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KEY CONCEPTS IN UNDERSTANDING WORD GROUP FUNCTIONS AND SEMANTIC STRUCTURES

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ABSTRACT

This paper addresses the conceptual delineation and content-related aspects of "lexico-semantic groups" (LSGs) and "functional-semantic classes" (FSCs) of words. It aims to elucidate and define these linguistic categories, establishing their structural and semantic characteristics. Furthermore, it examines the complexity and multidimensionality of semantic relationships in language, and articulates criteria for distinguishing between LSGs and FSCs. The conclusion posited is that lexico-semantic groups constitute a primary framework for the categorization of vocabulary, which facilitates an understanding of the operational dynamics of lexico-semantic groups of verbal predicates at the contemporary stage of linguistic evolution.

KEYWORDS: *Lexico-semantic group, functional-semantic class, semantic ambiguity, linguistic entities, semantics of words, linguistic semantics.*

In recent scholarship, there has been a broadened perspective on the composition and architecture of lexico-semantic groups of linguistic entities, drawing heightened scholarly interest. In this context, several theorists have introduced an advanced notion of such lexical conglomerations, termed "functional-semantic class" (FSC) of words. This concept has emerged from observations of the interplay between linguistic entities and their contextual settings.

The analysis of the lexical semantics of verbs from various groups advances the concept of systemic continuity within language, though it falls short of establishing a unified, universal taxonomy, which is nearly unattainable. Nevertheless, establishing such a taxonomy is not the primary objective for linguists; instead, through pragmatic exploration, numerous complex research questions of a linguistic nature have been formulated. A key focus among these is the exploration of the transitivity and multiplicity of semantic connections in language. This involves delving into the semantic and structural attributes of lexico-semantic groups, and refining the understanding of longstanding debates surrounding the definitions of LSGs and FSCs.

The investigation into how verbs alter their semantic structures within texts has given rise to a distinct field of research, leading to the recognition of a novel synthesis of verbs and predicative constructs known as the "functional-semantic class" (FSC) of words. The methodologies for delineating such word classes are elaborated in the works of L. G. Babenko, who explores the structure of the FSC for feeling predicates. Babenko defines an FSC as "a collection of words with varying grammatical forms, which share a denotative relationship and are linked by a categorical-lexical seme that may be ontologically inherent (original) or contextually induced (derivative), and fulfill a unified semantic-syntactic role in discourse".

In her analyses, the FSC of feeling verbs encompasses not only the explicit verbs of emotion but also functional-textual verbs which, in their fundamental meanings, correspond to different lexico-semantic groups (LSGs), such as those of motion verbs. This suggests that the FSC represents a type of union distinct from the LSGs included within it. At the level of the FSC, similarities between the functional-semantic class and the semantic field become apparent, the latter also encompassing lexico-semantic groups with akin semantic properties. The distinction between these groupings lies in the fact that an FSC is specifically formed and operationalized within the literary text, where verbs from various LSGs undergo diverse semantic transformations: they are metaphorized, acquire associative-figurative meanings, exhibit usage ambivalence, and manifest semantic enrichment or diminution of certain meaning components.

The advancement of Functional-Semantic Class (FSC) theory is intricately linked to continued research into the phenomenon of the emergence of secondary meanings in lexical units within specific contexts. Previously, this phenomenon was identified as "regular polysemy", characterized by the appearance of similar secondary meanings in words belonging to the same Lexico-Semantic Group (LSG). The consistent manifestation of secondary meanings among units sharing a common categorical-lexical seme prompted scholars such as E.V. Kuznetsova, N.A. Kupina, N.A. Borovikova, and S.D. Tomilova to reconsider the study of this type of polysemy, proposing it as indicative of another systemic relational type. Given the extensive variety of peripheral components that inspire these regular secondary meanings, researchers often focus their investigations either on a specific group of verbs or within the narrative scope of a particular literary piece.

To analyze phenomena of regular polysemy effectively, it is essential to explore the relationships among semes that encapsulate a word's meaning. This hierarchical structure is evident not only in interactions between lexical units within a

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group but also in the broader semantic framework of word meanings. Contemporary semasiology views the semantic organization of a word as a system comprised of primarily three types of semes: the nuclear (integral, identifying) seme, the differential (discriminating) seme, and the associative (potential, additional) seme. Thus, similar to the hierarchical structure found in lexico-semantic groups, a word's meaning is divided into a core and a periphery, with the nuclear seme at the core, while differential and associative semes occupy the periphery.

