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THE SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF THE COMIC EFFECT REALIZATION IN THE ENGLISH ANECDOTE

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Abstract. *The given article is devoted to the problem of the semantic peculiarities of the comic effect realization in the English anecdote. The article gives the definition of the term «anecdote». In this issue the semantic means such as paronomasia, anagram, polysemy, antonymy, homonymy and phraseologisms are analyzed. It investigates their functional peculiarities, quantitative and qualitative characteristics.*

Keywords: *anecdote, comic effect, semantic means, humour, functional peculiarities.*

Humour in terms of expansion of the intercultural communication is able to optimize communication of different cultures, making it efficient and comfortable, or destroy communication. The latter may be due to the fact that what is considered funny in one culture may be offensive in another one.

The problem of comic and its interpretation has always attracted the researchers. Many scientists have studied the linguistic mechanisms for creating comic effect (V.V. Chemist, N.V. Dorofeeva, N.N. Boldyrev, L.A. Lviv, I.V. Arnold, E.I. Belyaeva, V.V. Bogdanov), have discussed the ways of interpreting the humour (V.V. Solozhenkina, G.I. Goddess, I.V. Barakina, V.V. Vinogradov) also considered national peculiarities of the category of comic (M.A. Kulinich, T.V. Shmelev, V.P. Belyanyn, A.D. Schweitzer).

The modern world cannot be imagined without Homo Communicens – the man who communicates, Homo Artifex - the man who creates, Homo Ludens – the man who plays and Homo Ridens – the man who laughs - they make up four antropocenters on which the humor is being built and due to which the comic communication exists. So, the question of the comprehensive study of the comic communication, and with it, humorous texts generated in this communication have now acquired a special urgency.

The actuality of the work is due to an urgent and complex need for the research of the English anecdote as a text-discourse unit in a new trend of the communicative linguistics that aims at analyzing texts of various genres in close connection with mentality of different cultural communities that helps to distinguish the character of interaction between the language and the cognition.

The purpose of this article is to distinguish and to analyze the semantic means of the comic effect realization in the English joke.

The anecdote is one of folklore genres: short humorous story usually makes fun of anyone or anything [1, p. 125]. Mostly anecdotes have the peculiar unexpected semantic solution in the end, and it generates laugh. It may happen because of play on words, different meanings, modern associations that require additional knowledge: social, literary, historical, geographical and so on. Jokes cover almost all spheres of human activity.

Let us consider the peculiarities of the creation of the comic effect through the use of semantic means, including paronomasia, anagram, polysemy, homonyms, antonyms and phraseologisms.

Paronomasia is the stylistic figure that is in the comic or figurative convergence of words, which because of the similarity in sound and overlap of the morphemic structure can sometimes wrongly but often in a punning way used in a language. Sometimes it is also called binary stylistic figure [2, p. 45]

«Three tomatoes are walking down the street, a poppa tomato, a momma tomato, and a little baby tomato. The baby tomato is lagging behind the poppa and momma tomato. The poppa tomato gets mad, goes over to the momma tomato and stamps on him (STAMPS on the ground) and says: "Catch up."»

The verb «Catchup» means «Get up» in tune with the word «Ketchup» [3, p.489], which translates as «Кetchup». Humor is that when my father

tomatoes crushed tomatoes son, then came ketchup. He seems to say him, «Get up».

In Ukrainian this anecdote should be translated as follows: «Три помідора йдуть по вулиці, тато-томато, мамо-томато і синочок-томатусь. Синочок-томатусь відстає від батьків. Тато-томато сердиться, підбігає до сина, тисне його і каже: «Вставай, кетчуп.»

It should be noted that anagram is also used to create a comic effect in the joke. Let us give the definition of this term.

Anagram is the keyword or phrase that is formed by the permutation of letters of another word [2, p. 204].

Despite the fact that attention to anagram poetry falls on relatively recent time, this method applies, perhaps among the oldest, from the lectures by Ferdinand de Saussure and there is an idea of the wide use of anagrams in ancient epics «Mahabharata» and «Ramayana», «Iliad» and «Odyssey» and the Bible. Since ancient times anagrams attributed magical effect.

«–Where is Paul now?

–He`s in a dirty room.

–Oh, is he probably tidying it up?

–Of course he isnot!

He should tidy up at home! It`s the dormitory»

In this case, we can observe an anagram. It should be taken into account that the word «dormitory» has the same set of letters from the phrase «dirty room». It is understood that the dormitory is quite dirty, but the hero is not going to clean it, because he doesn't live there.

