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ОЦЕНОЧНАЯ ИНТЕРПРЕТАЦИЯ СОБЫТИЙ АКЦИОНАЛЬНЫМИ ГЛАГОЛАМИ СО ЗНАЧЕНИЕМ УНИЧТОЖЕНИЯ И РАЗРУШЕНИЯ ОБЪЕКТА

Аннотация. Любое событие окружающей действительности находит свое отражение в человеческой речи. Выбор лексико-семантических средств помогает выразить отношение говорящего к событию. Благодаря уникальным семантическим свойствам глагол раскрывает разнообразные аспекты действия: его тип, способ, инструмент, объект. Анализируются способы оценочной интерпретации события акциональными глаголами со значением уничтожения и разрушения одушевленного объекта. Среди основных компонентов оценочной интерпретации события уничтожения рассматриваются объект уничтожения и его количественные характеристики, способ, интенсивность действия, цель, инструмент уничтожения. Представлены примеры употребления акциональных глаголов со значением уничтожения и разрушения одушевленного объекта в современном английском языке.

Ключевые слова: акциональный глагол, метафора, интерпретация, оценка.

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EVALUATIVE INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS BY ACTIONAL VERBS WITH THE MEANING OF DESTRUCTION OF AN OBJECT

Abstract. All events of the world around us are reflected in human speech. The choice of lexical and semantic means helps the speaker to express his attitude to the event. Due to unique semantic properties, a verb reveals various aspects of the action – its type, method, instrument (tool), object. The article analyzes the ways of evaluative interpretation of the event by actional verbs with the meaning of destruction of an animate object. The main components of the evaluation interpretation of the destruction event are the object of destruction and its quantitative characteristics, method, intensity of the action, purpose, and instrument (tool) of destruction. The article presents examples of the use of actional verbs with the meaning of destruction of an animate object in the modern English language.

Keywords: actional verb, metaphor, interpretation, evaluation.

Evaluative interpretation of reality is the interaction of a person with the environment, comprehension of events and phenomena, as well as their correlation with a private system of values. Defining an event as an action or a process, a person gives a certain evaluation of the whole event or its separate aspect by choosing a specific verb through which the event is interpreted [1]. Many researchers specify the unique semantics of the verb

since the verb not only names the type of action but also identifies possible participants. Thus, the overall evaluation is associated with the matching of the event with a certain category. A private interpretation of an event is based on specific characteristics: method, tool, material, object, etc. Its compatibility, factors of initial action meaning actualization as well as factors that contribute to polycategorization (simultaneous implementation of

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several categorical meanings) or recategorization (change of its categorial meaning) are of primary concern [2; 3].

The class of action verbs consists of verbs from different lexico-semantic groups. This article analyzes the ways of evaluative interpretation of an event by action verbs with the meaning of destruction of an animate object. Destruction is comprehended as an impact on an object as a result of which the object comes into a qualitatively new state. Obligatory components of this type of action are the subject, the action and the object which the destruction action is directed to. Optional components include: tool, method, intensity, factual object, aim.

A person is the prototypical subject of action. The analysis of definitions shows that the main components that make it possible to receive an evaluative interpretation of the destruction event are: type of the destruction object (animate), method, intensity, aim, as

well as the tool or means of object destruction. Thus, the article analyzes the following group of verbs (*assassinate, annihilate, behead, butcher, cripple, crucify, decapitate, decimate, euthanize, execute, exterminate, guillotine, kill, lynch, massacre, murder, poison, quarter, slay, slaughter, stab, zap etc.*).

Initially, there is an analysis of the ways of evaluative interpretation of the living being destruction event by the verb **kill** which conveys the idea of murder in the most general sense (1). However, the verb modifies its meaning when combined with atypical nouns (*shopping centres, bleach, smoking*) or nouns of abstract semantics (*suspense, natural disasters*) or the name of diseases (*malaria, lung cancer etc.*) and is recategorized from action to causative one which is achieved by using the verb in a transitional construction, a new metaphorical understanding of the action (2–7).

(1) Only in the USA terrorists **kill** hundreds of people annually [4].

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(Kill – to make a person or other living thing die [5].)

(2) Bleach **kills** household germs [4].

(3) Smoking **kills** the same way her words do slowly and unmercifully [4].

(4) The out-of-town shopping centre **will kill** local trade [4].

(5) The vet confirmed that rabies **killed** his dog [4].

(6) What happened next? The suspense **is killing** me (= *make someone feel angry or irritate*) [4].

(7) Natural disasters **killed** around 6,000 people in 2019 [4].

A speaker chooses the following verbs if **quantitative characteristics of the animate object** and the **method** of committing the murder prevail in the evaluative interpretation of the event (*butcher, decimate, exterminate, massacre, slaughter, etc.*). For example:

(8) He violently massacred thousands of innocent people and pillaged their wealth [4].

(*Massacre – to kill a large number of people, especially in a cruel way; to defeat somebody in a game or competition by a high score* [6].)

