

Данилюк Ніна. **Возможности использования лингвострановедческих словарей для изучения иностранных языков.** В статье обращено внимание на важность изучения иностранных языков в единстве с материальными и духовными культурами народов. Определена специфика лингвострановедческих словарей, которые содержат нарицательные названия и имена собственные с национально-культурным содержанием, а также справочные материалы, осуществлен обзор наиболее важных изданий. Подробно описаны украинские лексикографические работы, составленные преподавателями Восточноевропейского национального университета имени Леси Украинки (“Україна в словах”, “Україна від А до Я: мовокраїнознавчий міні-словник”) и Львовского национального университета имени Ивана Франко (“Лінгвокраїнознавчий словник власних назв української мови”). Назван основной критерий отбора единиц – отображение национально-культурной информации речевыми средствами, рассмотрена структура словарной статьи, в которой представлены сведения о грамматических формах, всех значениях, сочетаемости, устойчивых выражениях, фразеологических единицах и под. Указано на возможность использования лингвострановедческих работ для изучения студентами английского, немецкого, французского и украинского языков как иностранных в высших учебных заведениях на занятиях по лингвострановедению, лексикологии, переводу, лингвистическому анализу текста и др.

Ключевые слова: иностранный язык, культура народа, названия с национально-культурным содержанием, лингвострановедческий словарь.

Danyliuk Nina. **Possibilities of Using Linguistic Country Studies Dictionaries for the Purposes of a Foreign Language Acquisition.** The article pays attention to the importance of learning foreign languages together with material and spiritual cultures of peoples. Peculiar features of the linguistic country studies dictionaries that contain common and proper names that have national cultural semantic features have been revealed, relevant reference resources have been pointed out and the review of the most important published materials have been done. There have been thoroughly described the Ukrainian lexicographic works, compiled by the professors of the Lesya Ukrainka Eastern European National university (“Ukraine in Words”, “Ukraine from A to Я: a Language and Country Studies Mini-Dictionary”) and Ivan Franko Lviv National University (“Linguistic Country Studies Dictionary of the Proper Names of the Ukrainian Language”). There has been pointed out the main criterion for choosing the relevant units – the reflection of the national cultural information by language means. The structure of a dictionary entry has been presented as the one that contains the information about grammatical forms, all types of meanings, combinability, set expressions, phraseological units etc. The attention has been drawn to the possibilities of the effective usage the linguistic country studies works by the students of higher educational institutions who learn English, German, French, and Ukrainian as foreign languages at the lessons of linguistic country studies, lexicology, translation, linguistic text analysis etc.

Key words and phrases: foreign language, culture of a nation, names with national cultural semantic feature, linguistic country studies dictionary.

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Iryna Kalynovska

LEXICO-SEMANTIC GROUP STABILITY OF MODERN ENGLISH NOUNS

Stability is known to be one of the features of linguistic norm, along with a tendency to differentiate variant realizations functionally and stylistically. At the syntactic level linguistic norm is sufficiently stable. Its evolutionary development is conditioned by the requirements of social communication, with significant changes that occur not in the set of syntactic means but in the way and frequency of their usage. The following article focuses on the main aspects of lexico-semantic group stability of high frequency Modern English nouns, being the heads of noun phrases used in English literary texts. The analysis is made with the help of statistic formulas of variation coefficient (V) and standard deviation (σ). The investigation reflects a widespread in language and speech preference law, according to which a small amount of units is used very often and carries a maximum functional capacity. The lower the variation coefficient of a language unit, the higher the language unit stability. According to that approach linguistic norm represents constructions that are actually used in language.

Key words: language norm, stability, lexico-semantic group, noun phrase.

Formulation of the research problem and its significance. The dynamic nature of language is well-known. Despite various reasons that cause language changes, they have a tendency to

preserve language in the state of stability. M. P. Kocherhan states that “language stableness is necessary to be understandable to the speaker, to keep and transfer the experience of previous generations, and variability – to fix and mark the new phenomena of external and internal world of man, i. e. to express new thoughts” [6, p. 186].

We know that the pace of change at different linguistic levels vary. Under the direct speech influence new lexical units penetrate actively into literary language, are used parallel with the old elements, and sometimes completely replace them. “At syntactic level language norm is rather stable” [10, p. 36]. Its evolution is primarily due to the needs of social communication, with significant changes occurring not only in the set of syntactic means, but also in the manner and frequency of these units usage.

In view of the foregoing, it should be noted that the study of linguistic unit stability is vital and perspective, because language as a socially and historically conditioned phenomenon is characterized by dynamic and stability principles. Our article studies lexico-semantic group stability of high frequency Modern English nouns.

Analysis of previous research dealing with this problem. A number of works by foreign (O. Jespersen, S. Chatman, V. Ingve, A. Hill, H. Serensen, F. Wood, etc.), Russian and Ukrainian scientists (L. S. Barkhudarov, N. F. Irtenyeva, V. P. Lukashevich, A. A. Mizak, E. A. Ternova, N. I. Varlamova, N. I. Lyhosherst, I. Y. Beder, M. R. Kaul, L. S. Lev, etc.) are dedicated to the study of noun phrase structure [4]. In our previous article we have tried to analyze the stability of noun phrase structure in English literary texts [5]. In short, the research showed that left-hand arrangement (progressive) of the elements is the most productive and stable, while right-hand (regressive) is not stable. The bigger the size of noun phrase is, the least is its frequency and stableness. Lexico-semantic group stability of high frequency Modern English nouns has not been the subject of a separate study.

