

WHERE ARE THE LIMITS OF HISTORICAL CORE VOCABULARY OF EAST SLAVONIC LANGUAGES?

Core vocabulary is investigated within numerous paradigms, such as communicative, systemic, structural, evolutionary, semantic, etc. (Carter, Hughes, Ogden, Quirk, Stein, Stubbs, Vinogradov) using the data of various languages. In this research the criterion of chronological stability is applied and core vocabulary is treated as the corpus of lexemes that have been part of language since the earliest stages of its evolution. Our previous research of historical core vocabulary of two closely related languages of Germanic group - English and German – sustained the idea that inner mechanisms of lexicon evolution are encoded in the lexicon's historical core being shaped by its functional characteristics which stimulate the evolutionary processes taking place in it (Galutskikh, Skybina & Galutskikh). I suppose that such status of core vocabulary has universal character and this research is the attempt to examine the core vocabulary of East Slavonic languages. As far as I hypothesize that the investigation of core vocabulary is the key to understanding the regularities and inner mechanisms of lexicon evolution the first step of it is to define the limits of core vocabulary of East Slavonic languages taken separately – Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian. This paper focuses on this preliminary stage of research and aims more at provoking questions than providing answers. The method elaborated for the selection of core vocabulary of Germanic languages where in the corpus of core lexemes those are included which have been part of English since Old English, German – since Old High German can not be simply applied and needs to be reanalyzed. Thus, this logics ensnares us into the way of defining Russian core vocabulary as the corpus of lexemes that have been functioning in Russian since Old Russian period. Meanwhile the same will be for Ukrainian and Byelorussian as Old Russian is the ancient period common for all East Slavonic languages. Will it be the core vocabulary of East Slavonic languages in general? Under such conditions will it be possible to determine the limits of each of them taken separately? I consider common core vocabulary of East Slavonic languages needs to be singled out as the corpus of lexemes dating back to Old Russian period and then the course of their evolution in Russian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian should be examined separately in order to trace its specificity and universality in each of them and verify the hypothesis.

References:

1. Carter, Ronald. 1992. *Vocabulary: Applied Linguistic Perspectives*. London & New York: Routledge.
2. Galutskikh, Iryna. 2007. *Evolutsija istoricheskogo yadra leksicheskoy sistemy angliyskogo i nemetskogo yazykov v VIII-XX vv. (strukturny, semanticheskij, funktsional'ny analiz) [English and German Historical Core Vocabulary Evolution in VIII-XX cent. (structural, semantic, functional aspects)]*. Ph.D. dissertation, Zaporizhye National University.
3. Hughes, Geoffrey. 2000. *A History of English Words*. Oxford: OUP.
4. Ogden, Charles K. 1933. *The Basic English: A General Introduction with Rules and Grammar*. London: Broadway House.
5. Quirk, Randolph. 1982. "International Communication and the Concept of Nuclear English" *English for International Communication* ed. by Christopher J. Brumfit, 15–28. Oxford, NY, Toronto, Sydney, Paris, Frankfurt: Pergamon Press.
Skybina V., Galutskikh I. Core vocabulary: spring and/or anchor // Abstracts of the XVIIIth International Conference on Historical Linguistics (August 6-11 2007). Quebec, Montreal, 2007. P. 123.
6. Stein, Gabriele. 1978. "Nuclear English: reflections on the structure of its vocabulary". *Poetica* 10. 64-76.
7. Stubbs, Michael. 1986. "Language Development, Lexical Competence and Nuclear Vocabulary". *Educational Linguistics*, 98-115. Oxford: Blackwell.
8. Vinogradov, Viktor. 1951. "Ob osnovnom slovarnom fonde i ego slovoobrazuyushey roli v istorii yazyka [On the Main Lexical Fund and its Word Forming Role in the Language History]". *Izvestija AN SSSR. Otdeleniye literatury i yazyka* 10:3. 218-239.