

## VERBS DESCRIBING IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR IN THE RUSSIAN, ENGLISH AND TATAR LANGUAGES

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### ABSTRACT

The article under consideration studies verbs of the Russian, English and Tatar languages which are used to describe irresponsible behavior of people. The results of the research show some peculiarities of semantics and functioning of these verbs. For instance, it is stated that the composition of lexico-semantic group of verbs of behavior in three languages is not homogeneous since there is the nucleus as well as the periphery. The number and nature of semes differ in the Russian, English and Tatar languages. Some verbs in different contexts are able to actualize their potential semes and come close to other lexico-semantic groups of verbs. On the whole verbs of irresponsible behavior in the three languages contain common semes as well as the semes which are unique for the particular language and reflect the mentality of the native speakers.

**Keywords:** *behavior; irresponsible behavior; verb of behavior; lexico-semantic group; semantics, seme.*

### INTRODUCTION

Behavior is understood as the system of observed and subjected to evaluation actions and conducts of a person in the material, intellectual and social aspects of life due to his/her needs as well as his/her cultural and individual characteristics [Aminova, 2016]. Nominative potential of verbs of behavior lets one laconically and at the same time concisely convey the multifaceted situation of behavior as a whole. In the semantics of these verbs there is necessarily the evaluative component which usually has negative connotation [L. Vasilyev, 1981]. The presence of evaluative component in the meaning of the verbs characterizing behavior was expressed by such scientists as L. Vasilyev (1981), O. Zhdanova (1985), O. Isachenko (2000), A. Plotnikova (2009) and others. The evaluation of actions observed is done by a person by comparing them with existing in the cultural community concepts about the norm and standard. And not just an observer, but also the subject of the behavior himself/herself can evaluate their own actions :

Rus. Mne prishlos' za desjat' dnej podgotovit'sja k jekzamenam, tak kak letom ja lentjajnichala [RNC] / 'I had to prepare for the exams during ten days, because I goofed off in the summer;'

Eng. I just loafed around, eating and watching television [Macmillan].

Tat. Plaschny almaganyma ükenäm, läkin unynchy katka menärgä dä irenäm [TNC] / 'I regret that I did not take the riancoat, but I am too lazy to get up to the tenth floor.'

The aim of this article is to elicit some peculiarities of semantics and functioning of verbs describing irresponsible behavior in the Russian, English and Tatar languages .

The object of this study is the lexico-semantic group of verbs characterizing irresponsible behavior of a person.

Verbs of irresponsible behavior indicate the relation of man to work. Hard work is referred to the dignity of the individual; conscientious attitude to work is considered to be model behavior, while dodging – denounced behavior. Practically at all levels of language there are means of expressing the negative attitude to manifestations of indolence, parasitism, laziness, among which not the last role belongs to verbs of behavior.

For the first time verbs of irresponsible behavior were identified on the material of the Russian verbs by T. Matveeva, E. Kuznetsova and others [LSGRV 1988: 77]. Verbs describing irresponsible behavior of the Tatar and English languages have not been subjected to special scientific research. In our study we try to fill this gap by identifying the analyzed verbs in three structurally different languages and describing their semantic and functional peculiarities. The material for research was collected from the most representative Russian, English and Tatar dictionaries. The functioning of verbs was studied on the material of national corpuses (RNC, BNC, TNC).

The analysis of verbs describing irresponsible behavior in the comparative aspect in terms of the anthropocentric and system approaches will uncover national specifics of the studied linguistic phenomenon .

## **METHODS**

For the analysis of semantics and functioning of verbs of behavior in structurally different three languages the following methods were used:

- 1) the method of analysis of dictionary definitions and the method of component analysis for compiling classifications in unrelated languages;
- 2) contextual analysis to identify different meanings and shades of meaning in verbs;
- 3) descriptive method for explaining and organizing research material;
- 4) comparative method in identifying the differences and similarities of structural and semantic features of the verbs under consideration in three languages.

## **DISCUSSION**

The group of verbs characterizing irresponsible behavior in the Russian language is represented by 73, in Tatar – 23, in English – 64 lexical units. In all three languages the group splits into three subgroups: I. Verbs indicating laziness, idleness; II. Verbs, indicating sluggishness, a waste of time in the affairs; III. Verbs indicating evasion cases. The composition of the subgroups and the number of verbs within them differ .

