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SEMANTIC AND STRUCTURAL FEATURES OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S LANGUAGE SUBCODE AS A PART OF MODERN GERMAN

The article deals with study of young people's language subcode as a specific vocabulary subsystem, as well as its interrelation with the vocabulary subsystems of standard and colloquial German. Young people's verbal behaviour reflects a complex, multifaceted range of young speakers' feelings, the processes of their psychological and spiritual development, along with shaping individual worldview and formation of the personality. At the first stage of the research, we have provided a comprehensive description of lexical and semantic features of young people's language subcode in comparison with standard German, based on the analysis of scientific papers and lexicographic sources. The peculiarities of the vocabulary subsystem under study include using buzzwords and anglo-americanisms, a large number of language units with pejorative connotation, productivity of zoosemy and forming word families, tendency to language economy and hyperbolization. It has been found out that these characteristics are determined by psychological and social factors, namely radical perception of the environment, need for self-identification among other members of the German-speaking community, showing the group affiliation through creativity, propensity to exaggeration and verbal experiments. The subsystematic of young people's language subcode and specific communicative situations of its usage determine the availability of pejorative connotation in the meaning structure. At the second stage of the research, we have studied the lexical units with the indication "youth" in the structure of dictionary entries of lexicographic sources of standard and colloquial German in terms of the ways of their formation. Compounding, suffixation, and abbreviation have been identified as the most productive word-building models. Metaphorization is a convenient type of semantic changes to satisfy young people's needs to subjectively assess the reference objects within and beyond the socio-age group. The quantitative dominance of anglo-americanisms in the process of borrowing from other languages is determined by the growing impact of American subcultures and global social networks.

Key words: vocabulary subsystem, German-speaking community, verbal behaviour, pejorative connotation, language economy, word-building models, anglo-americanisms.

Statement of the problem. Modern German language is a heterogeneous system both at standard and colloquial level. Its vocabulary includes elements of various territorial dialects, sociolects, professional languages, jargons etc. These language subcodes represent communication patterns of members of the German-speaking community belonging to certain regions, as well as professional, social, age, subcultural, ethnic groups. All of them more or less significantly contribute to the formation of written and spoken standard German, determining and shaping its further development trends.

Young people's language subcode is one of the above-mentioned vocabulary subsystems. Given the psychological characteristics of the representatives of this socio-age group, the vocabulary under study is predominantly used to express the need for novelty and creativity along with the attempt to protest against existing rules and norms. Hence, young people's words and phrases have relatively high pragmatic potential.

It should also be noted that the dynamics of development processes in the vocabulary system of modern German is affected by social factors, primarily by the today's impact of mass media and social networks as important tools for spreading and popularizing new trends. In this case, young people's vocabulary has become a convenient and efficient way to express group affiliation through specific verbal behaviour. Moreover, due to their active use in different kinds of media, certain words become an integral part of the everyday communication of the members of other social and age groups. Thus, the growing role of the language subcode under study in the process of supra-regional German-language communication determines the relevance of the research.

On the other hand, youth vocabulary is often featured by the extreme originality of morphological structure and emotional coloring of the meaning. That makes it difficult for these words to gain the full status

of lexical units of standard German. In dictionaries, there is usually indication of their etymology and/or sphere of usage. That is why, one of the article's goals is to clarify the specifics of the ways in which this vocabulary is formed.

As the language subcode under study is a component of the comprehensive system of modern German, its distinguishing characteristics are most clearly seen at morphological and semantic levels. At the same time, despite the heterogeneity of the given vocabulary in terms of regional, social, cultural, gender, ethnic differences between its creators and active users, it is possible to single out common features of young people's verbal behaviour.

The analysis of recent publications has proved that the study of various aspects of youth communication is a relevant field of research in modern German studies. This is clearly seen on the example of scientific papers by foreign researchers, such as J.K. Androutsopoulos [6], M. Chun [8], H. Ehmann [10], H. Henne [12], P. Schlobinski and H.-Ch. Heinz [21], Ch. Wehrli [22]. The subject of the given works covers a number of specific issues, including structural and semantic description of this language subcode, classification of popular lexico-semantic fields and thematic groups, peculiar features of the ways of forming young people's vocabulary, its subsystematic status as a component of standard German, functioning in different types of discourses, compiling specific dictionaries, key extralingual factors determining verbal behaviour of representatives of the socio-age group under study.

