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# SYSTEM-STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF LEXICO-SEMANTIC GROUP ‘DENOTATIONS OF WOODEN FISHING GEARS’ IN KAMCHADALS’ DIALECTS

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## Abstract

The aim of the article is to analyze the words-members of gender-species group ‘Denotations of wooden fishing gears in Kamchadal’s dialects from the point of view of systematic and structure’. There are some proofs of graduated character of gender-species relationships in the article, the semantic structure of common Russian and dialect lexemes, their differential and motivational features were defined. Due to the research we can state that the characteristic features for the studied group are synonymy, polysemy and diverse variance.

*Keywords:* Kamchatka, dialect, denotations, systematic, structure

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## 1. Introduction

Nowadays there are a lot of scientific works, which are dedicated to the description of separate thematic groups of fishing vocabulary in different dialects. The words, referring to fishery, take a prominent place in the vocabulary of Kamchatka dialect, because fishing is the main activity of Kamchadals. A. Steller wrote in his work “From Kamchatka to America (Life and Customs of Kamchadals in XVII century)”: “Fishing plays a great role in Kamchadals’ lives, because people of the country eat only this product. Although the local rivers and lakes don’t have their own fish, you can hardly find another country with such an abundance of magnificent and delicious fish. All Kamchatka fish come from the sea in spring and swim upwards to the flow of the river in such a great amount that the rivers rise up and overflow the banks.” [1]

The subject of the research is Russian and dialect lexical units – denotations of fishing gears, functioning in Kamchadals’ dialects, which are regarded from the point of view of systematic and structure.

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The material for the research was taken from the card-index of The Research Linguistic Centre of Vitus Bering Kamchatka State University; ‘Dictionary of Russian Kamchatka Dialect’ edited by K.M. Braslavts (further DRKD); and also the author used the material, which had been gathered by the author during the period of the dialectological expeditions to different localities of Kamchatka (from 1976 to 2012).

## **2. Main denotations of wooden fishing gears in Kamchadal’s dialects**

The most frequent lexeme, from the point of view of usage in speech, is lexeme **zapór**<sup>2</sup> with its phonemic variant **zhapor**, which has the meaning: ‘a wooden device for fishing’. The biggest part of harvested fish was caught with the help of such gears (zapors). They were installed almost on every bank of the rivers after the abatement of water from the end of May till late autumn. The preparation of some parts of a zapor and their repairing usually started in April. *Zapór délalsya is tálnika, derevýannye délalis, fseo s tálnika, sshiváli tálnik, spletáli i pryam stávilí gotóvoe fseo. Konstrúktсии zapórof mogli byt ráznye: i vózle bérega stávilí, - v zavisimosti od glubiný – nu na ozyórah stávilí posereótké starális, potomú shot rýba kag by rúslo nahodíla, glubókoé mésto, i do glubiný. (Kirganik) “Zapor was made of willow, the willow was sewn and when the whole construction was ready, it was set. The constructions of zapors were different and usually they were set along the banks of a river, but it depended on the depth of a river. Zapors were also set in the middle of a lake for a fish to find a deep place.”*

Some researchers, who studied life and customs of Koryaks and Itelmens (native people of Kamchatka), wrote about the active usage of this gear in fishing. We can find the following description of a zapor in the book of collected articles ‘History and Culture of Koryak people’: “It was widely spread to have fishing gears (big traps – zapors) for catching salmons among the people of Palana and Olyutorskiy district. They were installed in shallow parts of rivers, mainly in the middle and the upper reaches. The watercourse was dammed by a hedge with narrow channels, where net bags (‘chiruch’, ‘mordy’) were put in, these traps were made of long and narrow laths and bars” [2].

