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### **Verbalization of positive emotions in English and Ukrainian (comparative aspect)**

### **Вербалізація позитивних емоцій в англійській та українській мовах (зіставний аспект)**

**Summary.** *Comparative language studies belong to one of the most relevant tasks of contemporary linguistics. Both related and unrelated languages are treated as open-ended systems of definite structures, and the aim of the present paper is to make a comparative analysis of adjectives in English and Ukrainian, focusing on their system and structural characteristics, to reveal their vocabularies' specificity and discuss national as well as cultural components in the semantics of the words in question. Furthermore, much attention is paid*

to finding both common and distinctive features of the latter to predict their role, place and significance in the semantic space of the definite fragment of the languages' lexical systems. The problems of emotive semantics study are closely connected with emotional aspect of human factor in language and are relevant in modern linguistics. Attaching words to feelings and emotions is one of the most important aspects of our everyday language, cognition and society interaction. Experiencing positive emotions like happiness, excitement, joy, hope, and inspiration is vital for anyone who wants to lead a happy and healthy life. Emotions are biologically-based psychological states brought on by neurophysiological changes, variously associated with thoughts, feelings, behavioral responses, and a degree of pleasure or displeasure. In human life the role of emotions is extremely great as far as they accompany any activity and perform communicative, cognitive and regulatory functions. Happiness is such a central concept in life that not many people pause to consider what happiness is and why we strive so tirelessly to attain it. The power of positive thinking comes in different forms. Modifying nouns, English and Ukrainian adjectives give more specific information about the object, person, place, thing, idea, etc. 59 English adjectives and 36 Ukrainian ones are used to signify the quality of being happy. Their semantics is unique, yet with clearly anthropocentric character. The words under research form complex systems possessing certain structures. They are divided into three groups according to their degree of polysemy: words with high and middle degree of polysemy and monosemantic units. In English the group of monosemantic adjectives prevails while in Ukrainian the group of words with middle degree of polysemy is predominant. Monosemy as a linguistic phenomenon expresses the ability of the lexical units in question to interpret the objects of the world in detail, specifying cultural notions characteristic of their semantics. In their turn, these adjectives possess both common and distinctive features, and vary in their qualitative and quantitative characteristics.

**Key words:** comparative analysis, system, structure, lexical semantics, semantic space, vocabulary, emotions, polysemy, adjectives, anthropocentric character.

**Анотація.** Зіставне дослідження мов належить до одного з найактуальніших завдань сучасного мовознавства. Споріднені та неспоріднені мови розглядаються як відкриті системи, що мають певну структуру, і метою цієї статті є зіставний аналіз прикметників в англійській та українській мовах, звертаючи увагу на їхні системно-структурні характеристики, відображення специфіки вокабулярів мов та виділення національного, а також культурного компонентів у семантиці досліджуваних слів. Значна увага відводиться розкриттю спільних і відмінних рис прикметників, щоб визначити їхню роль, місце та значущість у семантичному просторі певного фрагмента лексичних систем мов. Проблеми дослідження емотивної семантики тісно пов'язані з емоційним людським фактором у мові та у сучасній лінгвістиці є надзвичайно актуальними. Поєднання слів для прояву почуттів та емоцій постає одним із найважливіших аспектів нашого повсякденного мовлення, когніції та суспільного буття. Для кожного, хто бажає мати здорове й щасливе життя, суттєвим є відчуття позитивних емоцій, як наприклад, щастя, радісне хвилювання, радість, надія, сподіван-

