



Comparative Analysis of Intensifying Word-Formation Units in Russian and German Languages as Part of the Field Approach

Irina Igorevna Abdulganeeva¹, & Ksenia Olegovna Prosyukova²

¹Corresponding author, Higher School of Foreign Languages and Translation Studies, Institute of International Relations, Kazan Federal University;
IriAbdulganeeva@kpfu.ru

²Higher School of Foreign Languages and Translation Studies, Institute of International Relations; *KOProsjukova@kpfu.ru*

Abstract

This article is focused on the comparative analysis of the intensifying word-formation units in languages with different structures as part of the field approach. The field approach allows revealing divergences and similarities of the intensifying word-formation units in Russian and German languages as a part of the profound study of the functional and semantic nature of intensifying formants and the complex analysis of the pragmatic potential of the substantive derivatives formed with the help of intensifying word-formation units in original and translated texts. We developed the definition of an intensification field in Russian and German languages. These fields indicate quantitative and semantic divergences at the word-formation level of the category in Russian and German languages and allow referring the intensifying word-formation units to the nuclear and peripheral zones of intensification fields in Russian and German languages. We can also observe the units of a certain level of the target language, which correspond to the word-formation units of the source language when the equivalent formants in the target language do not exist.

Keywords: Foreign Language; Learning; Linguistics; Russian; Word.

1. Introduction

In the twenties and thirties of the XX century, linguistic theories were actively developing (Beaster-Jones, 2019; Grodniewicz, 2020; Schindler, Drożdżowicz, & Brøcker, 2020). The major direction of such development lied in the systemic consideration of languages. The outstanding Swiss linguist F. de Saussure presented the systemic approach to language learning in his work “Course in General Linguistics” and pointed to the advantage of this approach when considering language phenomena, since “language is a system that complies with its own rules” (De Saussure, 2006, 2011).

Numerous foreign scholars, such as J. Trier, G. Ipsen, H. Sperber, RM Meyer, L. Weisgerber, W. Porzig, L. Seiffert and others studied the field approach. RM Meyer expressed a solid and reasonable point of view about the essence of the field theory in 1910. He announced the most important positions based on the statement that “there is no word <....> that would be completely isolated” and “<....> that there are certain systems of related meanings, their organization makes the semasiological position of individual expressions absolutely clear” (De Saussure, 2006, 2011). Based on POS affiliation and categorical meaning, W. Porzig singled out word correlations, developing the nature of syntagmatic fields (Porzig, 1950).

The founder of the field theory is the eminent German scientist J. Trier; he actively developed the theory of paradigmatic lexical fields in the early 1930s (Changhong, 2010; Kolisnychenko, n.d.; Vassilyev, 1974). His comprehensively studied and substantiated that the concept of the field, structured to distinguish core and peripheral zones, is the basis of many modern concepts exploring the semantic component of the language. According to the views of the scholars, each language gives us being, existence (“Sprache bietet uns das Sein dar“), but nevertheless, each



language is a selected system in relation to being, namely, the one that creates one comprised and integral picture of being (De Saussure, 2006, 2011).

The infinite being of each language is a continuum. Developing the principles of systemic analysis of lexical units (Baghana, S Blazhevich, N Prokhorova, L Kuksova, & S Yakovleva, 2019; M Tukeshova, H Tarasova, & N Luzenina, 2019; Valeryevna Erofeeva, Ilgizovitch Gilyazov, & Alexandrovna Pilgun, 2019) within a field, J. Trier proceeded from the position that a field is always something that places its components in a certain order (Schmidt, 1973). He divided the linguistic space into fields of two types - the field of words (das Wortfeld) and the field of concepts (das Begriffsfeld). At the same time, J. Trier argued that "the field exists within only one component, and further consideration must be based on the statement" («das Feld lebt aus der Bedeutung nur eines Bestandteils, und von dem muss die Betrachtung ausgehen»). The field of words is the outer side of signs ("die äußerezeichenhafte Seite"), the field of concepts is its outer shell ("der Wortmantel, die Wortdecke") (De Saussure, 2006, 2011). Thus, the Sefields form the dichotomy of content and expression.