In recent decades, the publications of Ukrainian researchers have focused on the study of both morphological and semantic characteristics of German youth vocabulary and its application as an efficient communication tool within and beyond the certain sub-cultural environment. The above-mentioned aspects have been highlighted in the works by L.A. Levytska and I.S. Mykytka [1], H.R. Sokol [3], S.M. Soldatova and A.V. Kozonak [4], M.R. Tkachivska [5].

For its part, the scientific novelty of our research lies in the study of correlation between young people's verbal behaviour and its extralingual determinants, as well as establishing peculiarities of the vocabulary under research compared to lexical units of standard and colloquial German.

Task statement. The study consists of two stages, each of which has its certain objectives. At the first stage of the research, our goal is to provide a comprehensive description of lexical and semantic features of young people's language subcode in comparison with standard German, based on the

analysis of scientific papers and lexicographic sources. At the second stage of the research, we aim to study the lexical units with the indication "youth" in the structure of dictionary entries of lexicographic sources of standard and colloquial German. Here, the subject of the research is the quantitative aspect of word-building processes, as well as peculiarities of semantic derivation and borrowing in the above-mentioned vocabulary.

Methodology. To achieve the objective of the study, we have applied the following research methods. The use of the descriptive method allowed us to highlight key features of young people's language subcode, which are typical for communication of representatives of the given socio-age group. The application of the methods of analysis and synthesis has contributed to the study of correlation between young people's verbal behaviour and its extralingual determinants. The comparative method has been applied for establishing peculiarities of words under research compared to lexical units of standard and colloquial German. To find out most frequent and productive types of forming the vocabulary with the indication "youth" recorded in the dictionary entries of lexicographic sources of standard and colloquial German we have used the quantitative methods.

The material of the research is represented by the works of Ukrainian and foreign Germanists, the dictionaries of standard German and colloquial German [9; 14; 16], as well as specialized dictionaries of German youth vocabulary [15; 19; 20] compiled in recent decades. Taking into account the dynamics of the development of the language subcode under study, determined by the rapid change of generations of its active users, this creates prerequisites for a more precise description of morphological and semantic particularities.

Outline of the main material of the study. To identify the semantic and structural specificity of German youth vocabulary, we have analyzed the classifications of distinctive features of the given linguistic phenomenon compiled by Germanists [6, p. 36; 8, pp. 12–43; 10, pp. 9–10; 12, p. 208; 22, pp. 14–18]. In the process of the research, we have taken into consideration the subsystematic status of young people's language subcode as a part of modern German, as well as its interrelation with other language subsystems. The results of the research allow us to highlight the following characteristics of the vocabulary under study.

One of these features is the use of so-called buzzwords (German: "Modewörter"), which have become peculiar markers of communication within

young people's groups (*Kiste – Motorrad; fetzen – streiten*). As a rule, these words are short-lived, being preferred for a short period of time and disappearing from the field of active use after a couple of months.

The next feature of German youth vocabulary is a large number of language units with pejorative connotation (*verpissen – weggehen; entkorken – jemanden entjungfern*). In German studies, this is sometimes the reason for regarding the linguistic phenomenon under research in terms of its negative impact on the development of modern German [8, p. 17]. In this context, the use of words to denote sexual contacts is particularly popular. Different types of metaphorization have been identified as the main way of forming this vocabulary. Young people create them on the basis of the root morphemes of standard German vocabulary that acquire new meanings [17, p. 71] (*hinsetzen – eine Frau schwängern; parken – mit jemandem Sex haben*).

However, there are differences in frequency of using such words in young people's communication, while they are even condemned and rejected by certain social and subcultural groups. The analysis of research papers dealing with the given issue has shown that the number of female speakers using words with pejorative connotations is smaller than the number of male speakers, although there are exceptions here regarding representatives of certain youth subcultural groups [11, p. 22]. In this regard, we can see the increase in spreading of rude words not only at the level of the socio-age group under research, but also at the level of supra-regional and supra-group communication of the German-speaking community. For the studied vocabulary, this is determined by the need for self-identification by means of verbal behaviour (*Gummizelle – Turnhalle*).

