



LEXICAL FEATURES OF CULTURAL TERMS: STRUCTURE, WORD FORMATION, AND SYNONYMY.

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Abstract

This paper is about the words we use to talk about culture in English. It looks at how these cultural terms are made up how new words are formed and how they are related to each other especially when they mean the same thing. Cultural terms are words that describe things that're unique to a particular society. They show us what a country is, like what people do and what happened in the past. By looking at the structure and meaning of these words we can see how they express the character of a culture and how this is preserved even when we use different words to say the same thing. Cultural terms are important because they reflect the identity of a nation, its social habits and its history. The examples we look at are from the language and sometimes we compare them to other languages. This is done to show that the way we form words related to culture is something that happens everywhere but something that is unique to each place. We want to see how cultural lexicon formation works in the language and how it is the same or different, in other languages.

Keywords: Cultural Terms, Thanksgiving, The tea ceremony, Hogmanay, Borrowing

1. Introduction

Language and culture are really connected to each other. The culture we have is what makes us say things in ways.. Language helps keep our cultural ideas and traditions alive. It also helps pass them down to others and change them over time.



There are words and phrases that come from our culture. These words are important because they talk about the things that matter to us like the way we live what we believe in and the things we make. We need these words to talk to people from cultures. They are also important for people who study language and want to understand what words mean how they are used and what they say about who we're, as a culture. Language and culture are really important to understand each other.

The goal of this thesis is to look at the words and meanings of terms. It will focus on three things:

- * It will look at the terms
- * It will look at the words used in these terms
- * It will look at how these cultural terms are used in different situations

This thesis is really, about understanding cultural terms and the words they use. The main thing is to analyze these terms.

The way cultural terms are put together is really interesting. This is about how these terms are formed and that includes things, like how the words are made up and how they are used in sentences. Cultural terms have their special structure and this is what we are talking about.

Word Formation is really interesting because it is, about the ways that new cultural terms are made. So what makes new cultural terms come into being? We are talking about Word Formation. How it happens.



So what is synonymy? It is, about how different cultures affect the way we use words that mean the thing. Sometimes our culture limits the words we can use to say something. Sometimes it gives us more options to express ourselves. This is how cultural specificity limits or enhances the availability of expressions or in other words, synonymy.

2. Structural Features of Cultural Terms

2.1 Morphological Structure

Cultural terms can be really complicated. They are made up of borrowed parts like roots and affixes all combined together. The way these terms are structured tells us a lot about what they mean. Where they come from. It is like the terms have layers with the meaning and history of the culture all mixed, in. Cultural terms show us this layering of culture in their structure.

For example:

Thanksgiving is a time when people come together to say thanks. It is a tradition that's all about giving thanks. The idea of Thanksgiving reflects the tradition of expressing gratitude, which is really just about people showing they are thankful, for things. Thanksgiving is when people give thanks to others.

The tea ceremony is a way of doing things when people get together especially in Japan. It is a part of Japanese culture. The tea ceremony is about how people behave and what they do when they are with others and it is very important, in Japan.

Hogmanay is a deal in Scotland for New Year. The way Hogmanay is celebrated has a lot of history to it. Hogmanay keeps its ways and people in different



parts of the country celebrate Hogmanay in their own special way. This is what makes Hogmanay so special. It is a big part of what Hogmanay is all, about.

2.2 Lexical Borrowings

Borrowing is a part of how cultures create new terms. When a culture takes in ideas from another culture the words that go with those ideas often come into our language too. These borrowed words usually keep the feelings and ideas of the culture they came from. Borrowing is a thing that happens when cultures share ideas and the borrowed words often still have the cultural coloration of the culture they came from which is a big part of borrowing.

Examples:

Ballet (from French) – associated with European drama and art;

Karaoke (from Japanese) – representing modern entertainment culture;

Sushi (from Japanese) – denoting specific culinary traditions now globally recognized.

These borrowings show us how language is a record of people from cultures sharing things with each other. Language is a record of exchange. We can see this when we look at language and how it has been affected by people, from cultures interacting with each other. Language is really a record of exchange.

