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Olga N. Ivanishcheva, Liang Mengjie
Murmansk Arctic State University
Murmansk, Russian Federation

oivanishcheva@gmail.com, mentsze2018@gmail.com

RUSSIAN-CHINESE OMENS IN LANGUAGES AND IN MODERN SPEECH USAGE

Abstract

In this article, we undertake the comparative analysis of Russian and Chinese omens of the related thematic field "*birds – money*" in the language and discourse. During the study, the following methods were applied: continuous sampling method, dictionary definitions analysis, cultural, contextual and comparative analyses. We analyze, first, how the omens found in the dictionary are presented in modern speech usage, i.e. in modern fiction and publicistic texts, and second, what symbolic meanings are the basis that form the omens of the related thematic field "*birds – money*" in Russian and Chinese cultures. It is shown that unlike in Chinese linguistic culture, the omens in Russian linguistic culture have been studied in sufficient detail. This gap can be explained by the following contradiction. On the one hand, in Chinese culture superstitions and magic are associated with the basics of traditional knowledge, on the other hand, because of certain modern policies in Chinese society, the belief in omens is stigmatized. The analysis of modern Russian speech usage has shown the absence of references to any of the studied omens either in fiction or in publicistic texts of the XX–XXI centuries. Consequently, being a well-known phenomenon of the language system, omens are very limited in actual usage. It was discovered that both in Russian and Chinese linguistic culture, due to different circumstances, there is no direct correspondence between the symbolism of birds and money in the texts of culture and national culture. Finally, in this research, a new aspect of studying omens was suggested. It is viewing them as a small genre of pragmatic and situational folklore, and this approach has a potential to explain the discovered usage limitations.

Keywords: omens, Russian, Chinese, symbolic meaning, speech usage.

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