

RENDERING PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH TASTE PERCEPTION ADJECTIVES INTO KYRGYZ

ПЕРЕДАЧА ОСОБЕННОСТЕЙ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ПРИЛАГАТЕЛЬНЫХ, ОБОЗНАЧАЮЩИХ ВКУСОВЫЕ ВОСПРИЯТИЯ НА КЫРГЫЗСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Аннотациясы: *Рецептордук кабыл алуунун фундаменталдуулугуна жана бардык жерде кездешүүсүнө карабай тил илиминде бул маселе жетиштүү изилденилбей келет, өзгөчө кызыгуу жараткан контрастивдүү лингвистикада. Кеңири мааниде, контрастивдүү лингвистика изилденип жаткан тилдердин ортосунда социалдык жана маданий байланыштын болуусуна жол берсе, кууш маанисинде бул жөн гана структуралаштыруу деңгээли жогору кичине группалардын салыштырма изилдөөсү болуп эсептелет, башкача айтканда, мындан ары биз лексикалык жана семантикалык талаалар менен иш алып барабыз. Ушуга байланыштуу, берилген иштин изилдөө маселеси болуп англис жана кыргыз тилдеринин рецептордук даам татымды туюндурган сын атоочторунун лексикалык жана семантикалык талаасын лексиканын, семантиканын, синестезиянын, семиотиканын жана котормонун шарттарында карап чыгуу эсептелет. Англис жана кыргыз даам татым сын атоочторун изилдөө маселелерин карап чыгуу, алардын ортосундагы айырмачылыктарды аныктоо, аларга мүнөздүү өзгөчөлүктөрдү түшүндүрүү жана аларды мисалдар аркылуу бекемдөө ишибиздин максатын түзмөкчү. Берилген иш контрастивдүү лингвистика менен лексикалык жана семантикалык анализ үчүн негиз гана болбостон, ал интралингвистикалык жана экстралингвистикалык факторлордун ачык мисалы да боло алат. Макалабызда биз жогоруда сөз болгон эки тилдин даам татым сын атоочторунун семантикасынын параметрлерин аныктоо жана маданий контекстеги өзгөчөлүктөрүн кароо менен бирге алардын ортосундагы окшоштуктарды жана айырмачылыктарды табууга аракет жасайбыз.*

Негизги сөздөр: *сенсордук же рецептордук кабыл алуу, даам татым кабыл алуусу же перцепциясы, лексикалык жана семантикалык талаа, социалдык жана маданий байланыш, семиотика, синестезия, котормо теориясы, контрастивдик лингвистика, интралингвистикалык жана экстралингвистикалык факторлор, маданий контекст.*

Аннотация: *Несмотря на фундаментальность и вездесущность рецепторного восприятия и ощущения, проблема в лингвистике все еще остается недоизученной, особенно в контрастивной лингвистике, что и представляет огромный интерес. В широком смысле, контрастивная лингвистика предполагает наличие социокультурной связи между изучаемыми языками и в узком смысле, термин контрастивная лингвистика применяется для сравнительного изучения небольших групп с высокой степенью структурирования. Следовательно, мы имеем дело с лексикосемантическим полем. В этой связи, предметом обсуждения данной работы является лексикосемантическое поле восприятия вкуса и вкусовых представлений в английском и кыргызском языках на основе лексики, семантики, синестезии, семиотики и переводоведения. Цель нашей работы заключается в изложении проблем изучения английских и кыргызских прилагательных вкусового восприятия, определении существующих различий между ними, объяснении их характерных особенностей и пояснении примерами. Так как эта работа предоставляет наглядную основу и для контрастивной лингвистики и для лексикосемантического анализа, она может служить ярким примером интралингвистических и экстралингвистических факторов. В этой статье мы предпримем попытки определить общее и различное между вкусовыми прилагательными двух языков наряду с определением их семантических параметров и их особенности в культурном контексте.*

Ключевые слова: *сенсорное или рецепторное восприятие, вкусовое восприятие, лексикосемантическое поле, социокультурная связь, семиотика, синестезия, теория перевода, контрастивная лингвистика, интралингвистические и экстралингвистические факторы, культурный контекст.*