The psychological characteristics of representatives of the socio-age group "youth" are also revealed through the productivity of zoosemy, which is determined as the metaphorical use of animal names or animal-related terms to denote human qualities. The semantics of these lexical units has a predominantly ironic connotation (*Katze – zärtlichkeitsbedürftiges, leidenschaftliches Mädchen; Dinos – Eltern*).

In this regard, it should be mentioned that the ironic component of semantics and pragmatic impact on the communicative partner play a significant role in the process of formation and popularization of youth vocabulary. As a rule, this goal is achieved by means of using substandard lexical units or metaphorizing the words of standard German. The latter ones are regarded as a favorite kind of young people's language

experiments (*Giftzettel – Zeugnis; Flammentwerfer – Feuerzeug*).

One of the main verbal functions of the linguistic phenomenon under study is to express originality and self-identification, which is usually achieved through the productivity of forming word families [17, p. 69]. Some researchers see this word-building process as a tendency to simplify youth vocabulary [8, p. 21] (*Frust – frusten – gefrustet – frustig; Nerv – nerven – genervt – nervig*).

The analysis of lexicographic sources has shown that there is a tendency to language economy in young people's communication. This is clearly seen on the example of the replacement of word combinations with single words. The above-mentioned tendency, leading to the focusing of meaning within one word, belongs to key characteristics of German youth vocabulary (*Takkolord – männliche Person mit billigen Klamotten; Türstehgrill – gastbetriebener Heizstrahler*).

The next specific feature of young people's verbal behaviour is the extremely expressed predisposition to hyperbolization (*ffenscharf – besonders gut; stinkkalt – sehr kalt*). The unusualness of these words is sometimes emphasized through their spelling (*AB-solut – mehr gewollt als geglückt; AF-FENgeil – besonders gut, schön, interessant*). The main reason for the productivity of hyperbolization in the vocabulary under research is the need for more emotionally colored communication [17, p. 71]. However, the unmotivatedly frequent use of such language units can be regarded as the negative side of this process (*tierische Angst – große Angst; wahnsinniges Feeling – starkes Gefühl*).

The modern German youth vocabulary includes a lot of loanwords. Most of them are anglicisms and anglo-americanisms. We have recorded their quantitative dominance in the lexico-semantic field "Leisure activities" (*Styler – supercooler Typ*). The given language units are also used to denote smoking, drinking alcohol, using drugs, performing the function of hiding the true meaning of the message from those who do not belong to a certain subcultural group within the German-speaking youth communication community [17, pp. 69–71] (*dealen – Drogen verkaufen*). Along with these verbal behaviour patterns, we have singled out a number of proper names to denote generic names. These words are primarily used in the communication processes within certain subcultural groups (*olle Levis – Person, die ständig Levis-Hosen trägt; dicker Ed – dicke Person namens Eduard*).

At the second stage of the research, we have analyzed about 600 lexical units of four parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) taken from the dictionaries “Duden – Deutsches Universalwörterbuch. Das große Bedeutungswörterbuch”, “Langenscheidt Großwörterbuch Deutsch als Fremdsprache: Deutsch-Deutsch”, as well as “Wörterbuch der deutschen Umgangssprache” by H. Küpper. The sampling criterion was the indication of etymology and/or sphere of usage as “youth” in the structure of the dictionary entries of the above-mentioned lexicographic sources.

The analysis of research papers dedicated to the issue of interrelation between young people’s language subcode and the subsystems of standard and colloquial German has shown that it has already been studied in several scientific works, in particular, by E. Neuland [18, pp. 78–98] and J.K. Androutsopoulos [7, pp. 171–206]. Since these researchers applied the similar sampling criterion, it creates the prerequisites for the comparison of their research findings. E. Neuland analyzed three dictionaries compiled at the end of the 20th century, namely “Wahrig. Deutsches Wörterbuch” (1986–1991), “Duden. Deutsches Universalwörterbuch” (1989) and “Paul. Deutsches Wörterbuch” (1992). As a result, the researcher recorded 18 lexemes and one phraseological unit with the indication “youth vocabulary”. The sampling made by J.K. Androutsopoulos was represented by 69 lexemes with the same indication in the dictionary entries in a relatively newer lexicographic source, namely “Duden. Deutsches Universalwörterbuch” (2003).

It should be noted that both of the above-mentioned studies are restricted only to determining the total number of lexical and phraseological units with the indication “youth vocabulary” in the dictionaries of supra-regional and surpa-group German language and their affiliation to certain lexico-semantic groups. We consider the significant increase in the number of the language units under study in the second work compared to the first (69 and 18, respectively) to be a clear proof of the growth of their role at the level of all-German communication, which requires the further study of the given issue.

