UDC 811.512.157'366.587:=521

doi: 10.22250/2410-7190 2020 6 4 51 60

Eugenia E. Zhirkova
M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University
Yakutsk, Russia
jenyasyr@mail.ru

Structural features of figurative and onomatopoeic vocabulary of the Yakut and Japanese languages

Abstract

The article aims at comparative analysis of the figurative and onomatopoetic vocabulary of the Yakut and Japanese languages, which is richly presented in both languages and reflects their national identity. This study contributes into identifying interlanguage universals and national specifics in this layer of the language vocabulary. The focus is made on determining the features of the structure of the vocabulary of the languages under consideration. For this, the phonetic structure of such words is analyzed, based on the research of L. N. Kharitonov and E. D. Polivanov. The morphological structure of figurative verbs was also investigated, as well as the influence of the structural form on the semantics of the word.

A comparative analysis of the structures revealed similarities both in the word-building patterns of the vocabulary units and in their functioning in the sentence. It was found that the main part of the figurative vocabulary in the Yakut language is represented by figurative verbs described in detail by L. N. Kharitonov who singled out 2 elements of the figurative verb: root and affix. In Japanese, on the contrary, pure onomatopoietic verbs are rare: the verbalizer -suru 'to do' is mainly used being attached to onomatopoietic words. The study also found that the semantic diversity of figurative verbs in Yakut is influenced by the affix elements of the specific verb forms, as well as the sound composition of the word (ideophonemes, according to L. A. Afanasyev). In Japanese, structural elements (doubling of the consonant word internally, nasal N, suffix -ri, lengthening, reduplication) and phonemes in the syllable contribute into such verbs diversity.

Keywords: figurative vocabulary, onomatopoetic vocabulary, the Yakut language, the Japanese language, structure, semantics.

© Zhirkova E. E. 2020