Abstract: *Regardless of the fundamental and ubiquitous nature of sensory perceptions and experiences the subject still remains under explored in linguistics, especially in contrastive linguistics which provides a great interest. In broad meaning contrastive linguistics supposes the existence of socio-cultural link between the languages investigated and in narrow meaning it is used for comparative studies of small groups with a high degree granularity. Hence we deal with lexical semantic field. Consequently, the subject matter of the given work is lexical semantic field of sensory perceptions of taste and taste experiences in English and Kyrgyz in terms of lexis, semantics, synesthesia, semiotics and the translation issues. The given work is aimed at developing a sensitive feeling of what kind of problems can be approached within taste perception adjectives in English and Kyrgyz, defining overall differences, explaining characteristics and demonstrating examples. As this work provides the descriptive basis for both contrastive linguistics and lexical semantic analysis it can serve as a vivid example of intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors. In this work we try to define similarities and dissimilarities of taste adjectives in two languages besides defining their semantic periphery lines and peculiarities in cultural context.*

Key words: *sensory perception, taste perception, lexical semantic field, socio-cultural link, semiotics, synesthesia, theory of translation, contrastive linguistics, intralinguistic and extralinguistic factors, cultural context.*

As our subject matter is so vast that it can cover such fields in linguistics like comparative typology, semantics, translation and consequently semiotics, and a lot more, we try to define all these terms first before starting our research. Being a linguistic subject of typology based on the method of comparison and a constituent part of the given work comparative typology can serve here as a starting point.

Comparative typology aims at establishing the most general structural types of languages on their dominant or common phonetical, morphological, lexical and syntactical features. The subject matter of it is classification of the main essential features of languages, the most important characteristics and regularities. Comparative typology may equally treat dominant or common features only, as well as divergent features only, which are found in languages of the same structural type (synthetic, analytical, agglutinative, etc) or in languages of the different structural types, (synthetic and analytical, agglutinative and incorporative, etc) in our case analytical English and agglutinative Kyrgyz languages. In this connection, establishing the most general structural types in lexical semantic features of English and Kyrgyz taste perception adjectives and observing their correlative realization are the aims of our work. Consequently the subject of our further discussion is the study of lexical semantics which deals with the classification and decomposition of lexical items, the relationship of lexical meaning to sentence meaning and syntax and the differences and similarities in lexical semantic structure cross-linguistically.

The origin of the field theory of semantics is

the lexical field theory introduced by Jost Trier in the 1930's, although according to John Lyons it has historical roots in the ideas of Wilhelm von Humboldt and Johann Gottfried Herder. Historically, lexical semantic fields were defined as lexical category by ones and a semantic field theory of metaphor by others and even frame semantics by another scientist. In linguistics, a semantic field is a set of words grouped semantically, referring to a specific subject which are not necessarily synonymous, but are all used to talk about the same general phenomenon¹. A meaning of a word is dependent partly on its relation to other words in the same conceptual area². The kinds of semantic fields vary from culture to culture and anthropologists use them to study belief systems and reasoning across cultural groups³. Semantic field theory has informed the discourse of Anthropology as Ingold (1996: p. 127) relates: "Semiology is not, of course, the same as semantics. Semiology is based on the idea that signs have meaning in relation to each other, such that a whole society is made up of rationally held meanings. But semantic fields do not stand in relations of opposition to each other, nor do they derive their distinctiveness in this way, nor indeed are they securely bounded at all. Rather, semantic fields are constantly flowing into each other. I may define a field of religion, but it soon becomes that of ethnic identity and then politics and selfhood, and so on. In the very act of specifying semantic fields, people engage in an act of closure whereby they become conscious of what they have excluded and what they must therefore include"⁴. We will consider later the abovementioned issues like cultural variety, ethnic identity when we deal

with translation issues and semiotics.

Meanwhile it is necessary to define the semantic field of taste, through metonymic displacement of the natural to the cultural, the cultural to the cultivated (socially recognized practices), and more and more, from the cultivated to the culturalized (socially differentiated practices). This allows us to appreciate the full semantic range of taste perception adjectives of the Kyrgyz and English languages. From a starting point thus defined we will outline an approach to taste its foundation both sensory and logical in terms of semantics. According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary⁵ the word “**taste**” has the following meanings: **Flavour** 1. The particular quality that different foods and drinks have that allows you to recognize them when you put them in your mouth: *a sweet/salty/bitter taste; I don't like the taste of olives. This dish has an unusual combination of tastes and textures. The soup has very little taste.* The similar meaning can be found in the dictionary Кыргыз тилинин сөздүгү⁶ **Даам** 1. Бир нерсени жегенде, ичкенде, татканда тил аркылуу сезилген татыгы, татым. *Тамактын даамын киргизген, Тагыта турган туз болот (Осмонкул). Алмаңдан бирди ыргытчы, Даамын татып көрөйүн (Маликов).* **Sense** 2. The sense you have that allows you to recognize different foods and drinks when you put them in your mouth: *I've lost my sense of taste.* As for Kyrgyz language we can confirm the existence of the word taste – даам as a gustatory sense, besides the other four- sight (visual), hearing (audial), smell (olfactory) and touch (tactile) abilities. E.g. *Сасык тумоологондо даам сезүү начарлайт.* **Small quantity** 3. A small quantity of food or drink that you try in order to see what it is like: *Just have a taste of this cheese.* The phrase from the abovementioned source **Даам сызуу** – тамак ичүү, ооз тийүү; *Кимдин даамын сызсаң, миң күнү салам берип, ошол кишини сыйлап жүр (“Жомоктор”)* can be an analogue of it. Next meaning is **Short experience** 4. A short experience of something: *This was my first taste of live theatre. Although we didn't know it, this incident was a taste of things to come. Then he knew the taste of freedom in another country.* As for such meaning in Kyrgyz we suggest indirect or metaphorical meaning – өтмө маанисинде Маани, маңыз, мазмун, мазе, кызыктуулук *Сөздөрүңүн даамы жок, Күүлөрүңдө маани жок.* This meaning can be vividly described by a metaphorical phrase **Даамын татуу** Кандайдыр бир нерсенин, иштин кынуусун алуу, анын пайдалуу, жакшы, жагым-

