

## PHENOMENON OF LACUNAS: APPROACHES TO STUDY

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**Abstract.** The study analyzes different approaches to study phenomenon of lacunas. Interaction of the Russian and English languages vocabulary are investigated in the article. In conditions of linguistic development and mutual culture development, the relevance of studies focused on comparative linguistics in the middle of XIX th. century (E. Birjakova, L. Voinova, L. Kutina, V. Vinogradov, A. Sorokin, S. Belyaeva.), at present are justified. Linguists claim that predominated influence of the English language over other language research evokes an interest. The presented article fills the research gap in linguistics and the findings of the authors will enable linguists to develop research in this field and be of importance for students majoring in Linguistics and Cultural studies.

**Key words:** diachronic study, lexical extension, nomination, lacunas, definition, linguistic analysis, approaches to study.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays scholars focus on research of national language specification, typical means of expression identical objects of reality in existence of grammatical forms and categories are found. One of the phenomena of such lexical specification is existence of text gaps. According to V. Gak, "a nominated object possesses an endless amount of signs, elements. relations between them". Person, generalising phenomena and single out relevant signs, gives nominations to any segment of reality. However, a nominative function issued when it is important to know for the nation and society, besides, equal signs are not always chosen into the base of nomination. So segments of reality and subjects, non-nominated in the concrete language are not essential and latent. Such gaps in the picture of the world are easily discovered in comparability of languages in diachronical analysis. Many conceptions are common to all mankind, although embodied into different verbal form. However, specific notions exist, which reflects realities, they carry national character and embodied in such non-equivalent vocabulary. All notional system is based on nomination system. A person, generalizing phenomena, single out relevant signs, gives nominations to any segments of realities. However, nominational function is used differently, as we say above, we nominate only what functionally important for this nation. So segments of reality and non-nominated subjects in this language. These gaps in lexico-semantic world picture are pointed out in comparison of languages. Text gaps are connected with means of reality nomination.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 Research Objectives and Methods

There are two approaches to study text gaps in linguistics. The first is determined by functional criteria the importance of nomination the segment of reality, phenomena, characteristics. Functional or cognitive approach is connected with such factors as cognition of reality, discharge of relevant signs, phenomena, significance and spreading subject or phenomena in society.

The second approach is determined by a language comparative analysis. Text gaps are chosen by comparison of different lexical systems. In other words, lacunas don't exist in its clear form, research is carried out in one direction (Russian in attitude to English), so in other direction (English in attitude to

Russian). Such research of lacunarity is called vectoral. A French –Russian list of non-equivalent words will differ from English-Russian. Heterogeneity of layer, different approaches for study arises different definitions: text gaps, weak equivalents, background information, words-realities, exotisms (exotic words).

Lacuna- is a gap, missing place in text (from Latin lacuna-deepening, hollow). The term "lacuna" was introduced by French linguists J. Viney, J. Darbelnet, who determined lacuna as phenomena when word doesn't have conformity in other language. Under the term lacuna should be understood the absence not only of lexical but grammatical means in one language and in presence of another. V. L. Muraviev notices that some morphological peculiarities, making Russian words lacunas: such prefixes до- (доесть, допить, доделать), the meaning of prefixes за- (зазеленеть, заиграть, запить, замусолить), Russian complex words with particulaодно- (однолюб, одно-летки, односельчанин, однополчанин). V. S. Vinogradov and V. G. Kostomarov introduced the notion of background information. Background information-it is socio-cultural information specific for the nation, mastering by the representatives and reflected in this nation community. In linguistic regional geography meaningful differences of equivalent words, stipulating differences in realia is called lexical background of the word.