The first subgroup contains 5 synonymous series in the Russian language, 2 synonymous series and 1 verb in the Tatar language, 3 synonymous series and 1 verb in the English language. So, in the Tatar language characteristics of irresponsible behavior expressed by the same ‘to stay in luxury, idleness, indulge in pleasure’, ‘to lead the life of a sponger’, ‘to spend time hanging out and interfering with smb.’ are not

presented lexically. However unlike the Russian and English languages in the Tatar there is one verb with the seme 'to pretend to be busy': selkenü. In English, the the varieties of behavior expressed by the seme 'to be lax, slack, to do nothing', 'to spend time hanging out and interfering with smb' are not nominated lexically. However, unlike the Russian and Tatar languages in English the kind of behavior expressed by the seme 'to waste time instead of working' is differentiated, e.g.: goof off, muck about / around, dilly-dally .

The composition of the second and third subgroups in three languages is similar: two synonymous series in the second subgroup and one synonymous series in the third subgroup in each language. The difference lies in the quantitative composition of synonymous series. So the verbs of the Russian language are able to describe in more details the behavior expressing idleness. The parallelism between the languages is found in the category of behavior that expresses sluggishness, a waste of time and evasion cases.

## RESULTS

The verbs under consideration in the Russian language were recorded in the training reference dictionary edited by T. Matveeva as verbs of irresponsible behavior [LSGRV 1988: 77]. The base verb bezdel'nichat' 'to sit back' means 'to spend time in idleness, doing nothing'. According to the materials of ideographic dictionaries and dictionaries of synonyms we found 73 verbs belonging to this group. The fact of the large number of verbs of behavior in this group in the Russian language is due to a well-developed system of names of persons (e.g., lentyaj – lentyajnichat', bezdel'nik – bezdel'nichat', parazit – parasitstvovat', etc.). One can observe the rich emotional and stylistic markedness of the analysed lexical units in the Russian language. Clearly seen are varying degrees of manifestation of inert, irresponsible behavior from the idle pastime to the existence at someone else's expense.

The Russian verbs baklushnichat', bezdel'nichat', boltat'sja, kishut', lenitsja, lentjajnichat', lobotrjasnichat', lodyrnichat', okolachivat'sja, oshivat'sja, sachkovat', filonit' have the widest field of usage and are characterized by common seme 'to have nothing to deal with.'

The verb kishut' 'to be lazy and bored' has the additional seme 'to be bored and whining :'

Domashnee hozjajstvo vedetj ekonomka, territoriju vokrug doma obsluzhivaetsja sadovnik – odnim slovom, delat' Nine reshitel'nonechego, ionastalakisnut' otskuki, periodicheskiustraivajamuzhuskandalj / 'The household is done by the housekeeper, the area around the home by a gardener – in a word, there is absolutely nothing to Nina to do, and she was bored and inert periodically arranging her husband scandals' [RNC].

In the meaning of the verb sachkovat' 'to skive' the seme 'shy away from duties' is accented, thus emphasizes the controlled nature of this type of behavior. From the context it is clear that the subject of behavior in this case does not try to hide his intentions:

Korochegovorja, 1 maja my usilennosachkovali v rybnomzootdelesupermarketa s cel'ju otlovit' parochkuzolotyhrybok [RNC] / 'To cut it short, on May 1, we strongly skived in the zoo department of the supermarket with the aim to catch a couple of goldfish.'

In verbs boltat'sja, okolachivat'sja, oshivat'sja 'hang out' the seme of multidirectional movement is emphasized:

Javsjoboltalsja s vami, zamuchilsjabez dela [RNC] / 'I am hanging out with you and got tortured without any work.'

These verbs tend to the periphery of the described group and come close to verbs of motion.

The following verbs are combined seme 'to stay in luxury, idleness, indulge in pleasure: balbesnichat', baldet', barstvovat', volgotnichat', zhuirovat', kayfovat', povesnichat', prohlazhdat'sja, nezhit'sja, sibiritnichat', sibiriststvovat', flanerstvovat', shalopaynichat', shaloputnichat.'

