Functioning of the Lexeme 'Intellect' in Russian and German-Speaking Discourses of the Mid-XXth Century[1]

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Abstract

The present study focuses on the functioning of an international German lexeme *Intellekt* in comparison with its Russian equivalent *интеллект*. The significance of the study derives from the fact that when studying this linguistic phenomenon, the lexemes were reviewed on the material of the latest works of Hermann Hesse - the novels 'Steppenwolf', 'The Glass Bead Game' and their translations into Russian, which led to the conclusion about some peculiarities of the writer's individual style. The method of a comparative analysis allowed us to identify the author's individual and national-specific features of the word components' implementation in two compared languages. With the help of a quantitative method one determined the relative usage frequency of the studied lexemes in the Russian-speaking and German-speaking discourses. One undertook a sequential study of the etymology, the semantic structure of the borrowed lexemes in lexicographic literature and online dictionaries of the German and Russian languages. With the help of the Google platform Ngram Viewer that demonstrates the dynamics of a certain word usage and its combinations in the texts of books placed in the Google Search Engine one determined the assimilation level of the considered lexemes in the Russian-speaking and German-speaking discourses of the mid-20th century. With the reference to the obtained data one drew the additional conclusions about the reasons for the absence of the lexeme *Intellekt* in the dictionary of Hermann Hesse's works' language. The study was undertaken within the framework of research for intercultural communication and is meant for the foreign languages teachers and translators.

Keywords: Discourse; Individual Style; Semantics; Online Dictionaries; Translation.

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1. Introduction

An important source of German and Russian vocabulary supply are the borrowing of foreign words. Borrowings enter another language due to the cultural, political, scientific, economic international relations. From a linguistic point of view, the term "borrowing" means "the conversion of one language elements into another as a result of the languages interaction" or the term may mean "the elements themselves transferred from one language into another" (Soviet encyclopedic dictionary, 1989). Borrowings take place in the recipient language assimilation process adopting partially or completely its phonetic, morphological, semantic and distributive characteristics. Some borrowings refer to international vocabulary becoming recognizable in many languages. But they don't always function equally in different languages. We want to illustrate it through the examples of the borrowed Russian and German substantives *интеллект* and *Intellekt*. The purpose of the present study is to analyze the peculiarities of their functioning in the artistic speech style, in particular, in the context of Hesse's novels 'Steppenwolf' and 'The Glass Bead Game' and their Russian translations. Nowadays many modern linguists also do research on national-specific language features of various writers (Nurullina & Usmanova, 2016; Shaikhutdinova et al., 2018; Shtyrlina et al., 2017).

2. Methods

In the present study one applied the method of analysis of various lexicographic sources. Taking into account the dictionary data gives an idea of the semantic structure of each of the lexical units taken separately and allows to make a comparative analysis that identifies their common and different features. One also applied the method of a comparative analysis to study the functioning of the international words *интеллект* and *Intellekt* in the context of the Hesse's novels and their translations into Russian. This method allows to identify author's individual and translation features of their actualization in both languages. To determine the relative frequency of occurrence of the studied lexemes we used quantitative and statistical analysis methods.

3. Results and Discussion

The materials for the analysis were the original works of Hermann Hesse and their translations into Russian (Hesse, 2008; 2014; 2016; 2017; 1969). To confirm the reliability of semantic observations we used the data from various lexicographical sources including dictionaries of borrowed words, explanatory, etymological and online dictionaries of both languages.

To identify the semantic components important for the consciousness of native German and Russian speakers, we analyzed the definitions of the given lexical

units. Analysis of the German-language Duden dictionary of borrowed words gave the following current definitions of the lexeme under study: Intellekt der; - [e] s (lat.; ”das Innenwerden, Wahrnehmung; Erkennis (vermögen)): 1) Fähigkeit, Vermögen, unter Einsatz des Denkens Erkenntnisse, Einsichten zu erlangen ‘Ability to acquire knowledge with the help of thinking'; 2) Denk-, Erkenntnisvermögen ‘Mental abilities, the ability of knowledge’; 3) Verstand ‘mind’ (Duden, 2010). Another monolingual explanatory Duden dictionary records the meanings completely equivalent to the meanings given in the dictionary of borrowed words (Duden). The origin of the word *Intellekt* is associated with its borrowing from the Latin language, and the word itself came into use in German since the beginning of the XIX century.

