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THE COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPT OF "WAR" AND THE USE OF MODAL VERBS AND THEIR SUBSTITUTES IN THE CONTEXT OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE (BASED UPON FOREIGN NEWSPAPER ARTICLES)

Summary. *The article analyzes the concept of "war" based on the most commonly used words and expressions as well as the use of modals in foreign newspaper articles in the context of russian aggression in Ukraine.*

Key words: *context, concept of war, modals, modal expressions, russian aggression.*

Context is a central concept in the analysis of discourse and interaction in all the major research traditions in applied and sociolinguistics. Early linguistics did not "display much sensitivity to it" [6] and tended to study utterances in isolation and without reference to context. Today, however, there seems to be a general consensus around the idea that we understand utterances because they fit or make sense within particular situations. Studies of discourse and interaction include some orientation to context, if nothing else because "language is always produced by someone to someone else, at a particular time and place, with a purpose and so forth" [1].

The notion of context has been described by many as "notoriously hard to define" [2]. Not only does it mean different things in different research paradigms, but more generally the range of contexts in which utterances are considered can also vary widely.

In our research we will use the notion of concepts which are defined as abstract ideas, and we will follow the definition of Meriam-Webster dictionary that defines concept as

- 1: something conceived in the mind: THOUGHT, NOTION
- 2: an abstract or generic idea generalized from particular instances [7].

Concepts are understood to be "the fundamental building blocks of the concept behind principles, thoughts and beliefs" [3]. One of the ways to study concepts is to organize a concept map or a conceptual diagram that is "a diagram that depicts suggested relationships between concepts" [5] and "a means of representing the emerging science knowledge of students" [4].

In our research we analyzed the concept of "war" based on the division of context into linguistic context, situational context and cultural context. Our investigation was aimed to understand what collocations and phrases are used to describe war in Ukraine in opinion articles by the most profound British news agencies such as: BBC and the Guardian.

The first step in the analysis of concepts is the selection of keywords based on their frequency and content in the text. This procedure allows you to determine the first, "external", conceptualized layer of the structure. In our analysis we divided the most frequent words which were used in six articles of well-known world newspapers concerning the topics of war into three grammatical categories as verbs, nouns and adjectives.

At first we analyzed the article from BBC and created the word cloud of the most frequent words in the context of "war" (pic. 1).

As we see from pic. 1, the journalist of BBC used a lot of emotionally colored words. We distinguished 13 nouns, such as: strike, attacks, panic, troops, shelling, bombing, brutality, bombs, victims, missiles, survival, bunker, rubble; 18 adjectives and participles: encircled, trapped, impossible, exhausted, afraid, surrounded, relentless, besieged, untouched, destroyed, drinkable, safe, killed, cut off, aerial, died, collapsed, constant; 6 verbs: target, shake, hide, invade, deny, underestimate.

It should be noted that the main emphasis is placed on the brutality of war and scenes of hardship and atrocity. As we can see the author used adverbial modifiers and epithets to portray the russian aggression in Ukraine more vividly.



Pic. 1. The most frequent words used in the context of “war” in the opinion article of BBC

Civilians are *trapped* with no running water, electricity and heating, and under *relentless bombing and shelling* [8].

Most of the city suburbs are *completely destroyed* [8].

It is also worth noting the use of such synonymic words as encircled, trapped, surrounded, besieged and cut off which show the unbearable situation of our cities at the beginning of the war.

The northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv has been almost completely *encircled* by Russian forces...

Tens of thousands of people remain *trapped*.

... and they have now effectively *surrounded* the city.

the *besieged* city on the Sea of Azov that has seen the worst of Russia’s brutality, very little seems to remain untouched.

Chernihiv had been *"cut off"*, he said, and residents had nowhere to go, including those requiring treatment for wounds caused by the attacks [8].

The journalist also uses a wide range of nouns denoting the hardship of war and emphasizing the constant air strikes, such as: strike, missiles, shelling, bombing and attacks.

At the end of an article the author comes to the conclusion that Ukrainians are not afraid any more, quoting the words of the survivor who says that, “I’m just very focused. I know when there is bombing I need to get into a safer place,””I no longer have *fear*”[8].

Another newspaper article that was taken into consideration was opinion article which appeared in another British newspaper The Guardian. The word cloud is shown in pic. 2.