ня та натхнення. Емоції постають психологічними станами, що мають біологічну основу і виникають під впливом нейрофізіологічних змін, асоціюються з думками, почуттями, поведінковими реакціями і ступенем прояву задоволення чи незадоволення. У повсякденному житті надзвичайно важлива роль відводиться емоціям, оскільки вони супроводжують будь-яку діяльність та виконують комунікативну, когнітивну й регуляторну функції. Щастя є настільки ключовим поняттям у нашому житті, що небагато хто і задумується над його сутністю та прагненням його мати. Сила позитивного мислення набуває різних форм прояву. Виражаючи ознаку предметів, прикметники в англійській та українській мовах надають конкретнішу інформацію про людину, річ, місце, ідею тощо. 59 прикметників англійської та 36 української мов слугують для передачі ознаки почуття щастя. Їхня семантика унікальна й має яскраво виражений антропоцентричний характер. Досліджувані слова утворюють складні системи з визначеними структурами. За ступенем полісемії вони діляться на три групи: слова з високим, середнім ступенями полісемії та моносемічні. Останні переважають в англійській мові, тоді як в українській – слова із середнім ступенем полісемії. Моносемія як мовне явище передає здатність досліджуваних одиниць детально пояснювати об'єкти реальності, при цьому специфікуючи поняття, що характерні для їхньої семантики. Своєю чергою ці прикметники набувають спільних та відмінних рис і різняться за своїми якісними й кількісними властивостями.

**Ключові слова:** зіставний аналіз, система, структура, лексична семантика, семантичний простір, вокабуляр, емоції, полісемія, прикметники, антропоцентричний характер.

**Introduction.** Contemporary linguistics is characterized by an increasing interest in comparative language studies [1; 3; 4; 5; 8; 9; 10]. The latter refer to the analysis of different language systems in order to determine their histories, evolutions, interconnections, etc. Of primary importance is the comparative research of lexical semantics to get insight into the vocabulary of both related and unrelated language systems, which is most sensitive to all changes that occur in our everyday lives and activities [14; 17; 19; 21]. Emotions belong to those spheres without which neither our existence nor communication is possible. Despite the fact that much has been written on this topic [2; 5; 7; 12; 13; 15; 16; 22], it remains relevant and needs its further investigations.

The evaluative elements of the surrounding environment, processed by language consciousness during the lifelong human experience and reflected in the world picture, are the result of the activity of several generations who use language to transmit the cognitive experience. Language as a social phenomenon is characterized by subjectivity. Consequently, it is impossible to understand the language and conduct a detailed analysis of the lexis without considering human emotions. Comparative semantics deals with the study of the words' meanings in different languages which

do not only reflect the peculiarities of people's national mentality, but influence the mechanisms of their world perception and social behavior.

Culture is the property of both people and community, it is a mental map of reality, shared views of community on significant life concerns and established behavior. Within different language systems, the issue of emotions research in close relationship with corresponding cultures, still remains in the focus of scholars' attention [2; 3; 5; 6; 7; 8; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 18; 20; 22; 23]. In this respect, languages are studied as socio-cultural phenomena, as they reflect the world picture, shaping the process of world perception. The system of thoughts depicting world picture appears in human consciousness along with language world picture that doesn't always coincide with the conceptual one. The mechanism of objective reality depiction greatly differs as any language interprets the world in its specific, unique ways. The world picture is based on beliefs, impressions, associations, cognitive processes, norms of behavior, system of values which have a great impact on the formation and generalization of concepts.

The vocabulary of English and Ukrainian is a dynamic and well-integrated system of lexical units structured by relationships of meaning. It also discloses interconnections, interdependence and hierarchical relations between words and gives the possibility to study the whole systems of organized constituents with their peculiar correlations.

**Material and methods.** The collection, analysis and classification of the language material have been conducted on the basis of the method of formalized lexical semantics analysis which allows to study the semantics of lexical units denoting the quality of being happy in English and Ukrainian by revealing the correlations between lexemes and their meanings as well as singling out their some stock peculiarities [for details see 9; 10].

Investigation of the adjectives in modern Ukrainian and English is carried out to find out their main characteristics as well as to reveal their both common and distinctive features. For the collection of the research material, a formal criterion is used – belonging of the lexical units to a definite part of speech – the adjective [9, p. 19]. Our language material has been collected from the most authoritative explanatory dictionaries of contemporary English [24] and Ukrainian [28]. Semantics of the obtained adjectives is studied by means of componential analysis. The latter is based on the assumption that the meaning of a word is composed of semantic components. It is also called feature analysis or contrast analysis, and refers to the description of the words' meaning through structured sets of semantic features. Furthermore, it reveals the culturally important features by which speakers of the language distinguish different words in

the domain. Different meanings of polysemantic adjectives under study have different componential structure. In addition to the abovementioned methods, in our research the comparative method has been used. It aims at revealing the differences between two or more languages, although it does not ignore their common features. The method of comparison is used to analyze the correlation of structural elements of linguistic units and structure in general, mainly on a synchronous cut, taking into account all factors of their interaction, interpretation and mutual influence on all language levels.