The Russian word *интеллект* has a similar etymology with the German lexeme. According to the etymological dictionary of the Russian language, this substantive is considered as a word borrowed in the first half of the nineteenth century from German or French, where it derived from Lat. *intellektus* that is a suffixal derivative from *intelligere* "to feel, understand, perceive by feeling and mind" (School etymological dictionary Origin of words). In the explanatory dictionary of the Russian language, the word intellect is recorded in the following meanings: 1) Mind (in 1st meaning); 2) mental ability; 3) mental human inception (Explanatory dictionary by Ozhegov). Thus, in Russian, the word *интеллект* actualizes the meanings similar to those recorded in the semantic structure of the German lexeme.

Despite a wide range of meanings presented in the dictionaries of the German language, it is indicial that when selecting the above examples, the German substantive *Intellekt* was not revealed in Hesse’s novels. This feature can characterize the writer's individual style.

The lexeme was found in the translations of the studied works, but only in isolated cases. Thus, in Apt’s translations, the word *интеллект* was recorded 5 times, in the translation by Karavkina and Rozanov - only 1 time. The following examples are intended to confirm our statement:

1. *Wir Geistigen, statt uns mannhaft dagegen zu wehren und dem* ***Geist****, dem Logos, dem Wort Gehorsam zu leisten und Gehör zu verschaffen, träumen alle von einer Sprache ohne Worte, welche das Unaussprechliche sagt, das Ungestaltbare darstellt* (Hesse, 2008). / *Вместо того чтобы по-мужски восстать против этого, прислушаться к* ***интеллекту****, к логосу, к слову, мы, люди интеллигентные, все сплошь мечтаем о языке без слов, способном выразить невыразимое, высказать то, чего нельзя высказать* (Hesse, 2016).
2. *Sie hatten einen steilen Weg zu gehen, mußten an der Mathematik und an aristotelisch-scholastischen Übungen ihr* ***Denkvermögen*** *reinigen und steigern* (Hesse, 2014). / *Они должны были идти крутой дорогой, очищая и развивая свой* ***интеллект***

математикой и аристотелевско-схоластическими упражнениями. (Hesse, 2017).

In the translated examples from H. Hesse’s novels the semantics of German nouns *Geist* and *Denkvermögen* actualize themselves with the help of a substantive *интеллект*. This fact may testify in favor of the fact that in Russian the lexeme *интеллект* is more popular than the lexeme *Intellekt* in German. The explanation for this can be a large number of synonyms to the noun under study in a German language, such as *Denkfähigkeit, Denkvermögen, Erkenntnisvermögen, Gedankenkraft, Geist, Geistesgaben, Geisteskraft, Geistesstärke, Intelligenz, Klugheit, Vernunft, Verstand* and so on.In the dictionaries of a Russian language one can also find a wide range of synonymous words to the word *интеллект*: *ум, разум, рассудок, здравый смысл, мозги, голова, мозг* and so on. But as the lexeme *интеллект* is, as a rule, related to a certain stylistic sphere and is noted primarily in the texts of the scientific and official business styles of speech, it can be assumed that in Russian the word *интеллект* acquires, in contrast to its synonyms, that particular scientific stylistic coloring, which is suitable for referring a special author’s style of H. Hesse’s works in their Russian translations.

It can also be assumed that the reason why the lexeme *Intellekt* itself is not used in the writer's individual style lies in the fact that Hesse wrote one of his novels,‘The Glass Bead Game’,in the age of National Socialist German Party (1933-1945). One of the main intentions of this party was the idea of creating a superman. The main point of the latter is the idea of a human intellect the high development level of which is a necessary and indispensable condition for improving the nation. One can also find a negative connotation of the lexeme *die Intellektuellen ‘intellectuals’* in the German etymological dictionary (Hermann Paul Deutsches Wörterbuch, 1992). Hence it is quite logical that the word *Intellekt* as well as its derivative *die Intellektuellen ‘intellectuals’* had for H. Hesse an associative-negative characteristic.

