METAPHORIZATION OF WORDS IN THE MODERN RUSSIAN AND YAKUT LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The comparative aspect of polysemy studies of linguistic units of direct nomination is little studied which defines the importance of research of metaphorization of Russian and Yakut somatisms. Formation of figurative meaning in the composition of polysemantic words is a regularity of vocabulary development. The purpose of the paper is to analyse productive and regular models of words with figurative meaning in the comparative aspect in the Russian and Yakut languages. Hence, Russian and Yakut lexical semantic groups under consideration suggest that metaphoric transfer occurs in languages not spontaneously but is perf ormed in certain directions in a quite consecutive sequence that regular models may exist in languages. From the point of view of word relations in Russian and Yakut, the considered lexical meanings don't claim to have semantic deepness and great scope of material yet a general trend in formation of transfer, systematization of facts is outlined.

Keywords: semantic, comparative, metaphor, polysemantic, somatisms

1. Introduction

The comparative aspect of polysemy studies of linguistic units of direct nomination is little studied which defines the importance of research of metaphorization of Russian and Yakut somatisms. Formation of figurative meaning in the composition of polysemantic words is a regularity of vocabulary development. The study of the problem of polysemy is carried out in various aspects and it has been paid proper attention by linguists [1-4]. In the comparative aspect, the question of polysemy development in languages is considered in the works of V.G. Gak [5], L.V. Vassiliev [6], G.N. Sklyarevskaya [7].

2. Discussion

The purpose of the paper is to analyse productive and regular models of words with figurative meaning in the comparative aspect in the Russian and

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Yakut languages. Lexical polysemy is unique for every language vocabulary: types of name transfer, productivity of certain transfer types. To define transfer directions it is necessary to:

- determine the means of linguistic objectivization (materialization) of individual meanings of polysemantic words (syntactic lexical combinative power, paradigmatic relations – synonyms, antonyms, lexical semantic groups; word formation relations and relation of each meaning of the polysemantic word to the particular subject of the reality);
- find and acquire the word formation model of the polysemantic word;
- reveal and interpret the motivation characteristic on which one or other meaning of the polysemantic word is based.

Relations of the basic and figurative meaning in a polysemantic word are complicated and sometimes complex, motivation and nature of transfer are difficult to determine, hence, there is no general agreement on classification of transfer types. However, the metaphoric and metonymic are considered the basic means of name transfer [8-10].

Metaphor has been studied for centuries. The problem of metaphor as a process creating new meanings of linguistic expressions in the process of their reinterpretation and as the completed metaphoric meaning has been considered in detail. Researchers went in different directions investigating different sides of the complex phenomenon [11-13]. There are four directions of metaphor research: 1) nominative subject, 2) formal logic, 3) psychological and 4) linguistic. In this paper, we refer to the term linguistic metaphor (LM), distinguishing it from the artistic, individual author's, etc. Linguistic metaphor is considered "as secondary indirect nomination with obligatory preservation of semantic biplanes and the figurative element" [7, p. 12].

Researchers point out another regularity: in the process of metaphorization, the word performs great semantic work resulting in its meaning becoming more general and thus less specified. The ideal are the cases when all three ways to express evaluation – presentation of meaning, a label and illustrations – are present in a dictionary entry and complement each other. Typologically, metaphor can be compared in the plane of content, form, and function. In the modern science, an integral conception of metaphor is put forward which considers it as a complicated excessive structure. The question of systematic character of linguistic metaphor is of highest value. Metaphor forms and functions according to the laws of the linguistic system and reflects common subject logical relations [7, p. 26]. Linguistic metaphor represents a ready to use vocabulary element.

Different lexical semantic groups (LSG) are usually used in metaphoric nomination. One of traditional ways to augment a dictionary regards the names of parts of the human body which are polysemantic both in Russian and Yakut. Let us compare regular transfer models of the Russian and Yakut languages.

