

Literary Text's Imaginative Potential in the Aspect of the Analysis of the Aesthetics of the Nouns Grammatical Gender¹

Magdalena Akhmadeeva², Gulshat A. Hayrutdinova³, & Tao Yuan⁴

Abstract

The article deals with the problem of aesthetics of the category of Russian substances, which is relevant for modern linguistics. The author's position on this issue is presented. The main attention is paid to the imagery of the literary text, which is achieved through the implementation of the aesthetic possibilities of the grammatical gender. The close connection of the problem of imagery with the development of the question of the semantic organization of the category of gender is noted. Given its own interpretation of the semantics of the grammatical gender of nouns. The results of the analysis of the imagery of the text are presented taking into account a number of stylistic techniques, which include masculine and feminine nouns. The material for study was the works of art included in the "National Corps of the Russian Language" (<http://ruscorpora.ru/search-poetic.html>). In the course of the study, the means of context were identified that contribute to the actualization of the inanimate substances of the quasidenotative component of the gender value. The indicated means include: a) nouns containing in their grammatical meaning the gender of the denotative component; b) words characterizing the appearance of a male or female person; c) personal names; d) verbs indicating a certain aspect of the relationship between males and females; e) designation of tools; f) the names of animals, differentially designating a sign of sex; g) elements of the metalanguage of linguistics. The research materials confirm the following thesis: when studying the figurative use of linguistic units on the material of languages with developed morphological structures, it is important to take into account not only the objective properties of objects, phenomena reflected in the text, semantics and stylistic features of lexemes, but also the originality of the morphological categories of language systems.

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² Kazan Federal University; magdalena_anna@mail.ru

³ Kazan Federal University

⁴ Shaanxi Normal University

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1. Introduction

The category of the gender of nouns, which received coverage in the works of a number of scientists, has already been considered from the point of view of the history of its formation, semantics, and correlation with the norms of use of grammatical units. In terms of style, interest is the study of aesthetic resources of the gender category. Some observations in describing its aesthetic possibilities can be found in the works of V.V. Vinogradov, I. B. Golub, I. A. Ionova, V. P. Kovalev and others. The results of a thorough study of this category and its aesthetic potential are presented in the works of G.A. Khairutdinova.

2. Methods

The purpose of this study is to analyze the nouns used to create the imagery of the text, taking into account their gender. This aspect of the problem of the category of gender has not been fully studied, which determined the relevance of the topic of our scientific work. The material for study was the texts of literary works of the 19th-20th centuries contained in the "National Corps of the Russian Language". The following methods were used as the main ones: descriptive-analytical, semantic-stylistic, distributive, and also the component analysis method.

3. Results and Discussion

The theoretical basis for the study of linguistic material was the author's interpretation of the problem of aesthetics of language and speech. According to our position, when studying the aesthetic resources of a language, including the grammatical gender of nouns, a broad approach should be taken that focuses on understanding the aesthetic as the most general category of aesthetics. With this understanding of the aesthetic, its specific modifications are categories of the beautiful, the sublime, the tragic and the comic. The most aesthetic potentials of linguistic units are revealed during their functioning in the text of an artwork, therefore it is not by chance that a literary work is considered to be a holistic aesthetic object. In accordance with this, the analysis of the aesthetic potential of the language means used in the literary text is advisable not only from the point of view of their ability to reflect a certain aesthetic category, but also in terms of correlation with the basic literary concepts. One of such significant concepts is the category of image, which, acting as a key in various fields of humanitarian knowledge, has been considered in a number of studies (Schäffner, 2004; Bochina & Starostina, 2016; Sadrieva & Erofeeva, 2016; Rakhimova et al., 2018; Shaikhutdinova et al., 2018).

The description of the aesthetic possibilities of the gender category in the aspect of the formation of the figurativeness of the text is closely connected with the question of the semantics of this category, which still does not have a generally accepted interpretation.

First of all, it should be noted that scientists have different approaches to understanding that component of the semantics of the animated noun, which characterizes a living object on the basis of biological sex. So, Gin (1992) believes that gender is an element of the lexical meaning of an animated noun. Savelieva's position, which believes that gender seme cannot be included in the grammatical meaning of the gender of nouns, is close to this approach (Savelyeva, 2006).

Bondarko (1976) defends a different point of view on this issue. The scientist believes that differentiation by gender is not associated with the category of the gender, but with the lexical and grammatical categories of gender.