дуу экенин билип, кызыгып калуу, кыныгуу. *Андай бекер оокаттын даамын таткан неме ал жерден оңой менен кетпейт (“Чалкан”).* **Ability to choose well** 5. A person's ability to choose things that people recognize as being of good quality or appropriate: *He has very good taste in music. They've got more money than taste. The room was furnished with taste.* In the Kyrgyz language it is impossible to render the same meaning with the same word “даам”, and then there comes the word “табит”- 1. Physical desire for food as in phrases **табити ачылуу**, тамак ашты жакшы ичүү, ичтейи ачылуу 2. Presence or absence of a strong desire for something as in **табити тартпоо**, **табияты\пейили чаппоо**, **көңүлдөнбөө**, бир нерсеге көңүлү келбөө, **табыты келбөө** *Эч нерсеге табиятым тартпайт (“Ала Тоо”). Тамакка да табиятым чаппады (“Чалкан”). Табыты келбеген соң эмне ичет (“Кыргызстан маданияты”).* 3. Having a good taste or showing that the person who chose something can recognize good things – көркөмдүктү түшүнүү сезими *Ойлой ойлой бейтааныштын кебете кешпириң өз табитине ылайыктап жасап алды кыз (Стамов).* Having outlined the meanings in two languages under consideration we can define three main things about taste. The first is closely connected with the senses: along with smell, touch, sight and hearing, taste is one of the five perceptual senses. The second refers to aesthetic judgment, taste is thus a manifestation of the idiosyncratic prejudices of the subject for an object, whence the well-known Latin proverb *De gustibus non disputandum est* – There is no accounting for tastes. The third refers to a truly social dimension: here taste signifies a preference specific to a certain group, or a more widespread collective tendency (eg. The tastes of a certain period or social class). In accordance with Giorgio Grignaffini's definition of taste, which outlines the semiotician's approach both the distance between and the interaction between the aesthetic dimension of taste (linked to perception) and its cognitive dimension in terms of value and categorization it is possible to make a very accurate semiotic research.

Taste perception and smell play an enormous role in human's life. Taste experience influences a person stronger than smell and defines his condition more than sounds, as physiological need for food makes taste more important and necessary for a man, consequently it makes him get more pleasure.

In modern linguistics taste perception adjectives

become the subject matter of many researches. Despite this fact they still remain under explored in linguistics in terms of structure and classification. In this connection we consider as fruitful the classification of A.V.Kutsenko⁷, based on the characteristic features conveyed by adjectives. She distinguishes six groups based on the Russian and English languages: 1. adjectives denoting a norm of simple taste- sweet, sour, bitter; 2. adjectives denoting a norm of complex taste- bitter-sweet, sweet-sour; 3. Adjectives denoting a norm of differentiated taste- acerb; 4. Adjectives denoting undifferentiated complex taste- pungent; 5. Adjectives denoting or having a quality to a small extent-bitterish; 6. Adjectives denoting high extent – luscious.

In our work taste perception adjectives with the main meaning of taste indication are in the centre of the lexical semantic field united on the basis of the seme “taste”. Scientists usually distinguish four types main taste experience: sour, sweet, bitter and salty. The other adjectives which are on the first, secondary, third, etc. periphery circles are formed around these four main types. According to researchers taste is expressed not by objective description of the experience, it is expressed by the indication of some pattern bearer of the taste (prototype bearer). On the basis of it the structure of the main meaning is predictable: Taste domain+N+(Evaluation+Intensity): N is a pattern bearer, eg. Sour- having a bitter taste like the taste of a lemon, vinegar, cranberry or of fruit that is not ripe. It is very important to note that every nation, every culture has its own idea of sweet, sour, bitter or salty and etc. connected with a certain pattern bearer and depending on their cultural identity . The following example can be cited here, Kyrgyz people associate bitter taste with a common wormwood *Artemisia absinthium*, English people associate it with the taste of orange peel, others with the taste of chili or curry, etc. That’s why it is very difficult to consider taste and evaluation apart from each other, as it is hard to form the idea of taste without qualitative and evaluative attitude of the speaker towards the object.

