

Corpora and culturally connotated words

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Abstract

The article aims to explore some of the possibilities, advantages, and problems of corpus-based analyses of semantic aspects of language in one particular field, namely, the semantic field of natural objects. For this purpose, a methodological procedure was developed, and an exemplary analysis of the semantic field of the word ‘*kamen*’ (stone) in Russian was performed. The theoretical and methodological procedure is based on the semantic field theory and the lexical approach proposed by Kövecses. As the material of the study, Pavel Bazhov’s narrations – *skazy* - were used. Bazhov’s *skazy* are a striking case of the Ural folklore, the national perception of natural objects, their metaphorical rethinking, and enrichment of their semantic fields with additional semantic meanings. The results of the study show that the corpora-based approach to the analysis of culturally connotated designation of natural objects offers several advantages.

Key words: culturally connotated words, stone, semantic field, the structure of the semantic field, lexical approach, corpus methodology

1. Introduction

In recent decades, corpus linguistics has evolved into a well-organized and developed field of linguistic, social, and cultural studies. It “was developed to empirically describe and broadly analyze language use based on natural linguistic data” (Park and Nam, 2017). The methods of corpus linguistics are now also widely used in cognitive linguistics. Modern corpora contain large quantities of data and are thus particularly useful for qualitative research on grammatical aspects of language. These aspects are easier to analyze using automatic search processes than semantic questions (Oster, 2010). Nevertheless, corpus linguistics has developed a number of conceptual tools that help to pinpoint semantic aspects of lexemes. The main purpose of this study is to apply the corpora approach to the study of one of the central topics of cognitive linguistics: the use of nominations of natural resources, natural objects in the speech of representatives of different cultural groups, enrichment of semantic meanings with the formation of additional meanings, and expansion of semantic fields.

In this field, Kövecses classifies all studies as language user-oriented and cognitivist. . The first group of studies focuses on quantitative data: the frequency of use of lexemes or constructions, the most frequent contexts of use, etc. (Kövecses, 2005). The second group of studies aims at qualitative analysis studying the functioning of lexical units and syntactic constructions in various types of discourses, including folklore texts (see, for example, Kalinovskiy, Bondareva, 2020). Such analyses “reveal patterns or styles of speech that may otherwise be not seen by researchers” (Willis, 2017). Thus, the research question addressed in this study is how the qualitative approach can be complemented by the use of quantitative data from text corpora. Specifically, the questions of the study are as follows: How can a corpus-based approach be applied to establish the lexical units that shape our understanding of natural object nominations? Do corpus data reveal additional semantic facets of words expressing natural objects? How can the corpus-oriented approach be applied to establish the semantic field of the lexical units? How does this methodological approach differ from other ways of analyzing nominations of natural objects? How does this methodological approach differ from other ways of semantic field analysis?

To answer these questions, the method of the research of the semantic field of the word *kamen* ' (stone) in Bazhov's individual discourse was used.

2. Review of the literature: semantic field theory

Semantic field theory is traced back to the middle of the nineteenth century and the ideas of Humboldt (1836) and Saussure (1916) (Mansouri, 1985; Gao and Xu, 2013). At the beginning of the twentieth century, German and Swiss structuralist linguists, such as Ipsen (1924); Trier (1934); Jolls (1934), and Porzig (1934). developed the theory.

Trier based his understanding of the semantic field (SF) on Humboldt's concept of language, in accordance with which the language is a determinant of its speakers' worldview and mentality, and all parts of the language system are conceptually related to one another: "In the system, all parts receive their meanings only from the whole. That means that a word [i. e., lexeme] in any language is not an isolated carrier of meaning; on the contrary, each word has a meaning only because there are others adjacent to it" (quoted by Mansouri 1985).

Thus, a lexical unit does not have an independent meaning but acquires meaning only through the opposition to other lexemes: "The meanings of words in the same semantic field are interdependent and underdetermined" (Wangru, 2016). For example, the semantic oppositions "movement - immobility" and "up - down" are the subject of linguistic and cultural analysis, in which they are presented as an integral part of the ritual text (Demchenko, 2017).