Muchnik (1971) sets out his approach to solving this issue. In his opinion, within the framework of the gender category, there is a group of substances having a grammatical family of differences in biological gender (Lee, 2019).

According to Zaliznyak (1967), male and female semes distinguished within the framework of the analysis of the gender category are grammatical and comprise the content of the nominative component of the corresponding gramme (Ranjbaran, 2014).

When considering this issue, we take a fundamentally different approach. From our point of view, in the grammatical meaning of the gender of nouns, the following components can be distinguished: Significative, denotative, structural and connotative.

The essence of the signifying component of the gender value can be considered as a generalized idea of masculine, feminine, and neuter gender nouns available to native speakers of a given language, which is reflected in various types of reference publications.

The denotative element of the semantics of the genus, due to extralinguistic reality, is determined by two attributes of the subject: 1) living or nonliving and 2) male or female (only for the names of most individuals and some animals).

The structural component of the meaning is usually understood as the relation of a given sign to other signs within the language system. In this case, two types of structural components of meaning are distinguished: structural-paradigmatic and structural-syntagmatic. The first of them is associated with the characterization of non-linear relations of signs forming a certain class of homogeneous language units. The structural-syntagmatic component of semantics determines the relations of linguistic units when they are updated in the text.

Many factors are involved in the formation of the connotative component of generic semantics related to the expression of the speaker's intention, his attitude to

the subject of speech, the nature of the impact of the statement on the addressee, etc. This component of meaning reveals heterogeneity, including figurative, emotionally-evaluative, and stylistic elements. The works of V. V. Vinogradov, I. B. Golub, V. P. Kovalev and other scientists have already pointed to the stylistic marking of feminine nouns, as well as neuter substances used to refer to persons. As for the other elements of connotation, when interpreting them, it is advisable to take into account the conclusions contained in studies on the identification of binary semantic oppositions that characterize the cultural traditions of the Slavic peoples. In our opinion, the figurative-associative, evaluative interpretation of denotations in the linguistic consciousness of the speaker is associated with the actualization of such signs of extra-linguistic realities as large (in magnitude), strong, active, courageous, with a positive rating (when denoting denotation using a masculine substance) or small, weak, passive, feminine, having a negative rating (when using a feminine noun).

Let us turn to the consideration of the denotative component of the generic semantics, with which the realization of the aesthetic potential of the category of the genus is specifically associated with the figurative use of nouns. We are talking about the figurative use of inanimate substances, which, due to rapprochement with animate nouns of the masculine or feminine gender, acquire a quasi-denotative element of the meaning of the gender. Thanks to the analysis of the metaphorical use of subject lexemes, this issue has already been covered in the works of Ya.I. Gin, I.A. Ionova, G.A. Khairutdinova. Our study covers a wider linguistic material: inanimate nouns are studied, used as various stylistic devices - not only personifications, but also comparisons, metamorphoses and periphrases.

Our analysis of textual examples in which aesthetic resources of the genus category are realized should answer the question: what contributes to the masculinization or feminization of inanimate nouns in their figurative use, except for contrast or similarity relations in terms of grammatical gender? Summarizing the various cases of the figurative use of inanimate nouns, it can be said that the actualization of the quasi-denotative element of the meaning of gender is provided by various means of the artistic context.

1. Among them, we will primarily name nouns containing a denotative component of meaning in the semantic structure of a grammatical gender. These include all personal nouns, including those indicating the nature of family, family, friendships, the profession, occupation, as well as expressing an assessment of the person's appearance. For example: *And it grows above it, it is important, **the son of oblivion, burdock***. (N. Zabolotsky. The poem "The Triumph of Agriculture"); *The village was darkened **by the bride** ...* (S. Esenin. "Russia"); *Unable to get ahead, / **Stillhope-institute** / Hides his album under the pillow ...* (S. Rafalsky. "Many thoughts are sifted through a sieve ..."); *...rises like a white **bogatyr, cathedral** / and straightens his stone shoulders.* (S. Petrov. "Looking to where the ancient forest is silent ...").

2. Often there are words that characterize the appearance of a male or female person. Among them, the notation of body parts, clothing, and accessories plays a significant role: ... transparent steam rose from the swampy pond, weeping willow hung long cosmas over black water ... _8099 (A. Lvov. "The Yard"); **Ocean grumbles angrily**: / "Where are the rocky granites - / Dry gray-haired **caftan**?" (N. Klyuev. "Song of the Great Mother"); ... *Wear the beads, Linden, of oak acorns!* (B. Bryusov. "Pale leaves are spinning ...").

