

**SEMANTIC WORD FORMATION OF DIALECT VERBS:  
LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE ASPECTS**Olga A. Chupryakova<sup>1</sup>Svetlana S. Safonova<sup>2</sup>Gulnat T. Abikenova<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract:** The article is dedicated to the research of semantic word formation of verbs in the language space of Russian subdialects. From the point of cognitive linguistics, the semantic verb derivatives are observed in the system of subdialects. The analysis of several word-formative models is given and structural-semantic and paradigmatic relations between derivatives and inflections in the sphere of different dialect verb groups are described in this research. It is proven that, in the reviewed semantically derived dialect verbs, the subjective-evaluative connotation, usually of the negative nature, is present – from the cognitive aspect it is represented as one of the main features of derivative verb units. It is noted that such factors as the abilities to think and feel prompt the dialect carrier to create new words: dialect carrier's

ability to create new words signals about their language sense and constructive thinking. Semantic derivation enriches the dialect language not only with new lexemes, but also with new word-formative relations. Realization of such powerful potential of Russian dialects shows the independence of derivative processes in the dialectic word production. It is proven that the research of dialect vocabulary provides a great opportunity to generalize word-formative processes, including semantic verb derivation and a Russian national language on different evolution stages. Moreover, derivative processes are equally important for construction and understanding of language picture of the world as lexical-phraseological or stylistic phenomena.

**Keywords:** subdialect, dialect, derivation, semantic derivation, word

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<sup>1</sup>Kazan Federal University.

<sup>2</sup>Kazan Federal University.

<sup>3</sup>Kazakh Humanitarian Law Innovative University. e-mail: [bezdna2008@rambler.ru](mailto:bezdna2008@rambler.ru). Tel.: 89297275952.

formation, word-formative model, cognitive linguistics.

### **Introduction**

The language picture of the world may seem to the subdialect carriers as unordinary and versatile. While researching the language picture of the world of Russian dialect carrier, it is important to note main language functions in order to track methods of their implementation in the relation to the linguistic awareness, way of thinking and objective reality, where the speech activity of the subdialect carrier is used. Linguists note the following: “Language is often defined as a form of consciousness, a method of communication and learning, a way of storing existing knowledge. Thinking (cognitive) and communicative-informative aspects of the language are recognized as inseparable from each other by the language’s functions, without preference for one or another in any possible pragmatic aspirations” [Kolesov 2002: 10, Wierzbicka 1997, Galiullina et al 2016, Erofeeva et al 2018; Sazesh, & Siadat, 2018; da Costa, et al 2017; Chahine, 2018]. In this relation, dialect word formation creates a

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great opportunity for the researchers, since the oral form of living is the sole form for the dialect and it determines many of its typological features: increased expressiveness, absence of external normalizing factors, word usage approximation, high number of occasional formations etc.

Derivative processes take one of the most important places in the process of studying the world through the units of natural language, since “word formation should be considered as a system of addressing the needs for emphasizing and fixating unique knowledge structures, of objectification and exteriorization of interiorized conceptual structures (mental representation of person’s experience and knowledge), or, in other words, their “packaging” in the language forms that meets certain formal and substantive requirements” [Materialy 1907: 393, Fatkhutdinova 2014, Erofeeva 2018; Saurykova, et al 2018].

When describing systems of dialect word formation, the dialect carrier’s perception of language units itself, features of their worldview, way of thinking and emotional and expressive background, where the derivation

process is proceeding, are important to note. As E.S. Kubryakova states, “word formation competence includes its participation in the language picture of the world formation, in the categorization acts, in cognitive processing of receiving information” [Kubryakova 2004: 394]. Word formation in subdialects presents itself as extremely interesting to the researcher exactly from the point of learning, since the oral form of dialect living, freedom of word formation let the dialect carrier create new units, which are noteworthy from both the semantic and the derived word structure points of view.

In this regard, the research of separate models of semantic verb derivation in Russian subdialects of Volga-Sviyazhsk interfluves is of our interest. The “derivation” term was introduced to the scientific community by J. Kuryłowicz in the 1930<sup>s</sup> in order to characterize word-formative processes. When talking about semantic derivation or semantic word formation, it is important to mention that V.V. Vinogradov in 1952 already noted the need for holistic review of semantic word formation processes, although he did not mention the semantic word

production: his works are exclusively dedicated to the lexeme polysemy.

