

## LEXICAL CATEGORIZATION OF LANGUAGE UNITS OF THE SPHERE “CLOTHES” IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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**Abstract.** This article analyzes the level of participation of clothing names in semantic sphere and their aspects related to folk culture based on examples.

**Key words:** semantic sphere, name of clothes, lexical categorization of language units

We wear clothes both for protecting ourselves from bad weather and for expressing our ideas, thoughts and views. It is difficult to imagine today`s life without different items of clothes. People depend on clothing to a large extent, which explains wide spread occurrence of using words of the sphere «clothes» in everyday life.

The development of our society and increase of the influence of fashion tendencies determined creation of new pieces of clothes, designs and fabric peculiarities. Items of clothes can tell us about national, religious or cultural identity.

Thus, the main functions of clothes are protective, informational, and aesthetic.

Nowadays, vocabulary of the group “clothes” is an open system which stays in the process of its development. The system is characterized by a great variety of its units and increase of their informational and cultural significance.

The vocabulary of the English language related to the group «clothes» is characterized by a great number of identifiers, which are used for nomination of new items of clothes. The diversity of identifiers explains constant appearance of new words related to the sphere “clothes”.

During the process of interpretation of the reality we relate its separate fragments to certain categories, making emphasis on peculiarities of these categories. When we relate phenomena to different classes we structure the reality and find out similarities and differences.

J. Lakoff states that the main principle of classification is the sphere of a person`s experience, which defines certain classification categories in his mind during the process of reality analyzing (Lakoff 1988, 36).

Group classification characteristics of the sphere “clothes” (material, presence /absence of a detail, form, purpose, etc.) condition lexical-thematic classes of this sphere with different criteria. In this research there have been determined the classes with the following characteristics: gender, age, purpose, belonging to a certain

season, certain style, peculiarities of sewing, name of a part of the body on which an item is worn.

According to gender characteristics clothes may be divided into male and female. For example, most dresses belong to female clothes. Such words as *blouse, bra, corset, tights, leggings, peignoir* belong to female clothes as well. Male clothes include *bow-tie, long underwear, tails, tuxedo*. However, most types of shorts and trousers may belong to both groups, which may be explained by the spread of unisex style.

In connection with fashion tendencies to wear baggy and comfortable clothes there has recently appeared a group of lexical units which include the word boyfriend: boyfriend jeans, boyfriend T-shirt. These items of clothes have been created for women, but their design is similar to male clothes.

Besides, gender peculiarities may be seen in combinations with the words female, girls`, women`s, male, men`s, *maternity: female trousers, maternity T-shirt, women`s short*, etc.

Special attention should be paid to the group of skirts. Skirts usually belong to female clothes. However, there exists male skirt kilt, which is worn in Scotland. Thus, some items of clothes may belong to different gender groups in different cultures, which may be explained by cultural peculiarities. In accordance with age there may be the following groups:

- *baby clothes: bib, bonnet;*
- *teenager clothes: leggings, miniskirt, shorts;*
- *clothes for middle-aged people: blouse, maxiskirt, pullover;*
- *clothes for elderly people: cardigan, sheath dress, shawl.*

In compliance with a purpose there may be:

- *everyday clothes: blouse, coat, dress, jacket, jeans, trousers, T-shirt;*
- *job-related clothes: medical clothing;*
- *sports clothes: anorak, tracksuit trousers;*
- *uniform: camouflage, khaki pants, sailor suit, uniform.*

Nowadays, there is a tendency of using job-related clothes in our everyday`s life. For example, different sorts of lumberjack style shirts and shoes are very popular among the youth. Besides, items of sports clothes are also used in everyday`s life.

As for seasons, clothes may be classified into summer clothes (chinos, linen suit, summer dress, shorts, skirt, T-shirt); winter clothes (sheepskin coat, fur coat, fur waistcoat, winter coat, winter jacket), autumn-spring clothes (autumn coat, autumn jacket, trench coat).

There is also a group of clothes related to religious topic. As a rule, such words have been borrowed from other languages. When borrowed, the words may change their form on phonetic or morphological level (chasuble – from the Latin word *casuala*; chador – from the Persian word *chaddar*, hijab – from the Arabic word *hajaba*). What concerns styles, there may be determined the following groups: classic clothes (bolero, cardigan, little black jacket), folk style clothes (anorak, sari, tunic, poncho), avantgarde style clothes (balloon skirt, jodhpurs), romantic style clothes (tulip skirt), sports style clothes (Bermuda shorts, hoodie jacket, leggings, plus-fours, riding breeches, shorts).

The results of the factual material of the research have also determined a group of underwear: bustier, body string, body shorts, bustier dress, corsage.

The way of sewing clothes defines the following groups:

- *draped clothes (mantila, pelerine, scarf, shawl, and tippet);*
- *clothes, which is put on over one`s head (poncho, sweater, tunic);*
- *clothes with a zip or buttons (blouse, dressing gown, fur coat, jacket, overcoat);*
- *sewed clothes (dress, skirt, trousers, T-shirt).*

There is a group of hybrid clothes, composed of two items of clothes: skirt-shorts, smoking dress, shirtdress, tunicblouse.

The above-mentioned lexical thematic groups of clothes confirm J.Lakoff`s idea, that cognitive classification characteristic may be presented by one differential characteristic (characteristics of gender, age, way of sewing, style) or by a few differential characteristics. For example, different items of clothes may be worn in different seasons of the year depending on the climate. Thus, words may belong to different subgroups of the group “season”. Such characteristics are specific for the national sphere of concepts and may differ from culture to culture.

Besides, different units of clothes may belong to different gender groups, which may be explained by both a person`s experience and his cultural identity.

The main types of lexical nomination of the words of the group “clothes”

Correlations between a language and our reality, connection between words and perception of the reality have always been in the sphere of linguists` interest, especially in the context of cognitive linguistics.

R.Jackendoff admits that linguistic view of the world is considered to be a projected world which is reflected with the language (Jackendoff 1978, 60).

When we perceive the reality, we strive to store information and the results of the experience in our mind. Specialists of the cognitive science admit that

the process of lexical nomination plays a very important role in it, as nomination reflects a person`s cognitive background.

The main types of lexical nomination in the English language are presented in the form of borrowings and new words. Borrowings are considered to be an effective way of word-formation of the vocabulary of the sphere «clothes». The process of globalization has brought a number of borrowings in English: anorak and parka – from the Eskimo language, bolero jacket and gaucho pants – from the Spanish language, kimono – from the Japan language, khaki – from the Hindi language, djellaba – from the Arabic language, sarong – from the Indonesian language. These borrowings have completely saved their form and meaning in the English language.

Another type of lexical nomination is creation of new words. In the process of research there have been selected words, which have been created by means of morphological derivation.

**In out opinon**, it is important to point out that English names of articles are characterized by both types of lexical nomination: borrowings and creation of new words (Leshcheva 2001, 77). The process of globalization and influence of different cultures on the English culture is reflected on the vocabulary of the English language including the sphere “clothes”.

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