If the substantive *Intellekt* was not found in the novels ‘Steppenwolf’ and ‘The Glass Bead Game’ one was able to come upon its derivative *intellektuell 'intellectual'* that is widely used in German. The mentioned adjective is found in Hesse’s novels as a part of a complex adjective with hyphenated writing, for example, *intellektuell-ästhetisch 'intellectual and aesthetic'*. Let us demonstrate the usage of the adjective *intellektuell* in the context and analyze two options for the translation of the given text examples.

Ein zweiter Punkt des Widerstandes gegen die Entartung war der Bund der Morgenlandfahrer, dessen Brüder weniger eine ***intellektuelle*** *als eine seelische Zucht, eine Pflege der Frömmigkeit und Ehrfurcht betrieben…* (Hesse, 2014)./ *Вторым местом сопротивления порче было Братство паломников в Страну Востока, члены которого занимались не столько воспитанием* ***интеллекта****, сколько воспитанием души, …*(Hesse, 2017)./ *Вторым центром сопротивления*

упадку было Братство паломников в страну Востока, сочлены которого заботились не столько о культивировании ***интеллекта****, сколько о культивировании души,…* (Hesse, 1969; Godino et al., 2019).

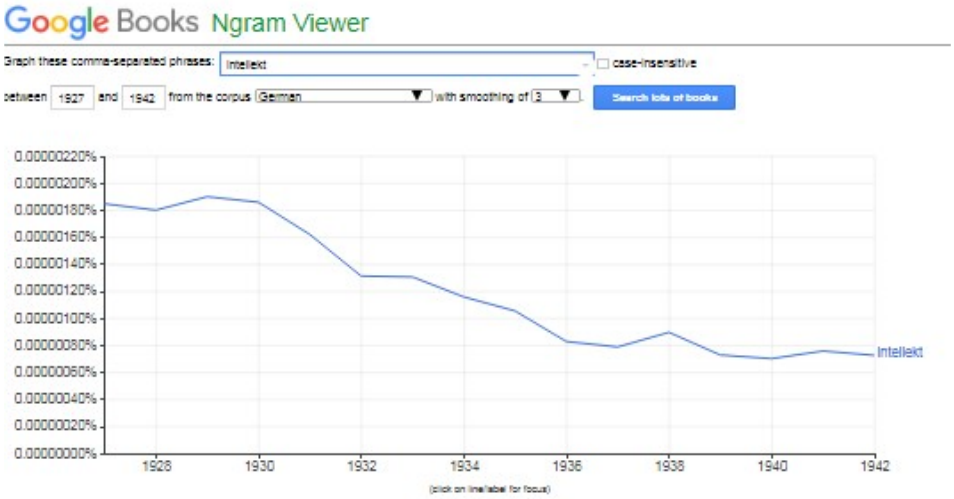
Despite the fact that H. Hesse uses the adjective *intellektuell* derived from *Intellekt*, translators nevertheless make a choice in favor of the noun *интеллект* instead of the Russian adjective *интеллектуальный.*

Thus, it is possible to speak about the absence of full equivalence of the compared lexemes in the analyzed works and their Russian-language translations.

In addition to the study of the semantics and functional characteristics of each of the nouns, we will analyze their frequency usage in the texts of the books placed in the Google books search system. This can be done with the help of Google platform Ngram Viewer (Google Books NGram Viewer), which demonstrates the dynamics of a certain word usage and its combinations in the texts of the books that were published between 1800 and 2008.

