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Linguistic objectification of age in ethnocultural refraction (Based on Kabardian-Circassian, Russian and English)

Abstract

The article aims at comparing language manifestation patterns of the concept AGE in three languages of different sub-families: Kabardian-Circassian, Russian and English. The material for the study comprised lexical units and paroemiae selected by continuous sampling from dictionaries and literature. The material was processed using linguocultural, component and contextual analysis, comparison, generalization and interpretation. As a result, it was found that, first, the key meaning of the terms *nybzh'* / *vozrast* 'age' in Kabardian-Circassian and Russian linguocultures are the number of years from birth and a life period while in English the term age points to aging. Certain expressions containing the corresponding lexemes are positively directed pointing to wisdom, improvement, readiness for decision making and taking responsibility. Manifestations of the English variant of the concept are marked by individualism. The Russian term *vozrast* is culturally marked as a positive stereotype with the meanings of increasing and deserving respect. However, the meaning of weakness is also present. Second, Kabardian-Circassian and Russian paroemiae verbalize the necessity or desire to harmonize the relations between the old and the young, benefiting from the advantages of both ages and making a two-way street to compensate for the disadvantages. However, English paroemiae verbalize a conflict between the old and the young. Third, Kabardian-Circassian linguoculture displayed total respect to the elderly according to the Code of Honor “Adyge khabze”, Russian linguoculture displayed tolerance and sincere concern about the elderly, English linguoculture showed more worries about the loss of visual attractiveness as a consequence of aging.

Keywords: linguoculture, concept, verbalization, lexeme, paroemia, key meaning, connotation

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