Later Trier's concept of the SF was developed by Weisgerber. Like Trier, Weisgerber does not regard the lexical unit as an independent carrier of the semantic meaning. The scholar emphasizes that the lexeme is an integral part of the field: "The word field [i. e., lexical field] exists as a whole. For this reason, to understand the meanings of its components, it is necessary to visualize the entire field and find the place of that component in the structure of the field" (quoted by Mansouri, 1985).

Lyons gave one of the first definitions of the semantic field as an outcome of interactions and relations of different lexical units. Hewrote: "Lexemes and other units which are semantically related, whether paradigmatically or syntagmatically, within a given language system can be said to belong to or to be members of the same (semantic) field; and a field whose members are lexemes is the lexical field. The lexical field is, therefore, a paradigmatically and syntagmatically structured subset of the vocabulary (or lexicon)" (Lyons, 1977).

Lyons emphasizes that individual lexical units form a semantic field on the basis of certain paradigmatic and syntagmatic interactions and relations. At the same time, the author does not explain what kind of interactions led to the formation of the SF.

Lehrer defines an SF as "a group of words [i. e., lexemes] closely related by meaning, often falling under a common term" (Lehrer, 1974). The semantic structure of a word as an ordered set of semantic components with internal dependencies and oppositions has been described in the works of contemporary researchers: linguists, philosophers and cultural scientists (Demchenko, 2016, Potapova, 2019, Dmitrieva, 2015). Accordingly, the main goal of linguistic studies is to collect and generalize all lexical units that belong to the SF and explain the relations between them.

Sankaravelayuthan defines an SF as "an integrated system of lexemes which are interrelated in meaning" (Sankaravelayuthan, 2018).

Based on the analysis of the connections between the lexemes forming the SF, we can distinguish all lexemes, and all structural components into (1) basic lexical items; (2) peripheral lexical units.

Basic lexical items must meet the following criteria (Lehrer, 1974):

- (1) The basic lexical unit is monolexic, it's 'one word'
- (2) The use of basic lexical units is not limited to a narrow class of objects
- (3) Basic items are psychologically 'salient' to informants.

The basic and peripheral words are combined together to form the SF. The nature of the interaction of lexemes in the SF is significantly different. This character of the interactions determines the specificity of the SF structure.

Scientists define the following types of semantic interactions between the lexical items forming the SF (Mansouri, 1985; Gao and Xu, 2013):

1. Synonymy: relations based on “sameness of meaning”: lexical items may be considered defined as synonymous if the lexeme L1 implies the lexeme L2.

2. Hyponymy: a subordinate relationship in which one lexeme can be defined as a “headword” (Lehrer, 1974), a superordinate lexeme (or superordinate) (Lyons, 1977), “the meaning of one word includes another” (Martin, 2018). Hyponymy can be multileveled, which means that basic lexical units can be divided into more specific levels. Hyponymy is relative.

3. Incompatibility: relations inverse to hyponymy, based on exclusion rather than inclusion: “the meaning of one lexeme excludes the meaning of other lexemes associated with it in a particular semantic field” (Mansouri, 1985)

4. Antonymy: a relationship based on ‘opposition of meaning’
Geoffrey Leech divides the “meanings” into seven types:

1. Denotative or conceptual meaning is the basic expressive meaning fixed in dictionaries. (1) Denotative meaning can be divided into several semantic components; (2) it varies with the changes and development of the object being nominated; (3) it can have different denotative meanings in different contexts.

2. Connotative meaning is a communicative value, the meaning which is formed in addition to the denotative meaning.

3. Social or stylistic meaning is formed under the social circumstances of the lexeme usage.

4. Affective meaning reflects individual, personal affects, feelings, and emotional states of communicators.;

5. Reflected meaning is the meaning that arises when one meaning of a lexeme is part of our response to another meaning.

6. Collocative meaning consists of associations the lexeme acquires in the sociocultural environment. These associations are tightly connected with the lexical item in the consciousness of representatives of the cultural model.

