

Lexical Typology of Slavic Languages

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Abstract:

The article is devoted to the consideration of the lexical typology of Slavic languages. It is noted that a certain part of their vocabulary is of Proto-Slavic origin, thanks to which Slavs from different countries can understand each other to a certain extent. Over the centuries, the vocabulary of Slavic languages has developed and been enriched largely through borrowings. This process continues actively today, leading to new universals.

Keywords: *vocabulary, typology, Slavic, universals, individualities, innovations, borrowings.*

Vocabulary is the most dynamic level of language and fully reflects the state and nature of the historical development of peoples and their cultures. Moreover, unlike other levels of language, vocabulary quickly responds to all changes in the surrounding life. Unlike phonetics and grammar, vocabulary is “a weaker and fuzzy system, less structured” [5. P. 94]. The outstanding French linguist A. Meillet wrote about this: “Vocabulary is the most unstable in the language. Words can disappear for a variety of reasons and be replaced by new ones. The original vocabulary may include new words that outnumber the old ones” [6. P. 34].

Modern Slavic languages are quite close in their vocabulary, since their ancient vocabulary has been preserved to a significant extent: from the era of the Proto-Slavic linguistic community, ancient lexical units function in each of the modern Slavic languages. The lexical units of Slavic languages contain cultural information, which is largely accumulated in the word. Cultural codes reflect all aspects of the surrounding reality - nature and natural phenomena, names of dwellings, related and craft terminology, calendar vocabulary, etc. Cultural codes include all creations of man and the human spirit. The overwhelming majority of them are reflected in the vocabulary of the Slavic peoples. Here is what A.F. wrote about this. Losev: “In the word, especially in the name, is all our cultural wealth accumulated over the centuries” (quoted from [2. P. 142]).

In different Slavic languages there are many common words from a variety of lexical and semantic categories. For example, such an important ancient concept as gender is conveyed in the same way in different Slavic languages: rod (Russian, Belarusian), pid (Ukrainian), rod (Bulgarian), pod (Serbian), rod (Czech , Slovak / Luzh.), ród (Polish, Kashubian , V. / Luzh.) [10. P. 490].

According to the Bulgarian scientist I. Lekov , about 1120 words can be attributed to the general vocabulary fund of the Slavic languages, and only in 320 cases can one notice a violation of this unity in individual languages or their groups (cited from [11, pp. 27-28]).

The famous Polish linguist, academician T. Ler- Splawinsky, based on data from etymological dictionaries, calculated those elements of vocabulary that have been preserved in the modern Polish language since the Proto-Slavic period [3. P. 12]. It turned out that the total number of words that have been preserved in the Polish language since the Proto-Slavic period without significant changes exceeds 1,700 units. The scientist's calculations showed that, although more than 15 centuries have passed since the collapse of the Slavic linguistic community, the Proto-Slavic lexical heritage in the speech of an educated Pole - a native speaker of the modern Slavic language - constitutes about 1/4 of the entire vocabulary of the Polish language. Of these approximately 1,700 words—more than 1,000—are nouns, 460 are verbs, 170 are adjectives, and 80 are words of other parts of speech. Of the indicated number of lexical units - over 8/10, that is, 1450 words, relate to the external physical world, nature, material life of a person, and 1/10 (approximately 178 words) in terms of the expressed meaning relate to the spiritual life of a person. The remaining 100 words out of 1,700 units serve to express grammatical relations - these are pronouns, numerals, conjunctions, prepositions, etc.

T. Ler- Splavinsky's calculations convincingly indicate that a similar situation exists in other Slavic languages. Therefore, in the scientific world it is believed that the data of T. Ler- Splavinsky represent typological universals applicable to any Slavic language.

The data obtained by T. Ler- Splavinsky are not once and for all indisputable. There are other points of view on this matter. Thus, according to other scientists, there are still more Proto-Slavic words in the lexical systems of Slavic languages. For example, according to the later opinion of O.N. Trubachev, and he also relies on data from etymological dictionaries, the number of Proto-Slavic words in Slavic languages is about 10,000 units [9. P. 67]. The exceptional similarity of the vocabulary of Slavic languages is an interesting and phenomenal phenomenon for the entire Slavic linguistic world, which is distributed over the vast territory of Western and Eastern Europe.

Precisely because the vocabulary of all Slavic languages, within certain limits, goes back to the original vocabulary of the Proto-Slavic language, any speaker of one Slavic language is at least to some extent able to understand the speech of a speaker of another Slavic language. As Slavist R.M. notes. Tseitlin , comparative lexicology of Slavic languages is extremely important not only in theoretical, but also in applied meaning, in particular, “in the practice of teaching modern Slavic languages to the Slavs, for example, Russian to the Poles, Czech to the Bulgarians and vice versa” [12. P. 369].

Thus, modern Slavic languages are quite close in their vocabulary, because their ancient vocabulary has been preserved to a significant extent, and from the era of the Proto-Slavic linguistic community in each of the modern Slavic languages, ancient lexical units have been preserved and are functioning. Proto-Slavic lexemes, according to the latest observations of I.A. Merkulova, are preserved to varying degrees in different Slavic languages. Thus, in Russian, Serbian/Croatian, Czech and Ukrainian languages, the share of the Proto-Slavic vocabulary is estimated at 50% or more, up to 50% in the Slovenian, Polish, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Slovak languages, and less than 30% of the Proto-Slavic vocabulary is preserved in Macedonian , Lusatian, Kashubian languages. [4. P. 103]. As you can see, the numbers are quite impressive.