Itelmens also use this fishing gear very often: “Itelmens built several kinds of zapors, which differed only in their principle of operation, kind of a trap and object of fishing. They used this gear collectively. Usually the river was blocked with a hedge in a shoal, and the number of traps depended on the number of people who had built that zapor.” [3]

Thus the frequent usage of such kind of a trap led to the spread of the lexeme *zapór*<sup>2</sup> in the language of Kamchatka people, and we characterize this lexeme as a professional dialect term, as O.T. Barkhatova also has done [2, p. 43], and from our point of view this lexeme also can be a gender one. This word hasn’t been mentioned in any regional dictionaries, except Tomskiy Dictionary, and due to this fact we can assume that originally it appeared in Siberia and then

it was brought to Kamchatka by Cossacks. The proof of this fact is the note 'sib.' near this word at the dictionary by V.I. Dal [3, p. 615].

There is a full motivation in the base of nomination of this noun: the denotation was given to the gear according to its functional feature, which is expressed by the verb *zapirát* ('to close' in English).

According to the way of installing of a zapor in a river, the set of parts it consists of, which kind of fish people catch with the help of it, there are several kinds of this fishing gear, denotations of which take part in different semantic relations.

Kamchadals define two degrees of readiness of a zapor for work: assembled and disassembled. Thus the distinctive feature 'the level of readiness for work' allows us to distribute all the denotations into two contrasted subgroups: 'denotations of a disassembled zapor'/'denotations of an assembled zapor'.

### **2.1. I subgroup 'Denotation of a disassembled zapor'**

I subgroup 'Denotation of a disassembled zapor' is represented by the noun *zavód*<sup>2</sup>, which has the dialect meaning: 'a disassembled into parts wooden fishing trap'. *Na beregú tod zhe zapór nazývǎsya zavót, kadá on razóbranny, fse éti zapchásti. (Milkovo)* "When zapor is dissembled and set along the river, it is called 'zavot'."

We also can classify these lexemes to the same subgroup, which denote the parts of a zapor, but they also can function as independent fishing gears: *mórda*<sup>2</sup> : *mordúshka* : *mordáshka* ; *mórdochka* ; *véřilo* ; *kníga*<sub>3</sub> ; *knízhka*<sub>3</sub> : *knízka*. All these devices are similar in their construction to *vénter* or *chíruch*, but their distinctive feature is 'the material they are made of' – they are all weaved from bars or racks put together. The distinctive features for them are: 'form' and 'additional parts'.

There is a word in the Russian literary language and dialects that means "a fishing tackle, usually weaved of willow twigs in a shape of a round basket with a funnel-shaped mouth" [4], which is actualized in the common Russian word *morda*<sup>2</sup> and in its variants *mordúshka* : *mordáshka* : *mórdochka*. *Mórda tózhe iz réek, oná polukrúglaya, a dno u ney pryamóe, est kruchók, tózhe est u neyó rot krúglyi, rýba zahódit tudá, a kontsý smykáyutsa, shtop oná obrátno ne vyhodíle. (Milkovo)* "Morda is made of laths, it is of semicircular shape and has straight bottom, it also has a hook. When a fish comes into it, the ends of the construction close, and the fish can't go out." "A cylindrical or tubby shaped box, made of sticks joined together, has small gaps of two-finger width. One end of this box is closed with the cover made of the same sticks, and another end is opened for the ingoing fish. Close to the back end of the morda there is a tetragonal hole, which is enough for taking the caught fish out of the box. This hole is also tightly closed and it is opened only for emptying of the morda." [5] But if you put this morda without 'wings' it will be called with another dialect word *véřilo*: a morda without wings'. *Mórdu vesnóy stavis bes kríľief, bes kríľief nazývám véřilo.*

(Slautnoe) “In spring morda is set without wings and in this case it is called verilo.”

One more part of a wooden fishing trap was called with the common Russian word *kniga*<sub>3</sub> (‘a book’ in English) with its variants *knížhka*<sub>3</sub> : *knízka*. *A zdes polukrúgom – nazyváetsya kniga, eyó délayut is cheryómukhovyykh pálok tolschinóy dva-tri santimétra, krépkie. Kniga éta kak otkrýtaya kniga polucháetsa, ih shtuk, navérno, pyat; vysotá oná métra poltorá – reká glubókaya zhe – rasstoyánie mézhdu nimi, shtob rýba ne prohodíla. (Ust-Bolsheretsk) “And here in a semicircular shape, it is called “kniga”, it is made of bird cherry tree sticks of three or two centimeters thickness. The kniga is like an open book, and it is of 1.5 meters height, because the river is very deep. And there is some space between them for fish not to come through.”*The motivation in similarity of the object shapes takes part in nomination of the word: ‘as an open book’.