The comparative lexical semantic analysis of the language units denoting the quality of being happy in modern Ukrainian and English has shown that words can be used in different phrases, they can be combined with other parts of speech and acquire different meanings. This analysis reveals the peculiarities of the nationally-cultural specificity in both languages.

To reveal both common and distinctive features of the adjectives in question, the qualitative and quantitative analyses have been used. The main aim of a quantitative research study is to classify features, count them, and construct statistical models in an attempt to explain what is observed. Quantitative method helps to determine the degree of polysemy of the words denoting the quality of being happy, as well as the degree of the functionality of semes. Descriptive method allows to represent the stages of language material analysis as well as to describe the results of the research.

**Results and discussions.** Since many languages have words denoting the quality of being happy, the concepts embodied in them may be assumed to transcend language boundaries. In fact, words that appear to match in this way often differ from one another in telling ways, offering valuable insight into different national traditions and historical experiences. The adjectives denoting the quality of being happy in English and Ukrainian language world pictures form a complex structure, whose elements serve as the basic means of verbalizing emotions and emotional states. The semantic relations between the units under research prove the inseparable link between the words both used to express and describe emotions.

The dominant meaning of the units under research in English is *feeling happy*, which is common to the adjectives *exuberant, ecstatic, jolly, sunny, intoxicated, glad, merry, excited, content, buoyant, radiant, contented, pleased, mirthful, perky, fulfilled, cheery, jovial and chirpy*. The words *delighted, joyful, joyous, thrilled, exultant, rejoicing, euphoric, exhilarated, blissful, elated, jubilant, overjoyed* are used to emphasize the intensity of feeling (*extremely pleased or happy*). The state of being happy is expressed nonverbally through a facial expression or

look showing happiness, active movements, gladness, admiration, joy and the like by the lexical units *lively, beatific, chirpy* etc.

In Ukrainian the semantics of *being happy, pleased, satisfied and excited* is revealed by the biggest number of adjectives (*радісний, піднесений, веселий, втішний (утішний), блискучий, безхмарний, незатьмарений, задоволений, осяйний, тріумфальний, вдоволений (удоволений), радіий, сонячний, життєрадісний, etc.*). The essential feature of happiness verbalization is the existence of lexemes showing that it may be actualized in unstable environment filled with troubles, anxiety, hardships (*заспокійливий, просвітлий*).

59 English adjectives and 36 Ukrainian ones are used to signify the quality of *being happy*. Their semantics is unique, yet with clearly anthropocentric character. The words under research form complex systems possessing certain structures. They are divided into three groups according to their degree of polysemy: words with high and middle degree of polysemy and monosemantic units (see table below).

Table 1

**Adjectives denoting the quality of being happy in English and Ukrainian**

Groups of adjectives	English	Ukrainian
High degree of polysemy	6 (10.2%)	7 (19.4%)
Middle degree of polysemy	20 (33.9%)	17 (47.2%)
Monosemantic	33 (55.9%)	12 (33.4%)

The groups of adjectives with high degree of polysemy contain 6 words in English and 7 – in Ukrainian. Their common semantic features are revealed in such characteristics as: cheerful and excited (*cheerful, gay; прекрасний, сонячний*), satisfied or not worried (*happy, content; щасливий*), feeling happiness (*cheerful; благословенний*), being advantageous, successful or promising (*golden; ладний, щасливий, вдалиий*), fortunate or lucky (*happy; щасливий*), suitable (*happy; вдалиий, зручний*).

Among the distinctive characteristics of a *happy* person in the languages under research are the state of being lively, energetic, active, full of life and intelligent (*lively, sparkling*) in English and being beautiful and attractive (*прекрасний*), kind and gentle (*ладний*), generous and easy-going (*благословенний*) in Ukrainian.