7. Thematic meaning is a meaning conveyed by the way in which the spoken message is organized in terms of focus, emphasis, and ordering (Leech, 1974).

It is worth mentioning that all classifications of relations and interactions between the lexical items in the SF structure are conditional, all lexemes are closely interrelated and ambiguous, their meaning may depend on the context, which makes it impossible to develop a universal taxonomy.

Thus, we can conclude that the SF is a complex, variable phenomenon that is formed as a result of the interaction of different lexical items. As a result of the interactions of different lexical items within an SF, various types of semantic connections are formed.

3. Methodology and materials

As mentioned earlier, the study of the semantic field *kamen'* (stone) in the Russian language was performed thanks to the corpus analysis of Bazhov’s prose. The writer’s tales are a vivid representation of the Urals folklore, the folk perception of natural objects, and Bazhov is an exponent of the regional identity (Rassadina, 2017).

3.1 Corpus choice

To achieve the formulated goal of the study, we need to substantiate the choice of the corpus by showing that it demonstrates the use of the word *kamen'* (stone) in the Russian language. The corpus citations are taken from the Russian National Corpus, the largest corpus in Russian. On the basis of this corpus, studies of lexemes of the

Russian language were conducted, including culturally designated items representing the linguistic picture of the world (Rykova, 2011, Potapova, 2018, Borisova, 2008, Borovkova, 2017). Genre, type, and gender must be chosen in order to conduct the study. Size, however, is important, as the nominations of natural objects are high-frequency words in fairy tales and fiction, and in order to draw conclusions about the SF of the lexical item in individual authorial discourse, a very large amount of text materials is needed.

3.2 Search procedure

The search procedure includes the following stages:

- 1) Searching by the lexeme in all forms
- 2) Limiting the search by the part of speech of the search lexical item
- 3) Choosing the particular sub-corpora (Bazhov's tale discourse) according to the genre (fiction), the type (*skazy*), and the author's gender (male).
- 4) Grouping the results by the words. This means that different forms of the word are counted together, for example: *kamen'* - *kamnya* - *kamnyu* - *kamnem* - *kamne*
- 5) Using various possibilities for sorting the results.

3.3 Qualitative analysis

To achieve this goal, Kövecses's lexical approach was chosen as a qualitative research method (Kövecses et al. 2019). The research procedure includes the following stages:

- 1) Identification of the denotative meanings, fixed in dictionaries
- 2) Study of the etymology of the lexeme
- 3) Identification of the relations with other lexical items of the SF (synonyms, antonyms, hyponyms, incompatible lexemes)
- 4) Evaluation of the lexical item (connotative, social, affective, reflected, thematic, collocative meanings).

4. Results

4.1 Search by the lexeme in all forms

Table 1. The frequency of the lexeme *kamen'*

The lexeme	The frequency in the corpora	The frequency in the sub-corpora	The frequency in male narration	The frequency in fiction	The frequency in <i>skazy</i>	The frequency in male narration, fiction	The frequency in male narration, <i>skazy</i>
Singular							
<i>Kamen'</i> (stone)	13 710	45	11 420	5 401	428	4 612	398
<i>kamnya</i> (of stone)	6 215	16	5 067	1 909	131	1 637	128
<i>kamnyu</i> (for/ to stone)	891	2	752	393	36	333	30
<i>kamnem</i> (by/ with stone)	3 601	11	2 898	1 419	89	1 200	83

<i>kamne</i> (about stone)	2 152	3	1 821	823	43	700	41
Plural							
<i>kamni</i> (stones)	8700	22	7 190	3 280	213	2 788	189
<i>kamnej</i> (of stones)	5 574	8	4 422	1 621	89	1 348	81
<i>kamnyam</i> (for/ to stones)	999	0	863	493	18	408	14
<i>kamnyami</i> (by/ with stones)	3 292	2	2 601	1 190	68	1 013	61
<i>kamnyah</i> (about stones)	1 333	2	1 124	538	23	444	21

The results of the qualitative analysis allow us to make a row of conclusions:

(1) the lexical unit is used predominantly in the speech of male narrators: 83% to all fixed in the corpora contexts.