The vast number of examples with the verb zhuirovat' 'to lead the life of idleness and ease' according to materials of Russian National Corpus are found in the sources of the 19th century (the bulk of the citations belongs to M.Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin). In most cases the verb is combined with a noun zhizn' – zhuirovat' zhiznyu:

Ne znaju, zhivali li vy v provincii, no ja, kotoryj blagodenstvoval v Vjatke i procvetal v Permi, zhuiroval zhizn' ju v Rjazani i naslazhdalsja dushevnym spokojstviem v Tveri (M.Y. Saltykov-Shchedrin) [RNC] / 'I do not know whether you have been in the province, but I, who thrived in Vyatka and flourished in Perm, led the life of idleness and ease in Ryazan and enjoyed peace of mind in Tver.'

Note that verbs balbesnichat', lobotryasnichat', baldet', flanerstvovat', shalopaynichat', shaloputnichat' etc. realize the seme 'to lead a frivolous way of life'. In the role of the subject in most cases appears a healthy young person who spends time in fun and entertainment rather than working :

Mitjabylnrachnyj krupnyj paren', ne uchilsja i ne rabotal, shalopajnichali, poslovam materi, pisal neplohiestihi [RNC] / 'Mitya was a gloomy big guy, did not study and did not work, but according to his mother, he wrote good poetry'

The highest degree of irresponsible behavior is expressed in Russian colloquial verbs darmoednichat', zahrebetnichat', parasitirovat', parazitstvovat', parazitnichat', tuneyadstvovat' realizing these semes 'lead the life of a sponger, live at the expense of others :'

My rabotaem, a ona darmoednichaet [RNC] / 'We are working, and she lives like a sponger.'

These verbs are close to the lifestyle verbs and therefore, are on the periphery of the analysed group.

In the English language the behavior of a person who does not want to work is represented by 64 lexical units. The great number of verbs of irresponsible behavior in the English language include the seme of time, e.g.: loaf, inf. 'to spend time doing nothing, usually when you should be working' [Macmillan]; muck about / around, inf. 'to waste time, especially when you should be doing something useful or paying attention' [Macmillan]. In our opinion, this is due to the mentality of native speakers; within the meaning of verbs emphasizes scrupulous attitude towards time and its rational use in the society where time has real value and maintain order in the organization of people's lives.

Basic synonymous verbs idle, loaf, lounge, loll, laze do not always carry a tinge of disapproval, and can express a pleasant, relaxed pastime, which has a certain justification. Verbs loll, lounge have an extraseme 'to sit in a comfortable position' and therefore have a localized nature :

He lolled in his chair, head back, eyes staring [BNC].

Semes 'to be lazy', 'not to work' are expressed in verbs vegetate, bum around / about, inf.:

He spends all his free time at home vegetating in front of the TV [Collins].

Verbs malingering, slack, shirk, goof off realize the differential sense to 'to avoid work', and malingering has one more sense 'to pretend to be ill'. In some contexts, this sense of the verb can be actualized that brings it closer to verbs of insincere behavior :

Are you sick, Danielle, or are you malingering? [BNC].

The verb sit in combination with different components of adverbial nature develops the meaning of passive behavior: sit about / around 'to spend time doing nothing'; sit back 'to relax and stop making the effort to do something'; sit by 'to take no action when something bad is happening', e.g.:

Are we just going to sit by and let this happen? [Macmillan].

Verbs potter (AmE putter), dally, loiter, dawdle have a differential sense 'to delay in the implementation of something' and belong to the periphery of the group :

She dawdles and procrastinates and puts off homework, and I always swoop in and save the day [BNC].

In combination with the adverbial postpositions and components these verbs take the meaning 'to hang around, hang out doing nothing :'

He spent the whole day pottering around on the sunbaked roof [BNC].

Verbs mess about / around, inf., muck about / around, inf. also contain a differential sense 'to hang out', as well as implementing additional sense 'to engage in useless, frivolous matters' and are close to verbs of frivolous behavior :

We just mucked around at home all weekend [Macmillan].

In the Tatar language were found 23 verbs describing human irresponsible behavior in his attitude to work. This arsenal is inadequate for describing the irresponsible human behavior, that is why native speakers resort to a number of verbs of heterogeneous structure, among which there are idioms and verb phrases (e.g., trajtibü, yalkaulykkabirelü etc.).

