Corpus analysis in the study of the genitive constructions formed with hydronyms as the target component in English and Russian

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Abstract
The aim of the paper is to study the mechanism of forming nominal constructions consisting of two components, one of which denotes hydronym and the second one is an abstract noun, denoting emotional or mental state. The study is focused on identifying the list of the target lexemes, their frequency, combinability, and factors determining the formation of the construction under study. To analyze the studied linguistic phenomenon, linguistic and extralinguistic data are used, as well as the corpus analysis approach in combination with componential analysis.
Key words: hydronyms, generative construction, corpus analysis, indefinite sets, quantity, metaphorisation

Introduction

The category of quantity is one of the categories that have boosted scientific interest in all branches of human knowledge. And it seems rather argumentative that the secret of its "scientific charm" is due to the fact that the quantity is a priori a universal human category. And even more than that – its enigmatic essence is revealed, on the one hand, in the fact that it is an ontological category, and on the other hand, it has a clear-cut epistemological character, that is, the quantity is a typical gnoseological category. No wonder quantity as a phenomenon of the human mind has always been the focus of scientists representing different domains of knowledge since ancient times.

It was Aristotle who formulated the most important characteristic features of this category. He came up with important conclusions concerning the essential distinctive features of this category, all of them having an important research significance and finding scientifically valuable projections and confirmations in the process of gnostically-based study of reality. As he puts it, "the quantity is what can be divided into the constituent parts, each of them, no matter they are two, or more, is in its essence one and definite entity. Every quantity is a multitude if counted or an amount of measured" (Aristotle, 1975, 62-66). One means "multitude" if the thing may be divided into non-continuous parts, and an amount is divisible into continuous parts. Consequently, there exist two essential notions within the mental category of quantity and namely, number and amount.

In other words, the category of quantity is not homogeneous in its meaning and conjoins the components of definite and indefinite multitudes.

N.D. Arutunova remarks that the system of precise measurements loosens as soon as a natural language starts manipulating with quantities, as soon as the world of events and things becomes an object of quantitative evaluations. A person wants to weigh and measure not only what is apt to be measured and weighed but also reasons, arguments, the depth of feelings, and thoughts. Quantity transforms itself into quality, and the latter starts being measured in terms of quantity. Emotions encourage a person to constantly resort to exaggerations and understatements. The lexicon of quantitative meanings is easily metaphorized. Rhetorical devices such as hyperbole, litotes, and emphases are based on it. A person likes to talk about the majority and the minority,

and even about the cast majority, although all this doesn't lend itself to either counting, accounting, weighing, or even a truthful assessment (Arutunova, 2005, 20).

Research methods

The corpus analysis approach was not chosen by chance as a methodology for researching metaphorical construction, nominating large multitudes expressed by a combination of hydronyms (oceans, seas, rivers, swamps, lakes, brooks, etc.) with abstract nouns denoting mental or emotional states. According to Baker P. "using corpora and corpus processes uncover linguistic patterns which can enable us to make sense of the ways that language is used in the constructions" (Baker, 2006). We may prove the preference for using this methodology by the following arguments. Firstly, it is an effective method for establishing more accurate data since the use of quantitative techniques in its research is in comparison with the qualitative approach to research. The quantitative approach allows us to collect more data about lexemes themselves, their combinability power, their frequency of usage in different types of discourse, and representative samples of a particular type of naturally occurring language (Baker, 2006).

Secondly, electronic corpora are often annotated with additional linguistic information, the most common being part of speech information which allows to carry out of large-scale grammatical analyses (Baker, 2006). And it is well-known that grammar and semantics are interrelated and inseparable from each other as far as the analysis of lexemes is concerned.

Alongside corpus analysis, componential analysis is also used in researching the lexemes of which the lexical items under study are composed of. The componential analysis has been widely used by Russian and foreign scholars in studying different semantic groups. The componential analysis proceeds from the assumption that word meaning is analyzable while being decomposed into elementary semantic components, which are generally called semantic features. Some scholars called them semes, sememes, etc. In this article, the terms seme, hyperseme and hyposeme are used; the two latter represent the relationship between the general and the differential or individual semes.

