

DERIVATION-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF THE FAMILY OF WORDS WITH THE VERTEX KITAJ

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Abstract: The article is concerned with the study of word-formation and semantic features of Russian derivatives that make up the family of words with the vertex *Kumaï* (*Kitaj*). With the intensification of cooperation and the expansion of intercultural contacts between China and Russia, the concept *Kumaï* (*Kitaj*) continues to be actively developed in modern Russian, enriched with new meanings and new forms of expression of these meanings via derivation. Against this background, the formation of a scientific image of the family of words with *Kumaï* (*Kitaj*) seems necessary and relevant, primarily from the standpoint of the derivational-semantic approach. The present paper considers more than 50 words that are included in the family of words with *Kumaï* (*Kitaj*), which are lexicalized in the Russian word-formation dictionary

by A.N. Tikhonov (28 units) and Internet resources (23 units). The article analyzes the word-formation structure of these words, reveals their semantic features, considers derivational relations between the units of the family, determines a set of word-formation categories that are realized in this family. It is concluded that a large volume of the family of words with the top word *Kumaï* and the complexity of its formal and semantic structure indicate the importance for the native speakers of the Russian language of the concept designated by the original word of the family.

Keywords: borrowing, derivation, derivative word, derivational potential, derivational meaning.

Introduction

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Linguistic phenomena that have long been the subject of consideration in the traditional branches of “layered” linguistics – lexicology, derivation, morphology, syntax – are now being interpreted from the standpoint of functional and communicative-activity approaches. Among many intensively and rapidly developing areas of modern linguistic research, derivation is distinguished by the fact that, due to its dynamic and classifying nature, it is able to adequately and accurately reflect close correlation between language and thinking. In addition, “it is the word-formation mechanism that primarily provides the language with an infinite variety of words that corresponds with all the needs of communication” (Zemskaya, 1992).

In linguistics, derivational processes have repeatedly come into focus of Russian and foreign scholars, including E.A. Zemskaya, G.A. Nikolayev, Mattiello Elisa, Pius ten Hacken, Claire Thomas and others (Zemskaya, 1992; Nikolayev, 2009; Mattiello, 2017; Ten Hacken & Thomas, 2013). In the 21st century within the framework of the anthropocentric paradigm prevailing in science, the focus

and attention of researchers has shifted to the field of functional-semantic and cognitive derivatology (Makleeva et al., 2018; Volskaya et al., 2018; Matveeva et al., 2018; Alyokhina et al., 2016; Lukankina et al., 2018; Yakusheva, 2016).

The object of our work is the word *Kumaï (Kitaj)* and all its related words, which form the family of words in modern Russian (hereinafter - FW). **The subject** of research is the formal derivational and semantic features of these units.

The relevance of this study is determined by the intensification of economic, political and socio-cultural ties between Russia and China, as a result of which the volume of business and interpersonal communication between Russians and Chinese increases. In this regard, it is important to understand what non-linguistic content the Russian speakers associate with the name of the country, and both subject-conceptual and value, axiological meanings are reflected in the semantics of words with this root.

The purpose of this study is to identify the linguistic (derivational, formal-structural, semantic) features of

the word *Kumai* and its derivatives in modern Russian. The corresponding research problems are solved in our work, based on the material of lexicographic data of the Word-Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language by A.N. Tikhonov, as well as the texts extracted from the National Corpus of the Russian Language and other electronic sources (Tikhonov, 2008).

Methods

The research methodology is based on a functional approach to linguistic units having been prevalent in linguistics of the late 20th-21st centuries, the essence of which is their understanding and systematization via combining semasiological analysis (from form to meaning) with onomasiological analysis (from meaning, word content to their function). The first type of analysis is used at the initial stage of the derivative research, and the second – with their subsequent generalizing understanding in the categorical-semantic aspect. In addition to the linguistic methods proper, quantitative method is also used in the work.

