

ON THE STUDY OF CONTACTS OF RUSSIAN DIALECTS AND OTHER LANGUAGES IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR AREA

**LANGUAGE CONTACT IN THE CIRCUMPOLAR WORLD,
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**(using an example of the lexical
semantic field of *Madness*)**

QUESTIONS

- What effects does research of Russian dialects have on language contacts study?
- What can be the models of semantic and etymological studies of Russian dialects as a part of complex research?
- What data sources can be used?

ACTUALITY

- Hostile influence of extreme factors causes heightened prevalence of mental disorders and diseases in this area. Analysis of lexical means of revealing the concept of madness clarifies speaker's ideas of mind, health, and human nature.
- Complex analysis of the lexical semantic field „Madness“ provides evidence for etymologizing Russian „obscure“ lexemes, borrowings between Russian and contact languages, etc.
- Motivational structure of the field in Russian can be compared to the structures of the field in contact languages, probably providing information on the time and circumstances of language contacts.

SOURCES

- Corpus of Russian dialectal dictionaries (I singled out lexis, registered in circumpolar region.)

METHODS OF ANALYSIS

- Words and word combinations were genetically characterized. I defined roots and their meanings.
- After that words were structured according to their motivational models, that are types of primary motivation.

GOALS

- To describe motivational and genetic (root) structure of the lexical semantic field of madness in the zone of the Russian dialects of circumpolar regions.
- To clarify etymologies for „obscure“ lexemes.

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF REVEALING THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

- 1. Spatial ideas and abnormal deviations**
- 2. «Quantitative» ideas of madness**
- 3. «Qualitative» ideas of damaged mind, sense**
- 4. Madness as illness, weakness**
- 5. Hostile effects**
- 6. Strange behaviour**
- 7. Euphemistic expressions**

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

1. Spatial ideas and deviations:

- ‘to move, to budge from the right place’ (Murmansk reg. dial. *skrenut`syä*, Arxangelsk. reg. dial. *poshatnut`syä*, *ryaxnut`syä*, Olonetsk dial. *smanut`*);
- ‘to go out’ (Arxangelsk reg. dial. *vy`vesti iz uma*);
- ‘to spend up’ (Arxangelsk, Murmansk reg. dial. *vy`zhy`t`syä iz uma*);
- ‘to fall down’ (Pinezh. Arxangelsk reg. dial. *s uma svalit`syä*, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *pokatit`syä s uma*, *skidy`vat` s uma*);
- ‘to lose one's way, to get lost’ (Olonetsk dial. *sbit`syä s gruntu*);
- ‘to make a mistake’ (Terskoy shore dial. *obmishulit`syä*);
- ‘to turn (round), to turn over’ (Karelian dial. *kruzhenoj*, Siberian, Koly'ma, Krasnoyarsk reg. dial. *okruzhat`*);
- ‘to become entangled’ (Kemerovo reg. dial. *smeshat`syä golovoj*, Vyatka, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *poputat`syä v ume*)

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

2. «Quantitative» ideas of madness:

- ‘without mind, sense’ (Karelian dial. *bezumok*, Siberian dial. *bezumlyonny'j*);
- ‘too much sense’ (Uralian dial. *umovat`sya*);
- ‘to spend up (one's mind, sense)’ (Karelian dial. *otzy't`sya*, Uralian dial. *izumit`sya*, Olonetsk. dial. *obumet`*);
- ‘to lose’ (Novosibirsk reg. dial. *razum poteryalsya*);
- ‘lack of sense’ (Uralian dial. *nedovol`ny'j (golovoj, umom)*, Arxangelsk, Vologda reg. dial. *ne vo vsem ume*, Karelian dial. *uma celogo net*, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *ne v polnom razume*);
- ‘damage’ (Krasnoyarsk reg. dial. *umom nadorvat`sya*)

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

3. «Qualitative» ideas of damaged mind, sense:

