Abstract

Graduation Level of Proficiency Paper

(Master's Degree)

Title: The Problem of Foregrounding and Salience in English

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Topical Importance: The importance of this work is first of all based on the increasing interest to the phenomenon of scalarity, which is especially challenging nowadays, because of the so-called "Second Coming of semantics" in the new century. Secondly, it is connected with a definite scarcity of a complex analysis of this category in present-day linguistics.

Goals: Complex study of category of scalarity in English and its characteristics, means of its expression, identification of their parameters

Tasks: Identifying the linguistic status of scalarity, defining the correlation between scalarity and intensity and their relationship to synonymy and antonymy; outlining the parameters of scalarity on the lexical-semantic level, and highlighting functional-semantic features of adjectives and adverbs of degree as means of expressing scalarity in English,

Theoretical value and practical applicability: Complex analysis of the phenomenon under investigation and the data obtained in the process of the research add new depth to the problem and may be successfully implemented in the practice of teaching English at various stages of training, as well as in practical and theoretical courses in English grammar.

Results: Analysis of the functional-semantic features of adjectives and adverbs of degree allows concluding that the movement of the adjective on a scale of intensity depends on the intensifier, by which it is modified, and the semantics

of the adjective and its connotations are determined by an adverb that modifies the adjective.

Implementation advice: Received data can be applied for some further research on semantics of modificators.