(2) the lexical unit is used predominantly in an initial form, in the Nominative case of Singular (13 710 in the corpora; 11 420 in male narration; 5 401 in fiction; 428 in *skazy*; 45 in the sub-corpora) or Plural (8 700 in the corpora; 7 190 in male narration; 3 280 in fiction; 213 in *skazy*; 22 in the sub-corpora).

(3) The less frequency form of the lexeme is Dative case: 891 in the corpora; 752 in male narration; 393 in fiction; 36 in *skazy*; 2 in the sub-corpora - Singular; 999 in the corpora; 863 in male narration; 493 in fiction; 18 in *skazy*; 0 in the sub-corpora - Plural.

Frequency of usage of the lexeme in the Bazhov's *skazy* in accordance to the frequency of usage of the word in *skazy* and male *skazy* may be presented in Table 2:

Table 2. Frequency of usage the lexeme in the Bazhov's tales

The lexeme	Frequency in <i>skazy</i>	Frequency in the male narrative in the <i>skazy</i>	Frequency in the sub-corpora	% in <i>skazy</i>	% in the male narrative in the <i>skazy</i>
Singular					
<i>kamen'</i> (stone)	428	398	45	10.5%	11%
<i>kamnya</i> (of the stone)	131	128	16	12%	12.5%
<i>kamnyu</i> (to the stone)	36	30	2	0.5%	0.7%
<i>kamnem</i> (with the stone)	89	83	11	12.4%	13.3%
<i>kamne</i> (on /about the stone)	43	41	3	7%	13.7%
Plural					

<i>kamni</i> (stones)	213	189	22	10.3%	11.6%
<i>kamnei</i> (by/ of the stones)	89	81	8	9%	9.9%
<i>kamnyam</i> (by/ to the stones)	18	14	0	0%	0%
<i>kamnyami</i> (with the stones)	68	61	2	3%	3.3%
<i>kamnyah</i> (on/about the stones)	23	21	2	8.7%	9.5%

As Table 2 shows, the frequency of use of the lexeme *kamen'* (stone) in Bazhov's *skazy* varies from 0% to 12.4%, and from 0% to 13.7% in male tales. Thus, we can conclude that the word plays a significant role in Bazhov discourse as one of the central concepts in the individual, personal worldview.

Speaking about the frequency of usage of the different forms of the lexical unit we can say that the frequency of forms in the singular is higher, consisting of 69% of all contexts; the most frequent form is *kamen'* (stone) (singular, nominative) - 40,5% to all cases. The less frequent form is 'КАМНЯМ' (for/ to stones) (Plural, Instrumental) - 0%.

The accordance of the different forms of the lexeme is presented in Figure 1:

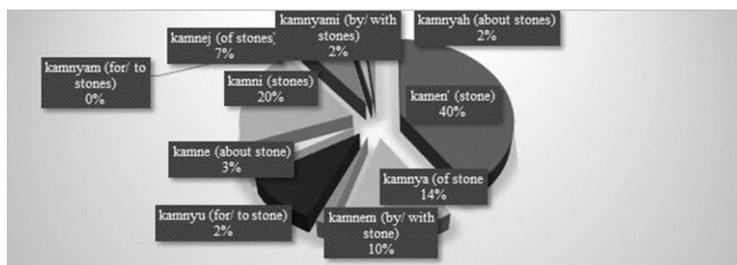


Figure 1. Frequency of different forms of the lexeme in Bazhov's *skazy*

4.2 Denotative meanings.

In dictionaries, denotative meanings of the word *kamen'* (stone) are as follows:

1) Only singular, collective: any solid rock in the form of a separate piece or mass:

Voz'mem, skazhem, nashi otvaly. Dumayesh', tak oni navek golym kamnem i ostanutsya? — *Take, say, our dumps. Do you think that they will remain a bare stone forever?*(1)

2) A separate piece of such rock:

Ne znayu, — govorit, — ne sluchalos' vidat' takoy, kamen' i pro Sholkovuyu gorku ne slykhal — *"I don't know," he says. "I've have never seen such a stone, or even heard of Silk Hill"* (2)

3) A precious stone:

Meshochek u nego akkuratnyy vyshel i kamen' vse — samotsvet . — His pouch came out neat, and every stone is a gem. (3)

4) Plural: stones; tombstones (archaic poetic).