Lexical background is a phenomena frontier between language and culture. Discrepancy in the lexical background affects different topical and syntactic connection of words. Differences in the lexical background include the most part of the vocabulary stock. Terms coincide in the background, and in the field of non-specific vocabulary the whole coincidence of lexical backgrounds it happens seldom. However, if the culture, the way of life are closer, so there are less differences in the lexical background of corresponding languages. The part of the culture, making up national socio-cultural fund, is reflected in the language. Exactly this aspect should be studied in the aim of full and profound understanding of the original and reproduction information about these values in translation with the language of the other culture. Specificity of the background information is in implicit presence in fiction text, which makes background meanings latent from foreign reader. Undoubtedly, absence of background knowledge makes difficult and distorts the perception of the text. In any language and

dialects there are words, which don't have one-word translation in other languages, basically- designation of specific phenomena of local culture. In the case of borrowing non-equivalent words are called exotic words(exotisms). The specification of such words is in the strong ethno-cultural component of lexical meaning. They are used when we speak about other nation life. Exotisms and ethnographisms symbolize foreign culture. Exotisms or words-realia are called words, marking way of life realities specific for nation, country. Units which are called as weak equivalents can be treated as text gaps. Gabdreeva noticed, weak equivalents take intervening place between 1) borrowing; 2) false equivalents or so called «false friendsof interpreter». They combine signs of both units. From borrowing they preserve the planof expression, forms- in all bilingual dictionaries which gives correlatives forms without anylexical variants, the plan of content coincides with the prototype segmentarily.

We can trace processes of weak equivalents formation:

1. reduction of semantic meaning in borrowing word but preservation in the language- source.
2. redistribution of semantic meaning leads to lacunarnost.

So weak equivalents only partly passes lexical meaning of prototype and eventually can be used in the translation practice. Vereshagin E. M., Kostomarov V. G. defines non-equivalent lexics as «words, using for expression notions, absent in a culture, in a language, characteristic for culture A, absent in culture B.

The problem of lacunas is put by the investigators in comparative aspect of two different languages (Muraviev V. L., Sorokin Y. S., Bairamova L. K., Gabdreeva N. V., Gak V. G.) B. Y. Norman states that lacunas are connected with languages functions (9) first of all with nominative. 1)The necessity of nomination is connected with division of reality. 2)Cognition of reality becomes deeper and thinner. According to Norman B. Y. nomination is an integral part of cognition. Otherwise something shouldn't be nominated, that is not important. Subject should enter the vocabulary, adjust to the environment and should be used in every day's life. On the one hand, nomination is connected with to its subject and an illusion appears in the minds that this word is natural in usage. A word is formed by two plans: content and expression, which determines the nominative function. The distinctive feature of lexical system-

its multi usage. It means that a word at the same time connects with different, heterogeneous relations with other lexems. A problem of definition exists in translation. Word is a linguistic unit, which is accepted but doesn't have a scientific definition. Such difficulties are defined by the nature of word and, first of all dialectically contradictory essence. A researcher, dealing with comparative linguistic analysis at least of two languages, concentrates not on grammatical characteristics of words but on semantic context, information, including in words. For interpreter it is very important to research meaningful, expressive-emotional, stylistic and other part of information volume of word in speech and language with other its nuances in comparative sense. We based on conventional definition of Meye in linguistics. A word is a main structurally semantic unit of a language, used for nomination subjects, its properties, phenomena, relations of reality, having semantic, phonetic and grammatical indications specific for each language. Analysis of words must be held at the language level, defining and compare kinds of information and its realization. At the process of speech a word can change its stylistic color and gain new stylistic tints and meaning. Considering obligatory correlation of any word with objective reality, material, spiritual and linguistic system, we can point out in informative structure of words 2 types of information: extra-linguistic and linguistic. Extralinguistic information comprises notions about facts, actions, characteristics, which are usual for different material and spiritual forms of nature and society. This type of information is usual for grammatical forms. Such information isn't transmitted during translation. It is substituted with linguistic information of the original.

## 2.2 Research Materials

We point out ethnographical, lexical, associative lacunas. About 800 text gaps were studied and classified in 50 books by English authors: Dickens, Galsworthy, Swift translated into Russian.

## 3. Results

Let's give classification of these lacunas. To ethnographical lacunas we can refer

- I. names of monetary units (farthing, guinea, shilling and others).
- II. names of length and weight measurements (yards, feet, miles, acre).
- III. form of address (Mr, Mrs, Miss).