The use of several methods for analyzing the phenomenon under study made it possible to avoid the problem of "skimming the cream" (Santa Ana et al. 2007), that is, to carry out a thorough examination of the studied linguistic material and to get an objective picture of it, to identify and qualify the frequency of the target (main) component of the studied phenomenon.

Literature review

Much attention is paid to the study of the category of quantity in general and the way of language representation of it in different languages, both in domestic and foreign linguistics. A special space among the works that deals with the issues of analyzing the studied category belongs to the research of metaphorical sets.

The works of such linguists as G. Lakoff, A. Juker, S. Smith, E. Rahilina, N. Arutunova, M. Starovoyt, Z. Turajeva, I. Birenbaum, E. Guluga, E. Shendels, I. V. Tarnyikova, and other researchers of the category of quantity, deal with the study of essential characteristics of the category under study and different ways of representation of it in various languages.

Imprecision or vagueness, in other words, indefinite quantity, is usually understood as the use of lexemes the meaning of which has fuzzy boundaries (Lakoff, 1973, Juker, 2003). Imprecision may be of two types: indefinite large or indefinite small quantities.

Most linguistic works are devoted to the analysis of large indefinite quantities such as heap, flood, forest, bag, mountain, ocean, wave, deluge, etc. (Aksjonova, 2014, 2020, Dubrovskaya, 2013, Ivanova, Stepanova, 2016, Zapevalova,

Platygina, 2015). As for analyzing small indefinite quantities, such lexemes as a drop, a handful, a pinch, etc., may be mentioned, but these lexemes are less analyzed (Rahilina, Lee Su-hen, 2009, etc.).

Much attention is paid to studying metaphorical quartiers of large indefinite quantities in different languages (Dönninghaus, 2001, Lyshkevich, 1985, etc.).

Studying them, the linguists mention the distinctive features of the use of quantifiers which manifest themselves in the division of nouns used with quantifiers into countable and uncountable (Krylov, 2005).

Some linguistics stress that the microfield of quantity is formed by means of an indefinite large quantity and evaluation of an indefinite quantity (Srarovoyt, 2010, 115). And more than that, the evaluation of indefinite quantity has nothing to do with numbering. This fact distinguishes multitude from evaluation, as evaluation is based on the comparison of some features with the standard (Starovoyt, 2010, 116).

Most of these investigations are carried out without corpus data. Summarizing the research on the issue, we note that the interests of linguists are mainly concentrated around the description of ways of representing the indefinite quantity, the differentiation of lexical means of representing quantifiers, and also evaluative constructions, which are called genitive constructions. The researchers who make their research based on the method of corpus analysis in combination with some others, e.g. componential analysis allow to attract their attention not only to a simple description of the functioning of the linguistic phenomenon under study but to prove the existence of it taking into account the accurate statistical data (Baker, 2006). The corpus analysis allows us to implement the theses worked out by pragma- and cognitive linguistics using linguistic and extralinguistic information for analyzing and describing the considered language phenomenon.

Despite the relevance of the research topic, there are still methodological and theoretical gaps in understanding the mechanism of the formation of the studied phenomenon, the linguistic principles of their building, the rules of choice of this or that lexeme in the linear order of the construction and the factors both linguistic and extralinguistic determining their choice.

Findings and discussion

To identify the studied phenomenon, we set several tasks. Firstly, to determine the mechanism of the formation of the phenomenon under study. Secondly, to find the hydronyms which are used in these structures to describe their distinctive feathers using the linguistic and extralinguistic data about them. Thirdly, to determine the frequency of the target component in both languages and to compare their combinability for forming long semantic components, that is, constructions with them.

One of the representatives of the category of quantity on the lexical level is genitive constructions such as the lake of hope / озеро надежды, the lake of love / озеро любви.

