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Semantics of perception verbs

Abstract

The turn of linguistics to the issues of perception is caused by the recognition of the fact that cognitive processes are reflected in language. This article aims to examine the semantics of perception verbs to understand the possibilities of conceptualization and linguistic verbalization of perception processes. Perception verb hypernyms and their derivatives were chosen for the study. These verbs name the process without specifying through which sense organs the information was perceived. As a results, 5 verb hypernyms, 9 derivatives of them and 22 phraseological units containing them were identified. The material analysis showed that the seme 'perception' could be either primary or secondary component of the meaning. Other components could be emotive, interoceptive and extracensory, all interacting in a complicated way. In the meaning of the verbs perception ranges might be expressed. The derivatives might either retain or lose the meaning of perception. Being a part of phraseological units, these verbs in most cases change their meaning losing any connection with perception.

Keywords: perception verb, semantics, hypernym, Russian language, lexicography

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