IV. lacunas of cultural inheritance (horse racing, rules of writing letters, national traditions).

V. Names of food and drinks (roast beef, ale, pudding, ginger beer, punch, gin, brandy).

VI. Names of professions, titles, ranks (lord, Quakers, Yankees, sheriff).

VII. Names of establishments, districts (Soho, East End, West End, Parliament).

VIII. Names of dwellings, educational establishments (cottages, college).

IX. Names of models of cars, vehicles (cab, taxi, omnibus, Ford).

X. Sport lexics (cricket, football, polo, box).

XI. Names of dances (foxtrot, jiga).

XII. Names of dog's breed (bulldog, pointer).

XIII. items of clothes. (smoking, bridges).

The content of associative lacunas includes special historical facts, state systems, national community. To associative lacunas we refer proper names.

In fiction many real and imaginary (fictitious) names are met. The translator faces the choice problem: to give a new accurate variant, basing on transcriptional approach or to leave the old one.

I. Antroponyms: general names and surnames John, June, Emily, Billy, Jim, Jack, Irene, Jollion, Forsythe.

II. Toponyms.

Every city is divided into business center, prestigious districts, poor areas. This information is significant for every native speaker of English and unknown to speaker of language B. London consists of 32 areas. London -the center of the city with sightseeing, where administrative buildings of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace are situated. Also different parks: St. James, Kensingtons Gardens, Hyde park and others. London City and Westminster district are connected by Strand, one of the oldest road in London. In Westminster City Scotland Yard, Whitehall are situated. At Oxford Street you can find main trade centers. London is divided into West End and East End. West End-a fashionable district of London,

where prestigious hotels, shops, houses of wealthy people are situated. Includes Mayfair, Piccadilly. East End- an eastern part of Aldgate, Whitechancell. This district is associated with dialect Kokny and slums, which became common in XIX th century. Hyde Park is famous for its lake Serpentine (32 acres), created by queens Karoliner order. Rotten Row-a famous riding road. At Downing street, 10 the prime-minister residence is situated. The street is named in honour of Sir George Downing (1623–1684)-a diplomat, financist. In theory of translation names of real geographical objects are divided into two groups: ordinary and memorative, which gives supplement information.

To associative realias we can refer:

1. Language allusions (phraseologisms, sayings, proverbs). Phraseological units consist of lexical idioms. They are semantically complicated and consist of separate meanings. Having its own completed fiction structure, they are stylistically unique. Inner form of the phraseologism- a lexico-semantic content of phrase. These language units are connected with associative background information. The national component appear in nomination of clothes, housing, meal and others. Proper names, geographical names, historical names are translated in Russian by transliteration.

Lexico-semantic lacunas appear in the process of intercultural and inter-lingual communication, where national-cultural peculiarity of word is important. Lexical lacunas are connected with absence of one word-equivalent in one language in comparison with other.

1. The English hyperonym is correspondent to Russian hyponym (to go-идти, ехать, to marry-жениться, выходитьзамуж, to adopt-усыновлять, удочерять).

2. The English hyponym is correspondent to Russian hyperonym (affair, business-дело, shore, bank-берег, town, city-город, watch, clock-часы).

1. For example, in many languages, especially in English Russian lexems голубойсиний correspond blue. Blue eyes are translated as голубыеглаза. In Russian the meaning is more wider.

«The fume broken here and there by a little blaze of blue or crimson colour». (G., 2000, p. 341).

“Дым оживленный, точно вспышкой, синим или алым пятном”. (Г., 1962, с. 374).

The intensity of color is considered, we see it from the context.

«An inspector of Police stood... with heavy — lidded pale-blue eyes...». (G., 2000, p. 318).

“Полицейский инспектор стоял... и вялыми бесцветными глазами”. (Г., 1962, с. 350).

Light blue in literal translation is светло-синий. In English there isn't a word for transmission of color голубой, to the word blue Cambridge is added. If it is синийцвет dark or Oxford are used.

In English for transmission of the word седой white and grey are used.

The next lexico-semantic lacuna is берег, having two meanings in English: a bank of the river, a shore of the sea.