Artery (Russian): artery of life, water arteries of the republic; (Yakut): Earth's arteries.

Pulse (Russian): festive pulse of the country; (Yakut): pulse.

Side (Russian): side resistance; (Yakut): stand on the side (stand), the side is broken (ribs are broken), side words (minor clause constituents).

Eyebrow (Russian): canal's eyebrows; (Yakut): hill's eyebrows, river's eyebrows.

Belly (Russian): ship's belly; (Yakut): belly condition (inner condition); belly thoughts (inner thoughts); coat's, mitten's, trousers' belly (the inside part of a coat, mitten, trousers).

Eye (Russian): the car's eye, the door's eye (spy hole), eye apple (eyeball), tiger's eye, cat's eye, the eye of a camera; (Yakut): seine's eye, knees' eye.

Head (Russian): a head of onion, garlic; the head of church, the head of ulus (administrative unit in Yakutia); (Yakut): the head of a needle, the river's head, the hip's head, the head of the forest, the head of the blessing.

Breast (Russian): breast voice, breast child, the breast of potato, breast chest; (Yakut): mountain's breast, oven's breast.

Lip (Russian): lip consonants, sea lip, river lip, Onega lip; (Yakut): hare lip, post lip, gun's lip, mitten's lips.

Stomach (Russian): heart's stomach; (Yakut): lake's stomach, string of the stomach.

Face (Russian): face of fabric, face side, face of the republic, the first face, the goods' face, authorized face, face of the verb; (Yakut): mountain's face, earth's face, green face (a lazy person).

Brain (Russian): brain attack, brain centre; (Yakut): wood grouse's brain (a fool), lynx' brain (a wise person), squirrel's brain (good memory), fox' brain (sly, cunning), empty, frozen brain (dimwit).

Leg (Russian): leg of a table, leg of a mushroom, goat's leg; (Yakut): lake's leg, ear's leg, choron leg (a bowl to drink kumys), widow's leg.

Nose (Russian): ship's nose, shoe's nose, teapot's nose, nose part of a ship, boat, nose consonants; (Yakut): plug for the nose (the youngest child), string for the nose (assistant, close friend), the nose finished (the nose is blocked).

Heart (Russian): the heart of the country, golden heart, heart of a plant, heart-shaped lips, heartful relations, heartful meeting; (Yakut): heart of cabbage, heart of a finger, earrings of the heart (the dearest child).

Back (Russian): the back of an armchair, back of the tongue; (Yakut): back of the forest, back of a cloud, back of the nasleg (Yakut administrative unit), mountain's back.

Heel (Russian): heel of the scythe, axe; (Yakut): step on the heels, the heels became black (run very fast).

Ear (Russian): bear's ears, the ear of a needle, the ear of a medal; hare's ear, shoes with ears; (Yakut): hat's ears, collar's ears.

Neck (Russian): neck of the vertebra, neck of the uterus; (Yakut): mowing with neck (mowing by oneself), neck of the finger.

Cheeks (Russian): cheeks of the stopper, cheek of the handle, cheek of the revolver; (Yakut): cheek of the fireplace, a stroke to the cheek, cheeks of the mountain.

Liver (Russian): is stuck in the liver; (Yakut): liver of the mountain, liver of the hill.

Tongue (Russian): catch the tongue, every tongue, cook the tongue, jellied tongue, bite oneself the tongue; (Yakut): excess tongue (unnecessary word), belt tongue, bell's tongue, khomus (mouth harp) tongue, cow's tongue (leech), dog's tongue (berry).

All of the preceding allows to claim that the Russian names of the parts of the body are a productive and regular model for transfer. It is interesting to note that they form scientific and technical terms. In linguistics, the following terms are productive: nasal vowels, throat sounds, lip consonants, lip-teeth sounds. In science and engineering: knee shaft, coal kidneys, the shoulder of the lever, tower scull, triangle with equal hips. Metaphoric transfer based on commonness of emotional impressions occurs rarely in terminology, with one certain characteristic always being the basis for transfer. For instance, medicine terms are known: eye apple, the stomach of the heart, bayonet-like aorta, knee cup, chest cage. It might be noted that figurativeness is lost during formation of terminology, probably, as a result of dissociation of the nomination source.

