

LEXICAL OBJECTIVATION MEANS FOR THE EMOTIONAL CONCEPT “FEAR” IN GERMAN PUBLICISTIC DISCOURSE

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes lexical verbalization means for the emotional concept “fear” in German publicistic texts. In our opinion, it is an emotive text that, as opposed to the dictionary definition, can convey nuances of the emotive word semantics as full and vivid as possible. In other words, text is a communicative unit that has an emotional component, which, in turn, regulates the relationship with the human factors of an individual: emotional, mental states, etc.

Keywords: *emotional concept, fear, emotion, publicistic discourse, emotive text, word semantics, text corpus, prepositional phrase.*

1.INTRODUCTION

Selecting the analysis of lexical verbalization means of the emotional concept "fear" using German publicistic texts can be explained by the fact that these are the texts containing emotive components that can convey nuances of the emotive word semantics as vivid and full as possible. According to V.I. Shakhovskiy, “only speech is informative, and language is a code to be actuated, and the speech and text reveal more and more new implicit expressive language powers and nominative potentialities” [1]. In the linguistic science, emotions are designated and expressed in units of different language levels. However, according to L.G. Babenko, it is the lexicon that has the largest variety of emotional nuances: “The semantic category of emotions should be specified first of all in considering the lexicon qualifying emotions, because its emotive meanings are explicit, more resistant and stable. These words are direct signs of emotions” [2].

2.METHODS

We applied the method for semantic component analysis, as well as cognitive linguistic approach to the study of language. Such recognized German text corpus as LIMAS served as the material for study.

3.GOALS

This study is aimed at analyzing lexical objectification means of the considered concept in German followed by identification of the ethno-specific characteristics of the emotion of fear.

4. RESULTS

Analysis of actual material showed that different parts of speech appear to be verbalization means for the emotional state of fear in German. These are nouns, verbs and adjectives.

Previously, we have already considered synonyms of the word "fear", and by analyzing the lexicographical sources, a great number of the emotion of fear nominees was identified. However, it should be noted that not all nominees can be found in the texts of publicistic discourse. The most frequent are the synonyms constituting the core of the concept of Angst, namely: Angst, Furcht, Entsetzen, Erschrecken.

The analyzed corpora include prepositional phrases, in which a preposition (Präposition + Angst) precedes the "Angst" lexeme. The preposition in is the most frequently used :

Die Leute wagten sich kaum noch vor die Tür und leben in Angst [Die Zeit, 21.10.2013, Nr. 42] [3]

Frau Egli kam wieder so in Angst [Die Zeit, 16.09.2013, Nr. 38] [3]

...liess er mir keine Ruhe und schnürte mein Herz so zusammen in Angst [Die Zeit, 16.09.2013, Nr. 38] [3]

Jawohl, auch, andauernd in Spannung, ja in Angst leben [Die Zeit, 16.09.2013, Nr. 38] [3]

Das, was aber die ganze Bevölkerung am meisten in Angst und Entsetzen jagte [Die Zeit, 28.08.2013 (online)] [3]

Schädling versetzt auch die Walliser Birnenproduzenten in Angst [Die Zeit, 14.08.2013, Nr. 28] [3]

Wir wollten Arbens, aber auch die Soldaten in Angst und Schrecken versetzen so wie die deutschen Stukas zu Beginn des Zweiten Weltkriegs in Holland, Belgien und Polen [Die Zeit, 31.07.2013, Nr. 32] [3]

Die Lehre daraus heißt: Deutschland muss nicht in Angst und Verzagtheit versinken. Das Land kann sich selbst helfen, wenn es solidarisch handelt [Die Zeit, 31.07.2013, Nr. 23] [3]

Strengthening a feeling of fear is due to growth of the component (Angst und Entsetzen/fear and horror, Spannung und Angst/tension and fear, Angst und Schrecken/fear and horror, fright) in the presented examples. The used growth of the component, as well as listing the nominees of emotion (Angst und Verzagtheit/fear and shyness, depression) direct the "occasional" semes on the semantics of the word Angst, which leads to the strongest and most emotionally expressed manifestation of the state of fear.

Set expressions with the lexeme "Angst" are actively used, for example, "...liess er mir keine Ruhe und schnürte mein Herz so zusammen in Angst" [4]. In this example, the expression "schnürte mein Herz in Angst" is metaphorical. In the contemporary Digital Dictionary of the German Language DWDS, the set expression "etw. schnürt jmdn." is defined as follows: 'etw. ist so fest um jmdn. gebunden, dass es schmerzhaft ins Fleisch schneidet' [5], which means 'something tightens so strongly as if cuts into pieces with pain'. The combination has a figurative nuance "Angst, Ärger, Ekel, Mitleid schnürt ihm die Kehle, das Herz, den Atem bildlich" [5], that only emphasizes the emotional state.

In the example "Schädling versetzt auch die Walliser Birnenproduzenten in Angst", the prepositional phrase "in Angst versetzen" is a set expression. This expression is given in the dictionary edited by Duden, and it means "ängstigen", i.e. 'to scare, to frighten, to keep in awe; to worry' [6].