Pic. 2. The most frequent words used in the context of “war” in the opinion article of The Guardian

As can be seen from the word cloud, the author of the article used a lot of adjectives describing Russian aggression in Ukraine, such as: unthinkable, stunning, chaotic, unexpected, powerful, worrying, counterproductive, tragic, false. These words shed light on the British perception of the beginning of the war and further its development.

Vladimir Putin, has thrown himself into the *unthinkable*.

Ukraine is fighting back, and in the opening battle for European public opinion it has achieved a *stunning* victory.

...as *unexpected* is Germany's geopolitical awakening...[9].

It should also be mentioned that this article is more optimistic and focuses not only on the atrocities of a Russian aggression but also on the heroic Ukrainian people. The author used words like victory, hero, support, unity, freedom, peace and democratic, etc. depicting the reaction of Ukraine and its allies.

Massive defense *investments*, military *support* for Kyiv.....

But at a moment when Europe is fighting in the name of *democratic freedoms*...[9].

It is worth noting the number of epithets used, such as: vital importance, great danger, stunning victory, chaotic country, strategic error, full force, absolute priority, false promise and such so well-known from Soviet era as: cold war and iron curtain.

As we see the language of the second article is more vivid and optimistic notwithstanding all the words like: invasion, brutality, conflict, great danger and what is even more important the author is not afraid to call aggression by its real name – “war”.

The example of Ukrainian EU membership shows that even this *war* has not freed Europe of its inbuilt strategic insouciance [9].

Summing up the article the author uses an idiom *cross the Rubicon* showing that Europe is ready to help Ukraine full heartedly to kill *the devil incarnate*.

...can we accept coexistence with a geopolitical adversary whom we despise, be it in Moscow or Beijing? Not crushing them as *the devil incarnate*, not trying to destroy them, not projecting ourselves (again) into a post-historical future of universal peace, but dealing with them as a rival? Politically, that is perhaps the real *Rubicon* that Europe needs to *cross*.

To look into the context of “war” deeper we decided to have a look at it from a grammatical point of view. Since we often use modal verbs or other modal expressions when expressing an opinion, the aim was to investigate their use in a context of a lasting Russian aggression in Ukraine in newspaper articles around the world, trying to find out what message is conveyed in times of global horror.

Modal verbs in English language are a type of verb that is always used in conjunction with other verbs and does not mean the action, but the attitude of the speaker. Perhaps the best way to think of modal verbs is as verbs that modify the meaning of the main verb.

The EU's vocation *was to* tear down walls and promote peace. *Should* it be a party to a conflict with a nuclear superpower? [9].

Kyiv *may* be the victim and Moscow the aggressor, but in the eyes of many, Washington is not totally innocent in all of this [10].

In our investigation we looked into two British opinion articles mentioned above that were written at the beginning of the war in Ukraine but also to make our research more comprehensive we included four more articles from the most profound foreign news agencies such as: Al Jazeera, Unicef, Independent and the New York Times.

We also paid attention to the use of substitutes for modal verbs or phrases with modal meaning, such as: be able to, have to, have got to, had better, be to, be supposed to, be going to, etc. and the adverbs "probably, maybe", and some others.

If Europe *is to* act as a power among powers, *capable* at some stage even of commanding destructive military force, it will *need* a different political language to speak about its place in the world [9].

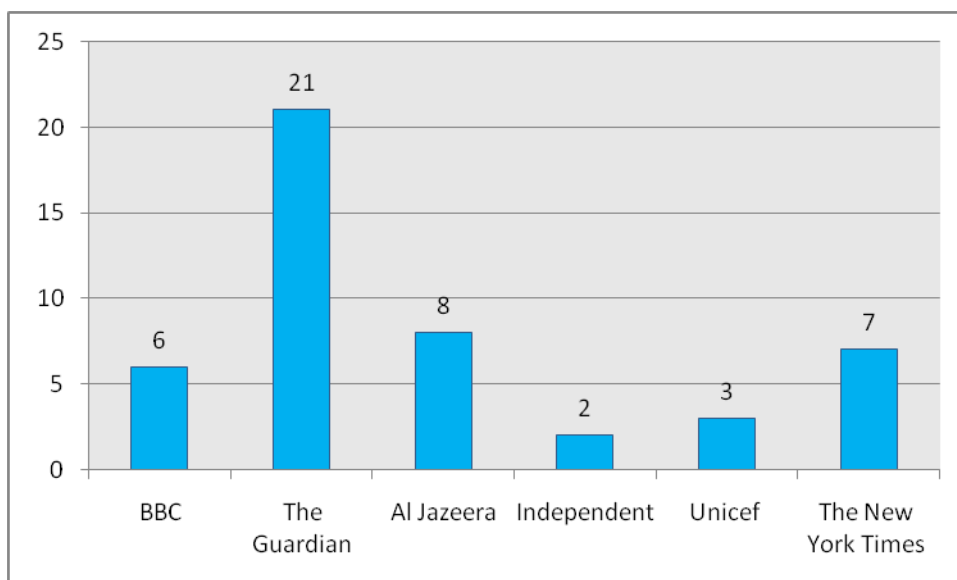
The reporters used a great number of modals and their substitutes in articles reporting about war in Ukraine.