Compared to the above-mentioned studies, our research is focused on establishing the productivity of the ways the analyzed vocabulary is formed, namely word-building, semantic derivation and borrowing from other languages.

To more clearly identify the structural peculiarities of the vocabulary under study created by means of word-building, we have divided it into the results

of the processes of compounding, lexical derivation (including the use of affixes and affixoids), and abbreviation. Taking into consideration the secondary nature of young people’s language subcode, the basis for this division are classifications of word-building models that are productive in standard German [2, pp. 199–203; 13, pp. 17–28].

The results of the research have shown that a relatively significant part of the recorded vocabulary is formed by means of compounding. This word-building model is most productive at creating nouns, which make about 80% of compounds in the sampling (*Nervensäge – Fernsehgerät*), followed by adjectives and adverbs (*mittelherrlich – ziemlich mäßig*), and verbs (*wegsterben – sehr verwundert sein*). This proportion correlates with current trends of enriching the vocabulary of standard German [2, pp. 180–181]. In our opinion, it can be considered as evidence of subsystematic status of young people’s vocabulary in the context of dependence of its nominative processes on general principles that prevail in the development of the national language.

As for affixation, there is dominance of suffixation over prefixation in terms of word-building productivity. Prefixes are more frequently used at forming verbs and adjectives (*belutschen – jemanden abküssen, herzen; unflott – verdorben*), while suffixes are mainly added to create nouns (*Rieche – Nase*).

The morphological structure of about a third of words formed by means of lexical derivation includes affixoids. According to modern German studies, affixoids perform the function of a prefix or a suffix with a rather abstract word-building meaning when being added to root morphemes [13, p. 21]. In the research material, semi-prefixation (*saustark – hervorragend, sehr eindrucksvoll*) is significantly more productive and frequent than semi-suffixation (*Schmalzkopf – Schlagersänger*). Semi-prefixes are preferred at forming verbs (*reintun – etwas lesen, lernen*), however, we have recorded some adjectives (*knallmieß – sehr schlecht, scheußlich*) and nouns (*Oberpuppe – feste Freundin*) created by means of this word-building model.

The above-mentioned predisposition to economy of verbal means typical for young people’s verbal behaviour has resulted in the productivity of abbreviation processes. The lion’s share of this vocabulary falls under lexical units that belong to the category of nouns (*Auße – Ausgeherlaubnis*).

More than 30% of the vocabulary under study is created by means of semantic derivation. The given fact makes it possible to state that changing the commonly used meaning of language units of standard

and colloquial German is one of the preconditions for classifying them to the sphere of youth communication. As the results of the research have shown, the most productive type of meaning transfer is metaphorization. We have recorded the quantitative dominance of nouns (*Gupf – dummer Mensch*), which account for approximately the same number as the total number of adjectives, adverbs, and verbs (*heiß – in begeisternder Weise schön, gut, großartig, stark; hacken – Schlechtes von jemandem erzählen, jemanden schlechtmachen*). At the same time, the processes of broadening (generalization) of meaning (*bringen – zustande bringen, können, schaffen*) and narrowing (specialization) of meaning (*Liebesgabe – Züchtigung eines Kindes*) are less productive.

The tendency towards the growth of the productivity of borrowings from American English is typical for forming words of all four parts of speech under research (*Boss – Vater, Familienoberhaupt; big – unübertrefflich, außerordentlich*). For creating verbs, the given process is accompanied by adjusting to grammatical principles of German language (*quicken – weggehen*). In our opinion, this is determined by American origin of most subcultures that are popular with young members of the German-speaking community. Being actively spread through social networks and mass media, they have become one of the determining factors of development of young people's language subcode in general, and the vocabulary under study in particular.

Thus, among the ways of forming the vocabulary with the indication of youth etymology and/or sphere of usage in the analyzed dictionaries of standard and colloquial German, we have recorded the productivity and frequency of word-building (318 lexical units – 54% of their total number) and semantic derivation (mainly, metaphorization) (202 lexical units – 34%). Meanwhile, the borrowing from American English and other foreign languages is comparatively less frequent (70 lexical units – 12%), but tending to be productive (Tab. 1).