The field model has universal characteristics: it became a basis for many works on its presentation and application. Classifications of language units according to a certain principle, are the core of any research within the field theory. The semantic principle is based on the classification of linguistic units, combined based on the commonality of the meaning they express (Akhmetova et al., 2019).

The functional principle is based on the functions performed by linguistic units; the functional and semantic principle is characterized by a combination of both features (Mubarakshina & Abdrakhmanova, 2019).

The peculiarity of the field structure is characterized by the presence of a core and a periphery with the maximum concentration of the full-forming signs in the core and an incomplete set of these signs with a possible weakening of their intensity at the periphery (Borovikova, 1989). The versatility of the field approach is based on the possibility of considering it at multi-level means of the language, united by identical semantic functions. Units or so-called elements of the language form a hierarchical structure in the grid of certain functions.

Russian linguists A. V. Bondarko, A. A. Ufimtseva, G. S. Schur, V. M. Pavlova, N. I. Kurganova and others revealed the field approach in their works. A. V. Bondarko was the first one who introduced the concept of a functional and semantic field and presented it as a system of multi-level linguistic units (Chesnokova, 2019; Radzikhovskaya, 2020). In his opinion, the interaction and allocation of functional and semantic fields are based on the commonality of their functions (Bondarko, 1984). Selection of functional and semantic fields is based on the commonality of these functions. The field approach to language systems and subsystems was presented by V. M. Pavlov as the path to the development of "natural" (meaningful) classifications in linguistics in correspondence with natural phenomena (Pavlov, 1996).

Increased interest in the study of lexical and semantic fields is obvious at the present stage of development of linguistics as a science (Fatkullina, Kazantseva, Valiakhmetova, Sulejmanova, & Anokhina, 2018; Geeraerts, 2019; Mamatov, 2019; Novikova et al., 2018). For example, L. G. Smirnova investigated the lexical and semantic field of evaluative vocabulary. In her opinion, the most significant part of the core is filled with emotive and expressive privately evaluated vocabulary, with more negative lexemes than positive ones (Smirnova, 2013). This statement allows us to assume that the field of intensification, which unit was determined as a derivational formant, can mostly be represented by intensifying word-formation units, their connotations can be characterized both in a positive and negative way.

Thus, the field approach as we understand it seems to be a universal perspective direction for systematizing intensifying word-formation units and detecting discrepancies and correspondences when comparing the means of intensification in original and translated texts. As part of our study, the field approach allows us to structure the word-formation units of the languages under study and reveal the specific characteristics of the semantic potential, as well as to demonstrate similarities and discrepancies in the expression of by units of the intensity as a category at the word-formation level (Abdulganeeva, 2016).

The data obtained within the study allowed us to form a functional and semantic field of intensification. The field of intensification in the Russian language and the field of intensification in the German language represent a functional and semantic field, the unit of this field is a word-formation formant.

1.1. Research Objective

As part of the field approach, this article focuses on the comparative study of the intensifying word-formation units in languages with different structures. The field approach enables, as part of a thorough study of the functional and semantic nature of intensifying formants and a complex analysis of the pragmatic potential of the substantive derivatives generated, to reveal the divergences and similarities of the intensifying word-forming units in Russian and German languages.

2. Methodology

The research basis of the study consists of the derived nouns with intensifying word-formation units in Russian and their matches in German. To analyze the illustrative material, we have addressed the National Corpus of Russian language; micro texts containing derivatives with intensifying word-formation units from Russian fiction literature selected with continuous sampling method, as well as translated versions of these texts in German (Gainutdinova & Mukhtarova, 2019).

The criteria for selection of material were the following factors: the presence of units with a derivational formant of intensification that correlates with invariant derivatives; stylistic distinction; usability and contextual conditions. The descriptive method, derivational analysis, component (semantic) analysis, comparative analysis, as well as methods of definition, classification, contextual and quantitative analysis were used as methods of this linguistic research.

The key approaches are onomasiological, functional and semantic, as well as cognitive approaches.

