

MIXED METHODOLOGY IN THE RESEARCH OF THE CONCEPT “PATRIOTISM” IN MODERN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with the problem of integrating the results obtained through different methods. The mixed methodology is considered to be the most effective method for an in-depth and detailed description of the semantic structure of the word and the conceptual content of the concept.

Mixed methodology revealed some hidden associative potential in the words and expressions relating to the concept “patriotism”. This potential was revealed through the experiment in which certain word-stimuli are actualized. By identifying, generalizing, summarizing, and extracting the connections between word-stimuli and reactions, the combination creating the associative dimension of the concept was formed.

The study of the associative dimension of the concept is impossible without considering the correlation between common approaches and trends in linguistics and the humanities. Anthropocentrism, as an approach to the study of language, society, and the human, recognizes the relevance of the study of “living” knowledge. The recognition of the relevance of the study of the “living” knowledge implies the recognition of the necessity of the study of the possibilities of the research of the essence of the “living” knowledge, as well as the recognition of the necessity of the study of the means of representation of the structures of knowledge and consciousness.

The conceptual sphere of the nation is determined by the specifics of the cultural markers that are valid within the premises of the nation’s worldview at a definite stage.

Since the dictionary meaning of the word neither reflects the “life” of the word marked by temporal and spatial shifts, determination of the real psychological meaning of the word should involve the analysis of its associative meaning. The necessity of the analysis of the associative meaning of the word determines the relevance of the research.

Keywords: mixed methodology, associative experiment, “living” word, cognitive signs, linguocultural, lingo cognitive, and semantic analysis

Introduction

The information existing in the lexicographical sources is not sufficient for creating an adequate and reliable lexical database reflecting the full potential of the language.

The relevance of the problem of synthesizing quantitative and qualitative methods in linguistic research is evident today. This problem involves solving the difficulties associated with applying the mixed methodology.

Construction of the associative dimension of the concept allows for determining the place of the content of a particular concept and the meaning of a particular word in the hierarchy of the meanings and thoughts of native speakers.

The completeness of the concept analysis is ensured by an integrative methodology. The mentioned type of methodology unites the linguacultural, lingo-cognitive, and experimental components of the research.

Conceptualization is one of the most important processes in human cognitive activity, which implies understanding the information received. Understanding of this information results in the creation of concepts, conceptual structures, mental representations, new quanta of knowledge, and the entire human conceptual system. Conceptualization refers to organizing - "packaging" - of chaotic information about the external world.

In the modern cognitively oriented linguocultural direction, the lingual conceptualization of the world is realized as an organized process of cognitive modeling of reality. The main result of this process is the creation of the "linguistic worldview."

A purely linguistic methodology is not enough to analyze linguistic phenomena - the need to apply new approaches is evident.

The anthropocentric paradigm has enabled linguists to apply the conceptual and methodological apparatus of various sciences. The conceptual-categorical apparatus of psychology turned out to be the most relevant for our research. The mentioned apparatus is the only one providing access to the essence of conceptualization.

In psycholinguistic methodology, concepts are realized as dynamic formations that form segmented conceptual chains. The combinations of the components of these chains determine the content of the concept.

The concept is a discrete mental formation that has an orderly internal structure. The concept is the result of the cognitive activity of an individual and a community. The concept shows the attitude of the lingual community towards an object or event.

The minimal structural element of the conceptual content is considered to be the cognitive sign - the discrete unit constructed as a result of the componential or distributional analysis, analysis of lexical definitions, contextual analysis, and psycholinguistic experiment.

The combination of the cognitive signs creates the conceptual content. Cognitive signs differ from each other in proximity to the prototype - some cognitive signs are closer to the prototype, while others are more distant to the main content of the concept. Cognitive signs form a certain hierarchy.

The conceptual sphere is a hierarchically organized set of concepts of national culture formed as a result of the nation's cognitive and evaluative activity. The mentioned activity is focused on accessing the world and understanding the existing information about the world.

Methodology

In the research, the analysis of the specifics of methodology and methods is focused on: revealing the peculiarities of the data organization and processing through the use of the quantitative research methods; analysing the methodological foundations and peculiarities of the qualitative research; identifying the specifics of the qualitative content analysis; defining the determinants of reliability and validity of the research; realizing mixed methodology and triangulation as a central methodological concept; analysing the specifics of the free association experiment as a tool for the study of the content of the linguistic consciousness (Bryman, 2007).

