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Ekaterina S. Khudyakova
Perm State University
Perm, Russian Federation
khudiakova.es@gmail.com

EMOTIONALLY-EVALUATIVE COMPONENT IN SPONTANEOUS TEXTS OF OLDER SPEAKERS

Abstract

The article discusses the patterns of the older individuals' expression of emotions based on a linguistic analysis of their spontaneous narrative texts. In gerontopsychology, the cognitive-affective complex of representatives of late age is considered in connection with a complex of factors: the state of operative, short-term and semantic memory, attention, as well as the social environment of the individual. Therefore, narratives involving recalling the event, planning the text and including an event evaluation unit can serve as reliable material for the study of this complex. As units of analysis, vocabulary of emotions (names of emotions and metonymy of emotions), emotive vocabulary and statements, connotated and evaluative vocabulary (in terms of V.I. Shakhovsky) is used. For the selection of units, semantic analysis is used; structural and propositional analysis are used as additional methods. The listed categories of units that show the expression of emotions, were considered in spontaneous narratives of representatives of the older age (from 80 years old), students' narratives were used as material for comparison. It was found that the frequency of using evaluative, emotional, and connotated vocabulary is significantly higher in students' texts. Older men represented the most neutral texts (the percentage of using the names of emotions does not exceed 8%). In general, quantitative data indicate a greater emotionality of student texts and the neutrality of older speakers texts. Qualitative analysis, however, shows the greater sophistication of the older speakers texts, particularly women (on the use of emotional syntax and clusters of emotions), which corresponds to the theory of socio-emotional selectivity in gerontopsychology.

Keywords: age-related psycholinguistics, gerontopsychology of emotions, emotional-evaluative component of the language, spontaneous text, narrative.

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