LEXICAL UNITS EXPRESSING NATIONAL IDENTITY IN ENGLISH: A CULTURAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract: This article analyzes lexical units expressing national identity in English from a cultural-semantic perspective. Words, phrases, idioms, and metaphorical expressions are examined in terms of their role in reflecting the historical heritage, cultural traditions, and social values of the English people. The study also explores cultural codes and their contextual usage. The results are significant for linguistic research, language teaching, and translation studies.

Keywords: national identity, lexical units, English language, cultural semantics, idioms, metaphor.

Introduction

Lexical units expressing national identity in English require special attention in linguistics and translation studies. These units reflect not only lexical meaning but also cultural and social context. Through a cultural-semantic approach, the historical heritage, customs, and values of the English people can be studied via language units. Therefore, this research aims to provide an in-depth analysis of lexical units expressing national identity and to demonstrate their contextual usage.

Lexical Units and National Identity

Lexical units expressing national identity in English appear in the form of words, phrases, idioms, and metaphorical expressions. For example:

Words: Briton, Englishman, monarch

Phrases: Keep calm and carry on

Idioms: An Englishman's word is his bond

Metaphorical expressions: The heart of London, the soul of Britain

These units reflect historical events, social values, and traditions of the English people.

The meaning of each unit is understood not only lexically but also through cultural codes. For instance, the idiom An Englishman's word is his bond demonstrates the values of honesty and reliability in British society. In

this regard, taking cultural context into account is extremely important in translation.

Context and Application in Translation

When translating lexical units expressing national identity, their cultural-semantic context must be considered. For example, the term the Queen's English should not be translated literally as "the Queen's English language"; rather, it refers to standard literary English. Therefore, translators must possess deep knowledge of cultural codes [3,4].

When lexical units expressing national identity in English are analyzed from a cultural-semantic perspective, their role in reflecting the historical heritage, cultural traditions, and social values of the English people becomes evident. Studying these units is important for translation, language teaching, and linguistic research. By considering cultural context in the translation process, readers and translators can achieve a deeper understanding of English culture. Thus, lexical units expressing national identity function as an important tool not only linguistically but also culturally.

Furthermore, the study of lexical units expressing national identity allows researchers to better understand how language reflects the worldview of a particular nation. Language is not only a means of communication but also a carrier of cultural knowledge, historical experience, and collective memory. In the English language, many lexical items are closely connected with traditions, historical events, and social institutions. For example, expressions related to the monarchy, traditional customs, and historical symbols often serve as markers of national identity [5].

Another important aspect is the role of phraseological units and idioms in representing cultural meanings. Idioms often contain metaphorical images that are deeply rooted in the culture of a speech community. Without understanding the cultural background, these expressions may be difficult to interpret correctly. Therefore, linguistic analysis of such units helps reveal hidden cultural meanings and conceptual structures embedded in the language [6].

In addition, lexical units reflecting national identity are widely used in literature, media discourse, and everyday communication. Writers and journalists frequently employ culturally marked vocabulary in order to emphasize national character, cultural values, or social attitudes. Through such usage, language becomes a powerful tool for maintaining and transmitting cultural identity across generations.

From a pedagogical perspective, the study of culturally significant lexical units is also highly beneficial for language learners. Understanding these expressions helps students not only expand their vocabulary but also develop intercultural communicative competence. When learners become familiar with

culturally embedded meanings, they are able to interpret texts more accurately and communicate more effectively with native speakers.

Therefore, further research in this field can contribute to the development of cultural linguistics, translation studies, and intercultural communication. A deeper analysis of lexical units expressing national identity will help scholars better understand the relationship between language, culture, and society.

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