Results And Discussion

In modern Russian studies, family of words is called the “totality of single-root words connected by direct and indirect relations of derivation (Nikolayev, 2009). In the formation and organization of these complex units of the linguistic system, the associative links play a decisive role that reflect objective relations between objects and phenomena of reality, on the one hand, and the attitude of native speakers of this language, on the other hand. In modern Russian, the word *Kumai* is constantly enriched with new connotative meanings and new forms of expression of these meanings via derivation, which leads, accordingly, to the extension of the family of words. So, Word-Formation Dictionary of the Russian Language by A.N. Tikhonov lexicalizes 28 units of the word family with the top *Kumai*, namely: *Kumai*, *китаец*, *китайка*, *китайчонок*, *китайский*, *китайка I (apple tree)*, *бельфлер-китайка*, *кандиль-китайка*, *китайка II (fabric)*, *китайчатый*, *китаечный*, *по-китайски*, *древнекитайский*, *китаистика*, *китаист*, *китайско-американский*,

китайско-советский, китайско-японский, американо-китайский, англо-китайский, всекитайский, индокитайский, русско-китайский, советско-китайский, японско-китайский, японо-китайский, китаеведение, китаевед. Modern Internet resources has revealed another 23 derivatives: *КНР, китаяночка, китаистка, китайщина, китаёза, китаезный, китаизировать, китаизация, северно-китайский* (orthographic variation *северокитайский*), *восточно-китайский, южно-китайский, западно-китайский, Индокитай, российско-китайский, китайско-российский, китайско-русский, китайско-французский, китайско-вьетнамский, китайско-тибетский, китайско-индийский, китайско-белорусский, китаиссификатор, китаиссификация* (Tikhonov, 2008).

Let us analyze the patterns and means of building of these derivative words, relying on their morphemic structure, lexical meaning and the nature of the system-derivational relations between them. We describe the methods

and means of formation of derivative lexemes – the components of the family.

1. **Suffixal** word formation by means of which 20 derivatives are formed:

1.1 the nouns with the following suffixes (14 units): **ец**⁴ (with the meaning ‘a person named according to belonging to the country, territory where he lives or where it comes from’): *китаец*; **-янк(а)** (with the meaning ‘person by country’s affiliation’): *китайнка*; **-чонок** (with the meaning ‘a person characterized by childishness, lack of maturity’): *китайчонок*; **-ист** (with the meaning ‘a person characterized by the quality, views or occupation, which are called by motivating words’): *китаист*; **-к(а)** (with the meaning ‘female’, the motivated word is masculine noun): *китаистка*; **-истик(а)** (with the meaning ‘scientific trend, a set of phenomena that are called by a motivating word’): *китаистика*; **-ащи(я)** (two derivatives with the meaning ‘processuality or the result of an action called by a motivating word’): *китаизация, китаиссификация*; **-атор** (with the meaning ‘the name of

⁴ Explanation of the meanings of derivational means are taken from *Russian Grammar* (1980) and Explanatory Dictionary of Word-Formation

Units of the Russian Language by T. F. Yefremova.

mechanisms or devices, aids for performing an action called by a motivating word’): *кутаиссификатор*; **-к(а)** (with the meaning ‘an object characterized by a feature called by a motivating word’): *кутайка I (apple tree)*, *кутайка II (fabric)*, the words of this type are semantically motivated by phrases with a motivating adjective as an attribute: *кутайская яблоня*, *кутайская ткань*; **-очк(а)**: (with a diminutive meaning, usually accompanied by an expression of affection): *кутаяночка*; **щин(а)** (with the meaning ‘an everyday or social phenomenon, an ideological or political trend characterized by a sign called by a motivating word, usually with a tinge of disapproval’): *кутайщина*; **-оз(а)** (in jargon, a derivative with this suffix expresses the meaning ‘a person by belonging to a country called by a derivational word’, accompanied by a connotation of neglect): *кутаёза* (Russian Grammar, 1980; Explanatory Dictionary of Word-Formation Units of the Russian Language: Approximately 1990 Word-Formation Units, 2005).