3. Results

The field of intensification is considered as one of the ways to systematize units at the word-formation level of the language when analyzing their functional and semantic features while considering their intensity. The functional and semantic potential of intensifying word-formation units allows us to consider them within the framework of the field structure since the level model of the field reflects the gradual nature of intensification. Depending on the range of functional and semantic values, formants can be represented not a single but several levels and zones of the field. However, the “intensifying” value of the formant in the field of intensification is taken as the basis. The comparative analysis of the semantic spectrum of intensifying potential values of derivational formants is based on the identification of a common or equivalent intensifying formant value. The levels of the field allow revealing discrepancies and marking correspondences within one of the field levels when analyzing intensifying word-formation units.

First, we analyze the structure of the intensification field. The basis of a field is the main functional intensification value of a word-formation formant. It shows how often this format is used, what intention a particular unit performs, whether it serves to express positive (diminutive, approval, admiration, etc.) or negative (magnification, coarseness, reduction) intensity. The field consists of two hemispheres. One hemisphere represents a positive character of intensification with gradual development from a strong to a weak degree. The other hemisphere reflects the negative (non-positive) nature of intensification. Each hemisphere consists of a core and a periphery, including the near, middle and far zones. Now we need to focus on the principle of distinguishing field zones.

The basis for selection of zones in the field of intensification is the principle of constructing an intensity scale, with a single refinement. It lies in the fact that the so-called reference point of a “normative value”, in our terminology semantic correlate, which is located outside the periphery of the field concerning the left and right hemispheres of the field. Varying degrees of intensity from the weakest to the strongest indicator will come from the core. When considering the category of intensification at the word-formation level, we deal with different degrees of intensity actualized by means of word-formation formants that build up the intensity scale: the strongest or highest degree of intensity, the average degree of intensity and the weakest degree of intensity. Each derivational formant actualizes one of the degrees. Thus, we modelled a scale of intensity on the selected areas of the field (see Fig. 1). The core of the field includes formants that actualize the highest degree of intensity. The near zone contains formants that actualize a less high degree of intensity. The middle zone covers formants that actualize the average degree of intensity; the far zone covers formants that actualize the weak and very weak degree of intensity.

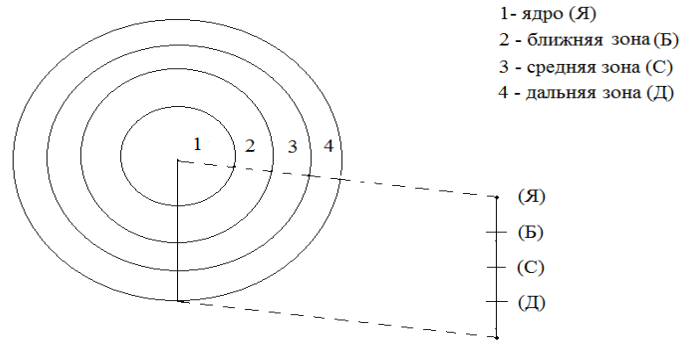


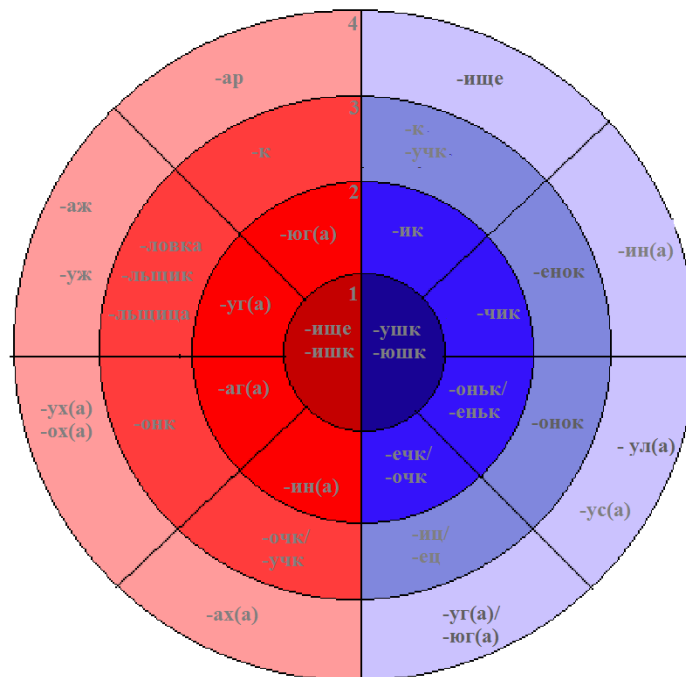
Figure 1. Model of intensification scale of the field model

Each hemisphere includes sectors, there may be an indefinite number, depending on connotations, and there are more than a thousand of them in each language. We have identified four sectors both a positive and a negative hemisphere, each sector expresses the main derivational value of the formant, respectively, the gradation of these values, namely the degree of intensification that reflects the field zones in this sector (Abdulganeeva, 2015).

