

Verbalization of Sensations of Pain (Based on Differently Structured Languages)

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Abstract: The study deals with the verbalization of pain sensations in Russian, French and English languages. As part of the anthropological paradigm in language extralinguistic categories of perception are discussed. Cognitive processes begin with the human senses. They constitute the main channels through which information about the phenomena of the external world and the state of the body reach the brain. Tactile sensations are the components close to the emotional experiences (feeling pain). In modern languages, we observe the processes that metaphorical transfers form a special layer of the means of expression in language to refer to internal (mental and emotional) states and processes. The study used a complex method of analysis of the material using a number of specific methods. The list of verbs used to describe the unpleasant physiological sensations has been analyzed in terms of metaphors sources concepts and lexical compatibility. Analysis of the material showed that the considered metaphorical models are universal and exist in three studied languages at the same time the Russians more frequently than the French or the British resort to metaphor when describing the pain.

Key words: Perception, conceptualization of pain, metaphorical model, lexical compatibility, cognitive process

INTRODUCTION

As part of the anthropological paradigm of linguistics that returned to man the status of “measure of all things” and also returned him to the center of the universe, it is interesting to explore the principles of existence in the language of certain extra-linguistic categories. To do this, it is advisable to choose as the object a sufficiently broad with a clear objective limits and well-studied area beyond linguistics and see how it is displayed in natural language. This area can be the system of human perception of the surrounding world.

The problem of perception is one of the important problems in the study of man. A person’s ability to perceive the real world is one of its fundamental capabilities along with to feel, to imagine, to think, to understand. Results of perception contain information about ontology of the world, selected through cognitive mechanisms of consciousness. In the study of perceptual semantics of nominative units important question remains, what are the characteristics of the world and how they are verbalized in language. Perception can be defined as a link between reality and person thinking (Kratkiy and Kognitivnykh, 1997).

Luriya (2006), one of the founders (along with L.S. Vygotsky, A.N. Leontiev) of cultural-historical theory of the human psyche, says that cognitive processes of man begin with feelings. As noted by the scientist, the main source of our knowledge of the external world and of his own body are sensations. They constitute the main

channels through which information about the phenomena of the external world and the state of the body come to the brain, giving man the ability to navigate in the environment and in the body. According to the principle of complexity sensations can be divided into three main types:

- Interoceptive
- Proprioceptive
- Exteroceptive

The last and largest group brings information from the outside world to the human. It includes smell, taste, touch, hearing and vision, five main types (modalities) of sensations. The entire group of exteroceptive sensations is conventionally divided into two groups: contact and distant sensations. Taste and touch can serve as a typical example of contact sensation (Psikhologicheskiy slovar; <http://www.psi.webzone.ru>).

Tactile sensations have a dual nature, including both complex components (sense of sizes, shape, arrangement of objects influencing the skin) and primitive components close to the emotional experiences (e.g., sensation of heat, cold, pain). Pain experience is always subjective, it is acquired from early childhood and is initially closely associated with life events, social conditions and cultural factors as well as the role behavior. All this allows a person to relatively easy create judgments on the location, strength and character of pain on the basis of its local perception.

Pain as an existential concept has a contradictory nature. On the one hand, pain is a universal object of human perception: any person at least once in his life felt pain. On the other hand, pain-individual and introspective sensation inseparable from the subject experiencing it and excluding any whatsoever access to it by third parties. The only way to verify the pain is to verbally describe it. That is why, as it seems, pain conceptualization study in language is of particular interest to linguistics (Bonch-Osmolovskaya *et al.*, 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The purpose and objectives of the study led to the use of complex methods of analysis of the used material with usage of a number of specific methods: a method of component analysis of dictionary definitions; method of contextual analysis of touch vocabulary; cognitive interpretation of the received language material method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Actually linguistic studies of the semantic area are more sporadic and reflect the particular aspects of its functioning in the language: the subject of analysis was, for example, quasi synonyms with meaning 'pain' in Swedish (Gaston-Johansson and Alwood, 2011), discursive characteristics of the dialogue between doctor and patient on the material of German (Menz and Lalouschek, 1987), syntax of basic expressions of pain in English language (Halliday, 2002). Task of multifaceted linguistic analysis of the concept of pain has not yet been set.

Phenomenology of pain has serious enough history of study in philosophy, in which a special place is occupied by the problem of verbalization of pain (e.g., the classical arguments about language and pain in the "Philosophical Investigations by L. Wittgenstein"). On the other hand, the problem of "the language of pain" has been repeatedly considered in medicine: in this case, as a rule on the basis of psychological experiments different classifications of vocabulary was created. This vocabulary was associated with the expression of a certain type of pain. The classifications were then used to construct diagnostic questionnaire (Ehlig, 1985; Melczak and Torgensen, 1971), as well as the materials of the International Association for the Study of Pain (<http://www.iasp-pain.org>).