The base verb of this group is yalkaulanu '1. be lazy, slothful, grow lazy, idle; 2. lazily, reluctantly, unwillingly, without the desire (to do anything)'. The contexts highlight the negative consequences of such behavior :

Kechkenädänyalkaulandy. Eshsöymägän kesheber kayda dasyjmyjshul [TNC] / 'He had been lazy since childhood. Quitters are not wanted.'

Note that in some texts laziness can be seen as the engine of progress :

Keshe, zhäyyäüyörergäyalkaulanyp, at, döyä, ishəkkebekmählukhayvannarniyäläshtergän. Keshekulköchebelänyözärgätelämichä, kaek-zhilkänuy lapchygargan [TNC] / 'As a result of the reluctance of people to walk they tamed wild animals such as a horse, a camel, a donkey. Reluctantly floating with their hands, the man invented the sailing boat.'

Verb irenü is often used in phrases with infinitive, indicating specific activities :

Zhäyyäükilergäirenimim, zhäyyäükaytyrgäirenäm [TNC] / 'I do not get lazy going on foot, I get lazy going back.'

Verb *irenchäklänü* according to Tatar National Corpus is rarely used in the Tatar language, in contexts it realizes the seme ‘to reluctantly carry out activities.’

<...> *yözemneirkälägänkoyashnurlarynatüzärlegemkalmagach, irenchäklänepkenätorasyitem* [TNC] / ‘<...> unable to resist caressing rays of the sun, with the reluctance I got out of bed.’

Verb *üşhänlänü* together with the seme ‘to be lazy’ contains the seme ‘to be stubborn’ which is clear from the following example :

Ivan Vasilyevich *nynvafatynnan son boyarlar biküşhänlände, boeryklarnyütärgähichtäashkynpytormyjar* [TNC] / ‘After the death of Ivan Vasilyevich the boyars got lazy and do not hurry to carry out orders.’

Synonymous verbs *shalopaylanu, shalapaylanu, shalagaylanu* ‘1. to behave playfully, lightly; 2. to be lazy, good-for-nothing’ found in some dictionaries, according to Tatar National Corpus are rarely used in the Tatar language; more often there are examples of predicative constructions with the structure ‘adjective + *bulu*’, where the adjective is the appropriate derivation motivator of these verbs :

*Min sine shalopaybulsyn dip, tudyrmadym* [TNC] / (I have never thought you are going to be good-for-nothing) . The same applies to verbs *zhobalgylanu* ‘do something reluctantly, slowly’, *zhilkuarlanu, zhilbäzäklänü* ‘to demonstrate frivolity, levity’. The latter verbs in different contexts either the seme ‘to show fickleness’ or ‘to dawdle’ can be actualized .

## CONCLUSION

Thus, laziness and irresponsibility, being common in any culture, are reflected in the verbal lexicon of three structurally different languages. The study of semantics and functioning of verbs in the Russian, English and Tatar languages lets us identify the following features:

- 1) The composition of the group of verbs characterizing irresponsible behavior in the three languages is heterogeneous, they contain the nucleus and the periphery.
- 2) The quantitative composition of the studied verbs varies. In the Russian language were revealed 8 semes, in English – 7, in Tatar – 6. Some verbs in different contexts are also able to update their additional semes and approach the verbs of other lexico-semantic groups. In general, verbs of behavior in three languages have common semes and the semes which are unique to the language.
- 3) The Russian language is characterized by the presence of a wide range of verbs describing the sloth, passivity and unwillingness to work. Unique semes in the Russian language are semes of intensity and emotion, as well as the seme ‘to lead the life of a sponger.’
- 4) Verbs of the English language definitions contain the seme of time in their definitions, the presence of which can be associated with the mentality of native speakers. In addition, verbs of behavior in English have localized meaning that is created using the adverbial components around, about in phrasal verbs.
- 5) Lack of verbal units indicating varying degrees of irresponsible behavior in the Tatar language is compensated for by means of different levels, such as the free phrases and idiomatic phrases .

Such studies of verbal language can be useful for cross-cultural and cross-language communication [Gilazetdinova, 2014] in terms of the relationship of different cultures to the laziness and diligence as well as the rational use of time.

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