As it can be observed from gr.1 British journalists of The Guardian used much more modals in comparison to their world counterparts. As we see from graph. 2 such modal verbs as need, can and should are used slightly more often. It can be explained by the fact that the article is more oriented to give the readers the ways that can be applicable to solve the issue of Russian intrusion to Ukraine.

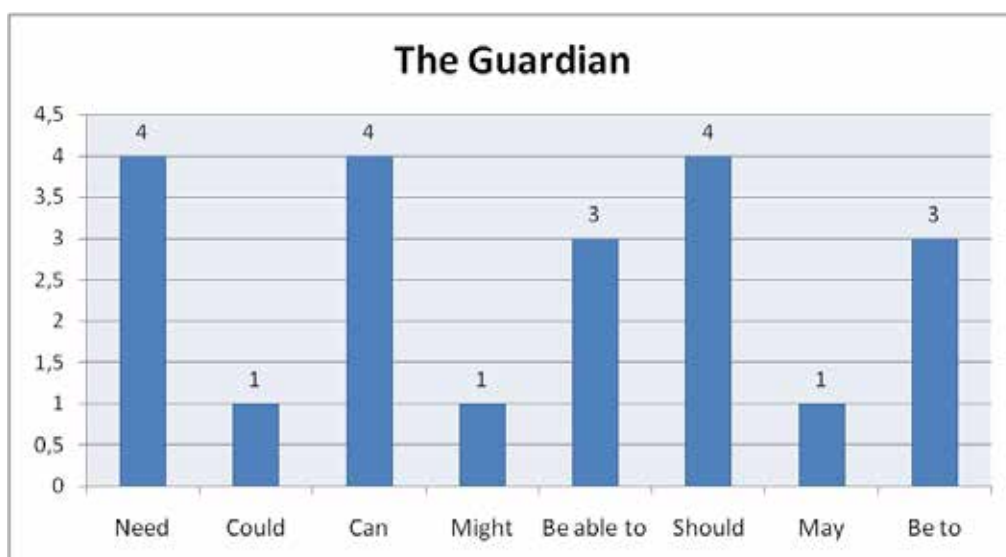
Europe is fighting in the name of democratic freedoms, it *should* not lower its guard internally either [9].

In this moment of crisis, opening the door to Ukraine is one thing the EU *can* do [9].

Politically, that is perhaps the real Rubicon that Europe *needs* to cross [9].



Graph. 1. Total number of modals and their substitutes in the investigated articles



Graph. 2. Modals and their substitutes in the investigated articles of the British newspaper The Guardian

The same considerations are equally applicable to the usage of modal be able to.

Other defense-spending laggards such as the Netherlands and Italy will no longer *be able to* hide behind Germany's back [9].

The news agencies such as BBC (6), Al Jazeera (8) and the New York Times (7) used far less modals in their opinion articles.

BBC is focused mostly on uncertainty of the situation using modal words probably and likely.

Chaus, the governor, said about 200 people had already died in Chernihiv, *probably* an underestimate [8].

But also it emphasizes what Ukrainians have to endure to survive the gruesome war and depicting the urgency of the situation using the words need, have to.

She often *has to* endure long queues, as people bring bottles and buckets at distribution points organised by the city council.

Al Jazeera is more focused not on the war in Ukraine but more on the relationship between the USA and Russia using modals must, have to and should to describe what can be done by the parties of the military conflict.

And the scenarios before us *should* not be limited to war: a protracted Cold War or a devastating nuclear war.

Yes, the Russian invasion requires a tough response, but it *should* be one that opens the door for peace.

When the invasion of Ukraine started, Biden was quick to assure the American society that they would not *have to* fight, suffer or even pay more for gas [10].

Al Jazeera also tries to explain the conflict to its readers as being rather uncertain in its origin.