5) Only singular, figurative: something full of insensitivity, indifference, and cruelty:

A koli oploshayesh', da poglyadit na tebya zmey Dayko, —sam kamnem stanesh' —And if you slip up, and Daiko-snake looks at you, you will become a stone

(4)

6) Only singular, figurative: sorrow.

7) Plural: f painful fossils in internal organs (Etymological Dictionary of the Modern Russian Language, 2010; Ushakov's Dictionary, 2020).

As we can see, the lexical item has seven denotative meanings: it can be used to nominate natural objects (solid rock, a piece of such rock); to nominate objects made by human hands (precious stone, tombstone); to nominate certain emotional stages, feelings (insensitivity, indifference, and cruelty; sorrow). In Bazhov's *skazy* the lexical item is used in its original, etymological meanings to nominate the natural objects - stones as a natural object and material for creating jewelry.

The lexeme is also used to figuratively describe a person as cruel, insensible, like a 'stone'.

4.3 The etymology of the lexeme

In Old Russian, the forms *kamy*, *kamene*, *kamen'*, *'*, *kamen'i*, *kameni'* have been recorded since the 11th century. The word was borrowed from Old Russian and Proto-Slavic "kamy" (something sharp, pointed stone). The lexeme was borrowed for the nominations of natural objects - the 1st and the 2nd denotative meanings, examples (1) and (2).

4.4 Relations to other lexical items

4.4.1. Synonyms:

Dedushko, ty slykhal pro kamen'-asbest? — Grandpa, have you ever heard about asbestos stone? (5)

...kazhdy plast, bud' to zheleznyaya ruda ali zoloto, ugol' ali med', dikar'-kamen' ali dorogoy samotsvet, naskvoz' vidno. — each layer, whether it be iron ore, gold, coal or copper, 'wild stone', or an expensive precious stone, you can see through and through.(6)

Yest', skazyvayut, v zemle kamen'-odinets: drugogo takogo net. — There is, they say, a single stone in the Earth: there is no other such. (7)

Yest', deskat', kamen' — klyuch zemli. — There is, they say, a Key-Stone of Earth. (8)

Nado nakonechnik strely sperva magnit-kamnem poteret', potom poiskovym. — It is necessary an arrowhead with a magnet-stone to rub firstly, then with search one (9)

Etim klyuchom-kamnem tot chelovek zemlyu otvorit. — That person will open the Earth with this Key-Stone.(10)

...skazyvayut, togda dobyvali chut' ne u Belogo kamnya. — they say, then they mined almost from the White Stone. (11)

Otosla Glafira ot tropochki, sela na beregovom kamne . — Glafira walked away from a path, sat down on a coastal stone. (12)

Razvyazal on svoy meshok i davay kamni na stol vybrasyvat', a sam prigovarivayet: —Amazon-kamin', kalumbit-kamin', labrador-kamin' ... — He untied

his sack, thrown away stones, was condemning: Amazon-stone, Calumbite-stone, Labrador-stone ... (13)

...ah na verkhushke kamni-golyshi: posredine — kak stol, a krugom — kak taburetochki. — and at the top there are pebble stones: in the middle - like a table, and around - like stools.(14)

Thus, the synonymous row of the lexeme may be presented by the following lexical items: (1) *kamen'-asbest* (asbestos stone); (2) *dikar'-kamen'* (wild stone); (3) *kamen'-odinets* (single stone); (4) *kamen'* — *klyuch zemli* (Stone – the key of the Earth); (5) *magnit-kamen'* (magnet-stone); (6) *poiskovyy kamen'* (search stone); (7) *klyuch-kamen'* (key-stone); (8) *Belyy kamen'* (White Stone); (9) *beregovoy kamen'* (the coastal stone); (10) *Amazon-kamin'*, (Amazon-stone); (11) *kalumbit-kamin'* (Calumbite-stone); (12) *labrador-kamin'* (Labrador-stone); (13) *kamni-gladyshi* (pebble stones); (14) *dorogoy samotsvet* (precious stone); (15) *zheleznaya ruda* (iron ore); (16) *zoloto* (gold); (17) *ugol'* (coal); (18) *med'* (cooper); (19) *plast* (layer).

