

# SEMANTIC COHERENCE IN THE MICROFIELDS OF PERSON PORTRAYING IN THE UKRAINIAN AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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The issue of lexical synonyms has been of crucial importance in Ukrainian language studies but every period of its development sets new tasks before scientists. Nowadays we observe an increasing interest towards research studies that tackle the coherence in languages between the notions which imprint the linguistic environment. *The goal* of the work is to study the Ukrainian adjectives with the dominants *товстий* and *тонкий* and the English adjectives with the dominants *thick* and *thin* which are members of the blocks united by the common meaning “width of a body”. *The topicality* of the work coheres with the significance of those widely spread segments of lexis that are irreplaceable and decisive both for fiction and routine interaction due to the increasing focus on the imprinting of objective and conceptual world pictures.

The block with a dominant *товстий* consists of the words *товстий-повний-натоптаний-угодований-дорідний-дебелий-огрядний-повнотілий-одутлий-пухлий-опасистий-барилкуватий-діжкуватий-жирний-широкий*. The context allows us to single out the semes which characterize the meaning of the word *товстий*: “great width” and “stoutness which is more than a norm”. Some words have the meaning of affectionateness: *товстенський* and *товстесенський*; the word *товстуватий* with the suffix *уват-* means the insufficient intensity of a feature. The language analysis of the adjectives *товстенський* and *товстесенський* has shown that diminutive word formations are the most distinctive and lively segments of the utterances. In the process of their perception both the language forms of the diminutives and extralinguistic factors are significant. The former not only expresses emotional attitude towards an object these words denote but attaches a certain expressive shade to the whole utterance.

The words which denote the abundant intensity of a feature include: *товстелезний, товстенний, товстючий, товстющий, товщенний*. The context

allows us to single out the semes which characterize the meaning of the word *товстий*: “great width” and “stoutness which is more than a norm”. The words which denote the abundant intensity of a feature include: *товстелезний, товстенний, товстючий, товстющий, товщенний*. Close to *товстий* is *повний* with its meaning “в міру товстий, округло-пухкий “[ 3] which realizes within this block the derivative meaning: “Повна, дебела постать його, в піджаці і штанях у чоботи ступає важко і твердо” (В.Винниченко). The adjective *повний* does not contain an indicator of width, that’s why its seme content can be limited to one seme ‘stoutness which is more than a norm’. The illustrative material and our card index allow us to reveal the integral semes in the meaning of the word *натоптаний*: “great width“, “stoutness which is more than a norm “and a sociolinguistic seme “colloquial style of speech “. The words *утоптаний / втоптаний* are rarely used variants of this adjective.

The next constituent of this block is *угодований / вигодований*: “Земський начальник Михайло Денисович Самоцвіт, *вигодований*, опецькуватий чолов’яга ... вийшов із душних покоїв надвір...” (В.Винниченко). In this lexical and semantic variant, we single out such integral semes: “great width“and “stoutness which is more than a norm “. Additional in the meaning of the word *дорідний* – “високого зросту, коренастий, товстий “[3] is a seme “height which is more than a norm “. This seme is not crucial for this lexical and semantic variant: “Він [ господар] сидів, поклавши товсті руки на стіл, навалившись на них своїм тяжким *дорідним* тілом (Григорій Тютюнник). The adjective *дебелий* with the meaning “міцної будови тіла; повний, здоровий “[ 3] realizes its direct meaning in this lexical group: “...один уже старий, *дебелий*, грубий з вигляду, мабуть, грубий не тільки тілесно,але й душевно...” (П.Загребельний ). Close to this adjective is the word *огрядний* – “товстий, опасистий “[ 3], which enters this block by a shade of the direct meaning: “...був [Сомко] високий, *огрядний* собі пан, кругловидий, русявий; голова в кучерях, як у золотому вінку; очі ясні, веселі, як зорі...” (П.Куліш). The seme content of the adjective *повнотілий* (“який має повне тіло; товстий, огрядний “[3] is completely expressed in its structure: “great in

