

Peculiarities of Using Connotative Meanings in Professional Sublanguage

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Abstract: The modern period in the development of oral speech is characterized by the spread of so called lower level subsystems of language. Such subsystems include slang vocabulary and phraseology which, spreading beyond the boundaries of the social and professional groups that created them, become an integral part of the vocabulary for all native speakers. The professional sublanguage connected with a particular professional usage represents socially restricted variety of national language that undoubtedly enriches it.

1 INTRODUCTION

The society is in constant change, in these conditions there are changes not only in the language style of the era but also in the meaning of the professional, terminological terms. In this regard, there are problems of interpretation of special terms. The processes connected with the changes in the sphere of terminological vocabulary and semantics, including those ones in the sphere of legislation, are subject to mandatory regulation and interpretation. However, these changes are so fleeting and diverse that researchers often do not have time to analyse them, whereas legislators do not manage to reflect them in Russian legislation (Solnyshkina, 1991).

2 MATERIALS AND METODS

For the study, a complex method of the use of evaluative vocabulary in Russian legislation has been carried out.

1.1 Problem Statement

In accordance with the above mentioned, this study considers one of the particular problems, namely the use of evaluative vocabulary in Russian legislation concerning establishing the grounds for legal liability.

1.2 Research Questions

How is evaluative vocabulary understood in Russian legislation?

Why does the uncertain nature of the evaluation categories give the law enforcement officer freedom in determining the content of the evaluative notion?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

To characterize the semantics of an expressive word; to determine the purpose and nature of the interaction between the denotative and connotative components of the lexical meaning, to establish the typology of well-defined components that constitute the connotative meaning.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There is not a clear line between professionalisms and professional jargon. This line is usually vague and conditional. Often the presence or absence of specific imagery and expressiveness is the only criterion for distinguishing them.

The relevance of our study is due, in particular, to the fact that evaluative vocabulary is widely represented in the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, firstly, in the sphere of establishing the basis for criminal liability (that is, it is used for describing crimes); secondly, in the sphere of differentiation of criminal liability and punishment.

First of all, we consider it reasonable to define the essence of the notion «evaluative vocabulary» and to find out which definition it is given in the available scientific resources. In special editions - explanatory and terminological dictionaries - there is no definition of the adjective «evaluative» derived from the noun

«evaluation», so let's turn to the definition of its derivative. Thus, in the «Explanatory Dictionary of the Russian Language» by S. I. Ozhegov and N. Y. Shvedova, the notion of «evaluation» is defined as «an opinion about the value, level or significance of someone or something (to give an evaluation of something)» and as «the same as the mark (evaluation on a five-point system)» (Ozhegov, 1993) The author of another explanatory dictionary, D. N. Ushakov, gives the following definition of this notion: «Evaluation ... is an opinion, a judgment expressed about the qualities of someone or something» (Ushakov, 2000) According to the cited definitions, evaluation is an opinion, a judgment about someone or something. This definition, in our opinion, conveys the meaning of the notion under consideration.

In the «Dictionary of Linguistic Terms» by O. S. Akhmanova, «evaluation is the speaker's judgment, his attitude - approval or disapproval, desire, encouragement, etc. - as one of the basic parts of the stylistic connotation» This linguist draws our attention to the fact that the notion of «evaluation» is a part of the connotative component of the lexical meaning of the word. The same point of view is shared by T. V. Matveeva, who connects the connotation with the expressive function of both the language as a whole and the word in particular: «The connotative component represents the subjective-evaluative content of the word, which constitutes the specificity of expressive lexical units» (Matveeva, 1986). In the opinion of T.V. Matveeva, connotation in other terms can be understood as emotional-expressive colouring, emotional-evaluative meaning, additional meaning, stylistic colouring, etc., which consists of several semes; the purpose of studying the semantics of the expressive word consists in defining a number of the semes and their role in the lexical meaning.

According to the considered definitions of the notion "evaluation", it can be stated that in the linguistic literature it is defined as «attitude», «opinion» of the addressee aimed at someone or something in order to give his judgment about the quality, meaning and value of someone or something. When giving an evaluation of something, the addressee colours his attitude emotionally, thereby introducing an emotive (that is, coloured) component into speech.

We will consider further which features are included by the researches into the notion «evaluation» in legal linguistics. Thus, M.B. Kostrova in her work «Evaluative vocabulary in the criminal law ...» considers the problem of defining

evaluative vocabulary at the intersection of criminal law and linguistics. She supposes that the vagueness of evaluative definitions results in «the frequent requalification of the actions of the accused in practice». For example, «the excessiveness of evaluative vocabulary in the legislative formulation of hooliganism in practice results in the frequent requalification of the actions of the accused under Art. 213 rather than Art 115, 116, 167 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation or vice versa» (National corpus of the Russian language, 2021)

In the opinion of the author, it has to do with the concurrent use of three evaluative features in the definition of «hooliganism» in Art. 213 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: «gross violation of public order», «clear disrespect for society», «use of violence» which allows the law enforcer to take a dominant position «over the principle of legality, which is enshrined in Art. 5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation: «the criminality of an act ... is determined only by this code». That situation cannot be regarded as normal and requires some adjustments with due regard for the criminal law, criminal procedure and criminalistics aspects of the identified problematic situation (Kostrova, 2001).

In legal practice, there is no such thing as «emotionality», which can be explained by the very nature of the legal text, so the connotation in the evaluative notions of legal linguistics should be based on law. All this allows us to define the notion «evaluation» in legal linguistics differently than in linguistics. We consider it appropriate to focus our attention on the constant change in the vocabulary of the language, the change in conceptual meaning of terms, which is the cause of a situation when there is no unity in determining the essence of evaluative vocabulary in modern Russian legislation.

The carried out study made it possible to figure out the following characteristic features of evaluative notions in the sphere of legislation:

- 1) the content of the evaluation categories is presented considering the orientation of the legislative act;
- 2) the content of evaluation categories is determined by the law enforcer, considering specific circumstances on the basis of legal consciousness;
- 3) the uncertain nature of the evaluation categories gives the law enforcer freedom in determining the content of the evaluative notion.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Thus, jurislinguistics frequently uses the term concept «evaluative notions» instead of «evaluative vocabulary»; this term concept refers to the expressions with the fixed common features of legal provisions stipulated in the legislative acts, the expressions of the uncertain nature when being applied in justice by the law enforcer (Kashanina, 1974)

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