

LINGUOCULTURAL LEXICOGRAPHY

Abdukarimova Dildora Zafarovna

EFL Teacher, Department of English Applied Disciplines 2

Uzbek State World Languages

ABSTRACT

This article deals linguocultural lexicography deals with compiling dictionaries which reflect culture specific phenomena of a certain linguoculture geographical names, history, traditions, holidays, mythology, specifics of political and economic systems.

Keywords: linguocultural lexicography, history, traditions, holidays, mythology.

INTRODUCTION

The first culture dictionary (Longman Dictionary of English Language and Culture) was published in Great Britain; it had a revolutionary effect on lexicographers, culturologists and linguists. Since that it has been republished many times and contemporary edition presents an invaluable source of cultural information. It combines language dictionary (80.000 words) and 15,000 cultural and encyclopedic entries covering information about people, places, history, geography, arts, literature, and popular culture. For example:

Bell – many Christian churches have bells, and these are rung on Sundays, to tell people that the church service is about to begin. They are also rung, often making pleasant tunes, when people are getting married in a church. A single bell is rung repeatedly to show that someone has died (LDELC, 2005);

Mistletoe – in British mythology mistletoe is connected with the druids who regarded it is a sacred plant. Mistletoe is often hung in rooms on Christmas because there is a tradition that one may kiss anyone of the opposite sex who is under it (LDELC, 2005).

This dictionary provides in-depth understanding of key events in British and American culture, for example, Franklin D. Roosevelt is the only president to have served more than two terms... He was a popular and respected president, and many people listened to his “fireside chats” on the radio, in which he told people what was happening in the country and what he was doing. He was the first president to appear on television” (LDELC, 2005).

It should be mentioned that this dictionary includes not only cultural notes, but also highlights the society’s attitude toward a certain realia, for example, paid holidays: people in the US get 2 weeks a year paid vacation (=holiday) from their job. Most British people have four or five weeks of paid holiday. Americans often complain that two weeks is not enough holiday, especially when they hear about the longer holidays that Europeans get (LDELC, 2005).

According to some scholars, contemporary dictionaries containing cultural information can be divided into four groups:

1) cultural dictionaries exploring political, social, historical and cultural issues peculiar to a certain country in some periods (the status of different social groups, cultural nomadism, Western feminism, Renaissance).

For instance, “The Midwest: The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures” (2004) discusses the influence of different historical periods on American Midwest culture and

its representatives: Native American's customs and ceremonies, Old World European influence, effects of the Great Migration. The volumes of encyclopedia cover information about people and ethnic groups, different types of realia, art and music, history and folklore, architecture, traditions and customs, language and literature, etc. of American Midwest. "Encyclopedia of Blacks in European History and Culture" (Martone, 2008) discusses the role and contribution of blacks to European history, literature, society and popular culture. It also gives information about black people's contribution to the development of political and social rights in Europe, the struggle for civil equality of blacks, black immigration to Europe, the role and influence of blacks on contemporary European popular culture, science and sport as well as cultural figures of African origin, black holidays and festivals that transformed Europe into multicultural states. "Evangelical America: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary American Religious Culture" (Demy, Shockley, 2017) discusses the history and impact of evangelicalism (a direction in Christianity) on American history, society, politics, and culture. "Encyclopedia of Southern Culture" (1989) in detail describes every aspect of this region (former Confederacy), and its role in the development of the USA, its history and policies, its music and literature, ideas and values, religion and language, art and architecture, politics and media. It emphasizes the uniqueness of Southern culture, a blend created by blacks and whites who have lived together for more than 300 years.

2) dictionaries and reference books devoted to the descriptions of countries and cultures (names of architectural monuments, animals and plants specific for a certain country, names and descriptions of national holidays and traditions, etc.).