At the present stage of development linguistics, as known, demonstrates the intense attention to the semantic aspects of word-formative processes. The period of structure analysis changed to the period of analysis of meanings, which are sent through structure. However, despite the ongoing transition from “linguistics of what” to “linguistics of how”, the developing theory of word formation, with new tendencies taken into account, reproduces old contradictive narratives, although the latest researches recognize semantic derivation as one of the methods of new word formations.

### **Methods**

United historic and genetic base of subdialects and literature language causes the existence of united models of semantic word production: “to affect the object – to create smth new as a result” (*kopat' yamu – kopat' kotlovan, vyskoblit' skovorodku – vyskoblit' bukvy na matovom stekle*) [to dig a hole – to dig a foundation hole, to scrape a pan – to scrape letters on a frosted glass], “to treat with smth – to eliminate with smth”

(*vytirat' glaza – vytirat' pot*) [to *wipe* your eyes – to *wipe* the sweat], “to treat with smth – to remove it with smth” (*vydoit' korovu – vydoit' moloko*) [to *milk* the cow – to *milk* the milk]; meaning of actions, which are similar to the actions of the motivating verb (*operet'sya na trost' – operet'sya na fakty, shchebetat' (o ptice) – shchebetat' (o rebenke)*) [to *lean* on a cane – to *lean* on facts, to *chirp* (birds) – to *chirp* (toddlers)]. However, semantization of dialect words overall and dialect verb in particular has some specific features that differentiate it from the semantization of words from literature language. In the semantic word formation of dialect word, the regional and cultural originality of all dialect word components is reflected.

Therefore, the purpose of this article - the research of the unique features of semantic derivations in the field of dialect verb vocabulary – assumes the completion of next research tasks: find the semantic derivatives in the dialectal dictionaries by the continuous sampling method; analyze the derivatives in the semantic, functional and word-formative aspects; classify the collected language material.

Different methods of linguistic research, the descriptive, statistical and interpretative methods in particular, were used for the realization of the goals and tasks, as well as semantic, word-formative and conceptual analyses.

### Results and discussion

In this article, only several models of semantic word production, which in our opinion showcase the constructive thinking of dialect carrier the best, are enough to consider for the research.

The verb *gunut'* with the meaning “to suddenly shout loudly” is built by the word-formative model “to make sounds (animal or inanimate object) > to speak a certain way (person)” [Slovar' 1997, 1: 102]. The dictionary then gives the following statement as an example: “Kak *gunet* na vsyu ulicu, my ispugalis' vse!” [“How [they] *shouted* for the whole street to hear, we all got scared!”] [Dictionary 1997, 1: 102]. Dahl's Explanatory Dictionary gives this verb the meaning of “to go off, thunder, bang suddenly and with force” [Dal' 1996, 1: 408]. It is obvious that the reason for such semantic transfer was the similarities in terms of

both negative emotional evaluation of loud, sudden, unmotivated sounds, which come from artifacts, and human speech. The verb *balakat'* with the meaning “to speak unclear” is also built by the “to make sounds (animal or inanimate object) > to speak a certain way (person)” model [Slovar' 1997, 1: 31]. As an example, the dictionary gives the following statement: “Synochek moj *balyakat'* nachinaet malen'ko” [“My baby is starting to *mumble* a little bit”] [Slovar' 1997, 1: 31]. It is obvious that this semantization is motivated by the similarity of the derived and inflected verbs in terms of inarticulate sounds, absence of any meaning in their flow.

These semantically derived verbs usually have subjective-evaluative connotation of generally negative nature – from the cognitive positions this is considered as one of the main features of derived verb units. It is obvious that emotional-evaluative component of the meaning of such derivatives includes semes, which reflect the accepted perception of one or the other action in the dialect collective: unmotivated, inarticulate speaking is evaluated negatively, since it does not perform many functions of verbal

communication (informative, situative etc.).

The verb *dyshat'* with the meaning “to be in good health” is built by the word-formative model “subject existence – quality state” [Materialy 1907: 44]. As an example, which illustrates the appearance of new meaning, the following statement is given: “*Dyshit* li mamen'ka tvoya?” [“Does your mamma still breathe?”] [Materialy 1907: 44]. In Dahl's Explanatory Dictionary, this homonymous verb functions with the meaning of “to inhale, exhale the air” [Dal' 1996, 1: 507]. The semantic transformation is based on one of the main principles: movement from more specific to more abstract meaning, and in this case, it is motivated by the causal relation of breathing and existing, of person's ability to live thanks to the act of breathing.

