

# Verbal-Semantic and Thesaurus Levels of the Russian and English Photographer's Linguistic Personality<sup>1</sup>

*Margarita Andreevna Mikhailova<sup>2</sup>*

## **Abstract**

The paper presents the results of the complex analysis conducted to describe common and specific linguistic features at the verbal-semantic and thesaurus levels in the structure of the Russian and English photographer's linguistic personality. The illustrative and practical parts of the study introduce the Russian-speaking and English-speaking discourse of photographers, based on texts posted on the websites of the Russian photo forums "КлубFoto" and "ПентаКлуб" from 2015 to 2018 and the American photo forums "PhotoNet" and "Digital Photography Forum with a smile" from 2015 to 2018 on the following topics: Weddings and Events, Beginner Questions, Medium Format, Large Format, Travel, Macro. In the present study, the typologization of the Russian-speaking and English-speaking professional language personality of a photographer is based on the identification of linguistic signs studied at the verbal-semantic and thesaurus levels of the structure of the linguistic personality. The article studies the volume of text messages is 540,889 word usages in the Russian language and 610,035 word usages in the English language. The research is based on 864 units of the Russian language and 820 units of the English language of photographers, used by people engaged in photo industry: professional photographers, assistants of photographers and amateur photographers.

**Keywords:** Linguistic Personality; Verbal-Semantic Level; Thesaurus Level; Codified Lexemes; Non-Codified Lexemes.

## **1. Introduction**

The analysis of the works, the research material of which are professional languages, made it possible to identify little-studied areas, one of which is the language personality of photographers. Neither domestic nor foreign linguistics does not have a comprehensive comparative study of the Russian and English professional languages of people engaged in the photo-industry. At the same time, it should be recognized that the speech portraits of users of photo sites and photo hosting sites

---

<sup>1</sup> Please cite this paper as follows:

Mikhailova, M. A. (2019). Verbal-semantic and thesaurus levels of the Russian and English photographer's linguistic personality. *Journal of Research in Applied Linguistics*, 10(SP), 663-670.

<sup>2</sup> Kazan Federal University; *gerry-93@inbox.ru*

were studied on the material of the Russian language (Popova, 2012), Russian professional folklore of photographers was studied (Golovanova, 2011); describes the problems and principles of streamlining the terminology of photography in the Russian and English languages (Teneneva, 2001).

Interest in the study of the language personality of the photographer is explained, firstly, by the tendency of the modern stage of development of linguistics to the anthropocentric aspect of language learning; secondly, the increasing importance of photography in the following areas of social life: in nuclear physics, mechanics, geography, astronomy, medicine, criminology, history, art (Mendoza Velazco & Rivero Padrón, 2019).

Photography as a specific area of human activity corresponds to a specific type of language, defined by us as the professional language of photographers. “The language of photographers is a functional variety of a nationwide language, acting among photographers in the conditions of both official and unofficial communication, serving the spoken communication of the photo society” (Mikhailova, 2017). A professional language that serves the communication of a specific team, united according to the principle of the unity of professional activity in the performance of their work duties, is heterogeneous. “The discourse of a professional community always functions as a normalizer of professional and social values since it has a great impact on the community and the society as a whole” (Mihailova & Solnyshkina, 2017; Marandi et al., 2018).

## **2. Theory of a Linguistic Personality**

The foundations of the theory of linguistic personality developed and were laid by domestic and foreign linguists in the studies of Yu. D. Apresyan, V. V. Vinogradov, Yu. N. Karaulov, V. I. Karasik, J. Muller, and W. Richardson.

Under the term “linguistic personality”, following Karaulov (2006), we understand “a generalized portrait of a native speaker, characterized on the basis of an analysis of the texts produced from the point of view of the specific use of the system language tools of a given language in these texts to reflect the vision and assessment of the surrounding reality and to achieve certain goals”.

Since the object of our research is the professional linguistic identity of people involved in the photo industry, we should refer to the concept of “professional linguistic personality”. Solnyshkina (2005) points out that “the concentration of the most common characteristics of linguistic personalities typed on the basis of linguistic units and precedent texts, an unlimited number of representatives of a particular profession” allows typologizing a collective professional personality. The author points out that the concentration of the most common characteristics of linguistic personalities, typed on the basis of linguistic units and precedent texts, of

an unlimited number of representatives of a particular profession allows typologizing a collective professional personality.