3. Word Formation of Cultural Terms

3.1 Derivation

Cultural terms usually come from things like adding a prefix or a suffix to a word or combining two words together. This happens because the way people live and think is always changing. Cultural terms are formed in these ways like adding a prefix or a suffix or combining two words. This shows that cultural terms are



connected to the way people live and think and that is always changing, so cultural terms are also changing.

Examples:

McDonaldization (from McDonald's + -ization) – conceptualizing mass culture and globalization.

Festival-goer (from festival + -goer) – a term describing cultural behavior.

Colonialism (from colony + -ism) – designating an ideological and historical construct.

3.2 Compounding and Blending

When we combine things and mix them together it really helps us create new words that describe how different cultures are coming together. Compounding and blending are very important when it comes to making words like this. These new words, like neologisms are used to describe things, like cultural practices. Hybrid cultural practices are what happen when different cultures do things together. Compounding and blending help us make words that describe this kind of thing.

Examples:

Cosplay (blend of costume + play) – combining fashion and performance within popular culture.

Foodscape (food + landscape) – describing the cultural geography of cuisine.

Smart city – connecting technology with cultural perceptions of modernity.

These new ideas show how people in societies are always changing what it means to be part of a culture, through the language they use. The language people speak is a part of their cultural identity and modern societies are always redefining cultural identity.



3.3 Semantic Shift and Reinterpretation

Words that are already around can get meanings that are specific, to a certain culture. This happens when the meaning of a word changes over time. Existing words can take on these meanings or connotations because of this change.

So tea is something that people in Britain drink. It is also something more. For example when people in Britain talk about tea they might be talking about the drink. They might be talking about a special meal that they have, like afternoon tea.

So barbecue is not a way of cooking food. It is also an event that people like to attend in many English-speaking cultures. People really like to go to barbecue gatherings because they're a lot of fun. Barbecue is a part of the social scene, in these cultures. When people think of barbecue they think of food and good company. Barbecue is an event that brings people together.

4. Synonymy in Cultural Terms

4.1 Limited Synonymy Due to Cultural Specificity

Cultural terms usually do not have other words that mean the same thing. This is because they have meanings that are connected to cultures. For example the holiday of Thanksgiving is something that is mainly celebrated in North America. You will not really find something like it in other cultures. If you say something like harvest festival it is similar. It is not exactly the same as Thanksgiving. Cultural terms, like Thanksgiving have meanings that are tied to the culture of North America.

4.2 Relative and Contextual Synonymy



When words have the meaning it is usually because of the situation or it is not a complete match. The synonymy is not always exact the synonymy is often related to the context in which the synonymy is being used.

For example:

When you think of a pub and a bar they might seem like the thing.. If you look closer you will see that they are actually different. A pub is a British thing. It is where people go to be social and hang out with friends. On the hand a bar is more of an American thing. It is usually found in cities and has a very urban feel to it. The pub and the bar have feelings to them because of where they come from. The pub is all about being friendly and talking to people like you would in Britain. The bar is more about being in a city like you would, in America and that is why the pub and the bar are not the same thing.

Kimono and robe look alike at first. The kimono is really special because it comes from Japan and has a lot of meaning. The kimono has its unique history and significance that is connected to Japanese culture. When we think of a kimono we think of Japan and its traditions. The kimono is not a piece of clothing it is a part of Japanese heritage.

4.3 Cross-Linguistic Non-equivalence

When we translate things from one language to another we find that some words are hard to translate because they are about things that're special to one culture. For example the Russian word samovar and the Japanese word hanami, which means looking at cherry blossoms are words that do not have translations in other languages. This shows that the words we use are connected to the things about our own culture like samovar and hanami. These words are special, to their cultures and that is why they are hard to translate.



5. The study of terms shows that they have many different meanings. Cultural terms are very different from one another they can be simple or complicated. They can come from other languages or be completely new words. The way that new words are formed tells us that people are very creative with language and that they adapt to changes in society and technology. When we look at terms that have similar meanings we see that they are often tied to very specific cultural situations, which shows that language is not just a way for people to communicate but also a way to store cultural history. Cultural terms are a part of this. They help us understand identity and language structure. Cultural terms are important because they reflect the relationship, between language and culture.

Understanding the lexical dynamics of cultural terms provides valuable insights for linguistic theory, translation studies, and intercultural communication, emphasizing that the lexicon is both a mirror and a vehicle of culture.

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