It should be noted that, to date, only a limited number of functional-semantic classes have been comprehensively described in the academic literature. The identification of an FSC often relies on the descriptive practices of metaphoric expressions of actions or states. However, this approach frequently fails to provide a robust corpus for establishing FSCs that are reproducible across texts from specific periods or literary movements, rather than being limited to isolated instances within a single author's oeuvre.

The concept of the "lexical-semantic group (LSG) of words" was initially introduced by V.V. Vinogradov, who also coined the term "lexical-semantic system of language". This conceptualization has proven to be highly influential in the study of the literary language, with the term itself becoming a key element in linguistic analysis. Contemporary linguistic research has extensively explored various LSGs, particularly focusing on verbs, demonstrating the term's substantial utility in linguistic studies.

A lexical-semantic group is defined as a category of words within the same part of speech that share a broad, integral semantic component, or components, supplemented by typical, clarifying differential components. These groups are also noted for their extensive development of functional equivalence and regular ambiguity. Lexico-semantic groups are fundamentally based on lexical semes, yet they also represent a dynamic ensemble of words, continually evolving in both composition and paradigmatic relations. This fluidity and historical variability are emphasized by researcher F.P. Filin, who views LSGs as actual linguistic units reflecting the historical development of a language.

Furthermore, E.V. Kuznetsova observes that LSGs do not form rigidly defined classes of lexical units. Instead, they consist of intersecting and overlapping word combinations, which substantiates the systematic and interconnected nature of vocabulary. This perspective highlights the complexity and the interrelated structure of LSGs, underscoring their significance in understanding the dynamics of language.

Every lexical-semantic group (LSG) is characterized by several common linguistic parameters that define its structure and function within the lexical system of a language.

Firstly, a key paradigmatic feature of words within an LSG is the presence of a single categorical-lexical seme (integral seme) that forms the semantic foundation of the group. This integral seme is central and holds a hierarchical prominence in the structure of lexical meaning. Each LSG contains differential semes that serve to specify and enrich the integral seme; these differential semes are homogeneous and repetitive. Additionally, it is essential to define the term "seme", recognized by linguists such as V. G. Gak, A. A. Ufimtseva, and V. A. Beloshapkova, as the minimal unit of semantic content. Linguistics differentiates between nuclear (main) and peripheral (minor) semes. The term "sememe", which represents the meaning of a word, is less frequently used among linguists due to its lack of distinction among lexical, grammatical, word-formative, and connotative meanings. A lexeme, in turn, is defined as a word encompassing all its meanings and word forms.

Secondly, the presence of similar, recurring semes within an LSG creates a network of semantic connections among the words, forming the internal paradigmatic structure of the group. This structure is inherently hierarchical, as all words within the group are subordinated to a base word (archiseme).

Thirdly, the uniformity of syntagmatic characteristics is another hallmark of words within the same LSG. Common semantic components in the meanings of words predetermine their functional patterns within sentences, thereby defining their higher-level syntactic roles.

Fourthly, the similarity of words in an LSG also manifests through their secondary relationships in the realm of variant relations. This similarity is particularly evident in the phenomenon of regular polysemy, where words with similar primary meanings develop identical secondary meanings. This phenomenon naturally leads to regular synonymy among words within the same semantic group.

An integral component of any LSG is the presence of a base identifier, or base word, which exhibits unique properties distinguishing it from other words in the group. Typically, the base word is more frequently used, reflecting its broader, more general meaning and neutral stylistic connotation, devoid of connotative elements, allowing it to fit seamlessly into various contexts. The semantics of the base word encapsulate the thematic essence of the LSG.

Furthermore, the base identifier is usually characterized by the highest frequency of usage, a feature intrinsic to its role as the central word of the LSG. In some instances, the base identifier may not be a single word but rather a series of synonyms. The structure and composition of LSGs are dynamic, continuously evolving, including changes to their relatively stable centers, such as the base identifier. The syntactic and lexical compatibility of the base word typically sets a pattern for most words within the group, underlining the significance of syntactic compatibility patterns in organizing vocabulary into LSGs.

The analysis of LSGs within specific literary works contributes to expanding the boundaries of a language's lexical-semantic system. Researchers emphasize that the exploration of meaning remains one of the most philosophically significant and intriguing challenges in linguistics.

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Thus, LSGs continue to be a fundamental class of word categories within the lexical system of the language, grouping words of the same part of speech and sharing numerous linguistic characteristics.

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