In this paper, the subject of consideration is focused on the constructions with hydronyms, which, in their main meaning, nominate specific subjects of the real-world (river, sea, ocean, bay, etc., in English and Russian). They are understood as a class of toponyms, nominating natural water resources. Among hydronyms the following classes are distinguished: potamonyms – rivers, creeks, limnonyms - lakes and ponds, water reservoirs, pelagonyms – sea and its parts, oceanonyms – oceans and helonyms – swamps. These units subordinate another name, denoting a non-discrete set, as an emotional or mental state is depicted in the Nominative genitive construction, thus causing a change of meaning, that is, partial grammaticalization, modifying the meaning of a subject name, and as a result, the main component of the construction becomes a quantitative modifier with the meaning of an indefinite-large quantity, something approximate to "very much/a lot of", colored by a subjective

assessment. As a result, decategorization and simultaneously recategorization with a new meaning take place, thus forming a principally new sense (Rahilina, 2009, 13).

The construction under study is a genitive construction, which is widely used in Russian where it is represented by two nouns, one of which is in the genitive case, as well as in English, where the nature of the relationship is explicated by the preposition 'of'.

The basic semantic mechanism of generation of the thematic unity of such a construction is mostly metaphorisation or hyperbolisation. It is necessary to admit that metonymic models are no less numerous with these constructions. Indeed, one can easily see that *the lake of hope* is surely more the place where this hope attended the one to whom this word combination belongs to than some large quantity.

First, let us consider the metaphorical potentials of this construction.

It is a fact that only needs to be mentioned as an introduction to further reasoning on the subject that metaphor has been known for a long time in linguistics, first of all as a stylistic device, which is widely used in different types of discourse and also as a means of forming new meanings known as figurative or metaphorical meaning of polysemic words. The second, new, and broader understanding of the metaphor attracts linguistic attention in connection with the development of the theory of cognitive metaphor and, first of all, with the publication of the book of J. Lakoff and M. Johnson, "Metaphor we live by". For these authors, metaphor is not only "a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish", but "metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action", that is, our conceptual system is fundamentally metaphorical in nature (Lakoff, Johnson, 1980, 3).

Within the framework of cognitive linguistics, metaphor is an active, cognitive and creative process of establishing similarities between different conceptual phenomena in different conceptual areas (Rjabtseva, 2005, 322). In our case, the process of evaluative categorization takes place, which manifests itself in the expression of the emotional attitude of the speaker and his comparison of the phenomenon, expressed by a subject name with a set that is incommensurable with the human eye.

The latter consideration gives grounds to think that lexemes denoting emotional and mental states correlated with estimated in terms of extent can be systemically used within the framework of genitive constructions with hydronyms. More than that, the meaning of the main (target) component determines the possibility/impossibility of usage of the subsequent dependent component, for instance, *океан счастья / радости / утешения*; *болото тоски, уныния, разочарования*, but not *болото радости, счастья*.

In this case, the filter is triggered on the positive or negative meaning embedded in the component by native speakers when forming a linguistic picture of the world.

A person learns about the world around him on the basis of scientific knowledge and practical experience. Undoubtedly, for scientific knowledge, it is necessary to have accurate information on the parameters of an object, including the quantitative ones. As for the practical experience, a person that learns about the world around him perceives and comprehends it taking into account the quantitative parameters compared with already known measurements and quantity, comparing with analogs and standards already existing in the real world.

It is well-known that the process of conceptualizing the world is also based on evaluative categorization, in which the evaluation matrix is overlapped on the assessed items, comparing them with the standards accepted in society. In other words, there is a kind of amalgamation, i.e., overlapping of two compared cognitive essences.

As far as the studied structures are concerned, there is a comparison of two lexemes and namely, the names, of hydronyms and lexemes denoting different emotional and mental states such as *the river of love*, *the sea of hope*, *the ocean of boredom* and so on.

It should be stated that such a range of compatible constraints is determined by the degree of grammaticalization of the main component. The higher the degree of grammaticalization, the less compatible constructions are.

Taking into account lexicographical definitions of the lexemes forming the constructions under study, we may state that they possess the hyperseme "water natural resources", but each of the lexeme possesses an individual seme of itself, which is called hyposeme, that determines the combinability abilities of the lexemes.

The most frequent lexemes are lexemes *ocean* (океан) and *sea* (море). The analysis of the dictionary's definitions proves that one of their meaning is "a large amount of something".

Dictionary data show that proto-linguistic analogs of the word "sea" in Russian mean not only a sea itself but a lake, swampy lake, swamp. Etymologically it is connected with the name of the pagan goddess of death – Mora. V.N. Toporov also notes that the lexeme sea has ties with the water archetype and symbolizes the realm of death and dreams (Toporov, 1995, 581).