The next group of anecdotes to be analyzed are jokes that are based on the use of polysemy.

Polysemy means multi-variant, that is the presence in a word two or more meanings historically caused and connected by the content and origin [2, p. 152]. Often when we talk about the polysemy, we mean primarily multiple meaning words as vocabulary items. Lexical polysemy is the ability of a word to describe different objects and phenomena of reality, associatively linked to form a complex semantic unity.

«A small boy debunked the talk about the painless dentist in his neighbourhood. «He is not painless at all », said the youngster. «He put his finger in my mouth and I bit it and he yelled just like anybody else. »

This given example is based on the effect of polysemy. The polysemic expression «painless dentist» can be interpreted in different ways, like a dentist who does not feel pain or a doctor who treats painlessly.

The next point to be examined is the specific use of antonyms for the creation of the comic anecdotes.

It is necessary to give a definition of the term. Therefore, antonym is the opposite meaning of language units in the semantic terms. Antonyms are the words of one language, opposed by value.

«A girl may love you from the bottom of her heart, but there's always room for some other guy at the top.»

In this joke the comic effect is based on the antonymic phrases «the bottom of heart» and «the room at the top». It should be mentioned that the theme of the romantic relations between a girl and a boy is under the humorous effect.

Homonymy is also considered to be a very important point. We are going to examine the anecdotes that are based on this mean.

Homonyms are words that sound and are written equally, but have different meanings. Often it can be difficult to distinguish homonyms from homographs and homophones.

«- My uncle William has a new cedar chest.

- So! Last time I saw him he just had a wooden leg. »

In the joke the word «chest» is used. It has several meanings: 1. box; coffer; 2. casket, chest, breast. Thus, the comic effect is produced by the misinterpretation of the word «chest». The translation: «У моего дяді нова кедрова скринька (мається на увазі), кедрова грудна клітка (розуміє співрозмовник). - Коли я бачив його в останній раз, у нього була дерев'яна нога. »

One of the varieties of homonyms is a homophone.

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but have different meanings and spellings.

«Eating should never make you sad, unless it is a mourning meal.»

In the joke the words «morning» and «mourning» are pronounced the same but have different meanings, which can lead to the comic situation that we observe in the joke.

The next kind of homonym is homoform.

Homoforms are words that sound the same but in a certain grammatical form. Homoform is equally significant mean for creating jokes, to prove this point such example should be taken into account:

«- You were lying all the time!

- No, that's not true! I lay on the sofa just several times. »

Since the words «lie - lay - lain» are irregular verb and «lie - lied - lied» are regular verb, the forms of the participle (lying) in both cases are the same, which leads to the absurd situation of understanding.

The next aspect to be considered is the use of homograph.

Homographs are words that are written the same way, but are differently read.

«While travelling, Jack pissed off everyone in the group with his stupid anecdotes.

They finally deserted him amidst the journey. Now Jack is amidst the desert of Sahara. »

Thus, the word «desert» is translated as «покидати» and «desert» as «пустеля»; they are homographs, causing the confusion of the audience, and hence the absurdity of the anecdote.

One more important point to be mentioned is phraseology. Idioms are frequently used for the creation of the comic effect in the English anecdotes. If you do not know the meaning of the phraseologism then it will be not only difficult to understand jokes but also ordinary language. Jokes that are based on idiom acquire outstanding comic.

Let us define this term: phraseologisms are persistent phrases that are perceived as one and used by native speakers in the steady state design.

*«When a woman complained to her butcher
that his sausages tasted like meat at one end,
but like bread crumbs at the other, he replied:
"Madam, in times like these no butcher can make
both ends [mi: t] ".»*

The "Salt" of the joke is the simultaneous combination of polysemic construction «make both ends» and the homonyms meat «м'ясо» and meet «зустрічати», which are pronounced as [mi: t] and also it should be emphasized that the comic effect is built on the idiom:

1) make both ends meet - зводити кінці з кінцями.

Conclusions. In our article we have analyzed 9 English jokes. After the analysis of the creation of the comic anecdotes using the semantic means, we can make a conclusion that polysemy (25%), homonyms (25%) and phraseologisms (25%) are frequently used for the creation of the comic effect in the English anecdotes while anagrams (5%), paronomasia (10%) and antonyms (10%) are rarely used.

Further perspectives are to examine the phonographic means of communication in the English comic joke.

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