The short answer: it *may* have less to do with Ukraine and more to do with America. ... Kyiv *may* be the victim and Moscow the aggressor, but in the eyes of many, Washington is not totally innocent in all of this [10].

The New York Times similarly to the Guardian is more concerned with the ways of ending the war and outlines the most important facts.

As the first month of the war drew to a close, with Russian forces still *unable* to seize major cities... [11].

"Life can be defended only when united," he said. "Freedom *must* be armed"[11].

As it can be seen from the opinion article of Independent there is no so distinct use of modals in works of their writers. Independent uses the modal can in negative form expressing what should not be done in this war conflict.

... he declared: "For God's sake, this man *cannot* remain in power."

... The president's point was that Putin *cannot* be allowed to exercise power over his neighbors or the region [13].

And the newsletter statement of UNICEF, The United Nations Children's Fund, which, since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, has been working to fulfill core commitments to meet the humanitarian needs of children, uses mostly modals can and need stating what can be done in this bloody war concerning children.

... children and their families *need* systematic protection services to address gender-based violence....

UNICEF calls for an immediate cease-fire ... and to ensure that humanitarian actors *can* safely and quickly reach children in need [12].

To summarize our research of the context of "war", it is worth quoting the Guardian that gives great depiction of our country in this war against Russia saying "An angel with a sword is still an angel" but ... it should no longer be the angel battling to liberate the continent and the world from evil and tyranny, but a mortal, more strategic and real-political actor, which also understands the limits of its powers and its own time [9].

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О. П. Венгер. Комплексний аналіз поняття «війна» та використання модальних дієслів та їх заміників у контексті російської агресії в Україні (за статтями зарубіжних газет). – Стаття.

Анотація. У статті аналізується поняття «війна» на основі найуживаніших слів і виразів, а також використання модальних дієслів та їх заміників в іноземних газетних статтях у контексті російської агресії в Україні.

Ключові слова: контекст, концепт «війна», модальні дієслова, модальні вирази, російська агресія.

О. П. Венгер. Комплексный анализ концепта «война» и употребления модальных глаголов и их заменителей в контексте российской агрессии в Украине (по материалам зарубежных газетных статей). – Статья.

Аннотация. В статье анализируется понятие «война» на основе наиболее употребительных слов и выражений, а также употребления модальных выражений в статьях зарубежных газет в контексте российской агрессии на Украине.

Ключевые слова: контекст, концепт «война», модальные глаголы, модальные выражения, российская агрессия.

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FORMATION OF SOCIOLINGUISTIC COMPETENCE OF FUTURE TEACHERS IN TEACHING READING ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLICISTIC TEXTS

Summary. The article considers the range of issues related to the methodology of formation of sociolinguistic competence of future teachers in teaching reading English-language journalistic texts. The implementation of the stated goals and objectives of the research was reflected in the definition of theoretical prerequisites for the formation of the specified competence, the development of a set of exercises and the verification of its effectiveness during trial training.

Clarified the concept of sociolinguistic competence, which is defined as the ability to carry out the selection of language and language means of foreign language communication with national-cultural semantics, depending on the main aspects of the context in which communication takes place, from the generally accepted rules for the use of the language, as well as from the specific situation and style of communication.

The criteria for the selection of English-language newspaper-journal articles from authentic sources in order to form sociolinguistic competence among students-philologists of the first year of study were determined. Thus, according to the thematic criterion, the selection of English-language journalistic texts is limited to the framework of socio-cultural topics and subtopics defined by the Program. In addition, the consideration of this criterion involves the concentric organization of the selected educational material within each topic.

According to the “sociolinguistic value” criterion, preference is given to texts with high and medium sociolinguistic potential that contain relevant vocabulary with a national component of semantics. According to the criteria of informativeness, the text material contains modern and new linguosocultural information for readers.

Key words: sociolinguistic competence, future teachers, foreign language, communication, methodological literature.

The essence of the concept of sociolinguistic competence and its structure. The modern concept of learning foreign languages is based on the integrated study of the language and culture of countries, as well as on the use of the national component, which is based on the knowledge of the native country and the country, whose language is studied, its history, traditions, culture, that is, the dialogue of foreign and native cultures. The main purpose of such education is to teach languages through the prism of culture. The theoretical basis of linguistics can be considered by Wilhelm von Humboldt as saying that “different languages are inherently, by their influence on knowledge and on feelings are in fact different worldviews” [12, p. 15].