

information of a scientific or applied nature, arranged in a manner convenient for quick search. From our point of view, the goal of creating the dictionary is in visual representation of the frequency of using associations for the stimuli we have suggested, and is also more rational for perception and use for various purposes.

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LINGUISTIC MEANS OF STEREOTYPING ABOUT THE ENGLISH (ON THE BASIS OF ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN)

Introduction. As is known, stereotypes take an important place in the culture and conscience of English- and Russian-language societies.

A popular old joke exists, which says that heaven is where the police are English, the cooks are French, the mechanics are German, the lovers are Italian and everything is organized by the Swiss. Hell is where the police are German, the cooks are English, the lovers are Swiss, and the Italians organize everything. This joke is an example of generalized national stereotypes.

There are various linguistic means which help the transfer and dissemination of stereotypes in the minds of people. Among them are jokes, anecdotes, proverbs, sayings, etc. Namely the usage of such means is mostly responsible for the firm memorization of stereotypes in any language. The ubiquity of stereotypes in our everyday life may explain our interest in them. The topic of national/ethnic stereotypes is popular in such fields as ethnography, culture studies, and social psychology. Ethnic stereotypes became an object of research in the works of Z. Abildinova, T. Alyokhina, M. Avdeeva, S. Bobrovnyk, S. Zhabaeva, K. Kurenko, I. Lindsay, A. Realo, A. Tomaszuk, and others.

Still, ethnic/national stereotypes have not been widely studied in linguistics. This explains our interest in the research topic.

Thus, the topicality of the research is, firstly, explained by the ubiquity of ethnic/national stereotypes in the modern world and, secondly, by the need to study those linguistic means that provide their ubiquity in English and Russian.

The object of the research is the ethnic/national stereotype.

The subject of the research are linguistic means of stereotyping about the English.

The hypothesis of the research is that ethnic/national stereotypes are long-lasting but likely to change through time.

The aim of the research is the analysis of linguistic means of stereotyping in English and Russian, which provide the memorability of ethnic/national stereotypes.

According to the aim of the research, we put the following objectives:

- 1) to study the notions of “stereotype” and “ethnic/national stereotype”;
- 2) to analyze the linguistic means of stereotyping (English-language sayings, proverbs, jokes and anecdotes, and Russian-language jokes and anecdotes about the English);
- 3) to identify the most widely spread ethnic/national stereotypes about the English (on the basis of analyzing proverbs, sayings, jokes and anecdotes).

The methods of research are the study of literary sources, analysis, synthesis, generalization, and comparison.

The theoretical significance of the research lies in the study of linguistic means which provide the ubiquity and memorability of national stereotypes.

The practical significance of the research is connected with the study of linguistic means of stereotyping about the English which are used in the English and Russian languages. Research materials and research results may be used in the lessons of English while studying such topics as “Socio-cultural portrait of a country”, and “National character”.

The novelty of the research is in identifying ethnic/national stereotypes about the English on the basis of various linguistic means (proverbs and sayings, jokes and anecdotes).

The study material is presented by 39 English-language anecdotes and 54 Russian-language anecdotes, as well as 112 English-language proverbs and sayings.

Main part. While solving the first objective we have learnt that the phenomenon of stereotype is a complex one. It is generally understood as a fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person or thing, but which is often not true in reality [5].

An ethnic / national stereotype is a system of beliefs about typical characteristics of members of a given ethnic group or nationality, their status, society and cultural norms [3]. For example, the Finns are silent, British people are reserved, and Italians are emotionally expressive.

Literary sources show positive and negative traits of the English character [2; 4; 6]. As for the positive traits, the English are called humorous, polite, tolerant, law-abiding (well-disciplined), practical, reserved and entrepreneurial. As for the typical negative traits, they are characterized as superior.

To identify the most widely spread ethnic/national stereotypes about the English we firstly analyzed such historically well-known linguistic means as proverbs and sayings. We used Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary [5]. Out of 176 items we selected 112 items which help to highlight a certain trait of character of the English. We have classified these items into 14 groups according to the traits of character they illustrate. The biggest groups which show the traits of English national character are the following: rationalism, pragmatism (45 items); entrepreneurship (14 items); caution (13 items); optimism (10 items); diligence (8 items).

We suppose that these 5 groups show the traits of character which are historically typical of the English. Let's see some examples. The proverb *"If you can't beat them, join them"* shows that the English are rational and pragmatic. The proverb *"Better late than never"* shows that the English are optimistic.

To see stereotypes in modern linguistic means we analyzed jokes and anecdotes about the English in English and Russian. We used some books of anecdotes and the Internet sites with jokes and anecdotes [1; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11].

First we analyzed 54 Russian-language jokes and anecdotes about the English found in the Internet resources. To select them we made their context analysis by using the following criteria:

- 1) a joke or an anecdote is understood as a short funny story (it may be a few sentences or a few paragraphs long);
- 2) it should have a punch line (the unexpected and funny conclusion) which is intended to make people laugh;
- 3) its characters are English (are called Englishmen, the English, etc.; live in England; pay in English pounds; address each other in an English manner (Sir, Lady).