The names of the parts of the human body are productive and genetically fixed in tools and household articles both in Russian and Yakut: the nose of the teapot, the leg of the table, the back of the armchair, teeth of the saw, hand of the door (Russian); the head of axe, the eyes of beater, breast of fireplace, the teeth of rake, the teeth of saw, etc. Metaphor dissociates with the original image and does not show expressiveness any more. V.G. Gak calls it "partial metaphoric transfer" in his terminology based on the character of semantic processes [5, p. 123]. The image of words fades away and the word becomes a denomination.

From the word formation point of view, diminutive suffixes are often used in Russian (diminutive forms of the throat, tooth, leg, hand, hair, head, etc.). The Diminutive form is a specific feature of transfer formation in the Russian language.

In Yakut, coupled word forms, possessive forms are generally used in transfer: *eyebrows of the Earth*, *the eyes of seine*, *hair of furuncle, boil's (furuncle) food, chest as broad as a sazhen, legs of lake, the head of the head of a remote place*.

The comparison allows to reveal specific features of transfer of Yakut vocabulary. A peculiar model of transfer is denomination of the parts of the body in figurative meaning designating location, space relations: *eyebrows of river, the back of mountain, the mouth of road, the liver of mountain, the mouth of the road, in hill's bosom in windfall's bosom.* These models are peculiar and unique.

In some sense, this phenomenon of polysemy can be explained by long-lasting observation of nature, close relation to it, specifics of perception of the environment by Yakut speakers, the linguistic picture of the world. A part of words is associated with necessaries: *the eyes of beater's eyes, the head of needle, the mouth of a shoe.*

The parts of the body have figurative meaning especially in colloquial speech: *sign – face, mitten – mouth, pot – head, poles – legs, mane – hair, haycock – hair, muzzle – face, fell – skin.* Figurative denominations preserve the figurative, expressive character.

The transfer list considered does not claim to be full and embracing the whole vocabulary. Yet, the anthropocentric principle of vocabulary dividing allows to consider universal models in more detail as well as to reveal specific ways of meaning transfer.

As researchers note, the characterizing anthropocentric metaphor involves all sides of personality: appearance (height, build, features), mental properties (character traits, temperament, mental abilities, emotions), specifics of behaviour (relations with people, reaction to situation, position in society, and social characteristics). Metaphor gives positive and negative characteristic of human traits or as researchers refer to it "linguistic metaphor of meliorative and pejorative evaluation" [7, p. 139]. Metaphor characterizes the subject more than indicates it, being secondary denomination.

One can speak of some 'logical violations in metaphoric transfer'. Psychologist L.S. Vygotsky noted many times that "metaphor if formed by figurative way, i.e. not according to laws of logical reasoning" [14].

Lexical semantic groups (LSG) of zoosemisms, productive and regular transfer models, are recognized in the Russian language. As a result of simile, metaphors having emotional colouring are formed. The grounds for transfer are similarities, physical qualities, properties, behaviour, or 'moral' features ascribed to animals (domesticated or wild), birds, insects, reptiles, fish resulting from observation. Meaning motivation is more delusive: *calf* (a gentle and good-hearted young man), *lamb* (curly, handsome, usually a young man or a child), *dove* (a tender woman), young mare (a man, hardworking), *lion* (the one who has success in society), *bull* (a stubborn person).