In the aspect of the presented research, the professional language personality of a photographer is considered as a generalized language portrait of a person engaged in the field of photo industry.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Verbal-Semantic Level of the Linguistic Personality of Russian and English Photographers

Verbal-semantic level of the linguistic personality of Russian-speaking and English-speaking photographers consists of one-word and wordy units: *валить* (to overturn) 'to photograph or edit in such a way that the objects of the shooting are tilted on the photo' (DPT); *рассеянное освещение* (diffuse lighting) 'lighting, in which the direction of the incident light flux' (DPT); *nifty fifty* '50 mm lens' (PN). For example, "I have the Canon f/1.2L and used to have the f/1.4 and simply got this to see if the STM version was an improvement from the original **nifty fifty**" (PN).

The symmetry of structural and linguistic characteristics in Russian and English of photographers is manifested in the fact that the majority of photographers' lexical units are single-word: 629 (69.5%) units of Russian and 569 (68%) units of English. Fewer units of photographers are verbose: 235 (30.5%) units of Russian and 251 (32%) units of English of photographers.

Lexical means of professional language of photographers are heterogeneous in their composition. "The professional language uses two groups of units: 1) terms and nomenclature in formal communication conditions (codified lexemes), 2) professionalisms and jargons in informal communication conditions (non-codified lexemes)" (Mihailova & Nigmatullina, 2018).

For example, in the Russian codified language of photographers, one type of geometric distortion in which the picture expands from the edges to the center is called photographers as a codified unit *бочкообразная дисторсия* (barrel distortion) 'one type of aberration caused by the fact that the degree of increase in the central part of the image is larger than the peripheral' (DPT). In Russian non-codified language of photographers this concept corresponds to a non-codified unit: *бочка* (barrel) 'Image processing programs usually offer regulators for the barrel, as well as perspective distortions horizontally and vertically' (KF). For example, «Программы обработки изображений обычно предлагают регуляторы для **бочки**/подушки, а также перспективных искажений по горизонтали и вертикали» (KF). – "Image processing programs typically offer **barrels** / pillows adjustments, as well as perspective distortion horizontally and vertically".

In the English codified language of photographers, a device that emits a pulse of light is called by a codified unit *flash* 'a device or system used to briefly

create a bright light when (CED). In non-codified language, photographers use the uncoded unit *lightbulb*. For example, “*As we’ve discussed here before, diffusion is the process of softening the light from your **lightbulbs** to produce a less harsh (more “diffuse”) distribution of light* (PN).

329 (36.5%) codified units and 535 (63.5%) non-codified units were recorded in the Russian language of photographers. In English language of photographers 300 (36%) codified units and 520 (64%) non-codified units were recorded.

Analysis of the verbal-semantic level of the Russian-speaking and English-speaking professional language personality suggests that the asymmetry of the studied languages is observed in the fact that in the Russian language of photographers the majority of codified units are verbose units - 179 (20%) units. In the English language of photographers, the majority of codified units are one-word - 175 (21%) units. The symmetry of both languages is observed in the fact that a large group of non-codified units in Russian and English are single-word units - 479 (53%) units of Russian and 394 (47%) units of English. The smaller group of non-codified language units of photographers is verbose units — 56 (10.5%) units of Russian and 126 (17%) units of English.

### ***3.2. Thesaurus level of the Linguistic Personality of Russian and English Photographers***

Following the Karaulov (2006), the units of the thesaurus level of a linguistic personality recognize “generalized concepts, large concepts, ideas” whose relations are subordinate-coordinated status. The study of the thesaurus level consists, in the opinion of Karaulov, in “revealing and establishing a hierarchy of meanings and values in the picture of the world (thesaurus) of a linguistic personality” (2006). The thesaurus acts as a reflection of the world in a linguistic personality, that is, a conceptual image of the world is reflected in the language, reflected in the thesaurus of a certain linguistic personality.

