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THE SOCIAL CHRONOTOPOS IMPACT ON THE PERCEPTION OF THE LEXEME PATRIOTISM BY UKRAINIAN YOUTH

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Abstract: *The article deals with the peculiarities of perception of the lexeme patriotism by modern Ukrainian youth in conditions of the current social chronotopos and reveals the gender differences in the perception of this lexeme. The authors of the article attempted to investigate into the social meanings connected with the notion of patriotism and to prove that their appearance was conditioned by the social chronotopos where the personality of the young person was formed. The article is based on the results of the associative experiment conducted in 2017 among 200 Ukrainian students. The authors of the article offer their own vision of the mental and gender aspects of young people's perception of the word-stimulus patriotism and prove the social precondition of the receptive activity of human consciousness, in particular the dependence of the perception of the word as a linguistic unit on the conditions of social chronotopos.*

Keywords: *social chronotopos, social meanings, associative experiment, patriotism*

INTRODUCTION

The reformation process of the system of values, primarily those ones related to the perception of such concepts as *nation, language, people, state, patriotism*, etc., is inevitable in today's prevailing conditions in Ukraine. This article is an attempt to investigate the peculiarities of perception of the lexeme *patriotism* by Ukrainian youth in 2017. It also draws up a mental portrait of modern Ukrainians, to reflect modern Ukrainian youth's system of sense bearing values that is being formed in conditions of the current chronotopos under the influence of mass media and communication with parents, friends, authoritative people, teachers, lecturers, etc.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Our research is related to psychology, psycho- and sociolinguistics, as well as sociology and linguistics itself. The works of such researchers as V. Burlachuk (2005), O. Denysevych (2010) are the theoretical framework for our paper related to social meanings and the social and mental portrait of the Ukrainian youth created on their basis. Our previous studies (Pryschepa, Plechko & Svysiuk, 2017) have proved that not only social meanings associated with one or the other lexeme-stimulus, but also *social mentality* that manifests itself in the unity of conscious and unconscious meanings can be investigated by means of an associative experiment.

RESULTS

200 first year students of *Zhytomyr National Agroecological University* (Ukraine) became participants of the chain associative experiment. According to the results of the associative experiment, boys produced the larger number of associations for the word-stimulus patriotism.

During the associative experiment, girls produce a greater amount of associations as they are more inclined to verbalize concepts. In addition, the total number of the associations produced to the word-stimulus *patriotism* by both girls and boys is larger, which has not been observed, for example, during the study of the boys' perception of the words *people, nation, and language* (Pryschepa, Plechko & Svysiuk, 2017) directly associated with the notion of *patriotism*. In our opinion, this is connected not only with the internal form of the word (its content and semantics), but also with the social meanings that are active in the present social chronotopos. As for the boys concerned, their activity in the production of associations to this word-stimulus is probably related to the social role of young men in conditions of present-day Ukraine. They are potential defenders of the state and any of them can be in the armed forces of Ukraine and protect its borders. In addition to the association *love to Ukraine*, which is, in our opinion, highly correlated with the meaning of the word patriotism, such meanings as *sacrifice, struggle for freedom, Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation* and *revolution* produced by boys as well as *faithfulness to the state, struggle for freedom, Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation* and *revolution* produced by girls appeared in the semantic core of the associative field of associations to the word-stimulus *patriotism*. A gender difference in the perception of the word-stimulus *patriotism* becomes obvious on the example of generating these associations. Thus, the boys (3%) have only produced the association *sacrifice*, and the association *faithfulness to the state* has been represented in the following variants: *faithfulness to the state* (2% among girls) and *allegiance to the state* (girls 13% and boys 11%). The additional research is needed to find out the reasons of presence of the association *sacrifice* among the young men. We assume that this is due to the social role of modern Ukrainian youth and the need to sacrifice oneself for the sake of the homeland's freedom.

The following meanings formed the semantic core of the associative field of the lexeme-stimulus *patriotism*:

Ukraine, love to Ukraine, faithfulness to the state, pride, faith in own country (among girls);

Ukraine, love to Ukraine, sacrifice, faithfulness to the state, pride, faith in own country, struggle for freedom, revolution, war, Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation (among boys).

The consistency of associations in the chain of semantic core reflects their number and importance in the system of sense bearing values. The first associations in a line are considered to be more significant and meaningful for young Ukrainians, and the last are less important.

Associations *people, nation, imprudence, disease (idiocy), fanaticism, Maidan* (their total number is 17%) are, in our view, the result of the social environment

influence. *Control over people, brainwashing, death, cosmopolitanism, state of mind* turned out to be isolated individual associations to the word-stimulus *patriotism*. Furthermore, it is significant that 9% of the participants did not produce any associations to the word-stimulus *patriotism*.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Results of the associative experiment illustrate the system of sense bearing values and the mental portrait of modern Ukrainian youth. A large number of associations produced by boys exceed the amount of associations produced by girls. It testifies to the fact that the meaning of patriotism takes one of the leading places in the system of sense bearing values of Ukrainian young men.

Such sense bearing values as *Ukraine, love to Ukraine, sacrifice, allegiance to the state, pride, faith in own country, struggle for freedom, revolution, war, Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation* describe the mental portrait of modern Ukrainian young men. The girls' mental portrait is revealed through the following values: *Ukraine, love to Ukraine, faithfulness to the state, pride, faith in own country*.

The experiment proved the presence of gender differences in the perception of the word-stimulus *patriotism* and showed that a certain number of participants (9%) did not associate the word-stimulus *patriotism* with any other meaning. It also enabled us to assume that the consciousness of young Ukrainians is shaped by the influence of social chronotopos.

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