A similar attitude to sea and other water resources can be marked within the Anglo-Saxon culture. British people specifically relate to the sea due to the peculiarities of the location of Britain: the sea naturally creates the geographical environment and typical element of the English landscape, and perception of the sea as something threatening, unpredictable, changeable, dangerous, and mysterious.

As it is seen, a water element is associated with something enigmatic, mysterious, and dangerous both by the Slavic and Germanic ethnic groups, although hydronyms have been known to people for ages, beginning at least with the appearance of the written speech. The explanation for this fact lies, surely, in the fact that most seas and oceans have large, immeasurable human eye parameters, seething, stormy, with high waves, i.e., they are associated by people as a definite element dangerous for people. On the other hand, the sea and ocean as natural phenomena have always fascinated people with their beauty, the play of colors, unpredictability, romance, etc.

We are going to show the peculiarities of the construction under study on the examples of named lexemes.

The actual material of the corpus of English and Russian allows finding such metaphors.

In Russian the following metaphors are possible:

with the lexeme *sea* / море неведения / удовольствий / любви / страстей / горя / мучений / счастья / злобы / радости / спокойствия / безумия / впечатлений / восторга / памяти / желаний / страданий / ума / скорби / искуплений / иллюзий / благодушия / азарта / блаженства / веселья / размышлений / бессмыслия / досады / сомнений / знания, etc.

with the lexeme *ocean*: океан эмоций / впечатлений / наслаждения / горести / скорби / благодушия / восторга / искушений / ужаса / мучений / удовольствий / страданий / злобы / усталости / изумления / досады / блаженства / сомнения / грусти / тоски / отчаяния / надежды / любви / веселья / печали / размышлений / фантазий.

In English, the lexeme *sea* forms the following metaphors, denoting emotional state: sea of danger / loneliness / wonder / bitterness / mystery / depression / sadness / troubles / desperation / delusion / fear / love / defeat / resentment / goodness / insignificance.

-denoting mental state: sea of madness / prejudice / belief and fantasy / insanity / idioticy / chaos / stupidity / ignorance / uncertainty / chance / support / change / possibilities.

As for lexeme ocean the following metaphors are possible in English: ocean of fever / mercy / sordid / deceit / pain / solitude / bless / hurt / grief / quietude / loneliness / will / tears / sensation / stillness / generosity / laughter / self-pity / change / dreams / memory / faith / guilt, etc.

The analysis of the corpora allows us to confirm two theses.

Firstly, for such lexemes as *sea* and *ocean* it is typical to use words that profile the meaning changes according to the formula "wider and bigger", as for the lexemes, denoting horizontal space, the following image is applied: while laying things out on a wide horizontal surface the more surface is occupied, the more number of items is on it (Rahilina, 2009, 19).

Secondly, there are practically no restrictions and filters in their combinatorial limitations for semantic sets denoting lexemes *sea* / *море*, *ocean* / *океан*. They are used practically with all lexemes denoting emotional and mental states, expressed by abstract nouns. This rule is of a universal character, i.e., typical of Russian and English lexemes.

As for the hydronym *lake* / *озеро*, it denotes a big natural water resource closed in the shores, which is in the deepening of the land. This lexeme has the Old Russian root and etymological parallels in other Slavic languages.

Lexemes denoting *lake* in both Russian and English linguistic cultures have positive and negative associations. On the one hand, this is a reservoir with shiny water in which water lilies can grow, and one can boat and fish. In other words, we can admire the smoothness and spectacularity of the water, the lush vegetation around the reservoir, and an extraordinary enchanting landscape, which was not once sung by poets. No wonder there was the Lake school or the Lakists in England, who sang about the beauty of the Lake District.

On the other hand, a lake as a closed reservoir can bloom, acidify, and become shallow. A lake in both linguocultures is associated with mystery, evil spirits (take, for instance, the lake of Loch Ness with its legendary monster).

In Russian the following metaphors are used with the lexeme lake / *озеро надежды/любви/радости/удивления/равнодушия/разочарования/отчаяния/смысла/интереса/мысли*.