A good example of such dictionaries are guide-books about different countries and geographically oriented cultural dictionaries: "Dictionary of Japanese Culture" (Kojima, Crane, 1990), "Россия. Большой лингвострановедческий словарь" (Прохоров, 2007), "Греция: Лингвострановедческий словарь" (Николау, 1995), "Франция: лингвострановедческий словарь" (Ведениена, 1997), "Австрия: Лингвострановедческий словарь" (Муравлёва, 2003), "Германия: страна и язык: Лингвострановедческий словарь" (Мальцева, 1998) and others. Dictionaries of this type include names of architectural monuments, animals and plants specific for a certain country, names and descriptions of national holidays and traditions. These dictionaries compared to the linguistic ones, contain more cultural information and include data of reference-descriptive character.

3) specialized cultural dictionaries guiding specific cultural areas of knowledge in certain countries: dictionaries of idioms and proverbs, myths and legends, slang, etc.

For instance, "Dictionary of the Bible and Western Culture" (Beavis, Gilmour, 2012) is a reference guide that gives information about characters, places, legends and notions going back to the Bible. Encyclopedic entries discuss biblical terms in their original settings, and then illustrate linguistic verbalization of this phenomena, i.e. idioms, word-combinations illustrating their influence on Western culture.

"The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs" (Speake, 2015), "The Facts On File Dictionary of Proverbs" (Manser, 2007) contain the most widely used proverbs in English, provided with explanation of their meaning, examples of their usage, the origin of these proverbs and background cultural information.

“Myths and Legends: An illustrated guide to their origins and meanings” (Wilkinson, 2009) includes information about myths from the well-known Ancient Greek-Roman mythology and the less-known myths of the tribes of American Indians as well as those of the East. It highlights legends and stories in terms of their cultural, psychological, and religious meanings and demonstrate their impact on the societies’ cultural and social lifestyle.

“The Complete Dictionary of Symbols” (Tresidder, 2005) covers more than 2,000 major themes: animals and plants, numerals and colours, gods and goddesses, supernatural creatures, heroes and heroines, mythical episodes, prophets and saints, miracles, and etc., that are commonly found in mythology, art, and literature and marked by symbolics.

4) encyclopedic dictionaries (Encyclopedia Britannica, World Book, Большая советская энциклопедия, etc.), which cover a wide range of topics and provide information about different fields of the life.

For example, Encyclopædia Britannica is the oldest and most famous dictionary published in 1770th. Since it has gained a popular and critical reputation for general excellence. The content of Britannica covers topics in geography, biography, biology and medicine, literature, physics and astronomy, religion, art, Western philosophy, and law. However, there are also specialized encyclopedias that focus on a certain field, such as art, medicine, engineering, philosophy and compiled from the academic, cultural, ethnic, or national perspective.

From the position of linguocultural lexicography a special interest is attached to encyclopedic dictionaries organized to provide a better insight into culture. For instance, “Encyclopedia of Indo-European Culture” (Mallory, Adams, 1997) provides the most detailed information about the major Indo-European language stocks and their origins, and the conceptual range of the reconstructed Proto-Indo-European language. The encyclopedia also highlights some of the major issues of Indo-European cultural studies.

“A Native American Encyclopedia: History, Culture, and Peoples” (Pritzker, 2000) covers a wide range of culturally significant topics about history and current life of North American Indian groups: leaders, tribal names, customs and traditions, ceremonies and rituals, food and drink, clothes, dwellings, weapons and government, religion and beliefs, myths and folklore, etc. as well as their contributions to the contemporary American society.

“Encyclopedia of Contemporary Russian Culture” (2014) sums up the information about contemporary Russian culture including its ethnic composition and identity, different aspects of culture and lifestyle: people, art and theatre, fashion and film, literature, music, food, transport, politics and economics, etc.

“Encyclopedia of Contemporary Spanish Culture” (Rodgers, 2001) provides information about current cultural and political developments of Spain from 1939 to the present day, including the cultures of Catalonia, Galicia and the Basque country. It sums up the information on history and politics, education and science, dance and sport, famous people and so on.

“Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture” (Smith, 2010) contains comprehensive information on Afro-American popular culture such as popular cultural events, places and figures, the development of black baseball, the Harlem Renaissance known as the “New Negro Movement” – a cultural, social, and artistic explosion that took place in Harlem, New York, in 1920s.

Linguocultural material can be presented in dictionaries in alphabetical order with linguocultural comments or they can be based on the ideographic principle. For instance, the dictionary of the “Slavic mythology” contains interpretations of folklore and fairy images, characters and symbols of the Eastern Slavs. The world is described within the system of binary oppositions: life – death, right – left, male – female, etc.

The first linguocultural dictionary for academic purposes was worked out by E.M. Vereschagin and V.G. Kostomarov (1983). It is intended for students and teachers specializing in English at universities, pedagogical institutes and institutes of foreign languages. This dictionary contains explanations of linguistic expressions that are specific for English culture, it is provided with photos for visual perception.

One of the significant contributions to the development of linguocultural lexicography is the cultural dictionary about Russia (Россия. Большой лингвострановедческий словарь) that was published in 2007. It contains about 2000 nationally and culturally marked words and word-combinations nominating different historical facts, realia, nature phenomena, cultural concepts, names and descriptions of holidays and traditions, personages related to history, mythology, folklore, different culture specific metaphors, similes, phraseological units, proverbs, national songs, etc., related to Russian culture that reflects national characteristics of the Russian mentality such as изба, береза, дядя Стёпа, медведь, День Победы, пироги, Новый год, Третьяковка, «Варяг», Александр Невский, «Война и мир», «Мариинка», «Аврора», Арбат, клюква, рожь, царь (Россия, БЛС, 2007).

Of special interest is the dictionary of cultural concepts and constants by Yu. S. Stepanov (2004). The dictionary contains the description of such constants as: Russia and Russians, Russian soul, Faith, Eternity, Law and Lawlessness, Fear, Love, etc., that are investigated both from the diachronic and synchronic perspectives. According to Yu.S. Stepanov cultural concepts and constants are characterized by metamorphism (changes) in the process of evolution, with the core being unchanged. Therefore cultural constants though not numerous in number present the basis of a certain culture.

Thus, assessing the lexicographic trend in linguoculturology, we should note one important feature: the borders between linguistic meaning and extralinguistic knowledge are blurred, there are dictionaries that integrate both aspects. An ideal dictionary in our opinion is a dictionary which provides more or less detailed encyclopedic, ethno-linguistic and cultural information.

LITERATURE

1. Bryson B. Notes from a Small Island: Journey through Britain. –New York: Perennial, 2001
2. Cassirer E. The philosophy of symbolic forms. - New Haven: Yale univ. press, 1957. – Vol. 1, Language. – 328 p.
3. D’Andrade R. A Study of Personal and Cultural Values: American, Japanese, and Vietnamese (Culture, Mind, and Society). Palgrave Macmillan; 2008. – 173 p.
4. Deng Ya., Liu R. Language and Culture: Contrastive Studies between English and Chinese. – Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 1989
5. Fox K. Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour. – Hodder and Stoughton. 2004. – 424 p.

6. Frye N. Symbol/Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. – Princeton, 1965
7. Аманова Н. Ф. О РОЛИ КОНТЕКСТА ПРИ ВЫДЕЛЕНИИ ОДНОСОСТАВНЫХ ПРЕДЛОЖЕНИЙ //Страны. Языки. Культура: сборник материалов XI-й международной научно-практической конференции/Под ред. проф. Абуевой НН Махачкала: ДГТУ. 366 с. – 2019. – Т. 19. – С. 38.
8. Amanova Nodirabegim Furkatovna. (2022). EFFECTIVE METHOD OF TEACHING. Conference Zone, 53–55. Retrieved from <http://conferencezone.org/index.php/cz/article/view/124>
9. Amanova, Farangiz Furkatovna. "USE OF MODERN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES." Scientific progress 1, no. 6 (2021): 594-597.