width“ and “ stoutness which is more than a norm”. The word *одутлий* - “товстий, опасистий“ [ 3] is often used , due to the relation with the direct meaning of this word , for the characteristics of a face of a person who is as a rule unhealthy and suffers from some diseases. The seme content of this adjective coincides with the meaning of the word *пухлий* – “досить повний, з округлими формами, рисами (про людину, її обличчя, тіло); пухкий“ [3] : “ Пані вкотила, як на колесах; *пухла* така, ніби на дріжджах зійшла “ ( М.Вовчок ). The integral semes of the microfield are available in the meaning of the word *опасистий* : “ ...до кабінету вступили *опасистий*, важкий Дятлов та вогниста, гнучка, як лозинка, Россет...”( Ю.Мушкетик ). The comparison with the names of household items is present in the meaning of the words *барилкуватий* – ‘схожий на барило; опуклий, круглий, товстий “ [3] and *діжкуватий*- “ подібний формою до діжки “ [ 3]. The resemblance with household items is expressed with the help of the suffix -уват-. The development of the lowered meaning in the names of household items is a widely spread phenomenon in linguistics [1, p.101]. It especially noticeable when the names of household items are used figuratively concerning people. The adjectives *барилкуватий* and *діжкуватий* express resemblance to these objects. The vivid inner form of these words allows to rank them among the synonyms with negative assessment. The seme of excessive fat is present in the meaning of the adjective *жирний*- “товстий, гладкий, відгодований (про людей, тварин або частини їх тіла)“ [3] . The word *широкий* – “те саме, що огрядний “[3] realizes in this group of adjectives a shade of the direct meaning: “Він [Одинець] і сам круглий, *широкий*, товстий, з обличчям здичавілого епікурейця – товсті сластолюбні губи ...” (Ю.Мушкетик). So we have come to the conclusion that the thickness can be expressed through excessive width and *широкий* should be considered as a contextual synonym to *товстий*.

The block with the dominant *тонкий* includes such words: *тонкий, тендітний, нетовстий, тонкостанний, лозинуватий, стрункий, стрункостанний, виструнчений*. The nucleus group is formed by the adjectives *тонкий, тендітний, нетовстий, стрункий*. The peripheral part is formed by the

words *тонкостанний, лозинуватий, стрункостанний, виструнчений*. Close to the dominant are some words with the suffixes of diminutive assessment: *тоненький, тонесенький, тонісінький, тонюсінький* and the word *тонкуватий* with insufficient level of intensity of a feature: “Був він *тоненький*, можна сказати, ніжний і якийсь запашний, як шкіра з абрикоса “( М.Хвильовий ). In the meaning of the word *тонкий* we have singled out the integral denotative and significant seme “small in width”: “Ніжність ця... повивала всю постать його, *струнку* й *тонку*“ (В.Винниченко. The connotative seme of positive assessment is present in the meaning of the words *стрункий* and *тонкий* which are used by the author to express not only his personal positive attitude towards his character but the strong feeling of passion: “І тисну до серця мойово я пальці *тоненькі* твої “(В.Сосюра). The differential seme for the words *стрункостанний* and *виструнчений* is “fine and proportional figure”.

The blocks with the dominant *fat* include such members: *fat, full, flat, plump, corpulent, stout, obese, gross, buxom, chubby, tubby, bulbous* and *stocky*. The integral semes of the block are “width of a body” and “stoutness which is more than a norm” : “ He was a tallish man, but stockily built, and he seemed ill at ease in his khaki uniform “ (6, p.183). The suffix –ish- points at an insufficient intensity of a feature. The word *fat* also has an additional connotative seme of an attitude which is not positive. The context gives a vivid opposition in the pair of adjectives describing a person who is now fat but he *was* good-looking: “He’s *fat* and forty now, he does himself too well, but he was very good-looking when he first came to the Colony “(6, p.100). The meaning of the word *plump* is interpreted as a very positive one, this word is related to a person who is fat in a pleasant-looking way. The author uses it describing the woman who he sympathizes greatly with, one of the friends of the Mother Superior:” In a moment a nun came in, short and *plump*, with a homely face, red cheeks and merry eyes “(6, p.113). The words *full* and *fat* are also used to describe the parts of a body: “She liked the little trim curly moustache which did not conceal his full red lips “(6, p.43); “...and the master, a little, *fat-faced* man in a black gown, came out and greeted her “ ( 6, p.54 ). We have included the word *bulbous* into

this block by the analogy with “bulb “: “1 almost round, thick, underground part of a plant sending roots downwards and leaves upwards“ (4): “ He was white-haired, though the eyebrows were still faintly grey; the *bulbous* nose, the misleadingly fastidious mouth, the pouched grey-blue eyes in a hale face “ (7,p.47). The shade of the absence of any positive quality is present in the word *bulbous* implicitly, the narrator depicts Henry Breasley as an unpleasant personality.