In English, such metaphors as *lake of beauty / anxiety / tranquility / doubt / fear / sadness / lake of promise* are formed.

Lexemes *river* / *река*, *brook* / *ручей, well* / *родник* in comparison with the lexemes *sea* and *ocean* denote dynamic hydronym with 'the movement of water as a differentiating seme or hyposeme. No wonder the lexeme *river* is associated with a way, road, path. But sometimes river is also associated with death: shipwreck, suicide in the river. In English such metaphors with the lexeme *river* are met in such instances: *river of desperation / loneliness / shame / fear / tears / pain / hope / agitation / resolve / sorrow / temptation / laughter / memory / life / chance / fate*.

As for the Russian linguistic culture, such metaphors are found in the corpus, and namely: *река радости / забвения/ спокойствия / восторга / страстей / смысла / невежества / путаницы / безумия*.

The lexeme *brook* / *ручей* in both languages is not recurrent. It is possible to find such metaphorical constructions in English: brook of destiny / information / white lies and in Russian such as ручей скорби / тревоги / радости / мечты / замысла / творчества. The lexeme *well* / *колодец* in both languages is very frequent. A *well* is perceived as something with enclosed space, but it is different from *swamp* because "well" is not stagnant. But we can find the seme "some kind of uncertainty, mystery, the expectation of something wrong".

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In its meaning, such components of meaning determine the formation of the constructions with the following metaphorical meaning in Russian: колодец ужаса / тайны / истомы / бесчувствия. At the same time, the lexeme *well* having the meaning "a container" is associated and formed the subsequent metaphors *колодец памяти / признания*.

In English, the lexeme *well* is much more frequent, and range of its combinability and metaphorical meaning is different. However, about 90 % of these meanings (the lexeme *well*) are negative: *well of misery / despair / anger / tear / shame / fear / sorrow / bitterness / sadness / self-doubt / rage / terror / nervousness, etc*.

The lexeme *well* being closed reservoir is also perceived as a box, where one can keep mental information: *well of wisdom / memory / faith / knowledge / intellect*.

Speaking about hydronyme *swamp*, it should be noted that in both linguistic cultures this lexeme has a negative meaning. Swamp is associated with a water reservoir that is covered with moss, where one can find frogs, toads, and snakes, which can bloom by the end of summer. One can find shags, brunches, etc., near a swamp. Swamp, as a rule, does not cause positive emotions such as beauty, lust, or attraction in comparison with an ocean, or a river, about the beauty of which we speak with aspiration.

A person is afraid of a swamp. It may pull into the quagmire, etc. It is proved by subsequent metaphors, which are formed with such a lexeme:

In Russian: *болото тоски / отчаяния / заботы / горя / усталости / равнодушия / разочарований / предрассудков / невежества*.

In English: *swamp of boredom / regret / fear / wickedness / troubles / fail / degradation / paranoia / ignorance / superstition*.

The lexeme *creek* denotes a water reservoir that is a part of larger hydronyms such as *ocean*, *sea*, *river*, but one can see stagnant water in it. On the other hand, a creek is perceived as a haven, far from the open seething sea or ocean. These peculiarities of the meaning of the lexeme determine the subsequent metaphorical constructions:

In Russian: *залив любви к Богу*.

In English: *creek of their foodie sensibilities/vision*.

It should be mentioned that in Russian we find the construction with proper names expressed by abstract nouns: Залив Правды / Надежды / Счастья.

The result of the analysis of the target component and the construction in general allows us to represent the finding in the following table and figures.

Table 1: Quantitative characteristic of the target component "hydronym"

Hydronym	emotional		mental		Hydronym	emotional		mental	
	quantity	Percentage share	quantity	Percentage share		quantity	Percentage share	quantity	Percentage share
Ocean	19	16,8%	9	12%	Океан	59	48,8%	29	49,1%
Sea	19	16,8%	20	26,7%	Море	20	16,5%	9	15,3%
River	17	15,1%	13	17,3%	Река	10	8,3%	6	10,2%
Lake	7	6,1%	1	1,3%	Озера	8	6,6%	4	6,8%
Swamp	19	16,8%	8	10,7%	Болото	12	9,9%	6	10,2%
Brook	3	2,7%	1	1,3%	Ручей	3	2,5%	3	5%
Well	28	24,8%	19	25,3%	Колодец	6	4,9%	2	3,4%
March	1	0,9%	2	2,7%	Болото	-	-	-	-