In our opinion, in terms of strong impact of sociocultural processes on dialect word production, the model “to make physical action > to be in a socially unaccepted condition” is especially indicative. One example of the verb built by the model described above is the verb *naveshat'sya* with the

meaning “to live at someone’s expense” [Slovar' 1997, 2: 86]. As an example, the dictionary gives the following statement: “*Naveshalsya okolo menya, vtoroj god kormitsya!*” [“[He] *has hung around* me, feeds off me for the second year!”] [Slovar' 1997, 2: 86]. The semantization of the verb *naveshat'sya* with the meaning “to be hung around in any quantity” [Dal' 1996, 2: 189] is based on the similarities of the named actions in terms of subject of action dependency to the object, on which it is based in terms of action. Semantic derivative acquires the negative emotional painting caused by the perception of the dependent way of life.

By the word-formative model “to start doing smth – to travel somehow”, the verb *zakapat'* with the meaning “to disappear, to hide” is made. It appears in the following statement: “*I kuda eto on zakapal tak bystro?*” [“And where did he *wash away* so fast?”] [Materialy 1907: 75]. In Dahl's Explanatory Dictionary, this verb has a meaning of “to start dripping, to splash” [Dal' 1996, 1: 582]. As a result of semantization, the nature of action is rethought, the common characterizing seme of “movement” is absent and the

transfer is based on the component, which is contained in the structure of initial and derivative meanings (in other words, it is based on the living association).

By the word-formative model “to be in a physiological state – to be in an emotional state”, the verb *nasopet'sya* with the meaning “to loudly cry” is made. It appears in the following statement: “*Nasopelas' moya devka, ele ulozhila*” [“Oh how my girl *was sniffing*, barely made her lay down”] [Materialy 1907: 145]. This lexeme is absent in modern Russian literature language. Homonymous verbs with the same meanings are found in Perm and Sverdlov oblasts. In this case, the semantic transformation is caused by the causal relation of person’s expression of emotions through crying and body conditions while crying, i.e. sniffing.

By the word-formative model “to affect an inanimate object – to affect a person”, the verb *vygnut'* with the meaning “to try to get smth, to press for” is made [Materialy 1907: 40]. The dictionary gives the following statement as an example: “*Sumel ya vygnut' iz nego dolg vse-taki*” [“I could finally *arch* his debt out of him”] [Materialy 1907:

40]. In Dahl's Explanatory Dictionary, the homonymous verb has a meaning of “to arch, to create a bulge and hollowness” [Dal' 1996, 1: 284]. In this case, the semantic transformation is caused by the common sense of “impact”. However, if the producing word calls the impact on the inanimate object physical, then the derivative gets a psychological impact in order to receive some profit. Let us note that the derivative word, as a result, gets an ability to merge with the name of a living being.

### Summary

The existing language system (however rich it may be) cannot always satisfy expression needs due to the absence of means of non-trivial content transmission in it. In our opinion, dialect carrier is forced to create new words due to their ability to think and feel: dialect carrier's ability to create new words signals about their language sense and constructive thinking.

From the point of cognitive linguistics, the unusual diversity of word-formative models can be explained with the fact that “while using one of the considered row units, [a person] can

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always specify the role of speaking subject, their empathy, their choice of unique perspective or point of view regarding the occurrence and, thus, the known non-randomness of their preferred or newly created denotation” [Kubryakova 2004: 436].

Dialect word formation is an important composite part of the word-formative system of Russian language. It is important to note that it is considered a specific part, since such sides of language system, which are not explicated in the literature language, are created by it. Semantic derivation enriches dialect language not only with new lexemes, but also with new word-formative relations. Realization of such powerful potential of Russian dialects shows the independence of derivative processes in the dialectic word production.

### CONCLUSIONS

the research of dialect vocabulary provides a great opportunity to generalize word-formative processes, including semantic verb derivation, and a Russian national language on different evolution stages. We can assert with full conviction that derivative processes are equally important for construction and

understanding of language picture of the world as lexical-phraseological or stylistic phenomena.

Moreover, we are inclined to think that dialect features of derivational level can be used as one of the criteria of Russian subdialects typology and can provide extensive material for the characterization of evolution of Russian people mentality from the point of word learning as a unit of natural language, its representation in usual aspect, which is as peculiar as dialect language.

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