Thus, there are 19 lexical units in the SF of the lexeme. Some of them are nominations of natural objects (asbestos stone), some are nominations of real geographical objects (White Stone is a nomination of the Ural *mountains*), some are the result of the author's fantasy (Key-Stone of Earth is an unreal stone, which opens to his owner all buried treasures, rich deposits of gold, etc.).

It should be noted that the construction “White Stone”, the use of the analyzed lexeme as the name of geographical objects reflects the fact that the nominations of natural resources belong to the most ancient lexemes, and are actively involved in the domestication of the sociocultural environment, form the sense of its objects and processes.

Moreover, it should be noted that in some cases, the author returns to ancient, archaic forms of the lexical unit: Labrador-stone. As the result, the Bazhov discourse acquires the character of lively Russian speech and becomes more expressive.

4.4.2. *Antonyms, incompatibility*: analysis of the sub-corpora and dictionaries revealed neither lexical items with the opposite meaning (Lvov 1984; Diploma. RU. 2020), nor lexical items based on the need to exclude the lexeme.

4.4.3. *Hyponymy*: the lexeme *kamen'* (stone) is a hyponym for all other SF lexemes. It is monolexic (moreover, it actively participates in the formation of new concepts, and nominations of real and fictional objects). It is not limited to a narrow class of objects (the etymological meaning of the lexeme is certainly in the field of nominations of natural objects and resources, but this meaning has been reinterpreted and, as Example 4 shows, this word is widely used for evaluation, representation of evaluation of human qualities and behavior; for the formation of geographical names). It is psychologically “relevant” for informants, widely used in Russian, denoting the most significant for the nation nominations of geographical objects, in the creation of nominations of artifacts, myths, legends, the Uralian folklore, etc.

4.5. An evaluation of the lexical unit

4.5.1. The connotative meanings:

Na ogon' proboval, na kislotu proboval, odno ponyal, — kakoy-to vovse neznakomyy kamen'. — I had tried it on fire, on acid, and I realized one thing: a completely unfamiliar stone. (15)

The speaker underlines that he has not seen such stone early, that the stone is unknown for him. It is something new, surprising. An additional meaning is formed in the context.

4.5.2. Social Meaning:

Odna serezhka, podi-ko, dorozhe stoit, potomu — zolotaya da yeshche s kannem.— One earring, by the way, costs more, as it is made of gold and with a precious stone it is. (16)

Jewelry with precious stones is traditionally associated with the high social status of its owner. Thus, the author emphasizes a high social status, a high level of the material culture of the character.

4.5.3. Affective meaning:

Vidat', govorit, —kamen' lyubopytnyy. — It looks, he says, the stone is quite curious. (17)

The lexeme is added by the meaning of surprising. The meaning reflects the estimation, perception of the stone by the speaker.

4.5.4. Reflected meaning:

Yest', deskat', kamen' — klyuch zemli. — There is, they say, a Key-Stone of Earth (18)

The author's neologism actualizes several meanings in the recipient's mind: stone as a natural object; stone as a resource deposit and stone as a means of uncovering buried treasures.

4.5.5. Collocative meaning:

Kakaya tsaplya ponizhe sidela, tu nepremenno raskolotyat kamnyami da palkami.— Whichever heron sat lower, that one will certainly be cracked with stones and sticks. (19)

S shapkoj-to on silu svoju poteryayet i stanet kamen' kannem. — With a hat, it will lose its strength and become kamen' kannem (just a stone one). (20)

In both examples, the lexeme is used in established expressions.

4.5.6. Thematic meaning:

In Example 13, the first common nomination of a stone, a hyponym, serves the purpose of organizing a narrative, concretizing the various stones from the *Ural Mountains*.