Creek	-	-	2	2,7%	Залив	3	2,5%	0	-

Figure 1 Frequency of usage of the target component, denoting emotional and mental state in Russian and English
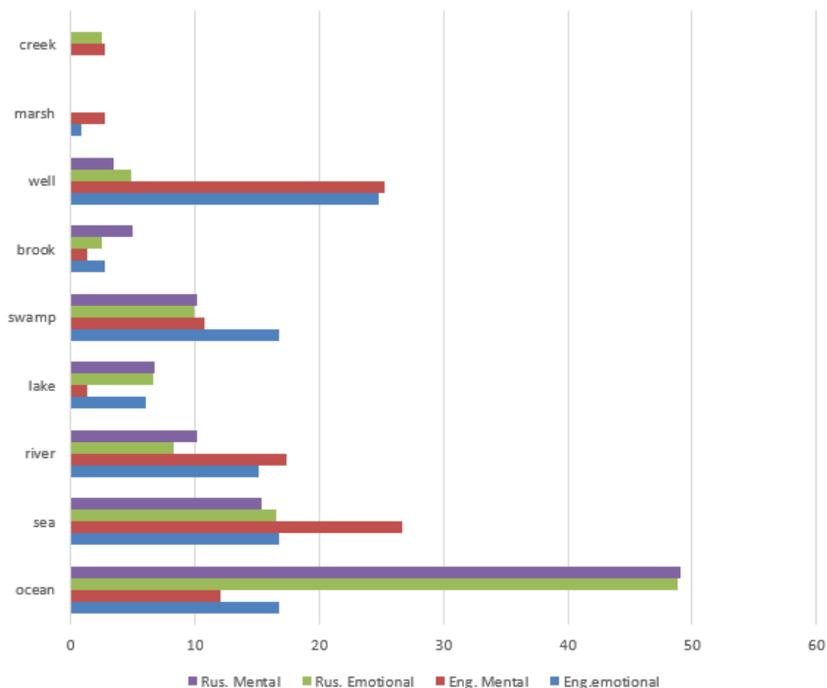

Figure 2 Comparative analysis of the frequency of usage of the target word, denoting emotive / mental state in English
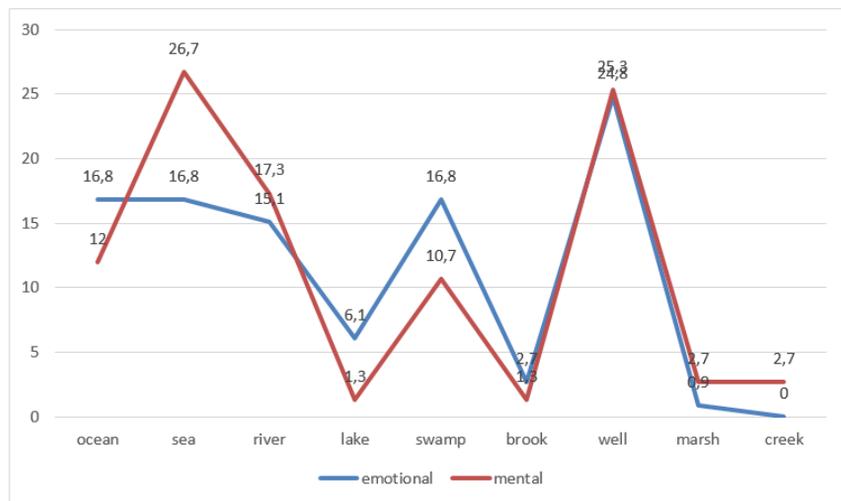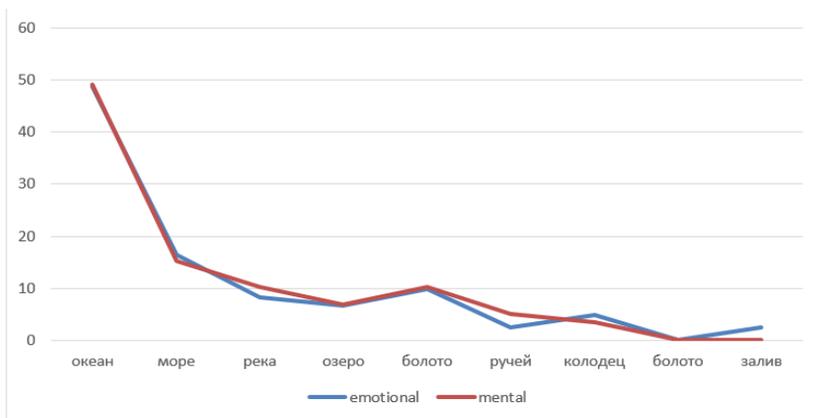