- ‘abnormal, not their own’ (Karelian reg. dial. *ne v lada* (*by't`*));
- ‘old’ (Arxangelsk reg. dial. *drevnij*, *drevny'j*, *drevit`*, *dikar`*);
- ‘fool, unreasonable’ (Sverdlovsk *dur*, sev.-dvin. *durit`*, Severodvinsk reg. dial., Tobolsk, Xabarovsk, Vologda reg. dial. *durnoj*, Uralian *sduret`sya*, Severodvinsk reg. dial. *sdurivat`*, Simbirsk, Vyatka dial. *sdurit`sya*);
- ‘empty’, ‘mad, violent’ (Arxangelsk reg. dial. *dikoman*);
- ‘to break’ (Vyatka reg. dial. *porushit`sya*);
- ‘to become obscured, to dark’ (Vologda reg. dial. *temen`ye*, Vyatka dial. *pomrachen`ye*, *moroki udaryayut na golovu (v golovu)*, Terskoy shore dial. *pomutilos` v zaty'lke*, Siberian dial. *morok*);

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

3. «Qualitative» ideas of damaged mind, sense:

- ‘to appear to’ (Siberian dial. *mayak*);
- ‘a wicked mockery, joke’ (Arxangelsk reg. dial. *oglupet`*, *zaglupyat`*);
- ‘to be insensitive, unconscious’ (Pskov reg. dial., Arxangelsk reg. dial. *ochunet`*);
- ‘to go blind’ (Uralian dial. *osovet`*);
- ‘to become immovable, petrified’ (Vyatka dial., Krasnoyarsk reg. dial. *ostamet`*, Vologda dial. *okochurit`*, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *oguret`*);
- ‘lack of significant property’ (Vologda dial. *nedostup`*).

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

4. Madness as illness, weakness:

- ‘ill’ (Arxangelsk *nerv*, Uralian *psixa*, Simbirsk *ochumit`sya*, Olonetsk reg. dial. *oshavet`*);
- ‘to be stunned’ (Olonetsk reg. dial. *zaparit`sya*);
- ‘bad, weak’ (Vyatka, Vologda reg. dial. *blazhet`*, Vologda reg. dial. *ispoloshit`*);
- ‘to poison oneself’ (Krasnoyarsk reg. dial., Siberian dial. *sbelenit`sya*);
- ‘a poisonous plant’ (Vyatka, Siberian, Kamchatka dial. *muxomor*)

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

5. Hostile effects:

- ‘to strike’ (Volog., Krasnoyar. reg. dial. *tryaxnut`sya uma*, Omsk reg. dial. *choknut`sya umom*, Yakut. dial. *strexnut`sya*, Olonets, Arx. reg. dial. *oshelomilo*, Olonets *britnut`*, Arx. reg. dial. *zashibayet*, Arx., Volog. reg. dial., Olonets *obturit`*, Arx. reg. dial. *otbit` pamoroki*);
- ‘to deceive, to mock, to jeer at smb’ (Olonets *galit`sya*);
- ‘to damage, to put the evil eye on smb’ (Vologda, Vyatka dial. *porcheny`j*, Karelian dial. *skazhyonny`j*, Arx. reg. dial. *nasazhivat`*, Tobolsk reg. dial., Yenisey, Irkutsk, Severodvinsk reg. dial. *vrezhony`j*),
- ‘to frighten’ (Kemerovo reg. dial. *sy`spuganny`j*);
- ‘an obsession, trickery’ (Vologda reg. dial. *mannoj*, Vyatka, Uralian reg. dial. *sbesit`sya*, Arx. reg. dial. *besna*, *besnya*, *iznyalo*, the Lena river, Omsk reg., Uralian dial. *pristigat`*);
- ‘demons’ (Uralian dial. *sleshit`sya*);
- ‘to suffer from hysteria’ (Arxangelsk, Perm` reg. dial. *ikat`*, Karelian dial. *yoknut`sya*, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *ikota govoruxa*, North.-East. *klikala*, dial. *klikun*, *klikat`*)