1.2 adjectives (5 units): two derivatives with the suffix **-ск(ий)**, motivated by the names of states or

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regions and the names of their inhabitants, with the meaning ‘referring to or characteristic of what is called the motivating unit’: *кутайский*, *индокутайский*. Analogous semantics is possessed by two derivatives with the suffix **-н(ый)** presented in our material compare: *кутаечный* (from *кутайка II – fabric*); *кутаёзный* (from jargon *кутаёза*). A more specific meaning is characteristic of the adjective *кутайчатый* with the suffix **-чат(ый)**, motivating word *кутайка II – fabric*: ‘made from what is called by this word’, compare: *Впереди стоял комендант, старик бодрый и высокого роста, в колтаке и в кутайчатом халате.* (A. S. Pushkin. *The Captain’s Daughter (1836)*) (National Corpus of the Russian Language).

It is worth noting that the derivative *индокутайский*, presented in the dictionary of word families by A.N. Tikhonov in the paradigm of the adjective *кутайский* along with the derivative of the type *русско-кутайский* (Tikhonov, 2008), is formed, in our opinion, according to another pattern: it is a relative adjective to the word *Индокитай*, which is confirmed by lexicographic data, compare:

“индокитайский – from *Индокитай*”
(Tikhonov, 2008);

1.3 a verb with the suffix -
изирова(ть), motivated by the top word
of the family *Китай*, with the
derivational meaning ‘endow smth with
the signs of what is called a motivating
noun’: *китаизировать*. Compare:
Вечнозелёное древо
китаизированного марксизма //
(*Expert*, 2014) (National Corpus of the
Russian Language).

2. The method of **addition** (26
derivatives) is represented in our
material by the following varieties:

2.1 addition with a supporting
component equal to an independent
word, in combination with interfixation;
complex adjectives are formed in this
way (23 units):

A) with a fixed preceding
component (*всекитайский*,
древнекитайский, *северно-китайский*
(orthographic variation
северокитайский), *восточно-*
китайский, *южно-китайский*,
западно-китайский);

B) with two coordinate linking
stems that are semantically
interconnected by coordinative
relationship: *китайско-американский*,

китайско-советский, *китайско-*
японский, *американо-китайский*,
англо-китайский, *русско-китайский*,
советско-китайский, *японско-*
китайский, *японо-китайский*,
российско-китайский, *китайско-*
российский, *китайско-русский*,
китайско-французский, *китайско-*
вьетнамский, *китайско-тибетский*,
китайско-индийский, *китайско-*
белорусский. The first nine composites
are presented in the word-formation
dictionary by A.N. Tikhonov, other
derivatives of this type are fixed in
Internet resources, however, due to the
high productivity of this pattern, this list
cannot be considered exhaustive
(Tikhonov, 2008). In the same way, a
compound noun with a coordinating link
between the components *Индокитай*,
created on the basis of the words *Индия*
and *Китай* by means of the interfix -o-
is formed;

2.2 addition with a fixed
supporting component (in subordination
according to the meaning of the
preceding component to the supporting
component); In this way, two nouns by
means of the interfix are derived: with
the component **-ведение** (word-
formation meaning ‘scientific discipline,

designated in the first part of the word’): *китаеведение*; with the component **-вед** (word-formation meaning ‘a person whose professional occupation is connected with a certain branch of knowledge’): *китаевед*.

3. **cluster** (three derivatives), implemented in the paradigm of the word *Китай* in two ways:

3.1 morphemeless cluster of the original nouns into one word (two units): *бельфлер-китайка* и *кандиль-китайка* (названия сортов яблок);

3.2 abbreviation, i.e., the way of adding the initial letters of words (one unit): on the basis of the official name of *Китайская Народная Республика*, the letter abbreviation *КНР* is formed.

4. **Confixal** method: this way and the formant **по-...-и** is used to form the adverb *по-китайски*, denoting the feature of object or action, called by the motivating adjective *китайский*. It is important to note that this word also developed direct motivational relations with the lexeme *Китай*, compare *здороваться по-китайски* (to greet in Chinese manner); *утка по-китайски* (typical of China) (Yefremova, 2000).

