LINGUISTIC REPRESENTATION OF THREAT IN ENGLISH WRITTEN DISCOURSE BASED ON "HUNGER GAMES"

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Această lucrare studiază conceptul THREAT exprimat prin diferite cuvinte, combinări de cuvinte și propoziții. Mai mult ca atât, se prezintă o analiză statistică a semnificațiilor sale în baza exemplelor colectate din trilogia „Hunger Games" scrisă de Suzanne Collins. În plus, sunt comentate aspectele culturale reflectate în conceptul THREAT.

It is known that every nation has its own culture, through which it can be characterized, and a language which cannot be regarded as a separate phenomenon, because it is a medium through which people express their thoughts and feelings. Therefore, we decided to investigate the concept THREAT in the English written discourse, as concepts are means of presenting world views. The aim of this research is to contribute to the study of the concept THREAT by linguistic means of its designation and to shed the light upon the linguistic manifestation of THREAT in the culture of native speakers of English.

Several researchers explored the concept THREAT in modern linguistics, for instance E.V. Slepushkina, A.A. Navitskaite, L.I. Magsumova, N. V. Hohlova, but the novelty of this research consists in the fact that it explores the linguistic manifestation of the concept THREAT in the context of a trilogy of dystopian novels "Hunger Games". Consequently, the objectives are the following: 1) To investigate what other researchers have written about the concept THREAT and the Hunger Games Trilogy; 2) To identify, how the concept of THREAT is objectified in English Language by creating diagrams which present a statistical analysis of its meanings based on the collected examples. 3) To comment on the cultural aspects reflected in the concept THREAT. In order to obtain the set objectives, we have used several research methods and techniques among which: descriptive, statistical, definitional, classification, commentary and interpretation. The theoretical part is based on the researches of the following linguists in the field of linguoculturology and cognitive linguistics: V.I. Karasik, S. G. Vorkaciov, I.S. Stepanov

, N.D. Arutiunova, E.S Kubreakova, D. S. Lihaciov, etc. The primary source used is a trilogy of dystopian novels written by Suzanne Collins: *The Hunger Games* (2008), *Catching Fire* (2009), and *Mockingjay* (2010). Therefore, the corpus contains 170 examples collected from all of three trilogy novels. The examples were compiled while reading, conveying the concept THREAT, basically, by means of sentences, but also words and word-combinations.

After having done the definitional analysis of the THREAT, we have identified that the basic meanings of it are: 1. A promise to harm; 2. Someone/something that is likely to harm; 3. A possibility of danger/trouble [4]. However, based on our primary source, we have found examples which render: 4. An action which implies threat. Moreover, during the classification of the examples, we observed that sometimes it was quite challenging to decide in which category to include some cases. This is the reason why we decided to create the fifth group named "2 units combined" and these two units are 1. Someone/something that is likely to harm and 2. A possibility of danger.

I. Threat – as a promise to harm: X promises Y that something bad will happen to him/her, if Y does not meet certain conditions set by X; X-the one who threatens, Y- the one threatened. For instance: "*If not, you'll be imprisoned*" [1, p. 18]. In this example, one can clearly see that X is in a bad mood and if Y does not do as X says then this will result in something bad for Y. Moreover, we observe that this type of sentence is a conditional (type I), which is used to make statements about the real world.

II. Someone/Something that is likely to harm: In this case there is no direct threat from someone; there is a certain situation, when it is evident who and what appears as a threat for somebody/something. Here, the concept THREAT is expressed through different nouns (common and abstract) and personal pronouns. For instance: *"In theory, it's supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day as a deterrent to the predators that live in the woods- packs of wild dogs, lone cougars, bears- that used to threaten our streets"* [1, p. 5]. We observe that there is no direct addresser who threatens someone, by saying something. However, it is mentioned by the speaker that there is such X, in this case "predators" which threaten people.

III. An action which implies threat: This category represents an

action, which conveys the concept THREAT; X performs something which threatens the safety of Y. Moreover, there are basically two cases when X commits something bad to Y in order to threaten another person Z. For example: *"When he turns back to reach for the spirits, I drive my knife into the table between his hand and the bottle, barely missing his fingers"* [2, p.65]. In the novel X commits this action, because Y has not taken X seriously. Therefore, X throws the knife which threatens Y.

IV. A possibility of danger/trouble: This category is represented by the examples which render the fact that X is under threat and something bad to him/her can happen. Moreover, threat comes from the outside world and X cannot control it. For example: *"Our canary has stopped singing"* [2, p.373]. This example is very important because the canary plays a great role in the novel. The idea is that people from District 12, where Katniss lives, use canary when they work in the coal mines, because when a canary stops singing that means that the air is bad and people have to go out.

V. 2 units combined: This category is invented in order to show that there are examples when the concept THREAT can appear with two meanings in one sentence. In this case, there are examples which contain two categories, for instance: 2. Someone/ Something that is likely to harm and 4. A possibility of danger/ trouble. For instance: *"There could be any number of animals stalking me at this moment"* [1, p.180]. This example is also quite interesting. The animals in this case represent something that can harm; however, there is also the modal verb "could" which shows already the possibility of danger. It is not for sure that there are animals there but the speaker [Katniss] speculates upon the fact that it is possible that they are there.

We have concluded in our thesis that the native speakers of English are more likely to be the observers of the situation than the participants in the fiction novels. Taking into consideration all three diagrams we saw that the categories of "A promise to harm" and "An action which implies threat" have the fewest percent, the first one ranging from 14% to 25%, the second one from 9% -to 0. Moreover, it seems to be clear, that the native speakers of English try to assess the situation and to think about the possibilities of danger and to be watchful in fiction novels.

We have identified the following ways of expressing the concept

THREAT: (1) the concept THREAT can be objectified by means of conditional (type I) which is based on facts and expresses a certain result, for instance "If not, you'll be imprisoned". We have observed that suchlike examples are included in the first group "Threat–as a promise to harm". (2) The concept THREAT can be expressed through various nouns (common and proper) and personal pronouns which characterize it, for instance „predators", „Peeta Mellark", „Gamemakers", „pack", „they", „wasps", „Cato", „Finnick", „fog", „President Snow", etc. When it is clear who or what is likely to harm, we included such cases in the group of "Someone/ something that is likely to harm". (3) The concept THREAT can be objectified through means of modal verbs, which express the probability and possibility, for instance "I must accept that at any moment I can be arrested" and suchlike examples are included in the fourth category "A possibility of danger/ trouble". (4) Sometimes the concept THREAT can be expressed implicationally, then the examples needs an additional explanation for those who have not read the text yet; for instance "But suddenly I am thinking of Gale and his forty-two names in that big glass ball and how the odds are not in his favor.", therefore, here this catchphrase means that Gale does not have many chances to win, that is why there is a possibility of danger.

References:

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