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Linguistic categorization of mixed emotions based on Pollyanna Principle

Abstract

The article considers the problem of language categorization of mixed emotions whose manifestation includes such cases of emotional experience verbalization when two or more nominations of both mono- and poly-, ambivalent emotional states / experiences are combined into a single linear whole. The analysis of the dominant in a mixed emotion is based on the Pollyanna principle that explains the cause of the asymmetry of negative and positive evaluation in language and speech. Component, distributive and contextual analysis of more than 500 lexical units expressing mixed emotions selected from fiction, firstly, proved the hypothesis that negatively assessed mixed emotions occur more frequently. Secondly, the conclusion was made that the situational dominant of a mixed emotion, despite its summative nature, is a postpositive element. The prepositive element of a mixed emotion corresponds to the position of the Theme while the postpositive element corresponds to the Rheme. At the cognitive level, the emotional and rational assessment of a certain event, action, act is combined in a mixed emotion. Finally, the examples of translating the tokens from texts that contain linguistic expression of mixed emotions enabled to confirm that mixed emotions belong to the space of indefinite emotivity when only the evaluation remains unchanged during translation, and the elements constituting the mixed emotion vary.

Keywords: mixed emotions, emotivity, language categorization of emotions, the Pollyanna principle, dominant, fluctuation, emotional and semantic potential

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