As mentioned above, we were not limited to considering only one lexeme "fear" in our analysis. Synonyms for the word "Angst" were also studied. Here are some examples of their use in publicistic texts.

In contrast to Angst, its synonym Furcht is a particular object, towards which a person feels fear: Dietl benennt vieles von dem, was Menschen mit einer Krebsdiagnose umtreibt: die Furcht etwa, in eine gnadenlose Medizinmaschinerie hineinzugeraten, die den Patienten bis zum Ende mit Strahlen, Zellgiften und Operationen traktiere [Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]. This refers to an incurable disease - cancer that reaves a man of restand leads to a state of fear, because it represents a real threat to life.

Erschrecken is the opposite of Angst and Furcht. This emotional state is characterized by short duration, unexpectedness and dramatic change in the situation: Über Twitter rief der Sender zur Ruhe auf: „Es war bloß ein Schrecken“. Der Erdbebendienst der chilenischen Seestreitkräfte bestätigte, dass ein Tsunami drohe [7]. Information that tsunami is near hit people like a ton of bricks and caused consternation.

In addition to the nouns illustrating the emotional state of fear, adjectives are also embodied in German publicistic texts.

Attributive adjectives can be viewed from different points of view, from lexical and semantic position.

1.1) In the analyzed text corpora, the expressions are often found, which consist of the lexeme "Angst", as well as an adjective in the function of an attribute indicating a state of fear, for example, furchtbar (awful), ungeheuerlich (monstrous), schrecklich (terrible), fürchterlich (dreadful, horrible) u.a. Combined with the lexeme "Angst", these adjectives indicate the highest degree of manifestation of one of the strongest emotion.

Pat hat schreckliche Angst (terrible fear) vor Schlangen [Die Zeit, 24.12.2013, Nr. 52] [3]

...im Volke herrschende furchtbare Angst (terrible fear) vor den Pilzen [Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

Eine ungeheuerliche Angst (monstrous fear), wie er sie noch nie erlebt hatte [Die Zeit, 11.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

...wenn auch verschiedene der Diskussionsredner und Rednerinnen, die dem Lande angehören, gerade vor diesem letzteren eine heillose Angst (horrible, dreadful fear) zu haben scheinen [Die Zeit, 11.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

Er hatte mit einemmal fürchterliche Angst (horrible, dreadful fear) davor [Die Zeit, 13.12.2013, Nr. 51] [3].

1.2) Adjectives are used in various forms of comparison: positive (Positiv), comparative (Komparativ) and superlative (Superlativ). The superlative form of adjectives is applicable for the maximum amplification, impact of this emotion.

...und erschreckte es hinterrücks, um es in größere Angst (in greater fear) zu versetzen – comparative form of the adjective (Komparativ) [Die Zeit, 09.12.2013, Nr. 49] [3]

In höchster Angst (in the highest fear) streckte es Kopf und Arme nach seiner Mutter schreiend aus dem Wagen – superlative form of the adjective (Superlativ) [Die Zeit, 06.01.2014, Nr. 1] [3]

1.3. The attributive adjectives that accompany "Angst" are highly diverse in their content and semantic form. These adjectives give different nuances to the emotion of fear; as a result, Angst can acquire the following characteristics:

Angst has an impact on the internal mental state: neurotisch (neurotic), psychotisch (psychotic), bedrückend (heavy, burdensome), inner (internal).

...geht diese unbewußt vor sich, so sprechen wir von neurotischer Angst (neurotic fear) [Die Zeit, 07.10.2013, Nr. 40] [3]

...und ihre eigene, innere Angst (internal fear), den Geliebten über kurz oder lang zu verlieren [Die Zeit, 28.10.2013, Nr. 43] [3]

Zu den Vorgängen, die ungezählte Herzen mit bedrückender Angst (heavy, burdensome fear) und mit Trauer erfüllen [Die Zeit, 09.09.2013, Nr. 36] [3]

Psychophormaka vor allem bei der Vitalangst und bei der psychotischen Angst (psychotic fear) indiziert [Die Zeit, 26.12.2013, Nr. 52] [3]

Angst is a pathetic, useless, insignificant, meaningless emotion: erbärmlich (pathetic, miserable), unnötig (useless), sinnlos (meaningless), jämmerlich (insignificant).

Wissend, dass er für uns einsteht, dürften wir nicht die erbärmliche Angst (pathetic fear) haben [Die Zeit, 06.06.2013, Nr. 23] [3]

...damit nur Karl keine unnötige Angst (superfluous, unnecessary fear) habe [Die Zeit, 02.09.2013, Nr. 35] [3]

sie trotz aller innerlichen Gegenwehr bei jeder Heimkehr solchen grundlosen Anfällen unsinniger und lächerlicher Angst (comical, amusing fear) [Die Zeit, 17.06.2013, Nr. 11] [3]

Als Frau Irene die Treppe von der Wohnung ihres Geliebten hinabstieg, packte sie mit einem Male wieder jene sinnlose Angst (meaningless fear) [Die Zeit, 02.12.2013, Nr. 48] [3]

...eine ganz jämmerliche Angst (insignificant fear), du versuchst mich durch Lügen einzufangen [Die Zeit, 15.06.2013, Nr. 24] [3]

Angst is an understandable, credible, absolutely ordinary, widespread emotion: gewiß (indispensable, definite), verbreitet (widespread), verständlich (understandable).