A positive hemisphere has four sectors; each of them corresponds to the following derivational meanings: recognition, respect; approval; diminutiveness, positive attitude. The negative hemisphere also includes four sectors, corresponding to word-formation meanings: derogatory or offensive attitude; neglect; disapproval; dislike. Thus, the location of the word-formation formant in respect to the core in the near, middle and far zones depends on the degree of its intensification.

Table 1 presents the intensifying word-formation units in the Russian language, that consist the core of the field for the "positive" and "negative" hemispheres, as well as the corresponding formants in the German language. In a column named "corresponding units in German", the following abbreviations can be used: LU - lexical units, SU - syntactic units, FE - phraseological units.

The right hemisphere of the intensification field (See Figure 2) expresses positive intensification.



1 – core, 2 – near zone, 3 – middle zone, 4 – far zone

Figure 2. Intensification field in the Russian language

The core of the intensification field in Russian language is filled with suffixes *-ушк* (-ushk), *-юшк* (-yushk) (*калинушка* (kalinushka), *комнатушка* (komnatushka), *судьбинушка* (sud'binushka), *волоушка* (voluyushka), *дядюшка* (dyadyushka)). The distribution of word-formation units of a negative meaning is in the left hemisphere of the field. In Russian the core is represented by suffixes *-ище* (-ishe) and *-ишк* (-ishk) (*морозище* (morozishe), *братушк* (bratushk), *людишк* (lyudishki), *мыслишк* (myslishki)), which, depending on the context, can be located in different sectors.

The frequency of Russian suffixes with intensifying meaning can be located in the core, near, middle and far zones of the field and their possible corresponding units in German are indicated in tables: word-formation units – WFU, lexical units – LU, syntactic units – SU, phraseological units – PU, various combinations – VC, lacunas – L.

Table 1. Frequency of intensifying word-formation units in the core of the intensification field in Russian and German languages

Positive/negative intensification	Intensifying word-formation units	Frequency	Corresponding units in German
Positive.	-ушк (-ushk)	240	WFU LU SU PU L
Positive	-юшк (-yushk)	103	WFU LU PU
Negative	-ишк (-ishk)	125	WFU LU PU SU
Negative	-ище (-ishe)	102	LU PU SU L

The positive intensification is expressed by suffixes *-ушк* (-ushk) and *-юшк* (-yushk). The suffix *-ushk* is the intensifying suffix with the highest frequency index (240), in German, it may correspond to either word-formation or multi-level units. The diminutive suffixes in the German language can serve as derivational analogs, for example, *братушка* (bratushka) – *Brüderchen*, *старушка* (starushka) – *Weiblein* (Ermolaev, 2017; Scholochow, 1968; Ward, 1955; Zvoznikov, 1976).

The elimination of Russian derivatives with this suffix is provided with the help of lexical units as part of the word expression. For example, *головушка* (golovushka) – *mein tapferer Soldat*, *старушка* (starushka) – *die arme Alte* [Same source]; phraseological units, as *на чужой сторонушке* (na chuzhoy storonushke) (Ermolaev, 2017)– *das Brot in der Fremde* (Scholochow, 1968); syntactic (for example, inversion: *Чай, седьмой десяток доживает старушка...* (Chai, sed'moy desyatok dozhiyaet starushka...))– *Die Alte scheint am Ende des siebenten Jahrzehnts zu stehen...* (Ermolaev, 2017), as well as combinations at this level (for example, a compound word + a syntactic transformation: *- Душонка ты мелкопакостная, ничтожность такая!* (Dushonka ty melkopakostnaya, nichtozhnost' etakaya!) – *Du Dreckseele. Du Nichts* (Gogol', 1953). The less frequent is the intensifying suffix *-юшк* (-yushk). Equally to the previous suffix, the forms in German can fulfill both functions – word-formation, for example *-дядюшка* (dyadyushka) – *das Herzensonkelchen* (double affixation) (Tolstoy, 1970), and a multi-level.