In individual Slavic languages, there are many common words from a variety of lexical-semantic categories: words that are characterized by features of special stability stand out. This is related terminology, somatic vocabulary, names of objects and natural phenomena, agricultural crops, domestic and wild animals, economic activities, calendar vocabulary, etc.

Thus, the words-names of representatives of the animal world are widely represented. Let us note the names of birds: for example, the noun nightingale (Russian), nightingale (Ukrainian), salavey (Belorian), slavey (Bulgarian), slavuj (Serbian , Croatian), slavec (Slovenian), slavík (Czech), slavik (Slovak), slowik (Polish), sylobik (Upper Luzh .), sylojok (Lower Luzhian). The same similarities and correlations are observed in the names of other representatives of birds - sparrow, eagle, etc.

The names of insects are also largely correlative in different Slavic languages and go back to the Proto-Slavic period: let's compare the East Slavic names osa (Russian, Ukrainian), osva (Belarus), in the West Slavic languages they correspond to vosa (Czech), osa (Slovak , Polish), wosa (v./Luzh.), wosa (n./Luzh.). Let us cite this word also from the South Slavic languages: osa (Macedonian , Bulgarian), òsa (Serbian), osa (Slovenian) [10. P. 156].

The correlative series of nouns denoting four-legged representatives of the animal world is interesting: let's compare the ancient Slavic word dog (Russian, Belarusian, Ukrainian), pies (Polish), pes (Czech , Slovak), pos (upper /Luzh.), pias (lower /Luzh.), pes (Macedonian), pes (Slovenian). Let us note that the commonality of many lexical units is preserved, although different historical eras have left their mark in the lexical systems of individual Slavic languages. Thus, in the modern Russian language the Proto-Slavic word dog, which is a book word, has been preserved. Meanwhile, the neutral noun dog, which is a borrowing from the Central Iranian language, functions as a common word of frequency [10. P. 702].

Note that the word dog exists in the lexical systems of only East Slavic languages, and this is due to historical reasons and language contacts, which, as a rule, leave many traces in the contacting languages.

It is interesting to note that the word dog in the Slavic linguistic world, outside the East Slavic languages, is found only in Polish and more widely in Kashubian, which today is a dialect of the Polish language. According to researchers, this word is a borrowing from the Russian language.

Once in the Kashubian language, the word dog experienced a significant semantic shift during borrowing and is used in it as a swear word. And the word pies remains commonly used in it . The fate of the old Slavic word horse, which exists in all Slavic languages, is also interesting: compare horse (Russian, Belarusian), Ukrainian . kin , bolg . con, serbsk . horse , Slovenian konj , Czech . kůň , Polish koń , Slovak . kôň , lower meadow kón , upper meadow . koň , Kashubian . kón . However, in the Russian language it, like the word dog, has been preserved as a bookish word, and along with it the neutral noun horse is used, which is Turkic in its etymology and represents an old lexical borrowing from the Turkic languages [10. P. 525]. Let us also note that the noun horse also carries semantic and stylistic content: a horse, as a rule, is a strong, beautiful animal against the background of the neutral word horse.

Many words in Slavic languages related to related terminology have very ancient sources: they are of Indo-European origin, passed through the Proto-Slavic language into the Slavic languages and were preserved in them after the collapse of the Slavic proto-language. These words are correlated not only with the corresponding Slavic words, but also with many vocabulary units from other non-Slavic Indo-European languages.

An interesting picture can be seen when considering Slavic calendar vocabulary. Thus, the original Slavic lexical units that denoted months, with their names indicated the state of nature and weather conditions, agricultural work and the cycle of work carried out in a certain period of time of the year.

Ancient Slavic names of months of Proto-Slavic origin are not preserved in all Slavic languages. With the adoption of Christianity in many of them, the original Slavic names of the months, in particular in Russian, Bulgarian, Serbian, Slovak and some other Slavic languages, were supplanted

by their European equivalents, which for the Slavs did not have the same understandable semantics. Let's compare the word January and its Slavic equivalent leden in Czech, which clearly indicates the cold characteristic of this month of the year. The old Slavic names of the remaining months, well preserved, for example, in the Czech language, are also quite transparent and in many of them the old Slavic roots are recognizable, associated with the state of nature (květen - Russian May, listopad - Russian November), with the cycle of agricultural work (srpen - Russian August).

Another interesting fact: in some Slavic languages, the surviving old Slavic names of the months are formations from synonymous roots, quite transparent and easily understood. So, let's compare the word August (Russian) and words with the same meaning from other Slavic languages: serpen (Ukrainian) - zhniven (Belarusian) - orach (Bulgarian) - zhitar (Macedonian) - gumnik (Serbian .). As can be seen from the various Slavic names given for the eighth month of the year, their semantics reflects the cycle of agricultural work with their heterogeneous detail. In addition, the same Slavic name can function in different Slavic languages to designate different but adjacent months: cf. the Slavic name for the spring month of May in Polish and Czech calendar vocabulary is kwiecień and květen , respectively, and its equivalent in the Ukrainian language kviten , meaning April.

Summing up the results of our consideration, we note that the 21st century, the century of new technologies and communication systems, scientific discoveries, innovations in various areas of life, is just beginning, and time will show new universals and individuals in the lexical systems of Slavic languages, which appeared as a result of internationalization. However, it is clearer than anything that the Proto-Slavic words, preserved to this day in all Slavic languages, are destined for a long life.

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