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The analysis of the lexemes „marriage“ and „family“ according to Kazakh, English and Russian dictionaries

Abstract. This article is devoted to the contrastive analysis of the words *неке / marriage / брак* and *отбасы / family / семья* in the Kazakh, English and Russian languages. The study of the given lexemes is of considerable interest because the notions denoted by them are relevant in the system of social relations of the native speakers of the target languages and their research greatly contributes to understanding of functioning of these language communities. Monolingual explanatory and bilingual translation dictionaries and on-line lexicographic sources are used to reveal the meanings of the words and to specify and analyze the common universal or similar characteristics and national-specific features of the corresponding lexemes.

Key words: lexeme, dictionary, contrastive analysis, universal features, national-specific features, translation, lexical meaning.

Introduction

The second half of the twentieth century witnessed the rapid and progressive development of the Kazakhstani lexicographical science. Various monolingual dictionaries of the Kazakh language, bilingual Kazakh-Russian and Russian-Kazakh dictionaries were compiled and published. Such prominent scholars as N.T. Sauranbayev, S.K. Kenesbayev, G.G. Musabaev, Sh.Sh. Sarybaev, A.I. Iskakov and many other linguists were well known for their contribution to the sphere of Kazakh theoretical and applied lexicography. In the paper “On the semantic characteristics of words (on the materials of Kazakh language dictionaries)”, Academician S.K. Kenesbayev raised the problem of the importance and necessity of identifying the lexical meaning of the word and understanding its semantic content [1].

It is obvious that revealing the meanings of words is the main task of any linguistic (monolingual and bilingual) dictionary. The importance of semantic characteristics is dictated by the purpose of any lexicographical work in general, and an explanatory dictionary in particular irrespective of the language it represents. Explanatory dictionaries should

include relatively a brief or full interpretation of meanings of the word, and not merely the bare list of registered words in the alphabetical order, followed in their entries by a series of grammatical, stylistic, and other characteristics.

This kind of problem is also mentioned by scholars compiling other types of dictionaries. The objective of the dictionary is to show the lexical richness of the language to the extent that it covers it. A word or a phrase, taken as a whole lexical-semantic unit, in the historical and genetic relation, has its own basic fundamental relevance traditionally passed from generation to generation and understood and accepted similarly by the speaker and the listener [2].

Kazakhstani scientists note that in lexicographic and translation practice, we always experience difficulties in finding appropriate words and their semantic characteristics in bilingual and explanatory dictionaries and in rendering and translating particular scientific papers, publicist articles and works of fiction from Russian into the Kazakh language and vice versa. Similar difficulties are connected with translation from and into the English language. It cannot be assumed that the

semantic meaning of the word in all cases can be represented only through a universal side missing its national identity.

Methods

To identify the common universal and national-specific features of the lexemes *marriage* and *family*, we analyzed their definitions and explanations from bilingual translation and monolingual explanatory dictionaries in the Kazakh, English and Russian languages. During research there were applied the method of continuous sampling which contributed to effectively select all manifestations of the target lexemes usages and the basics of the method of contrastive description of lexis presented in the paper “Contrastive Analysis in Contemporary Linguistics” by I.A. Sternin [3]. The method of analyzing definitions of the words *marriage* and *family* given in different lexicographic sources was also applied in the paper to discover the national-specific features and common universal features of the content of the lexemes in the target languages. The necessity of analyzing and interpreting dictionary definitions as a source of revealing semantic components of words found the theoretical substantiation in the works of I.V. Arnold, Ye.F. Arsentieva, Yu.V. Karaulov, A.M. Kuznetsov, E.V. Kuznetsova, V.V. Levitsky, S.G. Shafikov and many other scientists and the peculiarities and stages of preliminary generalizing dictionary definitions are described in detail by I.A. Sternin [4].

Main body

In practical lexicography, in particular in the branch of lexicography which is connected with compiling dictionaries of different types, the major problem is the representation and interpretation of the word lexical meaning. The solution of this issue is also a challenge and objective of theoretical lexicography, which in the last decades of the twentieth century made a significant progress thanks to the works of such scholars as L.V. Shcherba, V.V. Vinogradov, S.I. Ozhegov, L.S. S. Stepanov, Yu. Karaulov, V.V. Morkovkin, L.S. Kovtun and others. The internal organization of words and their semantics are explained in the dictionary according to its type, purpose, volume, specialization and organization. The main objective of dictionaries is the codification and presentation of the vocabulary of any language as a system of lexical units. The same refers to dictionary definitions.