The core of intensification is represented by the following suffixes *-ишк* (-ishk) and *-ище* (-ishe). The word-formation matches in German will be diminutive suffixes *-chen* / *-lein*, and matches at other levels, for example, *мыслишк* (myslishki)–*peinliche Gedanken* (LU).

The near zone, located close to the core, of positive intensification is filled with suffixes *-ик* (-ik), *-чик* (-chik) with the frequency rate 96 and 82 respectively, less frequent suffixes are *-ечк* (echk), *-очк* (-ochk), *-оньк* (on'k), *-еньк*

(en'k) (See Table 2). The examples of the near zone include -ик (-ik) / LU (соколик(sokolik) – *mein Prachtjunge*); -чик (-chik) / *Herzens-* + -chen (голубчик(golubchik) – *Herzenssöhnchen*) [20]; -очк (-ochk) / -chen (рюмочка(ryumochka) – *das Gläschen*) [Same source], -ечк (-echk) / *Herzens-* (душечка(dushechka)–*Herzensmama*) [Same source], -еньк (-en'k) / -chen (душенька(dushen'ka) – *mein Seelchen*) [Same source], -еньк (-en'k) / LU + -chen (душенька(dushen'ka) – *das Herzchen*) [Same source], -оньк (-on'k) / LU (бабонька(babon'ka) (Ermolaev, 2017). – *junge Frau*) (Scholochow, 1968). The above-mentioned examples demonstrate that the German matches of Russian intensifying suffixes that make up the near zone of the field of intensification can be either units at the word-formation level or the multi-level (Abdulganeeva, 2015).

Table 2. Frequency of the intensifying word-formation units in the near zone of the intensification field in Russian language and German languages

Positive/negative intensification	Intensifying word-formation units in the Russian language	Frequency rate	Matches in the German language
Positive	-ик (-ik)	96	WFU LU L
Positive	-чик (-chik)	82	WFU LU
Positive	-ечк, -очк (-echk, -ochk)	63	WFU LU PU L
Positive	-оньк (-on'k)	71	WFU LU PU L
Positive	-еньк (-en'k)	61	WFU LU
Negative	-аг(а)/-юг(а)/-уг(а) (-ag(a)/ -yug(a)/ -ug(a)	23	WFU LU L
Negative	-ин (-in)	25	WFU LU PU L

In negative intensification, the suffixes -аг(а), -юг(а), -юг(а) (-ag (a), -ug (a), -yug (a)), as well as the suffix -ин (-in) in positive intensification, are also able to express a contemptuous attitude and, therefore, negative intensification

The matches of an intensifying suffix (for example a suffix -ин (-in)) the same lexical unit can have characteristics at word-formation, lexical and phraseological levels: -ин /compound word (вражница (vrazhina) (Ermolaev, 2017). –*der Störenfried*) (Scholochow, 1968); -ин (-in)/compound word (дурачина (durachina)–*ein Dummkopf*) (Gogol', 1953); -ин (-in) / LU (кобелица (kobelina) (Ermolaev, 2017) – *der liederliche Mensch*) (Scholochow, 1968).; -ин (-in) / PU (кобелица (kobelina) – *du Hund*)[Same source], -ин(-in) / PU (вражница (vrazhina) (Ermolaev, 2017)– *Du Narr* (Scholochow, 1968).

In positive intensification the so-called middle zone of the field, which is the second in respect to the core, is filled with the suffixes -иц / -ец, -онок / -ёнок(-its/ -ets, -onok/-yonok). Such derivatives are positive diminutiveness, so we refer these suffixes to the positive sector of the field of intensification –иц (-its) / -chen.