5. Discussion

As the study showed, the lexeme *kamen'* (stone) in the Russian linguistic culture is used mainly in the speech of male narrators. This concept is of great significance in the Bazhov discourse. The frequency of the use of the word in the individual author's style reaches 13.7% of all the contexts reco in *skazy*, created by male narrators in the Russian language. The most frequent in the Bazhov discourse is the initiative from *kamen'* (stone) (singular, nominative) – 40.5% in all cases. This may indicate that the main function of the lexical item in *skazy* is nominative, the function of informing the recipient of the realities and artifacts presented in the imaginative space.

Since qualitative analysis reflects the lexical item, it has seven denotative meanings. It is used for the nomination of natural resources and natural objects, figuratively, to characterize man as cruel, insensitive, and made of stone.

In Bazhov's discourse, the lexical item is used in its etymological meaning to nominate natural objects and to categorize different types of stones as relics of the Ural region and resources of the *Ural Mountains*. It is also used to nominate material for the creation of jewels and, in a figurative sense, to evaluate and represent the perception of human qualities and the behavior of characters.

The lexeme was recorded in Russian dictionaries since the 11th century. Scholars emphasize that it was during this period that the Baptism of Russia took place. As a result, Byzantine culture and Cyrillic writing permeated the Russian culture. Appealing to written resources allows us to date the appearance of the lexeme to the 11th century. However, we can assume that this word was widely used already in the Old Russian language. This concept is one of the basic ones in Russian and any other linguistic culture.

The study of the sub-corpora reflects that the SF of the lexeme is represented by 20 lexical items. The word *kamen'* (stone) is the hyponym, the keyword of the SF. It actively participates in the formation of new nominations of natural objects and different stones- realities of the *Ural Mountains*. *A wide variety of synonyms reflects wide variety of natural mineral resources of the region. The study of the subcorpus reflects that the SF of the lexeme is represented by 20 lexical units. The word "stone" rock (stone) is a hyponym, a keyword of SF. It actively participates in the formation of new nominations of natural objects, various stones - realities of the Urals. The wide variety of synonyms reflects the wide variety of natural mineral resources of the region.*

Moreover, the keyword is used for the creation of nominations of geographical objects. It may reflect that the concept is one of the most ancient, most 'salient' for informants.

It should also be noted that the lexical item participates in the creation of authorial neologisms, nominations of imaginary realities, artifacts, in general - in the creation of fairy tales, myths, legends, folklore, etc.

It is worth noting that there are synonymous interactions in the SF. Relations based on opposite meanings or on the necessity to exclude a word have not been identified in the sub-corpora and dictionaries.

In accordance with Leech's meaning types, connotative, social, affective, reflected, thematic, and collocative meanings of the lexeme were identified. Thus, we can conclude that the SF of the lexical item has a polyfunctional nature and a complex structure. The concept is widely used in the Russian language and, as a consequence, has a number of denotative and additional meanings.

6. Conclusions

Corporal analysis has proven to be a powerful tool in many aspects of linguistic research. It may be used for quantitative and qualitative research; thus, it may be used to investigate morphology and syntax, which are easily formalized and quantified. It is also a promising conceptual tool for semantic and pragmatic analysis. The methodological procedure includes automatic and manual analysis. Like any other manual analysis, it is a careful examination and classification of examples. At the same time, corpus tools make the process of collecting examples more efficient, more intelligent, and more manageable.

The methodological procedure was based on the semantic field theory, Kövecses's lexical approach, and the corpus tools. The study shows that corpus-based analysis of culturally related nominations of natural objects has several advantages. First, by examining the environment of the search lexeme in the individual author's texts, we can find evidence of the conceptual word constructing the nomination of the natural object. Also, we can enrich the description of the natural object with information from a number of dimensions and improve our understanding of the semantic field of the word. The second advantage offered by a corpus-oriented approach lies in the possibility to quantify the results, i. e., to compare the productivity, frequency, and creative use of natural object nominations, which is especially interesting in connection with contrastive studies.

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