

Oxana F. Zadobrivskaia
Rybnitsa branch of the Pridnestrovian State University named after T. G. Shevchenko
Rybnitsa, Pridnestrovie
kesha25@list.ru

Geographical distribution of mentefacts-containers in English

Abstract

The article aims to identify the way mentefacts categorized by the image and likeness of container, are distributed among 20 World Englishes. The material for the study was obtained from M. Davis's corpora (basically, Corpus of Global Web-Based English (GloWbE) and Newspapers on the Web (NOW), The intelligent Web-based Corpus (iWeb) was also involved to verify some data), therefore, the contexts were extracted from news discourse. Examples with the classifying constructions of the cryptoclass «Res Continens» were selected, tokens of mentefacts-containers in these constructions were analyzed. As a result, tokens with the non-object names, i.e. mentefacts, were found both in the established (American, British, Canadian, etc.) and in the non-established (Tanzanian, Hong Kong, Jamaican, etc.) variants of the English language. The most commonly used mentefacts as well as those used occasionally were identified. The geographical distribution of non-object names was also analyzed. This enabled to determine those Englishes where mentefacts are more often categorized by analogy with container, and therefore, have all reasons to be included in the cryptoclass «Res Continens».

Keywords: mentefact, container, language variant, classifying construction, token, corpus

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