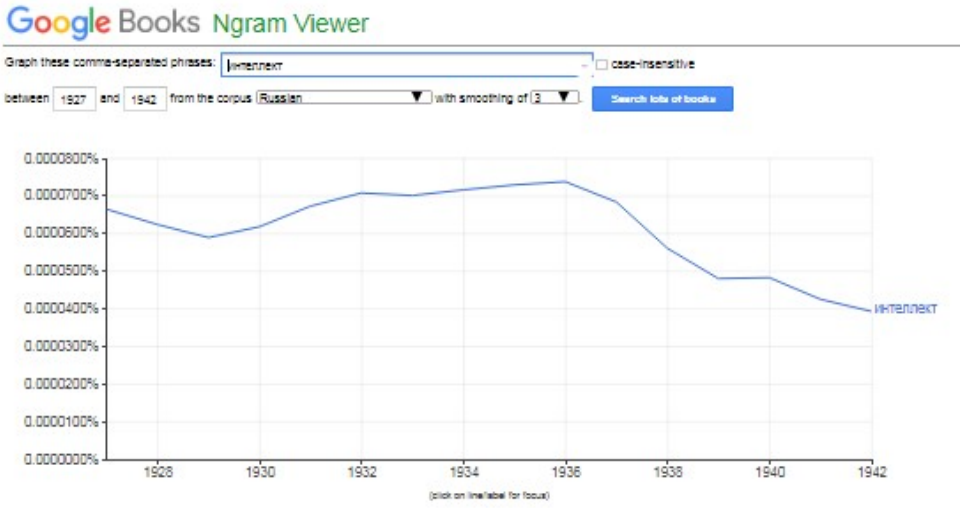
For this study, it is advisable to demonstrate the frequency usage of the studied lexemes in Russian-speaking and German-language discourses in the period from 1927 to 1942. (the period of writing by H. Hesse his novels “Steppenwolf” (1927) and “The Glass Bead Game” (1931-1942)). Discourse analysis of vocabulary is of great importance for the practice of foreign languages teaching (Hatch E. Discourse and Language Education, 2006) as well as for revealing the axiological potential of linguistic units in the compared languages (Chan et al., 2018). The graph below (pic. 1) shows the changes in the relative frequency of occurrence of a noun in German during the period of interest. On the vertical axis of the graphs one recorded a relative, showed in percent, frequency of occurrence of the word. The horizontal axis shows the time interval of the study. The relative frequency of occurrence (hereinafter referred to as RFO) is calculated by dividing the number of the word usage by the total number of words used in the corpus in a certain year, and then multiplied by 100% (Google Books NGram Viewer).

One can see that the maximum level of the usage frequency of a German substantive *Intellekt* was in the period from 1928 to 1930. In 1929, the peak of the activity of the RFO was 0.0000018985%. Starting from this year until 1942, one can observe a decrease in the usage frequency of the analyzed word in the German language. This may explain the impossibility to record the cases of its presence in the dictionary of the language of Hesse’s works.



Picture 1. The Dynamics of the Usage Frequency of the Noun ‘Intellekt’ in the German-Speaking Discourse from 1927 to 1942 (Google Books NGram Viewer).

The relative usage frequency of the word *интеллект* in the Russian language, achieved in 1929, was 0.0000588640% (Pic. 2). The maximum usage frequency limit of a Russian word, in contrast to its German equivalent within a given period of time, was recorded in 1935, where it was 0.0000728625%, which is much higher than in the case with a German lexeme. In 1935, the RFO of the word *Intellekt* was 0.0000010527%.



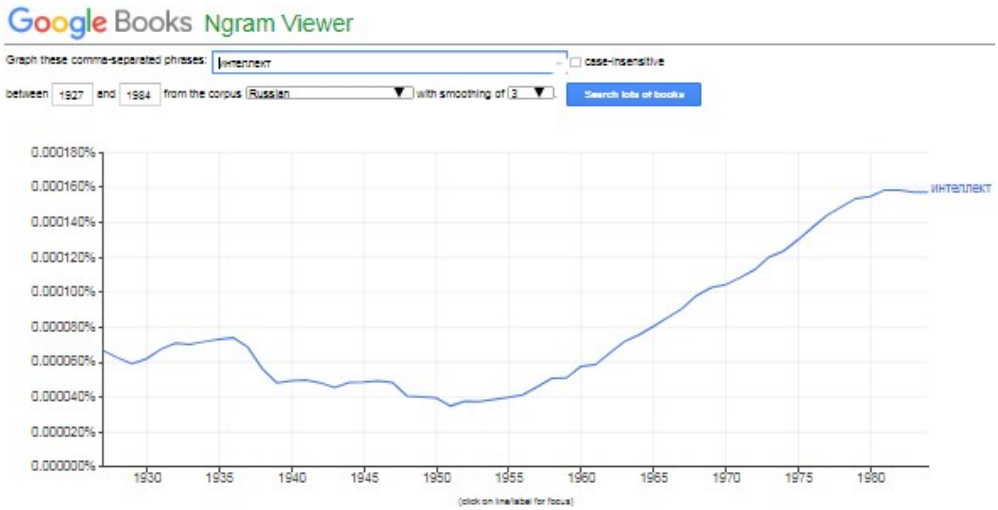
Picture 2. The Dynamics of the Usage Frequency of the Noun ‘интеллект’ in the Russian-Speaking Discourse from 1927 to 1942 (Google Books NGram Viewer).

