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# CULTURE RELEVANT LINGUISTIC UNITS AND THEIR TYPES

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## ABSTRACT

This research examines the verbalization of the relationship between language and culture via culturally relevant language units. Linguoculturemes - culturally relevant linguistic means - are one of the main objects of research in the science of linguoculturology, which is characterized by the fact that it includes not only linguistic forms, but also non-linguistic factors. The study provides a comprehensive overview of the types of linguoculturological units, such as realia words, phraseological units, mythologemes, proverbs, etiquette forms of speech and stylistic devices.

**Keywords:** linguoculturology, linguocultureme, mythologeme, intertextuality, words realia, conceptual world picture

## INTRODUCTION

Language is closely connected with nation's traditions and way of life. It is connected not only with the history and culture of a nation, but also with the needs of civilization, lifestyles and achievements in intellectual and material culture. Therefore, language is not only a means of expression, but it also promotes historical, cultural and cultural values. The correlation between language and culture is represented by culture relevant linguistic units, which are regarded as the subject of investigation in linguoculturology.

## METHODOLOGY AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Linguoculturology is a new branch of general linguistics, which came into existence at the beginning of the XX century. The principal target of this aspect of linguistic science is to carry out linguistic investigation and make comprehensive explanation on the relationship between the language and culture, language and ethnic group, language and mentality. The formation of linguo-cultural studies as an independent discipline is inseparably associated with the name of prof. V.N.Teliya. Teliya regards culture as "a world-vision and world-comprehension that possesses the

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semiotic nature" («мировидение и миропонимание, обладающее семиотической природой») [Teliya, 1996].

One of the predominant and leading scientists, who carried out several researches on the object of linguoculturology is V.V.Vorobyov. He wrote several articles and books dedicated to linguoculturology. In his book "Linguoculturology" he defines the phenomenon of interrelation between language and culture and states the main objects and subjects of linguoculturology [Vorobyov, 2008].

According to Vorobyov V. V., a linguocultureme is a complex, interlevel language unit, which appears to be a dialectical unit of both linguistic and extralinguistic factors and the correlation between the form of a verbal sign, its semantic content and cultural sense. It is regarded as the main unit of linguocultural analysis, as it accumulates not only linguistic form, but also extralinguistic cultural information. Linguoculturemes can be presented by a great variety of linguistic forms including words, word combinations, syntactical structures, text fragments and the whole text. The sources of cultural information in a linguocultureme are specific for each culture. The main sources of linguoculturemes are realia, outstanding people, myths, images, beliefs, customs and traditions. Accordingly, linguoculturemes can be presented by non-equivalent lexicon, anthroponyms and toponyms, mythologemes, phraseological units, paroemia, speech forms of etiquette and image-bearing means [Ashurova, 2012].

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research was carried out in an attempt of outnumbering all types of linguoculturemes, as there has not been presented complete assemblage of culturally marked linguistic units so far.

The specific types of linguoculturemes and their functions in the literary text are discussed in the following lines:

1. Linguoculturemes are mostly performed by means of words and word combinations, including non-equivalent lexicon or realia, which is represented through the nominations of clothes (a bowler hat, white gloves and a black suit of Englishmen; a kokoshnik, sarafan and valenki of Russians), meals (toast, hamburger, fish and chips, kasha, pirajki, bliny), currency (pound, pence, penny, ruble), musical instruments (guitar, violin, accordion, balalaika), holidays (Christmas, Halloween, Valentine's Day), traditions (christening, Easter, Maslenitsa) and geographical occurrences (tsunami, tornado).

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2. Phraseological units are considered to be culturally specific linguistic means. According to Telia, phraseology is the mirror where the human's national and cultural identity is reflected. There is a close relationship between phraseological units and signs of culture, as a system of values are presented in the form of etalons, symbols and stereotypes in language. For example, the phraseological units such as Hobson's choice, Queen Ann is dead, Dmascus road, the green-eyed monster, rise from ashes, the colour bar, Smithfield bargain, the battle of the books, beauty and the beast, a bed of roses, Roman holiday, John Barleycorn, the land flowing milk and honey and others are culture relevant, as they convey historical facts, social aspects, cultural values, traditions and create similar thematic domains in the language.

3. A mythologeme is another linguistic unit which carries linguocultural element within itself. A mythologeme is a linguistic unit denoting important mythological personages, situations or events transiting from one myth to another and shared by cultures throughout the world. The main source of mythologemes is myths, which are the depictions of legends about gods and heroes, stories and fables about superhuman beings taken by the preliterate society to be a true account, usually of how the world and natural phenomena, social customs came into existence. An archetype comprises the essence of a myth, which appears to be a persistent image or symbol recurring in a particular culture. Accordingly, mythologeme plays a significant role in representing the author's conceptual world picture in the text, as the author intends to refer to a famous event or situation which is represented in a new text with a particular sense. For example, the mythologemes such as "A forbidden fruit", "Salomon's wisdom", "Achilles' heel", "Pandora's box", "The tower of Babel" are the linguistic means displaying mythological reference in the language.

4. Proverbs and sayings are also culture biased linguistic means, which bear stereotyped conscience of a nation and convey wide pragmatic spectrum. They are regarded as cultural texts, which fix knowledge, experience, expertise of generation. They manifest basic concepts and reflect specific cultural knowledge and association which underlie the perception of the world. To illustrate, the following proverbs depict the lifestyle and views of Englishmen: An Englishman's house is his castle; A hedge between keeps friendship green; A man can die but once; live not to eat, but eat to live; Never put off till tomorrow what you can today; He who would search for pearls must dive below; Every dog is a lion at home; The devil is not so black as he is painted.

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5. Speech forms of etiquette are considered to be linguocultural units too, as they came into existence as a code of behavior, depicting expectations for social behavior according to conventional norms within a culture. For example, as the English are very polite, their verbal representation corresponds to their courtesy. They express their politeness by a variety of linguistic means. For example, the Englishmen are very careful while making requests, as they try not to sound dictatorial. Their requests are usually constructed with the usage of modal verbs – **could** and **would.** They say, *"Would you mind locking the door when you leave?"; "Could you please open the door?"; "Could I possibly have another cup of tea?"; "Would you mind if I put off sending you the file till tomorrow?".* Moreover, the politeness of the Englishmen can be expressed via the use of **conditionals** too. In such a case, 'will' is used after 'if' or inversion is used: *"If you will wait for a moment, I'll go and ask the manager"; "If you will excuse me, I need to bring more plates"; "Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask".*

6. Image – bearing means of language are also regarded as linguocultural units, as they convey particular information about culture. They construct certain imagery related to the inner form of the word, which is decoded due to the primary and transferred meaning of the word. Image-bearing stylistic devices are used in the text to express evaluative, subjective attitude of the author towards the things described. Imagery is an inherent category of a fictional text realized with the help of such stylistic devices as metaphor, metonymy, antonomasia, metaphorical epithet, metaphorical periphrasis. For example, such images as "nymph", "doll", "sweetheart", "flower", "Cleopatra", "Aphrodite", fox and many other metaphorical resemblances arise imagery in the mind by connecting the two domains.

## CONCLUSION

All in all, any language contains cultural information representing different nations. Consequently, culture relevant information comes into existence due to a variety of linguistic means as counted above. The culture specific linguistic units such as mythologemes, non-equivalent lexicon, cultural concepts, intertextual signals, image-bearing means of language, proverbs and sayings, phrasealogical units, speech forms of etiquette and many other types of linguoculturemes play an important role in understanding the implicit message in the literary text and enabling readers to understand the author's individual world picture, as well.

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