Indicative list of Russian verbs: hurts, shoots, cuts, pulls, aches, presses, pulling, burning, twisting, spinning, numb. The group of French language units include: hurt, have pain, jump, sting, scrape, scratch,

courbaturer, burning, baking, twist, turn, go numb. In English, the pain is represented by such words and phrases like: be sick, be ill, ache, be painful, suffer from a disease, feel acute pains, stab, hurt, scrape, sting, burn, swim. The list of verbs that are used to describe unpleasant physiological sensations has been analyzed in terms of:

- The concepts-sources of metaphors
- Lexical compatibility

The types of metaphorical sources: Based on the concepts-sources all metaphorical verbs of pain can be divided into the following groups:

- Verbs of physical action, including:
 - The destruction of the structure of the object by using a tool: shoot, cut, scratch, prick, sting, stab, hammer
 - The destruction of the structure of the object by hand: Claw, pinch, hurt, beat
 - Soft deformation of object: Press, gnaw, throb, tingle, grow numb, tighten
- Verbs denoting action of fire: Burn, flame
- Verbs of motion: Swim, to be racked with pain

The following contexts demonstrate the use of language units in speech. (Rus.) She closed her eyes and waited for the eye ceases to be cut; It was seething lust of self-torture, he gave special pleasure dig deeper and deeper into a sharp knife in the wound. (Russian National Corpus, <http://ruscorpora.ru/index.html>) (Fren.) The back is aching stay long when leaning forward (Grand Robert French language); He was fighting like a girl, open hands, slapping and clawing (The Treasury of the French Language computerized, <http://www.atilf.atilf.fr>); (Eng.) A vein started to throb in his forehead. His words hit her like small, sharp knives and Jenna raised her hands to claw at him, hurting inside and wanting to hurt back; She was cold and unwashed and hunger pangs were beginning to gnaw again (The British National Corpus, <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>).

The most numerous is the class of verbs of physical impact. Nature of metaphorical transfer is clear: trying to understand the unobservable physiological mechanisms acting within the body, we associate the feelings with the results of external physical impact or the appearance of the instrument. So, the feeling in the side after a run is related to the sensations experienced by the skin from the action of a needle/multiple needles (parcel in bokuto) and pain in the temples the effect of external shocks are uniformly repeated, carried out with the aid of a tool

(pounding in the temples). The parameters of the original physical situation correlates with the idea of the intensity of pain: the impact of using tool metaphorizes as a more severe pain than the effect without special tools: Compare: (Eng.) His temples throbbed; set one's blood hammering in one's temples.

Analysis of the data shows that the metaphorical models considered above, apparently, are universal and exist in three studied languages, although, it should be noted that Russians more frequently than the French or the British resort to metaphor to describe pain.

The compatibility of lexical verbs of pain: Some verbs of physical impact during transition into the sphere of pain receive an additional connotation associated with the notion of the spatial characteristics of the movement using which action is done. Thereby semantics of verbs imposes certain restrictions on the topological characteristics of the part of body, related to pain. Thus, the verb cut as a pain verb involves horizontal movement on a single line and thus gives an idea of the organ, oriented horizontally, ie vertical dimension of which does not exceed the horizontal one, compare cuts in the abdomen, eyes cuts but the (unlikely) *leg cuts (Rus.) Tears were somehow connected with pity scarf, she licked my eyes; The hunger inside, already familiar: sucks, but does not hurt (National Corpus of Russian language, <http://ruscorpora.ru/index.html>); (Fren.) Water from the river is a transparency that hurts; if we are plunged fingers, it would cut as a broken window (The Treasury of the French Language computerized, <http://www.atilf.atilf.fr>). In the French example, the verb couper nominates impact of transparent icy water on fingers of hand. Water is the source of pain, it seems to cut fingers of hand like broken glass.