It should be noted that dictionary definitions are regarded to be the main component in various kinds of dictionaries, they help to clarify and describe

the semantic content of words, word combinations, various collocations and phraseological units. As the object of investigation vocabulary definitions deepen and expand scientific knowledge about the structure and inherent characteristics of lexical meaning [1].

To identify the universal and national-specific features of the words *marriage* and *family*, we analyzed the lexicographic sources of different types in the English, Kazakh and Russian languages.

The Longman Active Study Dictionary gives the following definitions of the word *family*: 1) a group of people that are related to each other, especially parents and their children; 2) children; 3) a group of things, especially animals or plants that are related [5].

The On-line explanatory dictionary of the Russian language compiled by S.I. Ozhegov defines the lexeme *семья* in the following way: 1) Группа живущих вместе близких родственников. 2) перен. Объединение людей, сплоченных общими интересами (высок.). 3) Группа животных, птиц, состоящая из самца, самки и детенышей, а также обособленная группа некоторых животных, растений или грибов одного вида [6].

The Explanatory Dictionary of the Kazak Language edited by Zhanuzakov T. differentiates the following meanings of the word *отбасы*: *Жанұя* (family) – synonym to the word *отбасы* [*отбасы, ошақ қасы – hearth*] – *үй іші* (home), *бала-шаға* (children). [7].

In the English-Kazakh dictionary the lexeme *family* is translated into Kazakh as 1. *отбасы, ру*; 2. *тұқымдас* [8, 92].

In the Russian-Kazakh dictionary the lexeme *family* has the following definitions: 1. *Жанұя, отбасы*; 2. *шаңырақ, әулет, үй-іші* [9, 641].

In the Kazakh language the word *family* (represented by the lexemes *отбасы, жанұя, отау*, the central of which is the word *отбасы*) is assigned to a specific sphere of social relations, while the English word *family* has some semantic features of categoriality of the English language, it is also used to denote some groups of animals, plants, family of languages, united by certain relations, e.g. *the cabbage family, the Austronesian language family, the Indo-European family of languages* [10]. Therefore, the word *family* is given such translation as *тұқымдас* (literally: belonging to the one and same family) in English-Kazakh dictionary.

The word “*family*” in all three languages means *a group, living relatives in close relationships*.

The English explanatory dictionary gives the phrase *a single-parent family* (literal meaning: having one parent) [10]. In the Russian explanatory

dictionary after the definition of the phrase there was found a word combination *многодетная семья* (having more than 3 children). In the Kazakh explanatory dictionary such phrases and words were not discovered. It is important to note the presence of the word *ру / род*, suggesting the national specificity of the meaning of the word *family* in the Kazakh language.

We see that in the Kazakh language, the concept of *family* is expressed by several synonymous lexemes: *отбасы* — neutral, official and scientific, *жанұя* — publicistic and colloquial, *үй іші, ошақ* — neutral and colloquial. It is also necessary to mention the word *отай* which contains the additional component *жас* (young). The verb *отасу*, which is connected with the same category, means *to live together*; it is also stylistically neutral. The Kazakh synonymous words *отбасы, жанұя, үй іші, ошақ, отай* do not cover the meaning of a certain subdivision within a particular category as in the Russian language (group of animals, a group of related languages) [6]. The definition of a *language family* is equivalent to a Kazakh phrase *тілдер тобы* — i.e. *language group*. This meaning of the word *family* in the Russian language is transferred by the Kazakh words *мон / зпунна*.

Therefore, we can conclude that in the Kazakh language, the word *family* is not used to refer to a group of related languages, plants, animals. However, in the Kazakh language, it is expressed by a large number of stylistic synonyms exceeding those in the English and Russian languages.

The Longman Active Study Dictionary specifies the following meanings of the word *marriage*: 1) a relationship between two people who are married, or the state of being married; 2) a wedding ceremony [5]. It should be noted that Merriam-Webster on-line dictionary defines the word *marriage* as follows: 1) the state of being united as spouses in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law; 2) an act of marrying or the rite by which the married status is effected; 3) an intimate or close union [10].

