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# COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SEMANTIC OF LEXICAL UNITS DENOTING “AGE” IN ENGLISH, RUSSIAN AND GERMAN LANGUAGES

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Comparative analysis is an inductive investigative approach based on the distinctive elements in a language. The meaning of a given word or set of words is best understood as the contribution that word or phrase can make to the meaning or function of the whole sentence or linguistic utterance where that word or phrase occurs.<sup>[1]</sup> The meaning of a given word is governed not only by the external object or idea that particular word is supposed to refer to, but also by the use of that particular word or phrase in a particular way, in a particular context, and to a particular effect.

Comparative analysis is the systematic study of a pair of languages with a view to identifying their structural differences and similarities. Comparative analysis can be carried out at three linguistic levels: phonology, grammar (morphology and syntax) and lexis. Comparative analysis is applied to reveal the features of sameness and difference in the lexical meaning and the semantic structure of correlated words in different languages.

As I've analyzed the lexical units denoting “age” in comparative aspect, first, we should mention its definition in general into three languages and then we can look up some words around it or some phrases which denoting “age”.

We know that in English nouns can be used as verbs, but sometimes with some changes as connecting by prepositions or adjectives or adverbs or nouns. As a noun, “age” has the following meanings:

“Age” — 1) the number of years that a person has lived or thing has existed, e.g.

2) a particular period of history, e.g.

3) a particular period of history, e.g.

4) the state of being old, e.g.

5) in plural form “ages” in informal — a very long time, e.g.

Above we have analyzed the lexical unit denoting “age” as a noun, besides we can use this word as a verb:

1) to become older, e.g.

2) to make sb/sth look, feel or seem older, e.g.

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3) to develop in flavor over a period of time; to allow sth to do this, e.g.

As we must investigate the lexical units denoting “age” by semantic-stylistic way, certainly we should be careful with some idioms, which may be used with “age”. The followings are idioms by “age”:

1) be/act your age, to behave in a way that is suitable for sb of your age and not as though you were much younger, e.g.

2) when a person comes of age, they reach the age when they have an adult’s legal rights and responsibilities, e.g.

3) if sth comes of age, it reaches the stage of development at which people accept and value it, e.g.

[2]

In Russian language, the word “age” is translated as

— age,	— the same age;	— age-limit;
— be over age;	— of age,	— means the word “age”

as an attributive. [3]

In Russisch — Deutsches Wörterbuch (Russian — German dictionary) the word is translated as and means

So, words with direct meaning that name various objects, phenomena, properties, actions, i.e. lexical units denoting everyday objects found in almost all spheres of human activity make up a stylistically neutral layer of language vocabulary. We believe that such comparative studies must be promoted, because it may lead to a more meticulous and cognitive approach to studying and teaching the semantic nature of languages.

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