Combining the units of the professional language of photographers into lexical-semantic groups is carried out on the basis of a semantic connection between referents. By semantic relationship, we understand the specific similarities and differences in the content structure of the lexical meaning of a word.

Let us demonstrate the logic of researching the thesaurus level of the Russian-language and English-speaking professional language personality of the photographer using the example of the largest lexico-semantic group (LSG) “Photographic Equipment”, demonstrating 37% - 335 units of Russian of the total number of units under study and 31% - 253 units English of the total number of units studied. The hierarchy of professional concepts of photographers was systematized on the basis of a textbook for students of secondary vocational education

“Photography”, approved by the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation (Musorin & Privalov, 2003).

The whole variety of lexico-semantic subgroups (LSS) of the “Photographic equipment” group is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. *Lexical-Semantic Subgroups of the Group “Photographic Equipment” in the Russian and English Languages of Photographers*

LSG	LSS	Russian lexical units	English lexical units
Photographic equipment	Camera	160 (17,8%)	116 (14%)
	Lens	121 (13,4%)	78 (9,5%)
	Focus	20 (2,2%)	23 (2,7%)
	Flash	16 (1,7%)	19 (2%)
	Programmer	11 (1,2%)	5 (0,5%)
	Shutter	4 (0,4%)	9 (1%)
	Viewfinder	3 (0,3%)	3 (0,3%)
Total units in LSG “Photographic equipment”		335 (37%)	253 (30%)

The lexico-semantic group “Photographic Equipment” includes 7 lexico-semantic subgroups in Russian and English languages of photographers:

1. Camera (160 units of Russian and 116 units of English): *камера-обскура* (obscure-camera) 'a prototype of a photographic device, which is a darkened room or a closed box with a small hole in one of the walls that acts as a lens' (DPT); *bridge camera* 'amateur photo class that fills the gap between compact and single-lens reflex cameras' (DPT).
2. Lens (121 units of Russian and 78 units of English): *апохромат* (apochromat) - 'an objective in which chromatic aberrations are eliminated' (DPT); *D-type lens* - 'Nikon and Minolta lenses with a built-in microprocessor' (DPT).
3. Focus / Focus (20 units of Russian and 23 units of English): *автофокус* (autofocus) 'mechanism that focuses the optical system of the lens on the subject' (DPT); *front focus* 'frontal focus' (DPT).
4. Flash (16 units of Russian and 19 units of English): *согласованная вспышка* (consistent flash) 'automatic flash, working only with cameras of a certain type or model'(DPT); *autoflash* 'a flash that automatically fires when lighting is dim' (DPT).

5. Programmer (11 units of Russian and 5 units of English): мануальный режим (manual mode) ‘camera mode, which is configured manually’ (KF); *panorama mode* ‘panorama mode’ (DPT).
6. Shutter (4 units of Russian and 9 units of English): *ленестковый затвор* (leaf shutter) ‘installed inside the lens’ (DPT); *shutter* ‘camera device, allowing you to adjust the exposure time exposure when shooting’ (DPT).
7. Viewfinder (3 units of Russian and 3 units of English): *видоискатель* (viewfinder) ‘optical device of a photo or movie camera, used to determine the boundaries of the image (frame) of the object to be removed’ (SAD); *EV* ‘electronic viewfinder’ (DPT).

Thus, the LSS “Camera” (17.8% of Russian and 14% of English languages of photographers) and LSS “Lens” (13.4% of Russian and 9,5% of English languages of photographers) are the dominant concepts in the Russian-speaking and English-speaking professional photographer’s language personality.

#### 4. Summary

The units of the thesaurus level of Russian and English photographers are arranged in an orderly, fairly strict hierarchical system, reflecting the professional structure of the person’s world employed in the photo industry.

The unity of the lexical-semantic group and subgroup is based on the hyper-hyponymic relationship linking linguistic units. For example, lexical units *automatic flash*, *pump lens*, *digital camera*, included in the lexico-semantic group “Photographic Equipment”, are in a hyper-hyponymic relationship with each other, as they are subordinate in relation to the “Photoelectric Equipment”.