Figure 3 Comparative analysis of the frequency of usage of the target word, denoting emotive / mental state in Russian

Conclusion

Analysis of the data of English and Russian corpora as a result of our corpus study of target lexemes in constructions with hydronyms allows us to reveal some distinctive characteristics of them and come to the following conclusions.

The most frequently used lexemes are *ocean* in Russian and *well* and *sea* in English. The basic semantic mechanism of generation of the thematic unity of such constructions is metaphorisation, hyperbolisation or metynymisation.

The genitive construction with a hydronym as its main component is universal both for the Russian and English linguistic cultures, though language means of its formation are various within them. The universal character of usage lexemes by hydronyms for the nomination of indefinite sets has been proved by the investigations in the Slavic, German, and Romance languages. N.Y. Med notes that in Spain the most frequently used lexemes for denoting sets with the meaning "water flow" are the following lexemes: *ria* (river), *mar* (sea), *oceano* (ocean), *reguero* (creek) (Med, 2005). Lexemes-hydronyms are recurrent enough both in Russian and English.

The meaning of lexemes, nominating hydronyms, undergoes some semantic shift to grammaticalization, but the semantic shift is partial. The proof of this is the fact that lexemes-hydronyms in sentences form a syntagmatic chain in combination with the verbs, denoting movement, including the characteristics typical of the water element such as *погружать*, *сливаться*, *утонуть*, *перейти*, *выходить*, *повергать*, *уносить*, *погрузиться*, *плавать*, *slide into*, *swim*, *move*, *go*, *run*, *drown*, *disappear*, *blow*, *vanish*, *sweep away*, *sink* and also link-verbs which is the evidence of compliance with the lexical solidarity rule combined in words.

The combinability of the lexeme-hydronyms is determined by the existence of common semes in both components of constructions, such as space, limits, extension, and fluidity. More than that, to characterize the lexemes-hydronyms attributes expressed by adjectives that are correlated with the meaning "water container" are used.

In English, such attributes are expressed by the following adjectives: *deep*, *vast*, *incredible*, *dark*, *black*, *colorful*, *splendid*, *winding*, *noisy*, *great*, *ranging*, *retarded*, *big*, *little*, *feverish*, *growing*, *wicked*, *persistent*, *serene*, *pale*, *immense*, *giant*, *hidden*, *large*, *fiery*, *bottomless*, etc.

In Russian we find such attributes for the main component *пересохший*, *вспухающий*, *теплый*, *вздымающийся*, *неизведанный*, *бушующий*, *непонятный*, *безграничный*, *неощутимый*, *бесконечный*, *необъятный*, *бесформенный*, *всепоглощающий*, *спокойный*, *горячий*, *великий*, *целый*, *солнечный*, *глубокий*,

голубой, *безызвестный*, *замечательный, etc*. In other words, they correlate with water element on the basis of certain quantitative, sound and colour parameters.

The functioning of lexemes-hydronyms in Russian and English is, in many cases, similar. That is, it is determined by similar world pictures of these ethnic groups, formed by the universal geographical landscape of these countries: the existence of rivers, seas, oceans, swamps, etc., typical of these countries.

The use of corpus analysis combined with some other methods taking into account linguistic and extralinguistic data made it possible to analyze a large number of samples and identify the list of target words expressed by hydronyms, in other words, to shed light on the mechanism of forming the phenomenon under study, its frequency and peculiarities in usage in Russian and English.

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