interview makes an interview full of interesting information which is useful for the audience.

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SOME ASPECTS OF CATEGORIZATION OF NONALCOHOLIC DRINKS IN FRENCH, ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

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The present paper deals with the national peculiarities of categorizing nonalcoholic drinks. The study is based on the analysis of authentic lexicographic resources and presents the pattern embracing the most stable and obvious national—French, English, and Russian—subcategories of nonalcoholic drinks.

Keywords: categorization, nonalcoholic drinks, mapping, lexicographic definition, denomination, semantics

The present paper proceeds with the study of the concept "drinks" representation in national pictures of the world being carried by the author on the material of the

French, English and Russian languages.

The chosen subject is notable for some features deriving from ontological and anthropological properties of drinks as a phenomenon of the social life. On the one hand satisfying some basic physiological needs of humans [7] drinks are cultural universals. On the other hand being an integral part of national culture and an important element of ethnic self-identification they distinctively reflect national specifics [5]. Furthermore, being man-made they might be categorized intuitively and trivially but at the same time several researchers note the difficulty of categorizing artifacts [9; 10].

It is rather obvious that the dichotomy "alcoholic vs. nonalcoholic drinks" plays the key role in the system building of the concept "drinks". All drinks can be divided into two categories for ontological (presence/absence of ethylic spirit as psychoactive substance) and pragmatic (purpose of consumption) reasons.

Analysis of lexicographic data and the results of undertaken survey allow to subdivide the system of drinks denominations into three unequal groups:

1) general denominations of drinks and undifferentiated denominations which semantics implies neither presence nor absence of alcohol as an ingredient;

2) denominations of alcoholic drinks;

3) denominations of nonalcoholic drinks.

Two latter groups may be additionally split into but here we can face the aforesaid difficulties when subcategorizing particular drinks.

Such a public lexicon mapping [12] is represented in "Russian Semantic Dictionary" edited by N. Yu. Shvedova:

1—general denominations;

    1.1—properly general denominations;

    1.2—general denominations of alcoholic drinks;

2—denominations of different wines, strong liquors, liqueurs;

3—denominations of nonalcoholic drinks;

    3.1—denominations of tea, coffee and other (usually hot) drinks for meal;

    3.2—denominations of refreshing, tonic, and medicinal drinks [2: 276].

French and English thesauruses (e.g. [3; 4]) are more pragmatically orientated in their approach to categorizing drinks. Having different number and sets of taxons their classifications are not so strictly hierarchical (cf. [11]) and tend towards "naïve" categorization (see thereby [10]), but on the whole they are not in conflict with the above-mentioned subdividing of drinks.

The author has already touched upon the issue of alcoholic drinks categorization having analyzed and contrasted its peculiarities in the French, English and Russian languages [1; 8]. The aim of the present paper is to reveal the national peculiarities of categorizing nonalcoholic drinks fixed by authentic lexicographic resources (about used dictionary see [1]). The main method is the componential analysis (in its definitional variant [6]).

1. To examine the French system of nonalcoholic drinks denominations we sampled 89 lexical units. Due to their polysemy we had to select their 126 sememes directly referring to the category of drinks under question.

Built on the material of lexicographic definitions the lexico-semantic field is notable for its semantic diffusion and is a matter of some difficulty while being structured.

In this way only four lexico-semantic groups with certain inner homogeneity can be separated out clearly:

– "café" ("coffee"; 29 sememes),

– "infusions (y compris médicinales)" ("infusions (including medicinal ones)"; 16 sememes),

– "boissons rafraîchissantes" ("refreshing drinks"; 15 sememes),

– "eaux (y compris gazeuses)" ("water (including fizzy one)"; 7 sememes).

Other 46.8% of chosen sememes are rather scattered by their semantics (in a form we can find out in French dictionaries) causing serious inconveniences while trying to categorize them. So a major part of French nonalcoholic drinks denominations cannot be consolidated into clear subcategories when using the componential analysis of dictionary definitions.

We can mention here some undifferentiated denominations (that could refer both

to alcoholic and nonalcoholic drinks)—*coup, cocktail, consummation*, etc. (16 sememes)—and several denominations positioned in the sectors of superposition of the lexical field "Boissons" and—

– lexical field "Nourriture": *lait, lavasse, liquide, rafraîchissement(s)*;

– lexical field "Remède": *amer, bourrache, camomille, décoction, tisane*, etc. (9 sememes);

– lexical field "Poison": *bouillon d'onze heures*.

It must to be noted that categorization signs like "gazeux" ("fizzy"), "stimulant" ("tonic"), "chaud/froid" ("hot/cold") are quite uncommon for definitions of analyzed French dictionaries.

2. The English system of nonalcoholic drinks denominations consists of 118 lexical units and 164 sememes.

Built on the material of lexicographic definitions this lexico-semantic field is also semantically diffuse and hard to be structured in its entirety.

The following more or less homogeneous lexico-semantic groups can be revealed basing on such a material:

– "soft (fizzy / carbonated) drinks" (35 sememes),

– "coffee" (28) and "other hot drinks" (21),

– "water" (13).

Such categorization signs as "sweet" and "cold" are quite widespread in definitions of the given dictionaries.

The remaining 40.9% of English denominations of nonalcoholic drinks are difficult to be categorized in terms of componential analysis of dictionary definitions.

There are undifferentiated denominations—*beverage, drink, freshener, potable*, etc. (13 sememes)—and several denominations positioned in the sectors of superposition of the lexical field "Drinks" and—

– lexical field "Food": *belly-wash, milk, ice-cream soda, ptisane*;

– lexical field "Medicine": *infusion, julep, ptisane, tonic*;

– lexical field "Supernatural": *haoma, hom, soma*.