Understanding the essence of the research requires the knowledge of its methodological foundations based on the relevant paradigms. Understanding the essence of the research paradigm requires answering three fundamental questions: What can be understood about a particular fragment of the worldview? What is the relationship between the researcher and the research object? How should a researcher explore what he/she wants to understand?

These interrelated questions define the specifics of the research.

Unlike quantitative research based on a positivist paradigm, qualitative research is based on a constructivist paradigm - a qualitative researcher perceives the research reality not as an objective fact but as a socially constructed phenomenon. Quantitative researchers consider reality to be objective, while qualitative researchers believe that reality is intersubjective because it is shared by individuals (Litosseliti, 2018).

According to Irwin Goffman, any person tries to fit his action into a "frame" that

fits the given context. By doing this, a person tries to make the desired impression on the audience (Goffman, 1956).

It is through this type of “frame” that the interaction between the researcher and the research subject takes place. In order to make the desired impression, both parties must play their “role” properly. In contrast to quantitative research, in which the ethical approach is dominant (vision of reality from the perspective of an external actor), qualitative research is led by an internal approach (vision of reality from the perspective of an internal actor) (Litosseliti, 2018).

Since the reconstruction of the semantic and conceptual structures without identifying associative connections is impossible, the study of the concept “patriotism” required to conduct a free-associative experiment.

In the research, the methodology of conducting a psycholinguistic experiment is based on the ideas of linguocognitive modeling and the principles of the experimental analysis of the concept.

The technology of conducting the experiment is based on a free association method aimed at identifying typical association links.

Results and Discussion

Ranking the cognitive signs embedded in the structure of the concept revealed core and peripheral cognitive signs. One of the most important steps in analyzing the data of the free association experiment is to determine the compliance/in compliance of these data with the cognitive signs.

As a result of the textual analysis, categories were formed and given the appropriate codes:

- Category I. Perception of patriotism;
- Category II. Perception of the patriot;
- Category III. Symbolism;
- Category IV. Perception of non-patriotism;
- Category V. Perception of non-patriot;
- Category VI. Symbolism.

In the category of perception of patriotism, some subcategories were identified and given the appropriate codes: 1.1 Unconditional love for the homeland; 1.2

Loyalty to the homeland; 1.3 Responsibility to the homeland and the people; 1.4 Willingness to make sacrifices for the homeland; 1.5 Protection of freedom and independence; 1.6 Pride in the history of one's own country; 1.7 Service of the country; 1.8 Active citizenship; 1.9 Professionalism; 1.10 Supporting the decisions of the country leaders; 1.11 Voicing oppositional attitudes towards government activities; 1.12 Protection of identity and culture; 1.13 Adherence to the democratic and individual values; 1.14 Arbitrariness, illogicality, and irrationality of patriotism; 1.15 Challenge for multicultural communities; 1.16 Neglecting the ideal of equality.

In the category of the perception of the patriot the following subcategories were identified and given the appropriate codes: 2.1 Veteran; 2.2 Soldier; 2.3 Warrior; 2.4 Hero; 2.5 Professional; 2.6 Doctors.

In the category of symbolism, the following subcategories were identified and given the appropriate codes: 3.1 Flag; 3.2 Hymn; 3.3 Places and monuments; 3.4 Traditions and rituals; 3.5 Monarchy; 3.6 Queen; 3.7 President.

In the category of perception of nonpatriotism, the subcategories were given the following codes: 4.1 Jingoism; 4.2 Nationalism; 4.3 Chauvinism; 4.4 Cosmopolitanism; 4.5 Extremism; 4.6 Pseudo patriotism; 4.7 Reactionism; 4.8 Blind patriotism; 4.9 Authoritarianism; 4.10 Monarchical patriotism; 4.11 Racism.

In the category of perception of nonpatriots the identified subcategories were given the following codes: 5.1 Extremist; 5.2 Pseudo patriot; 5.3 Cosmopolitan; 5.4 Racist.

In the category of symbolism, the identified subcategory was given the appropriate code: 6.1 Waving the flag.