Let us show the following adjectives *sour, sweet, bitter, pungeant, delicious, savoury and distasteful* in brief outlines. The adjective sweet in English comprises more than 8 main meanings both direct and indirect\metaphorical and numerous derivatives and phrases like sweeten, sweetener, sweetheart, sweetie, sweetish, sweetly, sweetness, etc. Let us present a larger repertoire of positive

taste adjectives: amazing, appealing, appetizing, delectable, delicious, delightful, divine, enjoyable, enticing, excellent, exquisite, extraordinary, fantastic, finger licking, heavenly, lip smacking, luscious, marvelous, mouthwatering, palatable, pleasant, pleasing, satisfying, scrumptious, superb, tantalizing, tasty, terrific, wonderful, and yummy. These adjectives are on the peripheries of their main domain *sweet* and some of them can be synonyms of the adjective. As for Kyrgyz adjective *tammyu* the following meanings are presented 1. кантка, балга ж.б. мүнөздүү даам, татты. Апам дүкөндөн кант, набат. Мейиз жана ушуга окшогон таттуу нерселерди сатып келди. 2. This meaning is metaphorical. Уккулуктуу, жанга жагымдуу, сүйкүмдүү. Эл таттуу уйкуда жатышат. Кичи пейил, шамдагай, Сөзү таттуу курч эле (Токомбаев). Алакандай чымчык жеп чокугандай, Колундан жегем таттуу талканынды (Байгазиев). 3. Ынак, ынтымактуу It also comprises such derivatives таттуулаш, таттуулук, татты, татуу, татык, татымсыз, etc. On the peripheries of the word таттуу we can see such words like балдай- honey, ширин-sweet, шекерлүү-sugary.

The adjective *bitter*: 1. having a sharp, pungent taste or smell-; not sweet raw berries have an intensely bitter flavour; (of chocolate) dark and unsweetened – ачуу кара шоколад. The same meaning can be found in the Kyrgyz language ачуу- даам сезүү органдарын дүүлүктүрүүчү даам, таттуунун карама- каршысы *Даамы ачуу. Ачуу менен таттуунун Даамын таткан ким экен (Тоголок Молдо)* 2) feeling or showing anger, hurt, or resentment because of bad experiences or a sense of unjust treatment *I don't feel jealous or bitter; she wept bitter tears of self-reproach* In Kyrgyz жини, кыжыры келгендик, каар Ачуу- душман, акыл- дос(proverb). 3) painful or unpleasant to accept or contemplate today’s decision has come as a bitter blow *She knew from bitter experience how treacherous such feelings could be* (of a conflict, argument, or opponent) full of anger and acrimony a bitter five-year legal battle The same meaning can be followed in the Kyrgyz example as a wish for a married couple Турмуштун ачуу таттуусун бирге таткыла that is being together in happiness and difficulties of life 4) (of wind or weather) intensely cold a bitter February night. In Kyrgyz the same meaning жандан өткөн шамаал also can be found. In this meaning we see the synesthetic use of taste adjective bitter applied to the definition of tactile

sense. The other example of such metaphorical shift is with the adjective pungent - *The pungent, chocking smell of sulphur filled the air* – Taste-Smell shift and in the next example with savoury something that is not savoury seems unpleasant or morally unacceptable: *This hotel doesn't have a very savoury reputation*” (Бул мейманкананын абройу төмөн). *The less savoury episodes in her past.*

The aforementioned four main taste adjectives can comprise a lot of primary, secondary, etc. periphery circles with low and high intensity of meanings. And it is very difficult to consider all of them in our work. As the translation reveals important mechanisms of the performance of culture and taste can be subject matter of cultural identity through semiotic interpretation. The theory of translation, introduced by the number of scientists beginning with R. Jakobson⁸ and including U. Eco who put together interlinguistic, intra-linguistic, and inter-semiotic translations, so crucial for the further understanding of culture speaks for itself. Thus the given piece of work determines the further challenges and researches in the same branches in linguistics.

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¹ Adrian Akmajian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer, Robert M. Harnish, Linguistics, MIT Press, 2001, p. 239. ISBN 0-262-51123-1

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