In accordance with the *On-line explanatory dictionary of the Russian language* the word *брак* has such meanings as 1) Семейные супружеские отношения между мужчиной и женщиной; 2) Сопровождаемое обрядом бракосочетания христианское таинство вступления в супружество [6].

In the Explanatory Dictionary of the Kazakh Language the following meanings of the word *неке* are registered *marriage, wedding, matrimony, union of men and women* [7, 343]. It is indicated there that the word *неке* is used when a man and a woman

become husband and wife (*Ер адам мен әйелдің ерлі-зайыпты болын бас қосуы*). Also, it appears in a variety of word combinations and phrases such as *Неке жүзігі [сақинасы]* — Wedding Ring. *Неке куәлігі [қағазы]* — Marriage certificate. *Неке сарайы* — wedding Palace. *Неке суы* — after marriage, the traditional drink for the bride and groom is given. *Неке бұзды* — to get divorced. *Некесін қиды* — to get engaged) [7, 616-617].

The English word *marriage* is translated into the Kazakh language as: 1. *Неке (marriage lines – неке туралы куәлік, civil marriage – азаматтық неке)* 2. *Үйлену тойы (wedding)* [9,192].

In the *On-line Explanatory Dictionary* of the English language *marriage* is defined as ‘a relationship between two people who are married, a union between a man and a woman, recognized by the law’. One of the meanings of the word is ‘a close union’ (for example, *the marriage of painting and poetry* — J. T. Shawcross) [10]. As for the Kazakh explanatory dictionary is concerned, the word *marriage* is not given a similar interpretation there.

As it was mentioned before, according to the Russian Explanatory Dictionary, the word *marriage* denotes such notions as *family, marital relationship between a man and a woman*. It also gives the combinability of the word with such verbs as *вступить, расторгнуть* (to enter, to terminate), with which the word *marriage* is frequently used, as well as with the adjectives *гражданский и незарегистрированный* (civil, unregistered).

In the English monolingual dictionary of expressions and words, the number of words which are used in combination with the word *marriage* is rather diverse and varied, for instance, *mixed marriage, morganatic marriage, gay marriage, open marriage, conventional marriage*, etc. In the Kazakh and Russian dictionaries there is no definition of the same-sex marriage. In the Russian explanatory dictionary the meaning of the word combination *trial marriage* is expressed by the adjective *unregistered (незарегистрированный брак)*. It is well known that civil marriages have become popular in modern society.

Further, the dictionary provides synonyms for the word *marriage* — *wedlock, matrimony (marriage), wedding (marriage)*. there are also antonyms — *single life* (literally: a lonely life), *bachelorhood* (literally: bachelor period), *separation* (literally: disconnection), *divorce, annulment* (literally: cancellation) [10].

As we can see the semantic scope of the words *family* and *marriage* in the English language is a little broader than in the Kazakh and Russian languages.

The lexemes *marriage* and *family* in the English and Russian languages are polysemantic, but in the Kazakh language it is different. A common semantic feature of the lexemes *marriage* and *family* in three languages is their perception as ‘groups of people’ (*relatives living together*). In the Kazakh language there are used different synonymous lexemes to denote the notion of family – *отбасы* (family) / *жанұя* (family) / *ошақ* (literally: hearth) / *ру* (family tree). That proves a rich lexical fond of the Kazakh language.

It is very interesting that the word *family* in the meaning of *a group of animals, group of related languages* is the same in the English and Russian languages, as for the Kazakh language a similar definition of the word ‘family’ has not been discovered.

Conclusion

The Kazakh and Russian dictionaries do not provide antonyms and synonyms as it is in the English dictionaries. It is quite probable that dictionaries in the English language are updated

very often, especially it concerns online dictionaries. However, we can't state about the smaller lexical stock of words in the Kazakh and Russian languages, because such words and phrases found in the English dictionary weren't simply registered and provided in the Kazakh and Russian languages.

It is essential that in the explanatory dictionaries of words when describing the real semantic features should be clearly identified for underlying all lexical meanings of the word. Therefore, the explanation and definition cannot be replaced by a self-contained set of features lacking real meanings and interpretation of the lexical meaning of the word remains one of the most important issues of modern theoretical lexicography and semasiology [1].

It is important to observe and monitor the development of the language and include new words in dictionaries and to expand the meanings of already existing definitions that arise due to the development and changes in the society, as well as to take into account the potential process of resetting cultural values.

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