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

6. Strange behaviour:

- ‘to tremble’ (Karelian *tryasuchij*, Arxangelsk dial. *tryaxovoj*);
- ‘a man staring at smth’ (the Amur river dial. *oglazet`*, lake Bajkal dial. *dikoshary`j*, Vologda, Arxangelsk dial. *osharovet`*);
- ‘wild’ (Vologda, Arxangelsk reg. dial., Severodvinsk dial., Vyatka, Irkutsk, Yakutiya, Severodvinsk, Sverdlovsk reg. dial. *beshenec*, Siberian, Tobolsk *sdiv`yat`*, Arxangelsk *dikij*, Arxangelsk, Pskov, Smolensk, Irkutsk reg. dial. *odichat`*);
- ‘to misbehave’ (Karelian *shalevoj*, *shal`nik*, Severodvinsk, Arxangelsk, Vologda reg. dial. *oshalet`*, Vologda reg. dial., Severodvinsk, Karelian reg. dial. *prishalivat`*, Arxangelsk, Vologda, Olonetsk reg. dial. *prishalimok*);
- ‘to loaf’ (Perm’, Arxangelsk reg. dial. *kostar`*)

MOTIVATIONAL MODELS OF THE CONCEPT „MADNESS“

7. Euphemistic expressions:

- Siberian dial. *on*, *yon* ‘he’, ‘a mad man’, ‘a wood-goblin, a devil’

LOCAL TRADITIONS, TRADES, AND BACKGROUND

- Arxangelsk reg. dial. *poso'lonny'j* 'abnormal' ← «moving *posolon`*, with the sun».
- Ideas of deviation from the norm (e.g. Arxang. reg. dial. *korova posolonnaya* 'a cow going separately from the herd').
- Motivational model 'heretical (of the old Belief)' → 'mad', as only old believers make religious processions clockwise, *posolon`*, after the patriarch Nikon's reform.
- The motivation 'salt, salted' from *sol`* is less probable, phenomena and objects are often characterized according to the sun in Arxangelsk region dialects: Arxang. reg. dial. *posolonnoye derevo* 'a tree with a trunk bended to the sunside', *posolonovat`* 'A shoal of herring goes across the White Sea to the Terskoj seashore'.

LOCAL TRADITIONS, TRADES, AND BACKGROUND

- Perm' reg. dial. *bestoshny'j* 'clumsy, unskillful, mad'.
- Probably, two words derived from the verb *tech* 'to flow' have the same root:
- Arxangelsk reg. dial. *bestochnaya*, *bestochnya* 'getting a sea animal, caught by the hunters on the coastal ice and cut off from the water';
- Arxangelsk reg. dial. *bestoch* 'a place on the coastal ice, where hunters slaughter a sea animal, cutting off his way to the water'.
- Dialectal characteristic of a man or his actions bases on the impression made by the hunting described as a bloody, rough, crude deed.

LOCAL TRADITIONS, TRADES, AND BACKGROUND

- Perm. *bestoshny'j* 'clumsy, unskillful, mad'.
- We also can propose a metaphor: a man is compared with a helpless sea animal, cut off from the water ('helpless, weak' → 'mad').
- The semantic shift 'a clumsy, unskillful job' → 'mad' is less probable: such hunting demands great dexterity.
- A foreign observer can think of it as of an unskillful job, though, as this meaning was registered not in the Arxangelsk region dialects, but in the dialect of the Perm' region.

CONCLUSIONS

- Research of Russian dialects gives data to comparative language contacts studies and provides some methods of analysis.
- I've presented one of possible models of semantic and etymological research of Russian dialects within one lexical semantic field of Madness. We can compare models indicated with models existing other languages, and defined roots can be used for etymologizing borrowings in contact languages.
- Data sources are dictionaries and several corpora of dialectal texts.

Thank you for your attention.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!