Table 3. Frequency of the intensifying word-formation units in the middle zone of the intensification field in Russian language and their matches in the German language

Positive/negative intensification	Intensifying word-formation units in the Russian language	Frequency rate	Matches in the German language
Positive	-иц/-ец (-its/-ets)	17	WFU SU PU

			L
Positive	-онок/-ёнок (-onok/ -yonok)	55	WFU LU
Negative	-онк (-onk)	22	LU PU L
Negative	-очк/-учк (-ochk/ -uchk)	13	WFU LU L
Negative	-к (-k)	10	WFU LU L
Negative	-ловка/-льщик/-льщица (-lovka/ -l'shik/ -l'shitsa)	12	WFU

Suffixes *-онк (-onk)/-енк (-enk)*, *-очк (-ochk)/-учк (-uchk)*, *-ловка (-lovka)/-льщик (-l'shik)* are located in the hemisphere of negative intensification. Their matches in German language are units at the multi-level, for example: *-очк (-ochk)/ compound word (шуточка (shutochka) (Bulgakov, 1991) – das Bubenstück (Bulgakow, 2012); -очк (-ochk)/ LU (шуточка (shutochka) (Bulgakov, 1991) – ein schlechter Scherz (Bulgakow, 2012); -ёнк (-yonk)/ LU (лошадёнка (loshadyonka) – einen einzigen Schinder) (Tolstoy, 1970), -ёнк (-yonk)/ L (лошадёнка (loshadyonka) – ein solches Pferd) (Dostoevskiy, 1970) and others. The suffix *-онк* can be located in the hemisphere of negative intensification and have matches at different levels, for example: *-онк (-onk)/LU (душонка (dushonka) – eine niedrige Denkungsart) (Dostoevsky, 1969); -онк (-onk)/ compound word + syntax (душонка (dushonka) – Du Dreckseele. Du Nichts) (Gogol', 1953). The examples of lacunas also exist in German language – in this case the intensifying meaning of the word-formation units is not compensate datei ther word-formation or any other level of German language: *-онк (-onk)/ L (клячонка (klyachonka) – das Pferd, бумажонка – der Zettel).***

The intensifying suffixes *-ух (a) (-ukh(a))*, *-ох(a) (-okh(a))*, *-ах(a) (-akh(a))*, *-ар(a) (-ar(a))*, *-еж (-ezh)*, *-аж (-azh)* that express contemptuous attitude are used less, so we referred them to the hemisphere of negative intensification of the far zone of the field. This zone is filled with other suffixes, *-ул(a) (-ul(a))*, *-ус(a) (-us(a))*. The suffixoids *-bold*, *-macher* can be identified as matches of the mentioned above formants and fill the far zone of the intensification field in German languages.

Table 4. Frequency of the intensifying word-formation units in the far zone of the intensification field in Russian language and their matches in the German language

Positive/negative intensification	Intensifying word-formation units in the Russian language	Frequency rate	Matches in the German language
Positive	-ище (-ishe)	18	WFU SU PU L
Positive	-ул, -уса (-ul, -usa)	10	WFU L
Positive	-уг(a), юг(a) (-ug(a), -yug(a))	35	WFU LU SU PU L
Negative	-ух/-ах/-ох (-ukh/-akh/-okh)	17	WFU LU L
Negative	- ар(a), - еж, - аж (-ar(a), -ezh, -azh)	10	LU L

4. Discussion

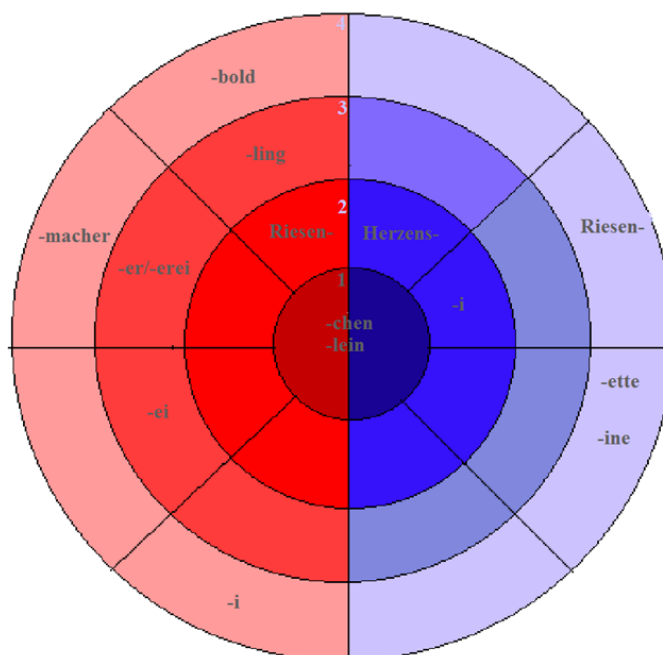
Thus, the Russian intensifying word-formation units of substantive derivatives correspond either to diminutive suffixes, or to units of lexical, phraseological or syntactic levels, so we can observe the derivational gaps in the field of intensification in the German language. All zones of the Russian intensification field are filled with suffixed formants. The units of the lexical level when translating substantive derivatives with intensifying word-formation units are the main method of elimination. As for the methods of transferring derivatives from intensifying word-formation units, it is important to emphasize that their elimination cannot be completely free from a subjective factor. The level of objectivity of information extracted from languages depends on the material itself since the degree of objectification of knowledge is determined by the coefficient of stability, reproducibility and simulability of the corresponding structures. The ways of transferring derivatives from intensifying word-formation units are substantiated by the logic of movement from the centre (the conceptual core of the word meaning) to the periphery, from the systemic and language content to the information background of the corresponding word. Therefore, proximity to the periphery allows reduction of the objective background of information and leads to expansion of subjective elements. The phenomenon of inter-lingual word-formation lacunas causes gaps in the lexical system of the German language when comparing word-formation intensification units in German and Russian languages.