## 2.2. II subgroup ‘Denotations of an assembled zapor’

II subgroup ‘Denotations of an assembled zapor’ includes the following lexemes: *túsha*<sub>3</sub> = *zaézdok*; → *zapór berezhnýy* : *berezhnik*<sub>3</sub>; *terechinik*; *zapór delevóy*; *zapór plaveózhnyy* : *zapór plavezhnýy* : *zapór plavílnyy* = *korýto*<sup>2</sup>; *zapór cherezóvyi*.

We can relate the common Russian lexeme ‘tusha’ and its synonym to it the dialect word *zaézdok* to gender denominations, which has the following meaning in dialects: ‘a wooden gear for fishing’. *Pérvoy chast zapóra – kolpák, potóm atýri – éto perédnaya chast, kudý rýba zahódit; perédníy kol, gde kolpák krépitsya – kónuch, sestóy kol túshinoy, a ves zapór túshey nazyváli. (Sobolevo) Fseó dlya lóva rýby naziváitsya zaézdok. (Nizhne-Kamchatsk) “The first part of a zapor is kolpak, then come atyri, it is the front part, where a fish go; the front stick, where the kolpak is joined to, is called konuch, and the whole zapor is called tusha. Everything for catching fish is called zaezdok.”* [6] In the valley of the Kamchatka river loach is caught with a zaezdok, it is a small dead hedge with put in chiruchies, stretching from the bank [5].

We believe that motivation of shape similarity of objects takes place in the nomination of the word ‘tusha’.

Other denotations of *zapór* are opposed according to such distinctive features as: ‘the way of installing in the river’, ‘the way of usage’, ‘the fish, which is caught with the help of it’, and they form a separate microgroups. More often they are marked by compound denotations, the first component of which is a gender word and the attributive one is the denomination of a certain kind of a given fishing gear.

The first microgroup is formed by the names of a zapor, which are opposed according to their distinctive feature ‘the way of installing in a river’. Thus the seme ‘installed at a bank of a river’ is actualized in the meaning ‘a zapor installed at the bank for fishing’ [6, p. 30]. In the attributive word combination *zapór berezhnýy* the adjective appears to be a lexical motivator of the whole denotation. This compound denotation has a one-word equivalent

**berezhnik**<sub>3</sub>, which is formed from the adjective *berezhnýy* ('riverside' in English) with the help of the Russian suffix *-uk*, which has the meaning of "a carrier of the feature of a forming word" [7]. We can find the proof of it in DRKD: "The commonly known on the peninsular denotation 'berezhnik' isn't correct, because it comes from the word 'bereg' ('bank of a river' in English), which means 'riverside' [6, p. 30]. Dialect speakers also define some distinctive features of this fishing gear. *Ésli ne peregorázhivali réku zapórom, to stávilí berezhnik – éto chast ópschih zapórof, z bérega. Zapór od bérega postávit – berezhnik. (Ust-Bolsheretsk) "If rivers are not partitioned off with a zapor usually berezhnik was set, it is the part of common zaporos."*

The seme 'installed across the whole river' is actualized in the meaning of compound denotation **zapór cherezóvyi**. *Gorbusha tam, kitu lovili. Eto zhapory nazhyvali taki cherezhovyi. Ot cherizh retsku. (Utká) "Hunchback salmon and Siberian salmon are caught there."* [6, p. 64] *Promyshlyaetsya chavycha tak nazyvaemyi "cherezovymi zaporami", t.e. cherez vsyu reku. "Salmon is caught with the help of so-called "cherezovyi zapor", it means trough the whole river."* [5, p. 374]. The adjective *cherezóvyi* was formed in the dialects in the way of joining to the Russian preposition *чepeз* ('across' in English), which is a lexical motivator, very productive in formation of adjectives the Russian suffix *-ov*.