3. Anthroponymic units, as a rule, personal names contribute to the actualization of the quasidenotative element of generic semantics: *What, dense forest*, / *thought it over*, / *Sadness over the dark* / *Clouded over?* / *What, Bova - strongman* / *Bewitched*, / *With uncovered* / *Head in battle* / *You stand - wilted* ... (A. Koltsov "Forest"); ... **love - always Mary** / *At the feet of Christ, like the color of the valleys*. (N. Klyuev. "To Anatoly Yar-Kravchenko"); *But fingers touched this block - / And Venus came beauty*. (I. Selvinsky. "Labor").

4. Featured tokens are also noted in the literary texts (mainly verbs indicating a certain aspect of the relationship between males and females and used, for example, in a situation of betrothal, marriage): *Isn't my beauty red / beckoning by the shore?* / *May my drunk will be sweet*, / **Engaged in I with the river**. (A. Shiryayevs. Burlak); **Frost would get away - / And he falls into a rage**: / **Plays a wedding with a blizzard**, - / *Not a wedding - but a coven!* (B. Wysocki "Having made a gap in the calm ..."); *Would get married*, / *As per command*: / <...> / *On Date*, / *Grenade - / On Grenade* ... (B. Zahoder. "Sounds and Marriages").

5. For the purpose of masculinization or the feminization of inanimate words, designations of production tools are used, any other words reflecting the separation of "male" and "female" labor characteristic of a given ethnic-ethnic community: *But he forgot about his rose - / Muki of love melted down to the sounds*, / *In the hearth of the heart the nightingale forges* / *The glorious song of the blacksmith science*. (M. Tarlovsky. "The Rose and the Nightingale"); *At the window, late for the performance*, / **Knits blizzard from cereals stocking**. (B. Pasternak. To Meyerhold); ... *And there winter sits behind the spinning wheel / And it pours snow from the sleeve*. (D. Kedrin. "Horse").

6. In the process of analysis, animal designations were identified that differentially indicate their biological sex, as well as the words male, female or including their phrases: *In the mast's sky, a pennant burns out*, *Steamboat, like 17 _69*, *Plows the waves*. (D. Burluk. "In the sky of the mast the trunk ..."); *Because of the dancing by the rooster of the skyscraper*, / *Having crushed huge hooves*, / *Redhead shakes his amble*. (V. Shershenevich. "Into the torn throat of a proud city ..."); *Snoozing Moscow, like female sleeping ostrich* ... (V. Bryusov. "At night")

7. Elements of the metalanguage of linguistics (for example, terms related to the description of the gender category) are sometimes involved in creating the imagery: *Pionov continued to drink and eat, interpreting at the same time that with*

glasses of *should not be drunk, as this is a vessel for women because they are with thin waists and female kind.* (A. Pisemsky. "Is she guilty?"); *But it is not in vain that it affects: a woman is a creature of God, for her both judgment and punishment are special. <...> Forgiveness, do you ask for mercy? From whom? Nature, she, brother, also feminine!* (V. Astafiev. "King of the fish").

4. Summary

The results of the study indicate that the figurative use of nouns is closely related to the actualization of the quasi-denotative component of the gender value. Masculinization or feminization of inanimate substances with their figurative use is promoted by: a) nouns having a denotative component of the grammatical meaning of the gender, b) words characterizing the appearance of a male or female person, c) personal names, d) verbs indicating a certain aspect of the relationship of persons male and female, associated with the situation of betrothal, marriage, etc., e) designation of implements of production, reflecting the division characteristic of a given ethnic group e "male" and "female" labor, e) names of animals that differentially indicate male or female, g) elements of metalanguage of linguistics.

According to the data obtained, figurative rethinking in the structure of a literary text is most often received by inanimate nouns, which are used to refer to plants, geographical objects, natural phenomena, celestial bodies, time intervals, abstract concepts.

5. Conclusion

The research materials confirm the following thesis: when studying the figurative use of linguistic units on the material of languages with developed morphological structures, it is important to take into account not only the objective properties of objects, phenomena reflected in the text, semantics and stylistic features of lexemes, but also the originality of the morphological categories of language systems. In the literary works of Russian writers, the character of the image is undoubtedly influenced by the presence of gender groups of nouns, the specifics of the semantic organization of the gender category, namely the relationship between the components of the gender semantics, the importance, the "weight" of each of them, which makes up the uniqueness of the grammatical subsystem segment under consideration Russian language.

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