3. The Russian system of nonalcoholic drinks denominations—compared with

the previous ones—has the worst rate of polysemy (96 lexical units, 112 sememes) and the highest level of semantic diffusion. 21.4% chosen denominations are lexicographically defined with only one, extremely general descriptor "напиток" ("drink") or "жидкость" ("liquid") without any additional subcategorization. A major part of sememes is defined with different categorization signs by different dictionaries (a similar, but not so striking situation occurs in case of the English "sodas" group).

We can insulate the following lexico-semantic groups in the built field:

– "напитки прохладительные *и/или* газированные *и/или* тонизирующие" ("refreshing *and/or* fizzy *and/or* tonic drinks"; 20 sememes),

– "вода" ("water"; 11 sememes),

– "молочные напитки" ("milk drinks"; 11 sememes),

– "кофе (в том числе холодный)" ("coffee (including cold one)"; 10 sememes).

The categorization of remaining 53.6% sememes turns out very difficult if not unrealizable when using componential analysis of Russian dictionary definitions (unless we have recourse to encyclopaedic data).

It is worth mentioning that a categorization sign "лечебный" ("medicinal") is rather frequent in given definitions. Besides, no one definition of tonic drinks traditionally consumed hot in Russia includes categorization signs "тонизирующий" ("tonic") and/or "горячий" ("hot"). The latter as well as "холодный" ("cold") is the least likely to appear in definitions of Russian dictionaries.

There are undifferentiated denominations—*напиток, опивки, питьё, пойло, штучка, эликсир*, etc. (13 sememes)—and several denominations positioned in the sectors of superposition of the lexical field "Напитки" ("Drinks") and—

– lexical field "Пища" ("Food"): *кисель, молоко, помои, сгущенка, сливки, ягодник*;

– lexical field "Лекарство" ("Medicine"): *малина, отвар, сироп, фиточай*.

The present study shows that we should not confine our studies of categorization only to lexicographical material. The componential analysis of definitions turns out

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not enough sufficient to reveal all national peculiarities of categorizing artifacts. This fact can derive from both objective and subjective factors. On the one hand any artifact is multiaspect, on the other, different people—even experts-lexicographers—consider its different aspects as significant hence it follows disagreements in definitions.

But the undertaken analysis of lexicographical data (taking into consideration the above-mentioned difficulties) allows to built a pattern of categorization of nonalcoholic drinks representing their most stable—from the point of view of their representation in authentic dictionaries—national subcategories (see Figure 1).
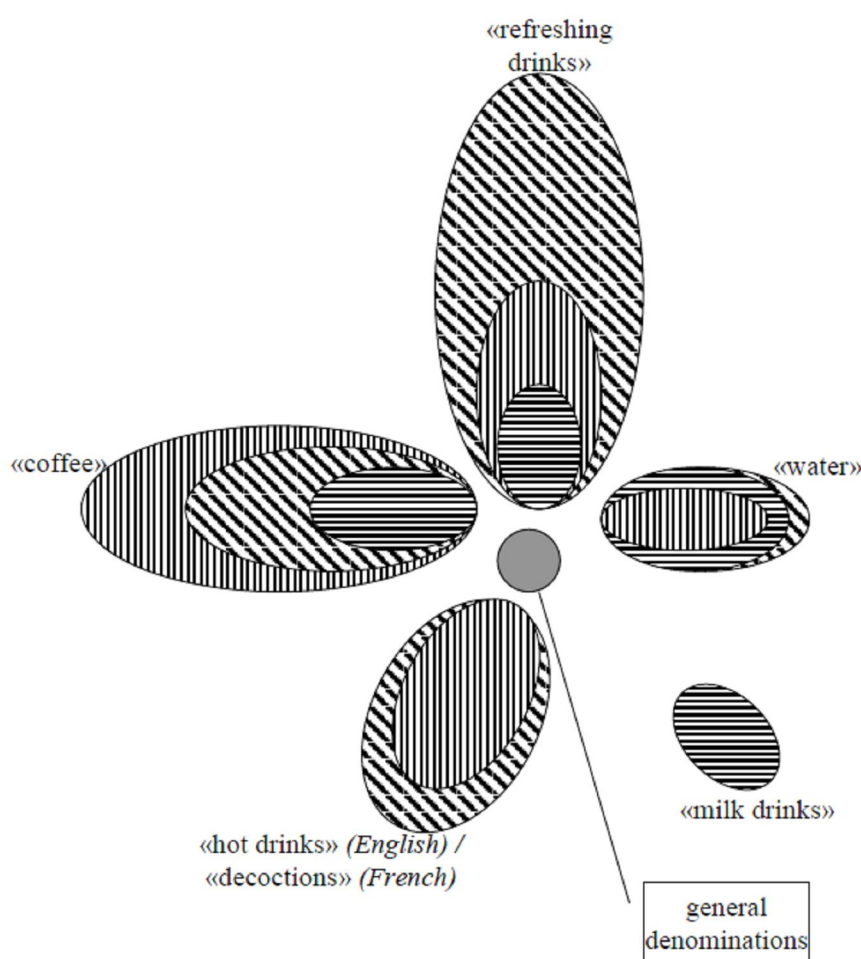

Fig. 1. Pattern of categorization of nonalcoholic drinks in French, English, and Russian (according to data of lexicographic resources)

In the diagram above vertical hatching marks subcategories intrinsic to French, horizontal one—to Russian, and oblique one—to English.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that the author is carrying out a contrastive research juxtaposing the results of the present study and the data of a survey.

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