The lexical and semantic variant *thin* manifests in the context the meaning of small width and is used to describe a person and parts of a body: “They had swum slowly back together, toward the *thin* figure drying herself” (7, p.94); “...David looked back and saw the *thin* brown figure in her black singlet pick up her book again” (7, p.51). In some cases, the lexical and semantic variant *thin* acquires a dramatic negative shade when used with a word with a distinct negative background meaning (flat-chested): “She was a woman of fifty, *thin* and *flat-chested*, with prominent cheek-bones and a large, well-shaped nose “(6, p.22). In these contexts the word *thin* denotes not only the absence of excessive flesh but even an extreme exhaustion: “She noticed how *thin* his hand was, it was a fine hand, *slender*, with long fingers, but now it was nothing but skin and bone...” (6, p. 158); “ Looking at him now ,for he was staring with abstracted gaze out of the window, she was surprised that she had not noticed before how terribly *thin* he had grown during the last weeks” ( 6,p. 158 ). The context proves the idea that *stout* and *thin* form the antonymic nucleus groups: “She was a *tallish* woman, *taller* than Kitty, neither stout nor *thin*, with a good deal of pale brown hair “(6, p.17).

The words *slight* and *slim* are nearly always associated with the youth: “The *slight* figure of the girl cast as dragon turned, a small smile on her face” (7, p.117); “She waved toward them, the pool of light they sat in, then came down the room; *slim* and cool and composed, belying what had been said“( 7, p.103). The word *slim* names a person who is not only thin but also slender: “He watched the Mouse wading into the water; Diana, *slim-backed* and small-rumped; something underfoot, she stepped sideways before going deeper” (7, p.93); “She was *slim* in her long

embroidered gown and somewhat *taller* than Kitty, used to the Southern people, had expected” (6, p.165).

The adjective *slender* renders not only the meaning of slimness but also a shade of gracefulness. Through the hands the author characterizes a woman with pleasant manners and the ways of speaking and behaving that attract people. The narrator highlights this shade of meaning in describing a Chinese woman by using the word *ivory*, a gorgeous, magnificent, exquisite and exotic substance: “Kitty noticed her hands; they were preternaturally long, very *slender*, of the colour of ivory; and the exquisite nails were painted“( 6,p. 165 ).

The context proves that the words *fat*, *slight* and *thin* are definitely divided into opposite semantic groups : “ He was short ,but not *thick-set*, *slight* rather and *thin*; dark and clean-shaven, with very regular, clear-cut features “ (6, p.31) .

Findings of the research are : 1) we have divided the microfields of adjectives with the general meaning “ width of a body “ in four microblocks; 2) we have singled out the seme content of 43 adjectives and defined their denotative, significant, connotative and sociolinguistic semes; 3) The integral semes have been defined : “width of a body” and “stoutness which is more than a norm”, differential semes are : “excessive amount of flesh and fat”, “firm stature“, “roundness like a tub“, “fatness as a result of swelling”, “healthy look“ ( of women ) and “little depth“ ( this last one concerns the word *flat-chested*; 4) we have come to the conclusion that in both languages there are the suffixes which state the insufficiency of a feature intensity.

## Literature

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Козка І.К., Гусак О.Г., Овсяннікова Г.В. Семантичний зв'язок між мікрополями українських та англійських прикметників на позначення портретної характеристики людини.

У статті визначаються семантична структура та зв'язок між мікрополями українських та англійських прикметників на позначення портретної характеристики людини. Виявляється семний склад прикметників із загальним значенням “ ширина тіла”. Портретна характеристика людини часто супроводжується оцінкою, тому в цих мікрополях переважають експресивно-оцінні-синоніми.

*Ключові слова: домінанта, сема, інтенсивність ознаки, відтінок значення, розмовний стиль, лексико-семантичний варіант.*

#### АННОТАЦІЯ

Козка І.К., Гусак Е.Г., Овсяннікова А.В. Семантическая связь между микрополями украинских и английских прилагательных ,обозначающих портретную характеристику человека.

В статье определяются семантическая структура и связь между микрополями украинских и английских прилагательных, обозначающих портретную характеристику человека. Определяются семы прилагательных с общим значением “ ширина тела “. Портретная характеристика человека часто

сопровождается оценкой, поэтому в этих микрополях преобладают экспрессивно-оценочные синонимы.

*Ключевые слова: доминанта, сема, интенсивность признака, оттенок значения, разговорный стиль, лексико-семантический вариант.*

#### ANNOTATION

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The semantic structure and coherence in the microfields of the Ukrainian and English adjectives of person portraying is defined in the article. The seme content of the adjectives with the general meaning “width of a body “is revealed. Person portraying is often accompanied by evaluation, that’s why expressive and evaluative synonyms prevail in these microfields.

*Key words: dominant, seme, feature intensity, shade of meaning, colloquial style, lexical and semantic variant.*



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