The following joke is an example which meets our criteria: *"Two Englishmen survived a shipwreck on a desert island. On the ship, they did not know each other. A year later, when they were removed from the island, they did not know how to call each other. Because there was no one to introduce them to each other!"*

As a result of analyzing Russian-language jokes and anecdotes we have learnt the following most popular stereotypical traits of the English: English sense of humour (22 points); Restraint (20 points); Politeness (14 points); Quick-wittedness and entrepreneurship (11 points).

Let's see an example of the most popular trait — English humour:

"В ресторане:

— Ваш английский завтрак, сэр!

— Так, бекон, яичница, фасоль... а где тост?

— Ваше здоровье, сэр!"

The joke shows humour achieved with the help of play on words.

The least popular trait (snobbism) may be illustrated by the following example:

"Английский лорд после кораблекрушения очутился на необитаемом острове, где он построил себе три хижины. Через некоторое время его обнаружил другой корабль. Один из высадившихся матросов спросил:

— А зачем вам три хижины?

— Знаете, в одной я живу, другая — клуб, который я посещаю, а третья — клуб, который я игнорирую".

Next we analyzed 39 English-language jokes and anecdotes about the English.

We have learnt 6 stereotypical traits of English national character. Among them the most popular traits are: Quick-wittedness and entrepreneurship (10 points); Light-heartedness and naiveté (9 points); English humour (6 points); Politeness (5 points).

Let's see an example that shows the quick-wittedness of the English:

"A porter in a British hotel comes upon an American tourist impatiently jabbing at the button for the lift.

"Sir, the lift will be here in a moment."

"Lift? Lift?" replies the American. "Oh, you mean the elevator."

"No sir, here we call it lift."

"Well, as it was invented in the United States, it's called an elevator."

"Yes sir, but as the language was invented here, it's called a lift."

The least popular trait — superiority — may be seen in the following joke.

"A Scottish man and an Englishman are both fighting in a war and are caught by the enemy. "Before we kill you," says the enemy, "do you have any last wishes?" "Yes," says the Englishman. "Could you play the English national anthem before you kill me?" "Sure," says the enemy. "How about you, Scottish?" "Could you kill me before you play the English anthem?" It shows both the superiority and patriotism of the English.

Conclusion. So, as a result of our analysis we can make the following main conclusions:

1. Proverbs and sayings highlight traditional stereotypes about the English (rationalism, pragmatism, entrepreneurship, caution, optimism and diligence).
2. Russian-language jokes and anecdotes also emphasize traditional stereotypes about the English (sense of humour, restraint and politeness).
3. English-language jokes and anecdotes are less likely to reinforce traditional stereotypes about the English (they show quick-wittedness, entrepreneurship, light-heartedness and naiveté).

This proves the changing nature of stereotypes about the English (in the English language) and shows that our hypothesis was right.

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THE BIBLE TRANSLATIONS AND THEIR LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction. The key problem of our investigation is to examine the linguistic changes in the English biblical texts since the 18th to the 20th century. Our aim is to compare these changes in the same contents, but in the texts belonging to different centuries. In this research we examine the English translations of "Parable of Prodigal Son". We used the electronic variants of King James' Version, 1611—1769; Webster Bible, 1883; The New International Version, 1979. We define archaic words and word combinations; compare choice of words and grammar constructions. Also we study text connectors. Moreover, we sum up how much the three examined texts differ from each other. We can see the typical linguistic characteristics in the texts related to different centuries. We come to the conclusion that the linguistic difference of the translations is little in the 1st and the 2nd texts (13%), but it is relevant in the 2nd and the 3^d texts (50%). This fact shows that many changes took place in the translation of the Bible from the 19th to the 20th centuries.

The problem chosen is of current importance as the Bible is the only dimensioned creation which contents came from the 1st century A.D. So, the Bible translations are interesting to investigate. We managed to follow the ways of translations into different languages. As it turned out, modern texts of the Bible were translated into European languages from Latin. The latter translation was made from Hebraic. It was in about 384. This translation is still considered to be an official text of the Bible in Roman Catholic Church.

Main part. In England the earliest Bible translation of psalm-books was made in about 700 A.D. King Alfred (871—901) was also the translator of the Bible. The full English edition of the Bible was published in 1535. It was based on the English translation of 1526, the German translation of 1532 and the Latin Bible. King James 1 approved of the preparation for a new English translation of the Bible. He took part in the organization of this work. The translation appeared in 1611. It was popular for 350 years. King James' Versions were corrected and published many times during the previous years. The important milestones in the history of translations were The Revised Version (1885), The American Standard Version (1901), The Revised Standard Version (1952), The Jerusalem Bible (1966), The New English Bible (1970). The best modern translations are considered to be The Good News Bible (1976) and The New International Version (1979).

Concerning the Slavic translations of the Bible, they appeared thanks to Saint Cyril in the 9th century. He translated New Testament and Old Testament partially. These translations underlie today's Church Slavonic texts