Regarding the concepts of “linguistic resistance” and “linguistic stability”, they are not terminological. Member of Ukrainian NAS Orest Tkachenko [11] distinguishes the two concepts, using the phrase “linguistic resistance” to characterize an individual or collective language behavior. The concept of “linguistic stability” is used by the author to refer to language state.

Stability is known to be one of the features of linguistic norm, along with a tendency to differentiate variant realizations functionally and stylistically. In this sense “normativity provides literary norm stability, retains inclination to linguistic units variability, not resulting in obstructing functional and stylistic differences” [1], does not contribute to deepening of differences between spoken and written language. According to O. V. Popova, it is “the proof of continuity of normalizing processes that affect all levels of language system, as coherence and interrelation of structural components ensure harmonious existence of the system” [9, c. 126].

V. D. Bialyk [2] believes that “structural elements as components of language system allow the presence of variants on condition of the involvement of cognitive-synonymous elements within a given language system and thereby reveal systemic features of the language, submitted with reference to time and as a result there exist parallel forms”.

“Standards provide language with such features as order and general obligation. Language norm is traditional, stable, flexible, formed by changes of cultural and historical conditions of literary language and variability”[7].

The goal and the specific tasks of the article. The goal of this article is to study the main aspects of lexico-semantic group stability of Modern English nouns. The objective is to analyze lexico-semantic group stability of high frequency nouns, being the heads of noun phrases used in English literary texts by means of statistic formulas of variation coefficient (V) and standard deviation (σ).

Under the term “head-noun”, used in the following article, the leading element is understood. Noun phrases are viewed as syntactic constructions, built by the head-noun and one or more notional or functional words connected by means of subordinate connection, for example *a plan of the room, every minute, his undertaking business, etc.*

The object of study is the noun, selected from the “Frequency Dictionary of Compatibility of Modern English” by N. O. Volkova, R. Z. Ginzburg, V. I. Perebyinis and others [3]. The total amount of nouns selected is 497, that is almost 50 % of the most frequent words used in Modern English [4].

Presentation of the basic content of the research and an interpretation of the results which were obtained. In our research we proceed on the assumption that “linguistic norm is stable, fixed in communication process, language unit variation” [11]. In this case, the norm specifies units common in this period of language development, describes high frequency language variants. Linguistic norm reflects the words actually used in the language, their form and peculiarities of pronunciation, syntactic structures and so on.

We can draw an analogy between this understanding of language norm and the main tendency in statistics. As well as the main tendency in statistics does not reflect the assessment of the phenomenon, the most common variants identified by linguistic norms are not assessed. The main objective of the study of linguistic norm in linguistic aspect is the selection and description of linguistic phenomena, “inventory” of modern language units.

The stability of unit usage in the excerpts or its statistic steadiness is a really important characteristics in linguistics, used for comparing different language units in one excerpts or the same unit in different excerpts [8].

The head-nouns are divided into 8 lexico-semantic groups by means of noun classification by I. V. Arnold [4]. Noun division into lexico-semantic groups is given in Table I.

On the material of 18851 noun phrases, selected from Modern English literary texts by method of complete excerption [4], it is observed, that each lexico-semantic group is characterised by its definite frequency usage, which is depicted in *Table 1*. Under the term “rank” the number in the list of descending elements is understood.

Table 1

Lexico-semantic group size and frequency

Group №	The name of lexico-semantic group	Group Size	Size Rank	Group Frequency	Frequency Rank
8	Abstract nouns	227	1	8071	1
6	Objects	134	2	4979	2
1	People	45	3	2885	3
5	Measure units	35	4	1636	4
7	Materials	27	5	503	5
3	Collective nouns	20	6	496	6
2	Beings	6	7	103	8
4	Multiple nouns	3	8	201	7

The stability of the language units may be defined by variation coefficient (V) and standard deviation (σ). Variation coefficient is calculated by the following equation:

$$V = \frac{\sigma \cdot 100\%}{\bar{X}} \quad (1)$$

It is seen, that variation coefficient (V) shows what part of average frequency (\bar{X}) occupies standard deviation (σ), which is calculated by:

$$\sigma = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\sum x^2}{n-1}}, \quad (2)$$

where $\sum x^2$ – the sum of squares of deviation of all the variants from the average frequency; n – the number of cases.

The average frequency (\bar{X}) of a lexico-semantic group of nouns is counted as the division of the group frequency by the group size.

By means of frequency data and variation coefficients of lexico-semantic groups the zones of frequency and the zones of stability are identified. There can be three zones: high, middle and low. The step between zones is calculated by dividing the difference between the highest and the lowest number by three.

