## Ганна Кузнєцова

кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри педагогічних технологій та мовної підготовки (Державний університет «Житомирська політехніка»)

## ALGORITHM OF CONCEPTS' STUDY IN MODERN BRITISH POLITICAL TEXTS (MODERN APPROACH)

Text analysis constitutes one of the most interesting parts of philological studies of a text. Texts on political issues enable enable the researcher to plunge deeper into the enigma of ways of concepts' presentation with the help of the language. It is certainly important to exercise such an analysis within a certain algorithm, as the usage of the latter can provide a better insight into the schemes of political text's development, creation and presentation. The **objectives** of the paper can be worded as the development and shaping of the algorithm which can be used in the analysis of a political text and pointing out the main concepts of the current political discourse.

To reveal the essence of the modern understanding of cognitive analysis, it's necessary to dwell upon its definitions. The Ukrainian linguist O.Selivanova defines conceptual analysis as the main method of logical analysis of the language and cognitive linguistics, which involves modeling and description of concepts [4, p. 262]. The goal of the analysis mentioned is the reconstruction of cognitive mechanisms of individual or collective consciousness, which mediate the formation and organization of knowledge about the objects of reality and the results of internal reflexive experience.

According to professor A. Martynuk, the conceptual analysis consists of two aspects: logical and eidetic. The logical aspect is aimed at establishing regularities within the organization of the concept, identifying its elements and establishing connections between them. The eidetic aspect is aimed to establish how a holistic concept exists in mind [2, p. 47]. One of the main goals of conceptual analysis is the construction of a conceptual model of that informational element that is represented by a sign [3]. To achieve this, the elements of meaning must be grouped in a special way, ordered and interrelated. Such conceptual structures as propositions, frames, scenarios, prototype models etc. are used for the task mentioned. In the development of conceptual analysis, the pronciples of the theory of metaphor and metonymy by G. Lakoff and M. Johnson are of great importance, as well as the conception of prototype theory of E. Rosh and G. Lakoff, frame semantics of Ch. Fillmore. These cognitive models provide the development and saving information about the world in individual's mind.

While modeling the structure of a concept, it is important not only to divide the means of verbalization into lexical-semantic groups, but also to establish relations between semantic classes of parts of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, to establish connections with the semantic core of the concept [1].

Conceptual analysis of discourse phenomena constitutes a widely-spread and captivating area of linguistic research. And among numerous discourse studies of the last decades, PD proves to be, probably, one of the most popular and interesting fields. Some scholars claim that the growing interest to the study of political texts can be explained by the following factors: a) the inside requirements of linguistic theory, which at various times directed its attention to various spheres of the language system functioning; b) politological issues of political thinking and its links with political behavior, and also by the need in development of the methods of analysis of political texts; c) by the social request, the ambition for setting political communication free from manipulating public consciousness (9, p. 10 – 48).

Political discourse is always related to the issue of power at different levels. The fact that the consciousness of large groups of people is being manipulated through PD remains indisputable. The language picture of the political world of Great Britain is a complex formation of mental units (concepts, guidelines, myths, values, etc.) related to the political sphere of communication and PR [5].

According to the Ukrainian linguist I. Shevchenko, speech functioning of concepts depends on the context. Out of context, the word has only the lexical-conceptual meaning reflected in the dictionary. Therefore, cognitive research is discursive in its paradigmatic essence, in contrast to the semantic study of lexical units. When constructing the world, the speaker uses all his linguistic and social experience, knowledge, and interpretive mechanisms [6, p. 9 – 20.].

Each country at a certain time of its development is characterized by events and changes that determine the main concepts of PD. In the process of studying the research material as related to this study, **an algorithm** for analyzing the concepts of British political interviews was developed. This **algorithm** includes the following stages:

- determining the main topic/topics of the British political interview;
- taking into account the changes that are happening or may happen in the country in connection with this event;
- selection of concepts that are semantically related to this topic/topics;
- definition of lexical units that are verbalizers of the concepts of a certain political interview.

PD researches of previous years prove that the main concept of political discourse is the concept of POWER [7; 8], so it is logical that it is actualized in all political interviews. The research material shows that this basic concept is often actualized with the help of more specific concepts that denote persons and institutions that are embodiments of power, for example: *GOVERNMENT*, *PRIME MINISTER*, *PRESIDENT*.

