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The Notion of Linguacultureme and Non-Equivalent Lexicon in Different Cultures

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Abstract: The article focuses on the notions which have sometimes do not have the alternatives in other languages including linguaculturemes, realia. It takes a close look to the lexicon of several languages and makes some comparisons on the stated notions.

Key words: word combination, epigram, non-equivalent lexicon, realia, non-linguistic content, historicisms, culture.

As we know, there is a great number of notions that are commonly used in linguistics. One of them is linguacultureme, a term which expresses the connection between a language and a culture. Linguacultureme is a linguistic or speech unit defining one part of a culture. In addition, it can be considered as a unit that combines linguistic and non-linguistic content. They can be expressed by the following units:

1. A word – in this case a linguacultureme consists of a single word. For example, *duduk* – national musical instrument of Armenia, *waldzither*- the name of German national musical instrument.
2. A word combination – here, linguacultureme consists of two or more separate words. For example, *foot guard* – a type of guard that is only belong to English culture. Foot guards are commonly responsible for guarding royal families or other state leaders, and they also often perform ceremonial duties. *‘Kaffee und Kuchen’* – the name of the tradition which families and friends stop working to come together in the afternoon for coffee and cake.
3. A paragraph- this type of linguaculturemes mostly can be met in fiction. For instance, in of the *Jenny Colgan’s novels, “Christmas at the Cupcake Café”* there is a paragraph:

This December, Issy will have to rely on all her reserves of courage, good nature and cinnamon, to make sure everyone has a merry Christmas, one way or another. . .with Christmas cupcake recipes and seasonal sugar-fuelled fun.

In this example, the text presents the situation describing the national vision of the typical English Christmas table. *It is seen in the description of the lunch with a detailed enumeration of meals (cinnamon, Christmas cupcake).*

4. Whole text - in this case, linguaculturemes can be represented both micro-and macrottexts. Microtexts refer to proverbs, quotations, epigrams:
 - Proverbs. For example, *Trinken wir zu viel, dann sterben wir – trinken wir nichts, dann sterben wir, also trinken wir.* This is a German proverb. So, it has the following meaning: *If we drink too much, we die – if we don’t drink at all, we die, so let’s drink.* Culturally, Germans like drinking. Even they drink while eating an ordinary food. However, in Uzbek there is no alternative to this proverb. Because drinking is considered to be totally bad habit in our culture. Here, this proverb totally demonstrating German culture.

- Quotations. For example, “*The most courageous act is still to think for yourself. Aloud.*” (Coco Chanel). As we know, in Europe people are always open while telling their opinion. —Think for yourself means your thoughts should be your own—not what someone else has said or told you to think. By adding the phrase —aloud at the end, the quote means it is brave to have your own thoughts and to say them to others. In contrast, in our culture it is not normal to tell whatever you think. People always try to get some advice from other before telling something loud.
- Epigrams. They are rhetorical devices that is a memorable, brief, interesting, and surprising satirical statement. For instance, we can take an epigram from the *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (By Oscar Wilde):

“*There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.*”

Here, the main purpose of the author using such statement is to leave a positive impression on the audience, as it demonstrates pure humor coupled with wisdom.

Macrotexts are usually expressed by stories, novels, poems, etc. For example,

Sonnet 76 (By William Shakespeare)

—So all my best is dressing old words new,

Spending again what is already spent:

For as the sun is daily new and old,

So is my love still telling what is told.

These four lines of a sonnet by Shakespeare are a good example of an macrotext. Even it is short, there is a cultural concept of love which is expressed vividly. The poet refers to ideas and items simultaneously as both new and old. He tries to say that he has spent something, which he already has done. He is doing this to express perplexity with a lover, and also shows his feelings of desire.

The notion of non-equivalent lexicon

While learning a certain language, we can also come across the notion of the non-equivalent lexicon. There are a great number of notions that can be considered as types of non-equivalent lexicon:

Names of items and phenomena's of traditional life of a certain culture. They may include the names of the traditions, meals, clothes etc. For example, **Indlamu** – the name of the national dance of African people. **Baule** – a mask which represent African culture. They are used in religious and social events to represent the spirits of ancestors or to control the good and evil forces in the community.

Historicisms – cultural terms that are related to the history. Even Historicisms were common in history among people, however, they are not used currently. For instance, *tunica and toga*. In ancient Rome Roman men generally wore two garments, the tunica and the toga. **The tunica** was a short woolen under garment with short sleeves. **The toga** was a large cumbersome robe like garment of white wool and used up to 9 yards of material.

Folklore words – the notions that express the name of a certain folklore, its heroes etc. **Koblandy** – the name of the famous Kazakh folklore hero. **Befana** – the name of an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy which is common to Italian folklore

Slang words - the words which belong to a very informal language. In other words, specific words used by a particular group of people. For example, **Bløke** – common English slang used instead of the word —man, **Moin** is the shortening of the phrase, —Guten Morgen or good morning in parts of northern Germany.

The notion of realia

The word —realia comes from medieval Latin, in which it originally meant —the real things, i.e.

material things, as opposed to abstract ones. As we know, the term —realial is used in two senses. On the one hand, realia are understood as all the things specific to certain culture. These things include objects of culture and life, historical events, place names and personal names. On the other hand, realia are the words and phrases denoting those things. As it mentioned above realia include all notions that belong to a certain culture. Below, I will mention some of them:

- *Realia that belong to everyday life: spaghetti* – the name of the famous Italian food; *kupe* – Kazakh national coat worn by women and men which is typically made of fox fur or, occasionally, goatskin.
- *Realia that related the certain geographic position: tornado* – belongs to only North America. It is a violent rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground. *Koala* – a type of animal that represent Australia.

Realia that denote art and culture: synagogue – the name of the place where only Jewish people pray. *Yankee*- a native or inhabitant of New England. *Tarantella* - a rapid whirling dance originating in southern Italy.

Realia that belong to politics: Duma- it was a representative legislative body in imperial Russia. *Pharaoh* - a ruler in ancient Egypt.

In conclusion, it can be said that some lexical units including non-equivalent lexicon, linguacultureme, realia in most cases, do not have any equivalents in different languages. These units can only be learned by taking a close look at the language and culture of a certain nation.

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