20 English adjectives and 17 Ukrainian ones form the group of words with middle degree of polysemy. The lexical units in both languages describe a happy person as someone who is pleased (*glad; радісний, піднесений, веселий, втішний (утішний), задоволений (удоволений), радіий, незатьмарений, безхмарний, тріумфальний*), willing

or eager to do something or to achieve success (*glad, content; охочий, запопадливий, радий*), lucky or feeling fortunate (*lucky, fortunate, flushed; везучий*).

The English associate the state of being happy with being confident (*buoyant*), friendly (*sunny, pleasant*), pleasant (*merry*), very good (*ecstatic*), quiet and calm (*peaceful*), grateful for something (*glad*), full of joy and love (*radiant, ecstatic*), energy and excitement (*exuberant, intoxicated*), enjoying oneself (*jolly*), enjoyable (*pleasant, jolly*), having achieved what he/she wanted (*successful*), satisfied (*gratified*), gained a victory or success (*triumphant*).

In Ukrainian it is viewed as being satisfied (*втішний (утішний), задоволений, удоволений (вдоволений)*), hard-working, perseverant (*беручий, запопадливий*) and intelligent (*блискучий*).

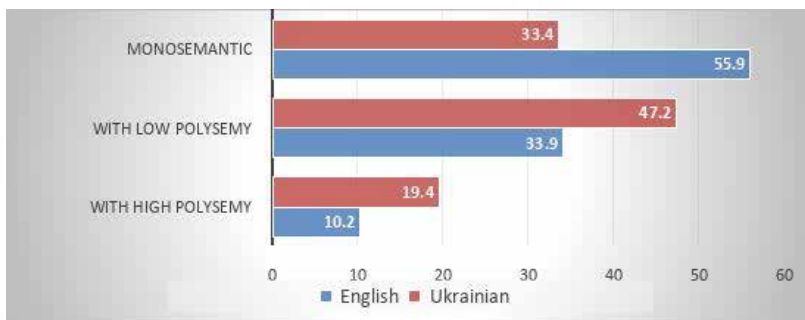
There are 33 monosemantic words in English and 12 in Ukrainian. They reveal common semantics of being satisfied with one's life (*contented, fulfilled; життєрадісний*), excited (*euphoric, exhilarated, elated, cock-a-hoop, gleeful; блаженний, щасний, просвітлий, радний*).

A happy English is proud of his/her success (*exultant*), active (*perky, chirpy*), friendly (*joyful, convivial*), pleased (*delighted, thrilled, jubilant, overjoyed*), expressing admiration (*rapturous*), having no worries or problems (*carefree*), making other people admire him/her (*captivated, wowed*). His/her success at large depends on destiny or fortune (*advantageous, fortuitous, propitious*) and something making him/her feel happy (*cheery, joyful, upbeat*).

In Ukrainian culture happiness favors those who are successful or have achieved success (*благополучний, успішний*), having or attended by good luck (*таланливий*), full of keen desire, longing to obtain something (*бажаючий*), possessing something that soothes, quiets, pacifies them in troublesome times and situations (*заспокійливий*).

The comparative analysis of adjectives in English and Ukrainian made it possible to reveal their universal and ethnospecific features of the quality of being happy verbalization. Their semantic similarity is revealed in their system and structural organization, though the adjectives under study differ in the place and role they occupy in the English and Ukrainian lexis' semantic space (see diagram below).

The character of group correlations has its specificity in each of the languages in comparison. The group of monosemantic words in English outweighs the ones with high and low degree of polysemy, while in Ukrainian we can observe the predominance of adjectives with low degree of polysemy. We can presume that the languages under research differ in the modes of world conceptualization.



**Diagram 1. Lexis denoting the quality of being happy in English and Ukrainian**

The representatives of English and Ukrainian linguocultures are united by universal human values. Happiness in both linguocultures is perceived as the state characterized by pleasant feelings like pleasure, joy, enjoyment, excitement, satisfaction with life, willingness to do something in order to achieve success if the fortune and luck attends. However, the perception of this concept slightly varies. If the English are more concerned with the individual and his/her personal qualities (confidence, liveliness, intelligence, etc.), then the Ukrainians tend to be pragmatic and focus on realization of these qualities in social environment.

