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MODERN PSYCHOLINGUISTIC STUDIES OF EMOTION WORDS AND EMOTION-LADEN WORDS

Domeniul emoțional al individului este un fenomen complex studiat de diverse științe și necesită o abordare integrată. Psiholingvistica modernă, folosind avantajele tehnologiei informatice, se concentrează pe căutarea modului în care o personalitate folosește limba ca instrument de comunicare, cum unitățile lingvistice reflectă personalitatea însăși în toată diversitatea manifestărilor sale, cum imaginea culturală și lingvistică a lumii, care formează atât conștiința lingvistică a personalității, cât și conștiința de sine culturală și etnică a acesteia, perspectiva și înțelegerea lumii, influențează personalitatea lingvistică.

During the last few decades emotions have become the object of study of such scientific disciplines as psychology, neurology, anthropology, economics, linguistics, etc. The interest in the human emotional sphere on the part of researchers is quite justified: since this sphere permeates all aspects of our existence. In general, people's ideas about emotions reflect general (universal) tendencies in their attitude to the world around them, and also suggest that these tendencies can be revealed through the analysis of the word as a means of access to the individual picture of the world.

Nevertheless, it is very difficult to give a precise definition of the concept of emotion and the existing numerous descriptions and classifications of the so-called emotional vocabulary can hardly be called exhaustive. Modern psychology has identified common factors that reveal the essence of emotions: emotions are processes associated with instincts and motives, reflecting the personal significance and assessment of external and internal situations for human life in the form of experiences; emotions accompany almost any manifestation of the subject activity, serve as one of the main mechanisms of internal

regulation of mental activity and behavior, aimed at satisfaction of actual needs. The methodology of the psycholinguistic approach helps to expand the understanding of the emotional sphere of the personality and allows us to study emotional processes in unity and the language as a mental phenomenon.

The psycholinguistic approach to the study of the emotional sphere of personality is based on the concept of "linguistic personality. The paradigm of modern psycholinguistics is focused on the search of how a personality uses language as a communication tool, how language units reflect the personality itself in all the diversity of its manifestations, how the cultural and linguistic picture of the world, which forms both linguistic consciousness of the personality and its cultural and ethnic self-awareness, worldview and worldview influence the linguistic personality. Linguistic consciousness, acts as the main mechanism of reflection of all spheres of personality, including the emotional sphere. [5]

According to Aneta Pavlenko, interest for studying the connections between emotions and language has grown significantly in the past twenty-five years. A vast amount of scientific research has been done on the topic. Initially, researchers in psycholinguistics and linguistics distinguished two kinds of emotion words, namely, "emotion words" and "emotion-laden words". Emotion words directly demonstrate affective states, such as sadness, happiness, while emotion-laden words relate to emotion without referring to certain affective states, such as death, promotion.

Recent psycholinguistic studies on emotion words show that emotion words need to be considered as a separate class of words in the mental lexicon, represented and processed differently from abstract and concrete words. Moreover, positive words have a speed advantage over negative ones in the processing of emotion words with high arousal and either high (positive) or low (negative) valence. [3; 148] Specifically, participants could make faster responses to positive words compared with negative counterparts, and this phenomenon was called positive valence bias.

Katarzyna Bromberek-Dyzman in her article "Cross-linguistic differences affect emotion and emotion-laden word processing: Evidence from Polish-English and Romanian-English bilinguals" informs that cross-linguistic and bilingualism studies have found that different languages conceptualize emotions differently. Also, there are enough

semantic commonalities between languages to allow effective emotional communication, even across vastly different languages. Regarding emotion processing in bilinguals, it is becoming increasingly accepted that how a bilingual processes words denoting emotions may be affected by many factors (e.g. age of acquisition, language proficiency, language immersion, context of acquisition). [1]

Paolo Mairano, Enrico Zovato and Vito Quinci in their work "On the relation between lexical and prosodic cues of emotion in English: a preliminary corpus-based analysis" refer to the researches of such modern scholars as Foolen, Dietrich and Coata who distinguishe between linguistic items and processes used for the expression vs the conceptualization of emotions. According to Foolen, the conceptualization of emotions is illustrated by a sentence such as 'I find that food disgusting', while the expression of emotions is illustrated by the interjection 'yuk!'. The conceptualization of emotions would then mainly be achieved via nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs. Dirven claimed that even prepositions sometimes contribute to the conceptualization of emotions in that they establish relational aspects, e.g. 'love for something'. The expression of emotions is also achieved via diverse linguistic elements and procedures: interjections such as 'yuk', 'wow'; intensifiers such as 'horribly', 'terribly'. Costa states that besides the use of emotional, emotion-laden and emotion-related words emotional morphology, such as Italian pejoratives, e.g. cane 'dog' vs cagnaccio 'bad dog', also contributes to the expression of emotions. Additionally, going beyond the lexical level, Foolen suggests that specific syntactic constructions contribute to the expression of emotions, such as 'a N of a N' exclamative sentences, e.g. 'a bear of a man'. [2]

The humanities and contemporary research are increasingly focused on cognition and use of digital resources and technologies. It is impossible to develop the humanities and learn something new, for example, in linguistics, ignoring the prevalence of information technology in the world. As U.S. Zakharova states, "digital humanities as an interdisciplinary field draws the humanities' gaze to other aspects of research and combines the methodologies and practices of the humanities, social and computational sciences in order to explore the possibilities of interpreting new digital and information technologies and the use of these resources in scientific research" [6;16].

Modern digital psycholinguistic research is focused on human information processing, especially in natural language processing. Technology generates new streams of data, but also offers new methods to gather and analyze data. These new approaches to testing linguistic theories include experimental research of language processing, modeling linguistic change, and more comprehensive ways to document endangered languages. Thus, Z.I. Ryazanova conducts a study of cognitive processing of expressive words of the Russian language, taking into account the influence of the gender attribute through behavioral experiments done with E-Prime software [7].

Javier Serrano-Puche in his article "Emotions and Digital Technologies: Mapping the Field of Research in Media Studies" claims that in the modern world technology not only arouses emotions in users and serves as a channel for the expression of affection, but also influences the way in which this affection is modulated, played out and displayed. The everyday use of digital technology, according to the author, clearly reveals the dominant role of emotions in our time, and how these—by using such technologies–influence the way in which the identity of their users is configured and expressed. [4]

So, in modern times the study of human societies, languages and culture is paired with the digital scholarly research, practices and pedagogies. There has been a surge of scholarly interest in the digital humanities; this surge reflects the dynamic contribution digital tools play in research and teaching, particularly the ways in which sources are searched for and accessed, curated and organized. In the past two decades, cultural studies and cultural sociology have created a rich vocabulary for thinking about emotions, feelings and affect. At a time when emotional experiences and affective relations are becoming increasingly valuable (and measurable) resources, questions about how particular feelings are mobilized by different actors demand carefully substantiated answers.

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