Using equations (1) and (2) and data from *Table 1*, it is possible to calculate the average frequency (\bar{X}) of each lexico-semantic group of nouns, their variation coefficient (V) and standard deviation (σ).

Table 2
Calculation the lexico-semantic group variation coefficients

№	The name of lexico-semantic group	(\bar{X})	(σ)	(V), %
1	People	64,11	120,37	187,75
2	Beings	17,17	11,39	66,36
3	Collective nouns	24,80	21,15	85,28
4	Multiple nouns	67,00	82,71	123,45
5	Measure units	46,74	72,18	154,42
6	Objects	37,16	53,40	143,71
7	Materials	18,63	26,22	140,74
8	Abstract nouns	35,56	51,78	145,63

It is known in linguistics, that the lower the variation coefficient is, the higher is the stability of a language unit [3]. It is seen from *Table 2*, that the second lexico-semantic group “beings” has the lowest variation coefficient, i. e. 66,36 %, that is why it is the most stable group. The most unstable or variable group is the first group “people”, its variation coefficient is, accordingly, the highest, i. e. 187,75 %.

Using the variation coefficients of each lexico-semantic group of nouns from *Table 2*, their zones of stability can be identified. The step between the zones is the following: $\frac{187,75-66,36}{3}=40,46$. The zone limits are distinguished as:

- I zone: below 106,82;
- II zone: from 107,82 to 148,28;
- III zone: above 149,28.

The first zone contains the lowest variation coefficients, that is why it is the highest zone of stability. The second zone is the middle zone of stability and the third zone is the lowest zone of stability.

To identify the correspondence between the zones of stability of lexico-semantic groups of Modern English nouns and their zones of frequency, the zone limits of the latter should be calculated:

- the lowest zone: below 2857;
- the middle zone: from 2858 to 5514;
- the highest zone: above 5515.

In the research material the variation coefficients of each lexico-semantic group of nouns are defined, on the basis of which the zones of stability are distinguished. Two lexico-semantic groups 2 “beings” and 3 “collective nouns” are in the highest zone of stability. Four groups 7 “materials”, 4 “multiple nouns”, 6 “objects” and 8 “abstract nouns” are in the middle group of stability. Two groups 5 “measure units” and 1 “people” are in the lowest zone of stability.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. The following article proved the linguistic statement, that the lower the variation coefficient of a language unit is, the higher is the language unit stability. There is correspondence between the zones of frequency and the zones of stability of lexico-semantic groups of Modern English nouns. The research reflects a widespread in language

and speech preference law, according to which a small amount of units is used very often and carries a maximum functional capacity. According to that approach linguistic norm represents constructions that are actually used in language. In perspective attention should be focused on the study of the factors, that influence language unit stability, noun phrases in Modern English in particular.

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Калиновська Ірина. Стійкість лексико-семантичних груп іменників сучасної англійської мови.

Відомо, що стабільність є однією з особливостей мовної норми поряд із тенденцією до диференціації варіантних реалізацій у функціонально-стилістичному аспекті. На синтаксичному рівні мовна норма досить стійка. Її еволюційний розвиток зумовлений потребами суспільної комунікації, причому значні зміни відбуваються не в самому наборі синтаксичних засобів, а в способі й частоті вживання цих засобів. Ідеться про основні аспекти стійкості лексико-семантичних груп найчастотніших іменників сучасної англійської мови, які є ядрами іменникових фраз у текстах англійської художньої прози. Аналіз проводимо за допомогою статистичних формул коефіцієнта варіації (V) та стандартного відхилення (σ). Дослідження є підтвердженням поширеного в мові й мовленні закону переваги, згідно з яким невелика кількість одиниць уживається дуже часто та несе максимум функціонального навантаження. Чим нижчий коефіцієнт варіації, тим більша стабільність уживання мовної одиниці. За такого підходу мовна норма відображає конструкції, які реально використовують у мові.

Ключові слова: мовна норма, стабільність, лексико-семантична група, іменникова фраза.

Калиновская Ирина. Устойчивость лексико-семантических групп существительных современного английского языка. Известно, что стабильность является одной из особенностей языковой нормы наряду с тенденцией к дифференциации вариантных реализаций в функционально-стилистическом плане. На синтаксическом уровне языковая норма достаточно устойчива. Ее эволюционное развитие обусловлено потребностями общественной коммуникации, причем значительные изменения происходят не в самом наборе синтаксических средств, а в способе и частоте употребления этих средств. Речь идет об основных аспектах устойчивости лексико-семантических групп наиболее частотных существительных современного английского языка, которые являются ядрами именных фраз в текстах англоязычной художественной прозы. Анализ осуществляется с помощью статистических формул коэффициента вариации (V) и стандартного отклонения (σ). Исследование является подтверждением распространенного в языке и речи закона преимущества, согласно которому небольшое количество единиц употребляется очень часто и несет максимум функциональной нагрузки. Чем ниже коэффициент вариации, тем больше стабильность употребления языковой единицы. При таком подходе языковая норма отражает конструкции, которые реально используются в языке.

Ключевые слова: языковая норма, стабильность, лексико-семантическая группа, фраза существительных.