It is easy to note that some aspects of the situation of pain are related to each other. Nevertheless, in our opinion, in its structure we can identify a number of parameters that define the conceptual metaphors of the area in various languages and allow to carry out a typological analysis of this semantic field. There are at least four such parameters:

- The type of feeling that arises from pain. Person feels pain as
- The result of outside influence
- An extraordinary behavior of an organ

If pain is a result of external influence, the person compares this impact with familiar results of his external physical effects on his body. This impact can be seen as the one carried from outside of the body (Fren. smoke prickling eyes) or within the diseased organ (in the eyes cuts). In this case, may vary:

- The effects of using human hands (Rus. push, tickle, Eng. scrape, Fren. rip)
- The impact of using a tool (Rus. stabbing, cutting, Eng. shoot, Fren. stab)
- The impact of natural forces (Rus. burning in his side, Eng. grow numb, Fren. wind burns face)

If a person feels pain as an unusual behavior of an organ (2), then the organ static and passive by its nature begins to behave like quasi agentive in the language representation. In this case, it:

- Moves (Eng. my head swirls)
- Makes sounds (head pops) and in rare cases, may
- Himself be a source of impact (head presses)

Compare: (Rus.) straining veins and vein organism Russia resisted violence, Russia cracked neck, spine and my eyes bulged; My head is bursting, I'm tired, I'm sick. (Russian National Corpus, <http://ruscorpora.ru/index.html>), (Eng.) This thought of why Jasper consented to let her sleep here, instead of going to another room, or asking her to go, made her mind swirl, as if it her mind was nauseous (The British National Corpus, <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>).

The location of pain. Pain can be perceived as entirely localized in an organ or in its part and simultaneously, it can be static or dynamic and in this regard may be classified as:

- Pointed, i.e., affecting one or some set of individual places such as kolnulo side; pointed pain can be piercing, i.e., aimed from outside the body into some organ (Rus. drill, shoot, Eng. stab, Fren. tortorer)
- Covering the surface, i.e., affecting a certain area as a whole (Russian language burns), including the surface of a certain shape (for example, in Russian belly cuts horizontal linear pain, Fren. scrape the throat vertical pain, pointing downwards as if on several parallel lines)
- Covering the entire volume of the body, i.e., it presupposes qualitative changes within the body (Rus. head pops, Eng. legs hurt) or its forward movement (Eng. the stomach expands and contracts)

Intensity: A typical metaphorical correlator to refer severe pain in Russian and English is adjective with meaning acute (Eng. sharp), compare also antonym stupid English dull. It reflects the relationship between the intensity of pain with the idea of having a special tool of influence on the body (pointed, sharp, shooting pain is "stronger" than pressing, tickling or even biting (compare English tears sting her eyes). The ultimate pain in the metaphorical

picture of the world is described as a situation that leads to non-recoverable deformation of an organ (spin breaks, English head would burst with the cough).

Thus, the intensity is correlated with the two parameters of the original physical situation: the presence/absence of a tool to influence the degree of deformation of the object.

Distribution of pain over time. From the perspective of conceptualization of pain it is of interest that pain may be perceived as:

- An instantaneous event (kolnulo in hand)
- Long-term event, i.e., multiple (heart tingling) or (ii) a continuous process (face burned)

The first case is naturally connected with the pointed location and second with the surface or space (neither multiple event nor process may be limited with a point). compare: (Rus.) Then, a heavy tropical downpour hit the waterfall, sprinkle with stones and one of them hurt banged me on the head (Russian National Corpus, <http://ruscorpora.ru/index.html>); (Eng.) He felt hammer blows to his arm before Dean tried to stab him with a screwdriver (The British National Corpus, <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk>) (Fren.) Next morning durtal awoke sick; a furious neuralgia vrillait his temples; he tried to reduce with antipyrine, but this drug detraqua his stomach soften the blows without Crankshaft terebraient that his skull (The Treasury of the French Language Computerized, <http://www.atilf.atilf.fr>); (Rus.). On a hot day, sensing the smell and dampness, seeing as played, bouncing off the smooth surface of the sun, Kolyunya exulted, beating with excitement and joy of heart and cut the stomach. (Russian National Corpus, <http://ruscorpora.ru/index.html>).

The uniqueness of the situation of pain as a part of physical world is in the fact that it is not observable which is often connected with the absence of external display. These properties, on the contrary, are characteristic of the situation in the mental and emotional sphere. It is no coincidence that in languages these cognitive realms are linked.

CONCLUSION

Lexical system of language is not simply a structured set of individual words but a system of interconnected

intersecting word classes of different size and nature. Groups of nouns, adjectives and verbs, objectifying tactile perception in the three studied languages, are divided into subgroups of language units, nominating tactile, kinesthetic, temperature and pain sensations. These subgroups are not isolated from each other and are interconnected to form a single group which in turn is a part of lexical and semantic field of perception.

This study analyzes the verbs used to describe pain in Russian, French and English, in terms of concepts-sources of metaphors and lexical compatibility, as well as a number of parameters is highlighted in the structure of the situation of pain that define methaphorics of this conceptual zone in different languages. Analysis of the material showed that the considered metaphorical models are universal and exist in three studied languages, whereas Russians more frequently than the French or the British resort to metaphor to describe pain.

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