The analysis of the textual material revealed that the age and gender characteristics influence the perception of the respondents. The mentioned fact is manifested in the quantitative content analysis.

Category I

The texts constructed by the older generation are dominated by the perception of patriotism and nationalism as two sides of the same coin. The number of cases of using nationalism with a positive connotation is – 15.

In the texts constructed by the representatives of the older generation, there are 17 cases of perception of nationalism as a necessary factor for the development of the country.

Between patriotism and cosmopolitanism, the choice of patriotism is made by the majority of the older generation - 14 cases.

For most of the younger and older generations, the essence of patriotism lies in the fight against extremism - 32 cases.

Pride in one's own country is considered patriotism by the majority of the younger and older generations - 29 cases.

The service of the country is considered patriotism by the majority of the representatives of the younger and older generations - 26 cases.

Loyalty to the homeland is equated with patriotism by the majority of the younger and older generations - 28 cases.

Unconditional love is associated with patriotism for the majority of the older generation - 17 cases.

Unconditional love is equated with patriotism by the minority of the young generation - 3 cases.

Patriotism is associated with the responsibility to the homeland and the people for the majority of the younger and older generations - 32 cases.

Some representatives of the older generation - 11 cases - see the essence of patriotism in the readiness to make sacrifices for the homeland.

The number of the cases of associating patriotism with the willingness to sacrifice for the homeland is much lower among the younger generation - 6 cases.

For most representatives of the older generation the essence of patriotism lies in the fight against extremism and extremists - 16 cases.

The protection of freedom and independence is considered to be patriotism by the majority of the young and older generations - 35 cases.

Active citizenship is associated with patriotism for the majority of the younger generation - 17 cases.

Active citizenship is equated with patriotism by the minority of the older generation - 5 cases.

For some representatives of the younger generation the essence of patriotism lies in professionalism - 18 cases.

No case of associating patriotism with professionalism was identified in the interviews with the representatives of the older generation - 0 cases.

Some representatives of the older generation view patriotism in support of the decisions of the country leaders - 11 cases.

The minority of the younger generation believe that it's patriotic to support the decisions of the country leaders - 3 cases.

The texts constructed by the younger generation are dominated by the perception of patriotism as an expression of the oppositional attitudes towards the activities of the government - 18.

Protection of the democratic and individual values is considered to be patriotism by the majority of the young and older generations - 31 cases.

The idea of arbitrariness, illogicality and irrationality of patriotism is observed among the representatives of the younger generation - 5 cases.

The idea of arbitrariness, illogicality and irrationality of patriotism is not observed among the representatives of the older generation - 0 cases.

The idea of perceiving patriotism as a challenge for multicultural societies is observed among the younger generation - 7 cases.

Two cases of perceiving patriotism as a challenge for multicultural societies are recorded among the older generation.

For a minority of the younger generation, patriotism is associated with the neglect of the ideal of equality - 7 cases.

The case of associating patriotism with the neglect of the ideal of equality was not observed in the interviews with the representatives with the older generation - 0 cases.

Category II

The texts constructed by the representatives of the older generations are dominated by the perception of veterans, soldiers, warriors and heroes as patriots - 19 cases.

Veterans, soldiers, warriors and heroes are perceived as patriots by a minority of the younger generation - 8 cases.

14 cases of perception of professionals and doctors as patriots are recorded among the representatives of the younger generation.

Professionals and doctors are perceived as patriots by a minority of the older generation - 4 cases.

Category III

Rituals, traditions and symbols are considered an important factor in maintaining a patriotic spirit by the majority of the older generation - 15 cases.

Most of the young generation do not attach much importance to rituals, traditions and symbols to maintain a patriotic spirit - 16 cases.

Category IV

The texts constructed by 22 representatives of the younger generation are dominated by the idea of the need to protect patriotism from nationalism and cosmopolitanism. The number of cases of using nationalism and cosmopolitanism with negative connotations is - 18.

The texts constructed by 22 representatives of the younger generation record 15 cases of perceiving nationalism as a threat to international relations and progress.

The majority of the representatives of the younger generation chooses between patriotism and cosmopolitanism over cosmopolitanism - 18 cases.