Thus, the *Kitaj*-based derivational paradigm has a complex

organization. According to the results of our analysis, the word *Китай* directly motivates ten derivatives (*китаец, китаистика, китаист, китаеведение, китаевед, Индокитай, китайщина, китайский, китаизировать*), constituting a specific word-formation paradigm of the vertex word. In addition, other stem-based derivational paradigms that reflect the results of derivations of the second, third and fourth degree, and the corresponding derivational chains, such as *Китай – китайский – китайка II (ткань) – китайчатый/китаечный* fall into the *Kitaj*-based derivational paradigm.

Summary

Considering the results of the study, we made changes to the stem-based derivational paradigm with the vertex *Китай*. The number of components comprehended into the paradigm, according to our reckoning, is 51 units. This is explained, first of all, by extralinguistic factors: a change in the socio-political situation, mainly of a globalization nature (*российско-китайский, китайско-российский, китаизировать*, etc.), and technological innovations of recent

decades (китаиссификация, китаиссификатор).

The conducted derivational-semantic analysis suggests that the following word-formation categories of the Russian language are found in the family of *Китай* (*Kitaj*): word-formation categories of the person (representative of an ethnic group: *китаец* (*Chinese*) and a specialist in a certain field of knowledge: *китаевед*, *китаист*); word-formation category relating to the feminine (*китайка*, *китаистка*); word-formation category of childness (*китайчонок*); word-formation category relating to the field of expertise designated according to the object (*китаистика*, *китаеведение*); word-formation category of subjective evaluation (*китайночка*); word-formation category of stylistic modification (*китаёза*); word-formation category of abstract feature (*китайщина*); word-formation category of the subject having a feature (*китайка I* (*apple tree*), *китайка II* (*fabric*)); word-formation category of an abstract processual feature (*китаиссификация*, *китаизация*); word-formation category of an instrument (*китаиссификатор*); word-formation category of the feature

in relation to something (*китайский*, *китайчатый*, *китаечный*, *китаезный*); word-formation category of a complex feature (*древнекитайский*, *русско-китайский*, *etc.*); word-formation category of the action in relation to something (*китаизировать*); word-formation category of adjective-based feature (*по-китайски*).

Conclusions

The derivational paradigm of the word *Китай* is a voluminous family of words of flabellate type (according to the classification of A.N. Tikhonov). In its composition, according to fresher data, at present it includes more than 50 lexical units belonging to the four main parts of speech. Among them are 21 nouns (*Китай*, *китаец*, *китайка*, *китайночка*, *китайчонок*, *китайка I* (*apple tree*), *китайка II* (*fabric*), *китаистика*, *китаист*, *китаистка*, *китаевед*, *etc.*), 27 adjectives (*китайский*, *китайчатый*, *китаечный*, *древнекитайский*, *китайско-американский*, *китаезный*, *etc.*), 1 verb (*китаизировать*) and 1 adverb (*по-китайски*). Given the productivity of the pattern for the

formation of complex adjectives motivated by the names of states and regions, it can be argued that the boundaries of the studied stem-based derivational paradigms remain open, since the number of complex adjectives that are formed against the backdrop of globalization as nominative necessity is impossible to pinpoint.

An important part of the functioning of a word in a language is its participation in the word-building process, i.e. in the derivation of new words. The most derivational potential of a word is realized within the framework of a family of words. The family of words with vertex *Kumaï* includes not only simple but also complex units: several derivational paradigms and derivational chains. This allows for the conclusion about the breadth of the derivational potential of the word *Kumaï* (*Kitaj*) in the Russian language and about the complexity of the associative-motivational relations between lexemes with this stem. The large quantitative composition of the family of words, the complexity of its formal and semantic structure indicates the importance for the native speakers of the Russian language of the concept *Kumaï*, designated by the

source word of the stem-based derivational paradigm. The concept *Kumaï* continues to be actively developed in modern Russian, derivationally enriched with new meanings and new forms of expression of these meanings.

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