Часы — watch и clock. « ...She had taken possession of his watch. » (G., т. 1, 1962, с. 122). — «... Она завладела его часами. » (Г., т. 1, 1962, с. 122).

In English for transmission of the word часы: clock and watch are used. Clock is an instrument for measuring and showing time, in a room or in the wall of a building (not worn or carried like a watch). Clock-настенные часы. (OALD 2000, p. 220). Watch- a type of small clock that you wear on your wrist, or (in the past) carried in your pocket. Watch-наручные часы. Advocate, attorney, barrister, lawyer, solicitor-адвокат. Advocate — адвокат. «But advocates and proctors are not one and the same?» (D. K. Ch. 7 p. 125).

“Но адвокаты и прокторы не одно и то же! (Д. К. с. 255, 1959).

1) Advocate. У данной лексемы исторически сложились два значения: Приводим данные из “Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture”.

Advocate — 1. Law Scot. E. — a lawyer speaks in defense of or in favor of another person in court.

2. a person who speaks for or supports an idea, way of life, a string advocate of prison reform.

2) Attorney — Уполномоченный, стряпчий: Attorney (Am. E. lawyer) a general, the chief law officer of a state or a nation (the head of the USA, of Justice).

Из словаря Вебстера (Webster's Dictionary) attorney is any person legally empowered to act as agent for in behalf of.

Приведем контекст из оригинала и сравним его с переводом.

«Why, he is a sort of monkish attorney» «Д. К. « 1851 г. с. 124).

“Почему, он стряпчий по торговым делам” (“ДК” 1959 г., с. 256).

Barrister may represent a person in any court but usually only does so in the higher courts. A person's solicitor advises the barrister about the facts of the case but doesn't tell the barrister what to say. Из словаря Вебстера (Webster Dictionary) barrister is a qualified member of the legal profession who represents and pleads cases.

В оригинале: «The two rows of seats... filled by barristers in wings». (G., 2000, p. 289). В переводе: “Адвокаты в париках постепенно заполнили два скамей”. (Г., 1962 г. с. 321).

4) Solicitor — поверенный, стряпчий.

Solicitor (esp. in England) — a lawyer who does the necessary work when property is bought and sold and speaks especially in the lower courts of law. In 1992 it was decided that solicitors could also argue cases in the higher courts, which formerly only barristers were able to do. Solicitor advises people on legal matters such as contracts, wills, buying and selling of property. Soames was solicitor to this estate» (Г., 2000 г. с. 66). — «Сомсбыл поверенным владельцем имения». (Г., 1962 г. с. 144).

5) Lawyer is the general word for someone whose business is the law; a person whose business is to advise people about laws, write formal agreements or to represent people in court.

In English-Russian dictionary lawyer is translated as стряпчий, адвокат, юрист. The well dressed throng drawn from the families of lawyers» (Г., 2000 г. с. 20).

«Хорошо одетой толпе, составлявшие из семей адвокатов» (Г., 1962 г. с. 51).

Lacunas, connected with inner form of word transmission. Inner form of word- is a literal sense, which consist of morpheme, root, prefix, suffix meanings. In different languages, the same meaning

is presented differently. For example, нем. Streichholz-спичка is motivated from verb. streichen — намазывать, краситьholz — «дерево, древесина»; англ. match — спичка are not motivated.

#### 4. Conclusions.

Lexical word meaning consists of following components:

- 1) Significant, which is distinctive from other notions.
- 2) Denotative, which correlate word with class of definite denotes.
- 3) Connotative, containing emotional-stylistical tincture of word.
- 4) Ethnocultural component, reflecting national specific of word.
- 5) Structural, which is in lexico-semantic field.

The main transmission of professions, positions, titles, newspapers names is transliteration.

By Vinogradov, transliteration- a borrowing of a foreign word, which is depicted with letters in language of translation. For example, proctor — проктор, clerk — клерк, lord — лорд, peer — пэр, squire — сквайр, «Daily Mail» — «ДэйлиМэйл», «Manchester Guardian» — «МанчестерГарден», «Times» — «Таймз», «Morning Post» — «МорнингПост», Newmarket Street — Нью-маркетСтрит.

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