(9) It's certainly true that first Britain and then America have humiliated and brutalized and repeatedly invaded and **massacred** and **bombed** and **slaughtered** and **tortured** hundreds of people of the middle east [4].

(10) Farmers were paid to **slaughter** 6 million baby pigs, and discard them or use them as fertilizer [4].

(*Slaughter – to kill a lot of people in a violent way; to kill animals, usually for their meat* [5].)

(11) Their soldiers brutally butchered lots of innocent people near that village that the soil was soaked with blood [4].

(*Butcher – to kill people in a very cruel and violent way; to kill animals and cut them up for use as meat* [6].)

Since quantitative characteristics and the method of performing an action are present in the semantics of the verb, they can

be expressed both explicitly and implicitly. However, examples (8, 10, 11) evaluate the method component by combining the verb with adverbs of manner (*violently, brutally*) as well as the number of people which confirms the idea of a mass murder. The object of the action in the example (10) is a group of animals. The examples (12, 13) show modification of the verb under the influence of such mechanism as metaphor. The verb is combined with atypical nouns as an affected entity (*language, last name*) and the physical sphere of influence changes to the emotional one. In this case, the method of causation is subjected to evaluative interpretation.

(12) That's why we **butchered** the hell out of the language and now "tweet" is in our dictionary, "bromance" is apparently a word now, and so are "helicopter parent", "fist bump", and "crowdsourcing" [4].

(13) And for context, my last name is habitually **butchered** too – Gartland. The "T" gets no love, ever [4].

The event of the destruction of an animate object, depending on the degree of cruelty, can be represented through **a method or tool** for committing a murder (*behead, decapitate, guillotine, gore, lynch, murder, poison, quarter, slay, stab, zap etc.*).

(14) She slowly **poisoned** John with small doses of arsenic over the course of several years [4].

(*Poison – to harm or kill a person or an animal by giving them poison* [6].)

(15) The enemies of peace have decided to step all over you on their way to **behead** me [4].

(*Behead – to cut off somebody's head, especially as a punishment* [6].)

(16) The boy reached for a chopper and began briskly to **decapitate** the birds [7].

In examples (14–16), the evaluation is in the very meaning of the verbs: killing by poison (poison), decapitation (behead, decapitate).

(17) Jealousy **stabbed** me the same evening I saw her with Noah [4].

(*Stab – to push a sharp, pointed object, especially a knife, into somebody, killing or injuring them* [6].)

(18) Multiple attempts to **behead** a bottle will contribute to a messy break (and an undrinkable bottle) [4].

(19) Management can use its authority to **guillotine** any dispute that threatens to be prolonged [4].

(20) The A4 sheets **are** then **guillotined** down the middle, resulting in 200 cards [7].

(21) It's his habit to **poison** our morning with his words [4].

The examples (17–21) are especially interesting, because events get a new meaning through the use of verbs with atypical for their semantics, subjects or objects. In examples (17, 21), the emotional state of a person is interpreted, in example (18) – a harsh way of opening a bottle, in (19) – a merciless way of settling disputes, in (20) – a way of production.

Let's consider a group of verbs which contain the components of **purpose** and **reason** (*assassinate, crucify, execute, euthanize, etc.*).

(22) He was caught at the attempt to **assassinate** the Pope [4].

(*Assassinate – to kill a famous or important person, especially for political reasons or for payment* [5].)

(23) He will be your true Christian, ready to turn the other cheek, ready to be **crucified** rather than **crucify**, sick to the heart at the thought of killing a fly [4].

(24) In some cases, owners don't **euthanize** their pets before the holidays but try to have them hold on until right after, said Eric Richman, a clinical social worker at Cummings Veterinary Medical Center [4].

(*Euthanise – to kill a sick or injured animal or person by giving them drugs so that they die without pain* [6].)

In examples (22–24) murder is conveyed in the most general sense due to the semantics of the verb. However, the semantics of the verb **crucify** contains information not only about the purpose – punishment, but also about the method of punishment, so the event expressed by the verb **crucify** is interpreted in terms of **purpose** and **method**. In example (22), we are talking about the murder of a very important person.

(25) They did everything they could to undermine my credibility and **assassinate** my character. Then, they started playing the game of deleting their comments and turning the comment ... [4].

(26) Please don't **crucify** my words because they are my opinions just as your words are your opinions [4].

(*Crucify – to criticize or punish somebody very severely* [6].)

(27) Further reason to denigrate, marginalize, ostracize, and **euthanize** the arts and those that create them is thereby generated by the “entertainment media” to raise the public outcry that results in political action [4].

In the examples (25–27), the verbs are used with atypical for the semantics objects (character, words, arts) that leads to a reinterpreting of the meaning of the verb, therefore, its recategorization, transfer from physical action to the verbal communication (26).

The analysis of all these examples allow us to make the conclusion, that the action itself or one of its components can be subjected to evaluative interpretation. Also, the evaluation can be inherent in the meaning of the verb or be expressed at the functional level.

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