Our research makes it possible to describe both common and distinctive features of happiness verbalization by lexical units. Similar understanding of this concept and its realization in the languages under study can be shown in the following pairs of equivalent words: *elevated – піднесений, pleased – радіий, радіий, eager – охочий, blissful – блаженний, contented – вдоволений*, etc. Related words in dictionaries of comparable languages may be the result of the partial similarities of these languages, or borrowings from one language to another, which are determined by the communicative needs of English and Ukrainian speakers. There are also units that occur only in one of the languages under study, lacking their equivalents in another language: *fulfilled, intoxicated, незатямлений, запопадливий, беручкий*, etc. Non-equivalent lexis within adjectives denoting the property of being happy most vividly reflects the mentality of the ethnos.

The semantic relations between the units under research prove the inseparable link between the words both used to express and describe emotions. In English and Ukrainian lexical semantic systems, the adjectives establish different semantic relations. They are united into semantic microsystems on the basis of their common meanings and can



form synonymic pairs and rows. The most frequently used synonymic rows in our language material are represented by the adjectives denoting happiness explicitly (*exuberant, ecstatic, jolly, sunny, intoxicated; glad, merry, excited, content, buoyant, radiant; блаженний, щасний, благополучний, таланливий, просвітлий, життєрадісний, радіий*).

In our English material, the group of monosemantic words (*contented, delighted, elated, joyful, joyous, jubilant, overjoyed, pleased, thrilled, upbeat, exultant, blissful, convivial, captivated, gleeful, mirthful, perky, flying, rejoicing, wowed, fulfilled, fortuitous, advantageous, cheery, jovial, carefree, propitious, cock-a-hoop, beatific, exhilarated, euphoric, rapturous, chirpy*) is bigger than that made up by polysemantic adjectives. Their meanings are as follows: *happy and satisfied because your life is good; extremely happy and excited, especially because of something that has happened or is going to happen; pleased and excited about something, especially something you have done; happening by chance, especially in a way that has a good result*, etc.

In Ukrainian, the group with low degree of polysemy is predominant: *радісний, піднесений, веселий, втішний (утішний), блискучий, запонадливий, беручкий, охочий, везучий, безхмарний, незатьмарений, задоволений, осяйний, тріумфальний, вдоволений (удоволений), радіий, слушний*. These adjectives reveal the semantics of being happy, joyful, excited, elevated, in a good mood, feeling admiration and aspiration, etc. (*який відчуває радість з приводу чого-небудь; який виражає радість; який має веселу вдачу; життєрадісний; який перебуває у збудженому, бадьорому стані, відчуває захоплення, натхнення, душевний підйом і т. ін.; який свідчить про збудження, бадьорість, захоплення, натхнення, душевний підйом і т. ін. у кого-небудь; сповнений веселощів, радісного, безтурботного настрою; який виражає веселощі, радісний настрої; схильний до веселощів*).

**Conclusions.** Happiness is viewed by the English and the Ukrainians as an emotional state that requires being active, energetic, satisfied with life, proud of what has been attained and always hopeful that something good will happen. It is a deep and positive emotion that makes the perceptual system stronger and optimizes all psychic processes, creating the feeling of confidence, satisfaction, pleasure, joy, liveliness etc. If the English speakers focus more on personal qualities and abilities, the Ukrainian people are concerned with the intellectual capacity realized in society, a person's development and realization in social life, refining character and behavior.

The English view a happy person as being active, bursting with energy, confident and friendly, satisfied with his/her life, frankly expressing emotions verbally and nonverbally. The Ukrainians do not

tend to idealize reality and are more pragmatic in their views on being happy. They associate it with appropriate behavior in society, developing personal skills and intellectual abilities as well as personal refinement that may contribute to well-being of Ukrainian community regardless of any misfortunes and adversities of life. Their views on social issues differ a lot from the English ones and this can prove the fact that national and cultural values in Ukrainian society are transmitted from generation to generation.

Emotivity as a component of semantic content generates scientific interest and therefore requires its further linguistic study, aiming at the analysis of linguocultural and semantic peculiarities of the lexis denoting other aspects of positive as well as negative emotions realization in both related and unrelated languages.

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