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**THE MEANS TO CHARACTERIZE AND ASSESS
A PERSON: EPITHETS AND COMPARISONS
IN THE KHANTY LANGUAGE (COMPARED TO RUSSIAN)**

Abstract

The article presents the results of comparative analysis of the lexical means used to characterize and assess a person in Khanty and Russian. The most common epithets (e.g. *karkam* – *quick*, *ujar* – *successful*) as well as words and expressions that link personal traits to certain natural phenomena, plants and animals (e.g. *vas* – *harmonious*, *vuhsar iti usmaran* – *cunning as a fox*) are compared. The prevalence of particular ways to characterize and assess a person in colloquial Russian and Khanty is demonstrated. The obtained results enable to show that semantic changes and functioning of words in modern languages are determined rather by internal, purely language factors than external ones (including realities, people's history).

Keywords: lexicon as system, anthropocentrism, means of characterizing and assessment, Khanty language, Russian language.

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