The German language has the same number of intensifying suffixes as the derivational mechanism of the Russian language. The frequency rate of German suffixes and their position in the field of intensification are presented in table 5 below.

Table 5. *The intensification field in the German language*

Intensification field	Positive intensifying word-formation units	Negative intensifying word-formation units
Core	-chen -lein	-chen -lein -
Near zone	Herzens- -i	
Middle zone		- ling, - er, -erei, -ei
Far zone	Riesen-	-macher -bold -ette -ine

In the German language, the field of intensification is filled with diminutive suffixes *-chen* and *-lein*. The suffix-*I* and prefixoid *Herzens-* are located in the near zone of the field (see Fig. 3).



1 – core, 2 – near zone, 3 – middle zone, 4 – far zone

Figure 3. The field of intensification in the German language

The suffixes *-ling*, *-er*, *-er ei* are in the middle zone, the second one relative to the core, in the first sector of “emotionality – contempt”, WFU *-i* is in the near zone of the sector “diminutivity”. The field of intensification in the German language has four sectors, three of the mismatches of the word-formation meanings, and a fourth sector is a corresponding unit of the invariant form of “non-expressive, diminutive” sector. The suffixoids *-macher* and *-bold* and suffixes *-ette* and *-ine* are located in the far zone of the negative hemisphere of the field.

5. Conclusion

The system of word-formation units in the Russian language is characterized by the quantitative advantage of the intensifying word-formation units, suffixes that contain this “intensity” or create an “intensifying effect” because of the semantic and ideological concept of the text and its contextual potential. It has no equivalents in the German language. Russian derivatives with intensifying word-formation units are mainly associated with German lexical units. The semantic universality of intensifying word-formation units is characterized by the fact that the same suffix can present in several zones of the field. The semantic core of the entire expression and its contextual environment endows a derivative with an intensifying suffix with the meaning of “reduced” intensification. It should be noted that these findings are relevant for both Russian and German languages.

Also, it should be noted that we consider the field of intensification not as a static phenomenon, but as a “living material”, based on the idea expressed by V. Humboldt who said that “a language is not a dead mechanism, but a living creature is coming from itself” (Humboldt, 1984).

Thus, the field approach allows us to demonstrate the similarities and differences of intensifying word-formation units in Russian and German languages. Polyfunctionality of intensifying word-formation units is a similar major feature in Russian and German languages. The same intensifying word-formation unit may relate to different zones and sectors of the intensification field due to the contextual factor. In context, one of the potential intensifying meanings is implemented; intensification can be either positive or negative. The functional and semantic nature of the intensity as a category at the word-formation level allows us to organize and systematize intensifying word-formation units into a field structure with the determination of the core and peripheral (near, middle and far) zones.

5.1. Contribution

In the Russian and German languages, we established the concept of an intensification area. These fields indicate quantitative and semantic divergences at the word-forming level of the category in the Russian and German languages and allow the intensifying word-forming units to be referred in the Russian and German languages to the nuclear and peripheral intensification areas.

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