

LEXICO-SEMANTIC FIELD «CRIME» in ENGLISH DETECTIVE PROSE

Tetyana Vdovenko

*PhD of Philology Sciences, Associate Professor
Izmail State Humanities University*

The study of the lexical and semantic field is an important area of modern linguistics. Lexical units in modern linguistics are treated as a significant part of any language. Their analysis is carried out using field research. The field approach is quite effective as it allows to expand the internal language system. The field theory actualizes the problems of lexical and semantic fields, their structural hierarchy, typology, and principles of lexeme accumulation.

The aim of the article is to show the peculiarities of lexico-semantic field «Crime» in English detective prose. The purpose is to define the most common lexical units defining «Crime» in Arthur Conan Doyle's stories «A Scandal in Bohemia», «The Five Orange Pips» and «The Engineer's Thumb».

The problem of lexico-semantic field was studied by a lot of scientists, among which A. Kalyuzhna, M. Kochergan, T. Kurenkova, L. Lysychenko, O. Selivanova and many others. O. Selivanova describes any lexical-semantic field as a semantic and paradigmatic formation, that has some independence and peculiar structural features that represent a mutual non-traditional component in the definition, its nuclear-peripheral structure, and zones of semantic changes [4, p. 25].

Detective formula gets its own unique content in each specific work of a particular author. In the structure of a detective work, three stages are traditionally distinguished: the mystery (usually a crime), the course of investigation and exposure (the disclosure of the crime). These elements correspond to the beginning, climax, and denouement of any work of art.

For the analysis of lexico-semantic field «Crime» detective genre was selected as it abounds with the vocabulary, referring to violent human actions. Words and phrases of lexico-semantic field «Crime» can be divided into separate groups, which make up the core of the field. In general, there are six groups [1; 2; 3]:

- 1) the designation of offenses and criminal actions (*arson, shoplifting, hijacking, burglary, parricide, to forge, kidnapping*);
- 2) the designation of criminals (*a crook, a burglar, a robber, a drug pusher, a killer*);
- 3) words and phrases that directly relate to the wiretapping of the case in the court (*to give evidence, to question smb closely, settle out of court, to bring in the verdict, to defend smb in court*);
- 4) the designation of police officers and courts (*coroner, the jury, probation officer, judge, barrister, solicitor, lawyer, prosecuting attorney*);
- 5) the designation of punishment (*capital punishment, cruel and unusual punishment, severe punishment, corporal punishment, light sentence, suspended sentence, life sentence*);
- 6) to denote illegal human activity (*bribery, terrorism, drug-trafficking, gambling*).

The core of the lexico-semantic field «crime» is the word *crime*, it includes 8 subclasses: *murder, robbery, criminal, case, court, lawyer, punishment, offense*. The periphery of the core was also established, consisting of lexical units that are distant in their own meaning from the core. The periphery of the lexical-semantic field «crime» consists of the following units: *physical attack, a law breaker, to break the law, judge, the jury, to arrest, to accuse, evidence*.

The core of the lexico-semantic field «Crime» in C. Doyle's stories is the lexeme «Crime», which combines synonyms (*offense, breach, misdeed, trespass, felony*) on the basis of the integral meaning «violation of the law».

The specified semantic meaning «violation of the law» is associated with the lexemes: *murder, robbery, poisoning, theft, burglary, blackmail, fraud, forgery, assault* and *murder*, which are correlated with the lexeme *crime*, denoting a common generic concept, and names the types of crimes.

Lexico-semantic field «Crime» in A.C. Doyle's story «A Scandal in Bohemia» include such vocabulary as: *blackmailing, burglars, crime, case, investigation, legal, affair, breaking the law,*

Збірник наукових праць

running a chance of arrest, a specialist in crime, lawyer, burglar, injure, injured, hurt, dead, die, gang, accomplice, suspicious, scandal.

The main theme of the story is a blackmail, which could cause the political scandal: «*If this young person should produce her letters for **blackmailing** or other purposes, how is she to prove their authenticity?*» [5, p. 11].

Lexico-semantic field «Crime» in A.C. Doyle's story «The Five Orange Pips» include the following vocabulary: *cases, details, dead man, wound up, circumstances, violence, crime (2), anxiously, anxiety, fear, scandal, details to the case (7), was wrongly accused of cheating at cards, essential facts, commencement of the affair, a hereditary matter, death (7), palpitate with horror, overpowering terror, lawyer (2), sign of violence (2), jury (4), a verdict of suicide, suicide (2), police, death from accidental causes, murder, footmarks, robbery, sinister (2), inheritance, danger, met his end, inspector, accident (2), warnings, policeman, evidence, revenge, law (2), to punish the guilty parties, threaten, imminent danger, safety, guard, deduce, the chain of events, a series of incidents, a solution, a coroner's jury, rifle, terrorizing, murdering, outrages (2), outbreaks, perpetrators, police-constable, water-police, traces of violence, victim, matter, gang, police (2), suspicion, badly wanted upon a charge of murder, murderers.*

The story tells about a hereditary matter «*It is a **hereditary matter**, so in order to give you an idea of the facts, I must go back to the commencement of the affair*» [5, p. 106].

Lexico-semantic field «Crime» in A.C. Doyle's story «The Engineer's Thumb» include such words and word combinations as: *deductive methods, facts, events, accident, blood, bloodstains, unwound, bled considerably, bleeding, horrify, the wound (2), murderous (3), police (3), the official police (2), detail (2), bandage, convincing evidence, justice, suspicious (2), matter, commit, fear (3), frightened, pain, painfully, death (2), danger, wound, inspector, gang, criminals, to fall into the hands of justice, colonel, unconscious, danger.*

The story describes the matter about the case of counterfeiters «*We have known for some time that a clever **gang** was at work*» [5, p.222].

The research has found out that lexico-semantic field «Crime» include not only certain common words and legal terms (*kidnapping, robbery, assassination, hijacking, poaching, manslaughter*), but also two-component phrases (*capital punishment, juvenile crime*), three-component phrases (*to impose a suspended sentence, to be above suspension*) and multi-component phrases (*to pass verdict on an accused person, bring a case into court, gang of drug smugglers*).

The results of the research have shown that the most often used words, belonging to the lexico-semantic field «Crime» are: *death, case, police and murder.*

The research showed that in A.C. Doyle's stories the composition of the lexico-semantic field «Crime» is more official and broader in the field of investigation and police than in the language of other authors such as Agatha Christie.

To the research prospects we can refer the comparison between the peculiarities of lexico-semantic field «Crime» in different languages.

1. Калюжна А.Б. (2017). *Лінгвокогнітивні підстави взаємодії ключових концептів детективного дискурсу*. Вісник Харків. нац. ун-ту імені В.Н. Каразіна. Харків. Вип. 85. С. 88-95.

2. Калюжная А.Б. (2016). *Лексико-семантическое поле ключевых концептов детективного дискурса*. Вестник Казахского гуманитарно-юридического инновационного университета. № 3 (31). С. 80-84.

3. Куренкова Т.Н. (2006). *Лексико-семантическое поле и другие поля в современной лингвистике*. Вестник Сибирского государственного аэрокосмического университета имени академика М.Ф. Решетнева. Красноярск. С. 173-178.

4. Селиванова Е.А. (2002). *Основы лингвистической теории текста и коммуникации*. К.: ЦУЛ, «Фитосоциоцентр». С. 336.

5. Doyle A.C. (1994). *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* : [collection of stories]. New York: Penguin Books. P. 302.