Conclusions. The specificity of young people's language subcode is that its vocabulary reflects the inner world, value system, and perception of the environment by representatives of the socio-age

group, which is considered to be an intermediate stage between childhood and adulthood. Lexical units under study reflect a complex, multifaceted range of young speakers' feelings, the processes of their psychological and spiritual development, along with shaping individual worldview and formation of the personality.

The results of the study allow us to state that most of the semantic and structural features of young people's language subcode are determined by psychological and social characteristics of its creators and active users, in particular, radical perception of the environment, which is frequently expressed by means of demonstrating ironic attitude, need for self-identification among other members of the German-speaking community, showing the group affiliation through creativity, propensity to exaggeration and verbal experiments. The subsystematic status of the given vocabulary, which is a part of modern German language, along with specific communicative situations of its usage determine the availability of pejorative connotation in the meaning structure.

As for the words indicated as "youth vocabulary" in the dictionary entries of lexicographic sources of standard and colloquial German, more than half of them are made by means of word-building, which reflects common trends in the development of the national language under study. Among the most productive word-building models, forming compound nouns and suffixation as the demonstration of youth creativeness and irony, but also abbreviation as the expression of their tendency to language economy should be named. Compared to broadening and narrowing of meaning, metaphorization is a more convenient type of semantic changes to satisfy young people's needs to subjectively assess the reference objects within and beyond the socio-age group. The quantitative dominance of anglo-americanisms in the process of borrowing from other national languages can be explained by the growing impact of American subcultures and global social networks on lifestyle and verbal behaviour.

Taking into account the role of young people's language subcode in today's communication processes, we consider that the issue of its contextual use is a perspective direction for further research in this field of German studies.

Table 1
Ways of forming the youth vocabulary recorded in the dictionaries of standard and colloquial German

Way of forming	Number of lexical units in the sampling	Percentage of the research material
Word-building	318	54%
Semantic derivation	202	34%
Borrowing	70	12%
Total	590	100%

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Поздняков О. В. СЕМАНТИЧНА ТА СТРУКТУРНА СПЕЦИФІКА МОВНОГО СУБКОДУ МОЛОДІ ЯК СКЛАДОВОЇ СУЧАСНОЇ НІМЕЦЬКОЇ МОВИ

У статті досліджується мовний субкод молоді як особлива лексична підсистема, а також його взаємозв'язок із лексичними підсистемами літературної та розмовної німецької мови. Вербальна поведінка молоді відображає складний, багатогранний спектр почуттів молодих мовців, процеси їх психологічного та духовного розвитку, формування індивідуального світогляду та становлення особистості. На першому етапі дослідження на основі аналізу наукових праць та лексикографічних джерел ми дали комплексну характеристику лексико-семантичних особливостей мовного субкоду молоді у порівнянні з літературною німецькою мовою. До особливостей досліджуваної лексичної підсистеми відносяться використання модних слів та аглоамериканізмів, велика кількість мовних одиниць із пейоративною конотацією, продуктивність зоосемії та формування словотвірних гнізд, схильність до мовної економії та гіперболізації. З'ясовано, що ці характеристики детерміновані психологічними та соціальними чинниками, а саме: радикальним сприйняттям оточення, потребою

в самоідентифікації з-поміж інших членів німецькомовної спільноти, виявом групової приналежності через креативність, схильність до гіперболізації та мовних експериментів. Субсистемний статус мовного субкоду молоді та специфічні комунікативні ситуації його використання зумовлюють наявність пейоративної конотації у структурі значення. На другому етапі дослідження нами проаналізовано лексичні одиниці з позначкою «молодіжні» у структурі словникових статей лексикографічних джерел літературної та розмовної німецької мови з точки зору шляхів їх утворення. Найбільш продуктивними словотворчими моделями виявились словоскладання, суфіксація та аббревіація. Метафоризація є зручним видом семантичних змін для задоволення потреби молодих людей давати суб'єктивну оцінку об'єктам найменування всередині соціально-вікової групи та поза нею. Кількісне домінування англоамериканізмів у процесі запозичення з інших мов зумовлене посиленням впливу американських субкультур і глобальних соціальних мереж.

Ключові слова: лексична підсистема, німецькомовна спільнота, вербальна поведінка, пейоративна конотація, мовна економія, словотворчі моделі, англоамериканізми.