The second microgroup is formed with the help of the accent and phonetic variants, which are opposed according to their distinctive features 'the way of usage': **zapór plavyózhnyy** : **zapór plavezhnýy** : **zapór plavílnyy** with the meaning 'kind of a zapor, which rafts down the river'. *Goltsá lovili zhapórom, takí vot plavílnye býli zapóry. (Utká) "Loach is caught with the help of zaporos, there were drifting zaporos."* *Chasche drugih primenyaetsya plavezhnoy zapor. "Drifting zapor is used more often than others."* [4, p. 31] *Zapór plavílnyy – to zhe, chto zapór plavezhnyy. "Zapor plavilnyi ('drifting zapor' in English) is the same that zapor plavezhnyy".* [6, p. 64].

Sometimes dialect speakers name such kind of a zapor with the common Russian word **koryto**<sup>2</sup>. "Koryto is a rafting zapor, a special fishing gear used at a river bank" [8]. *Koryto – zapór na reké. (Milkovo) "A Koryto is a zapor, which was installed in a river."* We think that the motivation of similarity in the shape of objects takes part in nomination of the word: metaphoric transfer happened according to the common seme 'prodolgovaty' ('oblong' in English).

The third microgroup includes the dialect lexeme **terechinik**, in the meaning of which the distinctive seme 'for loach' is actualized. *Délali lovúshki dlya goltsá, zapór dlya goltsá – terichinik. (Milkovo) "People made traps for loach, zapor for loaches is called terechinik."*

The fourth microgroup is formed according to the distinctive feature 'material, the trap is made of' and it is represented by a compound denotation **zapór delevóy**, the attributive component of which is motivational: 'zapor, the wall of which is made of del'. *Delevóy zapór – rybozagradítelnoe sooruzhénie, f kotórom sténka délaetsa iz rybáchey séti – déli. (Milkovo) "Delevoy zapor is a construction, which blocks the way for fish and the walls of which are made of fishing net, and in Russian it is called 'deli'."*

## Conclusions

Thus the group ‘**Denotation of wooden fishing gears**’ can be considered to be a gender-species one, which is characterized by existing of hyperons *zapór<sup>2</sup>* : *zhapór*; *zapórchik* and a great amount of hyponyms.

Gender-species group is represented by 23 lexemes, 8 (34.8%) of them are common Russian ones, but they have different meanings in dialects. Thus the semantic structure of the words *koryto<sup>2</sup>* and *tusha<sub>3</sub>* includes more meanings in dialects, among which we can find meanings of the literary language and also dialect meanings. Lexemes *kniga<sub>3</sub>*; *knizhka<sub>3</sub>*; *morda<sup>2</sup>* have the same number of meanings, but their semantic structure in dialects, except the literary language meanings, also includes dialect meanings. The words *zapór<sup>2</sup>*; *zapórchik* and *zavóč<sup>2</sup>*, acquiring meanings in dialects, become homonyms for the words in the literary language; their semantic structure includes less number of meanings. Dialect denotations prevail (15-65.2%): *zhapór*; *zapór berezhnóy* : *berezhník<sub>3</sub>*; *zapór delevóy*; *zapór plavyózhnyy* : *zapór plavezhnóy* : *zapór plavilnyy*; *zapór cherezóvyi*; *zaézdok*; *knízka*; *mordúshka* : *mordáshka*; *mórdochka*; *vérilo*; *terichiník*.

It is more often that wooden fishing gears are expressed with compound denotations, the first component of which is a gender word and the attributive one is a denomination of a certain kind of a wooden fishing gear, which also is a motivational one. Concerning this we can say that the biggest part (19-83%) is motivational.

The group researched can be divided into some subgroups and microgroups, paying attention to their distinctive features: ‘the level of readiness for work’, ‘material the gear is made of’, ‘shape’, ‘additional parts’, ‘the way of installing in a river’, ‘the way of usage’, ‘fish, which is caught with the help of this gear’.

As a peculiarity of the structure of gender-species relationship in the group we should notice its graduated character: specific members can be gender ones in the structures of lower level.

There is synonymy, polysemy and variance (accent, phonetic, word-forming and lexical) in the researched gender-specific group.

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