It is of interest to study the system of concepts verbalized in a finished political text, as it helps a reader (senior students, in our case) to grasp the most

important notions and to analyze the ways these notions are expressed in modern British PD. From this angle the interview with the former Prime Minister of Great Britain Boris Johnson (2022) can serve an example. Since this is a political interview, the concepts *POWER*, *OPINION*, and *ACTION* are often used. The title of the interview is «In full: Exclusive with Boris Johnson on the Ukraine conflict» [10]. The topics of the interview are:

- the war with Russia;
- the war of Independence;
- Britain's military and econome support to Ukraine;
- the use of nuclear weapons;
- democracy and freedom.

Our analysis showed that the concepts verbalized in the interview are characterized by the following frequency of their manifestation: *THE WAR IN UKRAINE* – 35 (number of usage); *SUPPORT* – 21; *OPINION* – 20; *NUCLEAR WEAPONS* – 14; *THE WAR OF INDEPENENCE* – 7; *DEMOCRACY* – 6; *FREEDOM* – 5. It is illustrative enough to show and analyze the use of some of them, as it testifies to the seriousness and determination of the interviewed person. In this interview the key concepts are *THE WAR IN UKRAINE* and *SUPPORT*. For instance:

**Mark Austin:** Boris Johnson, Vladimir Putin thought that this **war** would be over in days in a week or so yeah did you fear the same?

Boris Johnson: That was certainly the advice that we were getting and the some of the defense intelligence people were saying, look this is going to be wery, very one-sided. The Russians are just going to roll through and numerically they're so strong and they're so well, so we're equipped. I'd been to Ukraine a few times before and I kind of knew that they were going to fight, and if you you've been there a lot and you talked to people who've fought in the East in, in Donbass since 2014. These are hardened, hardened fighters, so I thought it would be much tougher than, than Putin thought.

Here the concept WAR IN UKRAINE is implemented through the nouns war, the Russians. The verbal phrase they (Ukrainians) were going to fight, the adverbial phrase in the East in, in Donbass since 2014, the noun phrase with the repeated adjective hardened, hardened fighter, and the noun phrase it would be much tougher than, than Putin thought characterize Boris Johnson's positive attitude to the Ukrainian soldiers and confidence in their military strength, thus being the supportive but emotionally charged way to verbalise the concept OPINION.

The depicted algorithm of work with political texts shows that the suggested algorithm facilitates better and deeper understanding of political texts thus improving political and language competence of readers. From the philological point of view, the suggested algorithm broadens the researcher's insight into texts analysis, facilitating alongside his/her social and political awareness.

## СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНИХ ДЖЕРЕЛ

- 1. Єсипенко Н.Г. <u>Текстові концепти та методи їх аналізу</u> Вісник Волинського національного університету імені Л. Українки. Мовознавство. Луцьк: ВНУ, 2009. Вип. 5. С. 253-257.
- 2. Мартинюк А.П. Словник основних термінів когнітивно-дискурсивної лінгвістики. Харків : ХНУ імені В.Н. Каразіна, 2011. 196с.
- 3. Мунтян Л.В. Концентуальний аналіз та методи дослідження вербалізованих концептів. <u>Наукові записки [Національного університету</u> «Острозька академія»]. Сер. : Філологічна. 2013. Вип. 33. С. 103-105.
- 4. Селіванова О.О. Сучасна лінгвістика: термінологічна енциклопедія. Полтава: Довкілля. К., 2006. 716 с.
- 5. Четвертак Є.О. Вербалізація національної ідентичності США в англомовному політичному дискурсі: дис. ... к-та. філол. наук : 10.02.04. Запоріжжя, 2016. 237с.
- 6. Шевченко І.С. Когнітивно-комунікативна парадигма і аналіз дискурсу : Дискурс як когнітивно-комунікативний феномен : монографія. Харків: Константа, 2005. С. 9-20.
- 7. Ilie, C. *Pragmatics vs rhetoric: political discourse at the pragmatics-rhetoric interface*. In C. Ilie, & N. R. Norrick (Eds.), *Pragmatics and its interfaces*, 2018. pp. 85-119. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1075/pbns.294.05ili">https://doi.org/10.1075/pbns.294.05ili</a>
- 8. Shevchenko, I., Alexandrova, D., & Gutorov, V. *Impoliteness in parliamentary discourse: a cognitive-pragmatic and sociocultural approach. Cognition, communication, discourse,* 22, 2021, 77-94. http://doi.org/10.26565/2218-2926-2021-22-05
- 9. Wilson, J. Thinking with Concepts. Cambridge University Press. 1963. 183 pp.
- 10. In full: Exclusive with Boris Johnson on the Ukraine conflict <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPBYdvl1zlM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CPBYdvl1zlM</a> (дата звернення 18.04.2023).