...Frauen etwa misstraut, eine gewisse Angst (indispensable, definite fear) vor ihrem Verrat empfindet [Die Zeit, 15.06.2013, Nr. 24] [3]

...emotional sehr verständliche Angst (understandable fear) vor der stetig wachsenden technischen Komplizierung [Die Zeit, 07.05.2013, Nr. 19] [3]

...in der allgemein verbreiteten Angst (widespread fear) vor der Hegemonie Lübecks [Die Zeit, 10.10.2013, Nr. 42] [3]

Angst can be abrupt and unexpected: jäh (abrupt), plötzlich (unexpected, abrupt).

Die jähe Angst (abrupt fear) um Besitz und Eigentum äußerte sich unter anderem auch...Die Zeit, 10.10.2013, Nr. 42] [3]

Da das Geräusch immer näher und näher kam, raffte er in plötzlicher Angst die Effekten mit beiden Armen zusammen...[Die Zeit, 06.10.2013, Nr. 41] [3]

Angst indicates a degree, scope and depth of the experienced emotion: laut (loud), leise (quiet), voll (full), groß (great).

...der voller Angst (fearful) und Entsetzen schrie...[Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

...er schaute nach den hellen Augen des Mädchens, die in großer Angst (in great fear) zitterten...[Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

...und der andere vor lauter Angst (because of loud fear) runde Schultern kriegt, wie sie langsam von ganz außen nach innen...[Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3].

Vor lauter Angst (because of loud fear), es könnten noch sentimentalere Sätze folgen...[Die Zeit, 16.12.2013, Nr. 50] [3]

Da und dort meldet sich eine leise Angst (quiet fear) zurück, die Angst, die aus der Erfahrung kommt [Die Zeit, 17.09.2013, Nr.38] [3]

Angst stands as a hidden, implicit or direct, immediate emotion: heimlich (secret, hidden), direkt (direct, immediate), flüchtig (fugitive, fleeting).

Direkte Angst (direct, immediate emotion) um ihren Job hat sie nicht [Die Zeit, 16.08.2013, Nr. 34] [3]

...eine heimliche Angst (hidden fear) und Entsetzen ob diesem sinnbetäubenden Lärm...[Die Zeit, 16.08.2013, Nr. 34] [3]

flüchtiges Angstgefühl (superficial, fleeting feeling of fear) überflog sie nur in der ersten Sekunde [Die Zeit, 08.05.2013, Nr. 20] [8]

One of the methods for verbalization of the emotional state of fear are verbal constructions in the German publicistic texts. From the standpoint of semantic content, two types of verbal constructions can be distinguished: 1) the source of fear is an object, which causes a negative emotional feeling in a subject. For instance: in einem Sommer zur ganzen Größe des furchtbaren Raubtieres, zur fetten Kreuzspinne, wie sie selbst dich erschreckt [Die Zeit, 18.12.2013, Nr. 44] [3]. The expression "Angst machen" is rarely used: Der Weg war sehr holprig, unsere Autos gerieten auf halber Höhe in eine ziemliche Seitenlage, was mir Angst machte [Die Zeit, 17.12.2013, Nr. 43] [3];

2) verbs indicating that a subject him/herself feels fear. In German, the reflexive pronoun sich expresses such state: Jeder fürchtet sich in erster Linie vor dem, was man von ihm sagen werde [Die Zeit, 02.01.2014, Nr. 2] [3]. The construction „Angst“ + verb (Angst haben, Angst bekommen, Angst kriegen) is also often used: Wer Angst davor hat, sich lächerlich zu machen, kann ihn nicht tanzen, schwärmt der Journalist Hans Siemsen und träumt [Die Zeit, 31.12.2013, Nr. 51] [3]; Da habe ich ein bisschen Angst gekriegt [Die Zeit, 23.12.2013, Nr. 51] [3],

5.CONCLUSIONS

As a result of analyzing the German publicistic texts, it can be concluded that the representation means for the emotional state of fear are, in the German language, a prepositional phrase with “Angst” in postposition, set expressions with the “Angst” lexeme, synonyms for the word "Angst", as well as adjectives in an attribute function that express the greatest intensity and expressiveness of the emotional state.

6 .SUMMARY

Thus, the analysis conducted as part of the cognitive linguistic approach to the study of language allowed to specify the functioning mechanisms for the emotional concept “fear” in its linguistic verbalization in the publicistic discourse texts. It should be mentioned that a text is a communicative unit that has an emotional component, which, in turn, regulates the relationship with the human factors of an individual [9]. Publicistic text filled with the emotive lexicon actualizes the analyzed emotional state causing the corresponding positive or negative audience reactions. The examples with the lexeme "fear" considered above add a certain emotive tone and emotive tonality creating in such way a specific setting on the emotional text impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

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