Within our research it can be indicial to show the RFO of the noun *интеллект* in the period from 1969 to 1984 as these years correspond to the time frame of the publishing the translations of the novels “Steppenwolf” (1977) and “The Glass Bead Game” (1969 and 1984). We set the extended time frame from 1927 to 1984. (Pic.3).

One can see that starting from 1951 (the RFO is equal to 0.0000347089%) there has been an active unceasing increase in the usage frequency of the word *интеллект* in Russian. At the same time during the publication of Hesse’s novels translation the curve records the RFO with the marks of 0.0001023678% (1969), 0.0001438807% (1977) and 0.0001570166% (1984). These figures allow us to explain the more frequent usage of the considered lexeme by translators when referring the text of novels into Russian.

In the same way we established the RFO of the word *Intellekt* in the indicated years. To bring the full statistics on the analysis data we present them in the table (Table 1). In order to track the dynamics of the lexemes usage in the period covered in the study, we selected the time period that demonstrates the time of writing of Hesse’s novels and the publication of their translations into Russian.

Thus, in the Russian language in the period from 1927 to 1984, the usage frequency of the word *интеллект* is continuously increasing that can indicate to its active assimilation. At the same time its German equivalent demonstrates the unequal usage frequency that may indicate the presence of a sufficient number of substantively similar to the noun *Intellekt* substantives in the German dictionary which can compensate the need for its use. This statement was demonstrated by the examples from the original texts of Hesse’s novels.



Picture 3. The Dynamics of the Usage Frequency of the Noun ‘интеллект’ in the Russian-Speaking Discourse from 1927 to 1984 (Google Books NGram Viewer).

Table 1. *The Relative Frequency of the Lexeme ‘Intellekt’ and its Russian Equivalent ‘Интеллект’ in “Google Ngram Viewer “in Percentage*

Lexeme/Year	1927	1942	1969	1977	1984
Intellekt	0,0000000184566	0,0000000082665	0,0000000153966	0,0000000151244	0,0000000148111
интеллект	0,0000006640868	0,0000004799337	0,0000010236788	0,0000014380807	0,0000015705716

4. Summary

A sequential study of the etymology, data on the semantics in the explanatory dictionaries of the languages under consideration, as well as statistical data (1927-1984) of each of the nouns allow us to draw the following series of conclusions. The semantic structure of both lexical units has three coinciding meanings, therefore, they both have a similar semantic potential. In the original texts of H. Hesse's works the German lexeme *Intellekt* is not used. One recorded only its derivatives. Despite that the synonyms of this lexeme are often translated into Russian by the word *интеллект*. In the studied period there was a tendency to increase the usage frequency of the lexemes in both languages. However, the analyzed data allow us to state a slower adaptation of the German lexeme compared with the active process of the assimilation of its Russian counterpart.

5. Conclusions

International words *Intellekt* and *интеллект* are being firmly included into the dictionary of German and Russian languages. In different languages they function differently, in particular, they can be found in the artistic style of one language, but at the same time characterize the vocabulary of other styles of a second language. Both lexemes have a similar semantic potential, which is realized by the Russian lexeme in the originally derived form of a substantive and by the German lexeme in the form of an adjective derived from it.

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