For most of the representatives of the younger and older generations, patriotism rules out extremism, reactionism and racism - 31 cases.

Negative perceptions of blind patriotism are observed among the representatives of the younger and older theories - 22 cases.

Category V

The texts constructed by the representative of the younger and older generations are dominated by the perception of extremists and racists as non-patriots - 39 cases.

Cosmopolitan people are perceived as non-patriots by some representatives of the older generation - 11 cases.

Category VI

For the majority of the representatives of the the younger generation, the “flag” is used with the negative connotation as it is associated with “flag waving”, which, in turn, is perceived as false patriotism - 12 cases.

Some representatives of the younger generation (4 cases) associate the “flag” with the negative aspects of the country’s history, namely, slavery and injustice.

No case of associating the “flag” with negative aspects of the country’s history was recorded in the interviews with the representatives of the older generation - 0 cases.

There are two types of validity with regard to the content of the texts:

Selection Validity - texts adequately reflect the set of texts to which the results of a given study should be applied;

Semantic Validity - categories accurately describe meanings integrated into texts, in other words, the constituent units of the categories created within a given study have exactly the meaning they were assigned.

The results of quantitative content analysis, in fact, replicate the results of conceptual content research of the concept “patriotism”, in other words, the categories and subcategories formed in quantitative content correspond to the semantic components of the concept content - cognitive signs (“love of country”; “pride in homeland”; “desire to preserve cultural characteristics”; Readiness ‘’, etc.). The correlation between the results of the quantitative content analysis and conceptual analysis is particularly sharp in the case of the core repertoire of the categories identified through quantitative content analysis and the cognitive signs identified as a result of conceptual analysis.

The results of the quantitative content analysis correspond to the data obtained from the analysis of the semantic volume of the concept “patriotism” in lexicographical sources; in other words, the categories and subcategories formed in the quantitative content correspond to the components of the meaning of the word “patriotism” (“Loyalty to the country, the people”; “Responsibility to the homeland and the people”; “Willingness to make any sacrifice for the interests of the homeland”; “Loyalty, fervent love”, etc.). The correlation between the results of the quantitative content analysis and semantic analysis is evidenced in the core repertoire of categories identified through the quantitative content analysis and semantic analysis.

The results of the quantitative content analysis also correspond to the continuum of the associative dimension of the concept “patriotism” constructed as a result of a free association experiment.

On the periphery of the associative dimension the following associations were placed: “Pride of Culture”; “Attributes, Symbols Related to Patriotism” (capital, anthem, flag); “Political and moral principle, the content of which is the love of the homeland and the willingness to sacrifice for the homeland”; “Ideology and state policy aimed at preserving national identity, national ideals and values, traditions and culture”.

Associations with militarization, politicization, and ideology were also placed on the periphery of the associative dimension.

Modeling of the associative dimension ensured the possibility to represent the content of the word “patriotism” as well as to identify the stable components of that content. Due to the mentioned possibility the construction of the associative dimension is considered to be a tool for analyzing the word meaning.

While providing the possibility to reveal the national peculiarities of the linguistic consciousness of the representatives of a particular ethnos, the associative dimension is considered to be not only a fragment of human verbal memory, but also a fragment of the worldview embedded in the consciousness of a particular ethnos.

The analysis of the data of the free association experiment revealed the actual psychological meaning of the word “patriotism” and the range of its associativeness. The latter represents the psychological meaning of the “living”word. The psychological meaning of the word goes beyond the dictionary definitions of the word.

Conclusion

The content of the concept “patriotism” is marked by the specifics of time and space. This fact is revealed in the presence of the chronotopic markers – variables in the content of the concept.

The mentioned markers ensure the dynamism, variability and discretion of the content of the concept, in other words, the mentioned markers ensure the emergence of free positions in the content structure of the concept.

It is thanks to the constants that the concept acquires the status of moral and ideological dominance in the linguistic consciousness of the language speakers.

The similarity of the data obtained by different methods and approaches points to the reproducibility and intersubjectivity of the research data.

The practical realization of the integral approach implies overcoming the dictionary definitions, revealing the associative potential embedded in the concept, defining the place of the concept in the consciousness of the native speakers, in other words, defining the place of the concept in the the system of the cultural meanings of the lingual society.

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