” [e], Russian “a”, Lao language “hā”, Chinese Putunghua “ā” Murrin-Pata, the language of the Australian Aborigines, “and” the dialect of the Haile-Bushman people of Namibia “hɛ” [he], the dialect of the Nepal inhabitants “hā” [ha] language dune inhabitants of Papua – New Guinea “ɛ” [e], French “ɛ” [e], Hungarian “hm” or “ha”, in the Vietnamese dialect of the creole “ha” [4].

These results were published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Analysis of the most common words taken from the lexicon of more than half of the world’s languages allowed an international group of scientists to doubt one of the fundamental concepts of modern linguistics – the arbitrary nature of the relationship between the phonetic sound of words and their meaning.

Conclusions. According to the researchers, it is possible to talk about some historically basic mechanisms of speech production, thanks to which, in different regions of the world, people independently from each other gave similar phenomena and concepts to phonetically similar names. Accordingly, in the new study, the phonetic properties of the basic words from most of the world’s languages were compared to the purpose of determining whether there are cross-language patterns indicating the non-random nature of the relationship between sound and meaning in these words. In other words, the scientists wanted to test a hypothesis about the possible existence of reasons forcing words in many different languages, expressing similar concepts, to sound in a similar way. Their data suggest the existence of certain mechanisms of speech, common to the entire species of *Homo sapiens*. These mechanisms may be associated with sound symbolism, the iconic character of signs, difficult communication conditions, or synesthesia. With their help, at different times, in different geographical conditions, different peoples who have never contacted each other could develop similar connections between sound and meaning for a number of basic words in different languages.

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Summary

A. FARAMAZOV. SIMILAR WORDS AND THEIR EXPLANATION IN DIFFERENT SYSTEMATIC LANGUAGES

The article deals with the problem of the study of similar words – cognates – in different language systems, their varieties and origins, which is relevant both in theoretical and in practical aspects, as researchers working in the framework of the comparative method point to the possibility of practical application of the results of their research in the teaching of relevant languages. The subject of study is the lexical and phraseological similarities and differences of one language relative to another, the types of lexical and phraseological correspondences in languages and the identification of national specifics of semantics in these correspondences.

Key words: comparative analysis, lexical units, cognates.

Анотація

A. ФАРАМАЗОВ. СХОЖІ СЛОВА ТА ЇХ ПОЯСНЕННЯ В РІЗНИХ МОВНИХ СИСТЕМАХ

У статті розглядається питання вивчення подібних слів – когнати – у різних мовних системах, їх різновидів і походження, що є актуальним як у теоретичному, так і в практичному аспектах, оскільки дослідники, що працюють в межах порівняльного методу, вказують на можливість практичного застосування результатів їх досліджень у викладанні відповідних мов. Предметом дослідження є лексико-фразеологічні подібності та відмінності однієї мови відносно іншої, типи лексичних та фразеологічних відповідностей у мовах та виявлення національної специфіки у цих відповідностях.

Цілком природно, що у споріднених мовах існує шар загальної лексики, успадкованої від мови-основи – пра-мови. Останні дослідження показали, що абсолютно різні мови використовують подібну схему виразності для позначення одного і того ж плану змісту. Порівнюючи слова та форми споріднених мов між собою, а також порівнюючи слова та форми однієї мови на різних етапах її розвитку, науковці виявили регулярні повторювані відповідності, що вимагали наукового пояснення. У цьому дослідженні було порівняно фонетичні властивості основних слів більшості мов світу для того, щоб визначити, чи існують міжмовні структури, що вказують на не випадковий характер зв'язку між звуком і значенням у цих словах. На думку дослідників, можна говорити про деякі історично основні механізми створення мови, завдяки яким, у різних регіонах світу, люди незалежно один від одного давали подібним явищам і поняттям фонетично схожі імена.

Ключові слова: порівняльний аналіз, лексичні одиниці, когнати, механізми утворення мови.