In addition to the hyper-hyponymic relations between the lexical units of photographers, synonymous and antonymic relations were recorded. The lexical semantic subgroup “Lens” includes units with synonymous relations: *telescopic lens*, *telelens*, *telezoom*, *telephoto*, denoting lenses with a long focal length. Antinomial relationships are observed between the *telescopic lens* ‘lens with a long focal length’ and the *ultra-wide angle lens* ‘lens with a short focal length’.

#### 5. Conclusion

The analysis of the verbal-semantic and thesaurus levels of the Russian-language and English-language language personality of the photographer suggests that the language personality of the photographers is manifested in a wide range of units (single-word and verbose units, codified and non-codified units) and relations (antonymic, hyponymic and synonymous).

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the Russian Government and the Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University Russia for their support and assistance with the preparation and publication of the article as well as their appreciation of the benefits to be gained from the research conducted. The author is also grateful to Professor Marina Solnyshkina (Kazan Federal University) for her comments on the first draft of this paper.

## References

- CED* – *Cambridge dictionary: English dictionary, translations & thesaurus*. URL: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>
- DPT* – *Dictionary of photographic terms*. URL: <http://www.perfekt.ru/dictionaries/foto.html> (accessed: 11.06.2018).
- Golovanova, E. I. (2011). Reflection of the professional perception of the world in oral communication of photographers. *Bulletin of Chelyabinsk State University*, 24 (239), 57, 208–211.
- Karaulov, Yu. N. (2006). *Language personality: Text, word-var, image of the world*. To the 70th anniversary of the corresponding member RAS Yu.N. Karaulov: collection of articles. M.: Publishing house of RUDN.
- KF* – *Communicative platform “club.Foto.ru”*. URL: <http://club.foto.ru/> (accessed: 29.06.2018).
- Mihailova, M. A., & Nigmatullina, A. F. (2018). Statistical and comparative analysis of the photographers English language lexemes used by photographers. *Ad Alta-Journal of Interdisciplinary Research*, 8/1(2), 289-291.
- Mihailova, M. A., & Solnyshkina, M. I. (2017). Photographers' nomenclature units: A structural and quantitative analysis. *Tarih Kultur ve Sanat Arastirmalari Dergisi-Journal of History Culture and Art Research*, 6(5), 166-172.
- Mikhailova, M. A. (2017). Pragmatic principles of creating professionalism language photographers. Philology. *Questions of Theory and Practice*, 12(1), 128-131.
- Musorin, M. K., & Privalov, V. D. (2003). *The photo*. M.: Vlados.
- PN* – *Communicative platform “PhotoNet”*. URL: <https://www.photo.net/discuss/> (accessed: 20.08.2018).
- Popova, T. I. (2012). *Internet space: User's voice portrait: Collective monograph*. ed. T. I. Popova. Authors: T. I. Popova, I. M. Voznesenskaya, D. V. Kolesova, V. M. Savotina. SPb.: Eidos.
- SAD* – *Small academic dictionary*. URL: <http://www.classes.ru/all-russian/dictionary-russianacadem.htm> (accessed: 25.07.2018).

- Solnyshkina, M. I. (2005). *Asymmetry of the structure of a language-speaking personality in Russian and English versions of the Marine professional language*. (Unpublished Dissertation). Kazan.
- Solnyshkina, M. I., & Mikhailova, M. A. (2017). Processes of semantic derivation in the language of photographers. M.I. Solnyshkina, M.A. Mihailova. *Philology and Culture*, 2(48), 114-120.
- Teneneva, I. V. (2001). *Problems and principles of terminology arrangement: Based on the comparison of the photographic vocabulary of the English and Russian languages: Author*. ( Unpublished Dissertation). Moscow.
- Marandi, M., Alefkhani, M., Heidari, Y., & Beigzadeh, A. (2018). Marriage and civil law aspects of its dissolution in Iran. *UCT Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 6(4), 6-9.
- Mendoza Velazco, D. J., & Rivero Padrón, Y. (2019). Teaching resource for the teaching of geometry: Circular trigonometric geoplane. *International Electronic Journal of Mathematics Education*, 14(1), 3-13. <https://doi.org/10.12973/iejme/3936>.