Features ascribed to animals, reptiles, birds, and insects are transferred onto human: *elephant, bear* (awkwardness), *jade* (exhausted, plain woman), *mare* (tall, inelegant woman), *bee* (hardworking person), *cuckoo* (a woman nor raising her child, without permanent accommodation), *spider* (predator, miser), *sheep* (fool, pighead), *snake* (insidious), *magpie* (a garrulous woman), *hare* (cowardly; the one who travels without buying a ticket), *goat* (vicious), *bug* (an unimportant person), bird (a boss), fox (cunning), beetle (smart, cheat), *cow* (an awkward, stout woman), *fish* (a non-temperamental person), Caspian roach (a cold person). In Russian colloquial speech these transfer models are characterized by frequent use, expressivity.

In Yakut lexicology, metaphors are selected by researchers rather randomly, without system, examples are mainly illustrated by literature material. Proximity to nature, keenness of observation, special view on nature, animals, birds, insects, fish, etc. by the Yakut are reflected on metaphor characteristics. Zoosemisms forming metaphoric characteristics are specific for the Yakut language: *falcon* – the best (great) man; *sable* – best from the Sakha; *lynx* – the future heir of the clan), (they) will pay your money; *louse* – despise, move very

slowly (about time); *male* – very important / large, a very valuable, large coin, great noise; *male deer* / *elk* – the best, outstanding man; *wolf* – as strong as wolf, put on wolf's skin. Peculiar models for metaphor formation are birds' names in the Yakut language: *woodpecker* – the best, outstanding person; *drake* – (he) has got muscles as a drake; *bullfinch* – a child, children; *crossbill* – a child; *duck* – naked as a duck; *hawk* – agile, quick, swift; *skylark* – singer (female).

Zoonyms keep its expressive character; they are often used in colloquial speech, literature. Ancient origin of Yakut zoonyms is evidenced by their wide use in folklore, and as idioms. Their meaning is understandable for native speakers and is widely used both in colloquial speech and literary style. Phraseological relatedness of some figurative meanings, their fixed form is noteworthy.

Wide semantics of phraseological units (PU) with a zoonym component (ZC) resulted from carious semantic shifts based on repeated situational conditions due to which singular occasional situational reinterpretation of a phrase were fixed as its usual variants. Determination of regular character of meaning encoding of PU with ZC provides insight into mechanisms of phrase building; reveal ontological characteristics of phraseological semantics and nomination. Relatively regular character of phraseological nomination [15, 16] and possibility to model it are based both on psychological stability of many associations in consciousness of native speakers (extra-linguistic factor) and the phenomenon of synonym irradiation and repeated derivative semantic relations of regular semantics of the derivative base and meaning of a phraseological unit (intra-linguistic factor). Thereby, investigation of phraseological semantics reveals regularities in extra-linguistic dependence of indirect denomination as well as the regular character of many features of nomination relative for reflection of the conceptual worldview [17]. Formation of semantics of PU with ZC is based on two types of phrase-building validity. The primary phrase-building validity is determined by component and/or global reinterpretation of the original free word group. The secondary phrase-building validity involves explication of semantic and structural-semantic relations of the derivative with the producing phraseological unit depending on the type of phraseological derivation. Supplement of nomination resources of the lexical phraseological body of a language is achieved due to reinterpretation of meanings of available lexical units and is conjugated with them forming new meanings during the secondary nomination. High degree of semantics abstraction resulting from initially metaphoric shift of many PU with ZC makes them unproductive for further metaphorization. This fact explains another process of expansion of PU semantic structure which is specific for phraseology. It implies that the same variable word group is subjected to metaphoric shift resulting in formation of several primary-figurative meanings of PU with ZC or homonymic PU with ZC. Formation of the secondary-figurative meaning of PU with ZC through the secondary metaphoric shift is a process analogue to development of lexical polysemy where there the main meaning is being productive and a figurative one being derivative. Metaphorization of zoonyms as components of fixed word

complexes reflects one or another principle of logical semantic organization of PU:

1) by an antithesis, i.e. PU is formed on the principle of antonymation of words-components being combined, e.g.: live as a cat and a dog;
2) by a simile, i.e. the figurative structure of PU with ZC is formed based on assimilation of one thing (in a wide sense) to another which is supposed to have a common feature with the former, e.g.: leave as a bitten dog;
3) by a hyperbola, i.e. the figurative structure of PU with ZC is formed based on exaggerating a degree or a feature of something, e.g.: be as hungry as a beast (animal);
4) by a meiosis, i.e. the figurative structure of PU with ZC is formed based on lessening a degree or a feature of something, e.g.: I wish I were a mouse;
5) by an alogism, i.e. the figurative structure of PU with ZC is formed based on an unreal situation, e.g.: when a crawfish whistles on a mountain.

Zoonym models are universal for Russian and Yakut. At the same time, figurative meanings are characterized as sources of ethnic-cultural information, being bearers of ethnic-cultural semantics. The ethnic-cultural component is most evident in transfers of the following type: *woodpecker* – the best, outstanding person; *drake* – (he) has got muscles as a drake; *lynx* – the future heir of the clan). The transfers of this kind are likely to be based on both similarity of things, phenomena, association and specifics of a Yakut's psychology. Zoonyms suggest idiomatic nature and figurativeness of words with figurative meaning.

An universal model of metaphoric transfer are lexical semantic groups of floronyms characterizing different parts, stages of plant growth.

Root (Russian): root of life, root of troubles, root of evil, roots of mistakes, roots of a crime, root of problems; (Yakut): root of a word, root of the tethering post, root of the law, the root case (Nominative), root of a road.

Stem (Russian): stem of a bolt, stem of a feather; (Yakut): model.

Trunk (Russian): trunk of a bolt, trunk of the carotid artery, nerve trunk, trunk of a cable; (Yakut): trunk of a pipe, trunk of a river (river mouth), trunk of a boot (top).

Fruits (Russian): fruits of education, fruits of reflection, fruits if upbringing; (Yakut): fruits of earth (vegetables), fruit doesn't go out (there is no food, soil is fruitless).

Corn (Russian): corn of truth; (Yakut): time when corns ripen.

Bark (Russian): bark of the brain, bark of earth, bark of bred; (Yakut): bark of fish (scales), a hand covered with bark.

Sap (Russian): sap of conversation, sappy look; (Yakut): sap of the work (be willing to work), sap of love (desire someone), etc.

Metaphor models of the following type are specific for the Russian language: *a bunch of smiles, fee of hair, wormwood (about life), kernel of life*. Interesting are metaphors characterizing a human: *a rose* (a beautiful girl), *a cucumber* (look fresh, well), *burdock* (dupe), *oak* (mighty), *cudgel* (blockhead, heartless), etc. In Yakut, names of flowers are symbolic: snowdrop, lily (beauty,

tenderness). Transfers of birch bark nomination are peculiar: *birch bark lie, birch bark orphan.*

Parts, stages of plant growth figuratively mean socio-ethnic processes, phenomena (corns of truth, root of evil, shoots of good). The word 'root' in both languages has the same meaning – beginning, source, base of something.

Factors contributing to formation of polysemy are frequency of usage, specifics of grammatical nature and morphological word structure in languages. The comparison results allow to speak of some dependence (trend) of polysemy formation on specifics of LSG (somatisms, zoonyms, floronyms, etc.), one may state the presence of semantic transfer models in different languages. Metaphorical activity of some LSG is great, a metaphorical chain might form. The system approach makes it possible to describe basic directions of metaphoric transfer which is particularly important and necessary in Yakut lexicology [18].

3. Conclusion

Hence, Russian and Yakut LSG under consideration suggest that metaphoric transfer occurs in languages not spontaneously but is performed in certain directions in a quite consecutive sequence that regular models may exist in languages. From the point of view of word relations in Russian and Yakut, the considered lexical meanings don't claim to have semantic deepness and great scope of material yet a general trend in formation of transfer, systematization of facts is outlined.

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